JOURNAL

of the

ROANOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume Twelve Number One

ROANOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1984

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George Kegley

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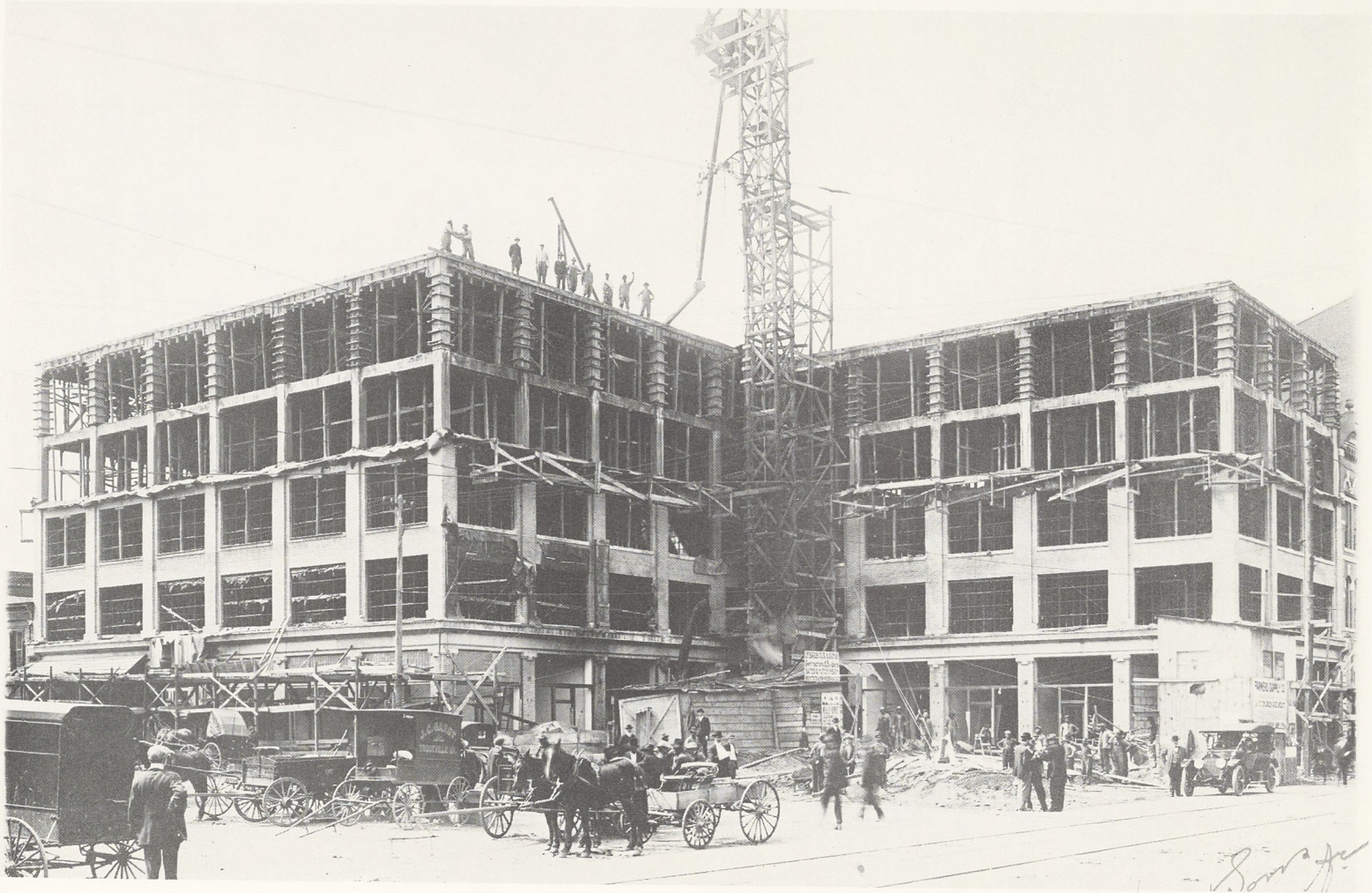
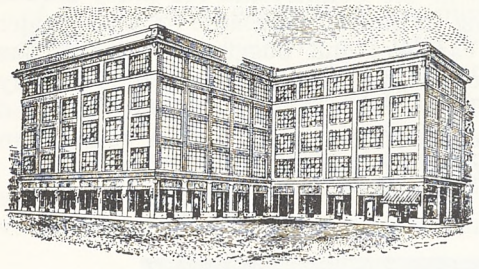
The Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, Volume Twelve, Number One. Published by the Society at P.O. Box 1904, Roanoke, Virginia 24008, to chronicle the past and present of that part of the state west of the Blue Ridge. Single copy price for members, $3; for non-members, $4. The Society will be careful in handling unsolicited material but cannot be responsible for its loss.



The busy construction site at the McGuire Building in 1914



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Woodcut and billhead from the first years of Farmers Supply

Farmers Supply Transformed into Center in the Square

Paintings, Broadway plays and historical exhibits are everyday attractions in the renovated McGuire building where carriages, wagons and seed once were sold to farmers on Roanoke's Market Square.

The building has been transformed into Center in the Square, the new home for the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, the Science Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Mill Mountain Theater and Roanoke Valley Arts Council. The Center opened with fanfare in December 1983 in the five-story building constructed in 1914 for the Farmers Supply Co., headed by W. E. McGuire. J. F. Barbour and Sons, a major Roanoke contractor, built the sturdy concrete structure at 29 East Campbell Avenue.

McGuire, born near Burnt Chimney in Franklin County in 1864, was reared by a half-brother and his wife after his mother died when he was a baby. When he was old enough to look after himself, McGuire found a job in a Vinton store according to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Cutshall. He later bought a house and lived at 360 W. Campbell Ave., she said.

The Farmers Supply Co. was founded in 1895 by McGuire, John W. Woods and D. S. Meadows, according to Roanoke historian Raymond Barnes. In 1904, he said, they bought the lot on Market Square from the heirs of an Englishman named Gray. The company operated in a smaller building there until the 81,500-square-foot structure was built.

JOURNAL OF THE ROANOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Roanoke Historical Society Journal is published semiannually "to chronicle the past and present of that part of the state west of the Blue Ridge."

An illustrated periodical appearing in mid-summer and mid-winter, it is distributed to members of the Society, to donors of items to the Society museum and to libraries and other historical societies of the region.

The Journal is available to others at 50 cents for a single copy or $1 for a year's subscription. Inquiries may be addressed to the Society at P.O. Box 1904, Roanoke.

Articles in early issues have dealt with cemeteries of Roanoke Valley, the archeological find of Indian points possibly 8,000 years old at the Peaks of Otter, Civil War action in Southwest Virginia, Fincastle as a summer resort in the late 19th century and objects on display in the Society's museum in Salem.

Writers for the Journal have been such well-known regional historians as Goodridge Wilson, R. D. Stoner, Raymond Barnes and J. R. Hildebrand. Ben Dulaney is editor.

No man was better known in the countryside for miles around Roanoke than McGuire, according to Barnes. "Because he was a dealer in sturdy wagons, dependable carriages and buggies, vendor of the latest agricultural implements, and the finest fertilizers and seeds, literally hundreds of farmers went to Mr. McGuire for advice and often purchased what he recommended. He is another example of what a young man from Franklin County can do if given an opportunity."

Officials from the county treasurer's office at Salem made the Farmers Supply Co. headquarters on certain days for the convenience of farmers, he said.

Mrs. Cutshall recalled in an interview on Feb. 4, 1984 how her father debated whether he should build a reinforced concrete building or a steel building. McGuire and Barbour "worked on the plans over at our house a whole lot. . .Everybody marveled that he built such a big building for his store. Mr. Hutcheson, an architect, designed it."

Hutcheson persuaded McGuire that the reinforced concrete would last much longer. The worst part, Mrs. Cutshall said, was a problem with Lick Creek that runs along Campbell Avenue. "It took them a whole summer long just to get that one little corner. The water would come up and they pumped and pumped."

Round columns throughout the fireproof building are spaced 15 feet apart on center. Such columns are mass produced today but in 1914 the forms were custom made by carpenters on the job.

"My father, I don't know how he managed, but he had that whole building jam-packed with things to sell," Mrs. Cutshall recalled. "Papa cut it up and used it all. . .An auto dealer was on the first floor, he had an office on the second floor, seed was on the third floor and whatever he had to store was on the fourth and fifth floors."

McGuire had a big machine to grade peas on the fifth floor. "He would buy cowpeas in South Carolina and ship them up here by the carload and run them through this cleaning machine. They were sold to sow."

Mrs. Cutshall's mother, Mary Margaret Harris, came from her home at Churchville to visit her brother, "Uncle Mac", J. M. Harris, in Roanoke. While here, she went to Stuart's furniture store and saw McGuire. "She was engaged to a man and he was engaged to a woman but they broke the two engagements and got married," Mrs. Cutshall said.

The Farmers Supply sold "cultivators, binders, anything you can think of that was salable for farm supplies. . .I loved every stick of it."

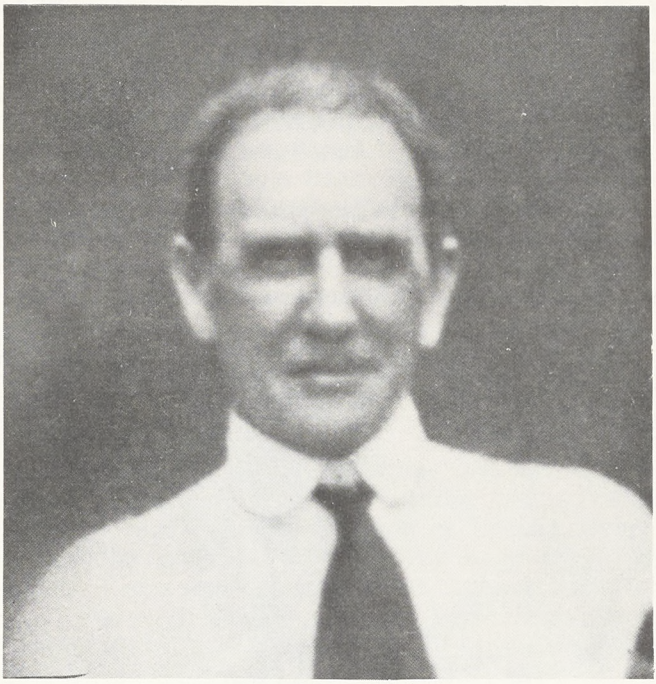
Started in 1887, the Barbour contracting firm was a leading Roanoke builder in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Among its many projects were First Baptist and Calvary Baptist churches, Oakey's funeral home, the old Colonial-American National Bank, No. 1 Fire Station, Patrick Henry Hotel, the old Lewis-Gale Hospital, the American and Jefferson theaters and Andrew Lewis High School. John Fletcher Barbour, the builder, also came from Franklin County to Roanoke.

Small restaurants and farmers' booths located on the first floor of the McGuire Building almost from the beginning. The celebrated Roanoke Weinnie Stand started there in 1916. The Famous Lunch opened next door in 1959.

After McGuire's death in 1923, his son, W. E. McGuire Jr. kept the business several years. Later, it was a furniture warehouse and a variety

of retail stores occupied the ground floor. A Federal Bakery, the Waldrop-Price hardware and later Witten-Martin Furniture were there. Witten-Martin, Roanoke's oldest furniture store, closed in 1980 after 76 years in business, the last 18 in the McGuire Building.

In addition to buying supplies in the building, farmers have sold their produce on the City Market for at least a century. Barnes said the first market house was dedicated in 1886.



W. E. McGuire

City Centennial Unnoticed

When the 100th anniversary of Roanoke's incorporation as a city came on Jan. 31, 1984, no public celebrations or ceremonies were held. Perhaps the city was exhausted from the memorable events of 1982 when the centennial of Roanoke as a town was recognized.

The Town of Roanoke, incorporated on Feb. 3, 1882, became the City of Roanoke in 1884. That centennial was marked throughout the year by a giant parade, musical and dramatic events, fireworks, historical publications and many recollections of what had happened in the first century. But the growth from town to city almost two years later passed unnoticed.

Roanoke's First Dairy Was on Orange Avenue

by Clare White

The little brick house is on a rise above a bold spring and a creek. Orange Avenue runs in front of it and just east is the busy interchange of Orange Avenue and Interstate 581. The house in Washington Park has been called the oldest in Roanoke, and has been named as the home of early settlers Peter Evans and/or his brother Nathaniel, both of them sons of pioneer Mark Evans. As it turns out, none of these claims can be proved.

Turning a blank face to the world, the house has been painted green, its windows are boarded and its door is padlocked. Only the shaped bricks of the eaves and the adjacent spring, defiled by trash, speak of a history. The bricks suggest the early 1800s, the spring sug-

A photograph of the Charles L. Lukens house, also the Eagle Dairy, before it burned about 1895-96, leaving the brick portion at right standing in what is now Washington Park on Orange Avenue. The house or a part of it was built in 1837.

Clare White is known for her centennial book, Roanoke 1740-1982, and for a wealth of historical research and writing.

gests pioneers. Although the house may not be as old as was thought, the site is one of the oldest in the settlement of the Roanoke Valley. The spring played a part from the early 1700s down to the 20th century when it furnished water for Roanoke's first dairy. The adjacent stream, now hidden in culverts for most of its course, was to boast two mills less than a half mile apart.

When Mark Evans migrated to the Roanoke Valley from Pennsylvania about 1740, he patented two significant parcels of land. One of them included what was to be known as Crystal Spring at the foot of Mill Mountain, the other embraced over 1,000 acres of The Barrens, a treeless expanse in the northern segment of the valley now bisected by Interstate 581. Appended to the survey of the open land were two long, narrow strips stretching to the south to take in two springs and two creeks. The westerly strip went to and beyond what was called Cedar Spring near 20th-century Tenth Street, Northwest. The other followed the creek to be known as Peter Evans Spring Branch whose flow was enlarged by the twin springs at the Evans homeplace (near the interchange of I-581 and Hershberger Road), and into which the spring near the brick house emptied.[1]

When settlers chose their acres, water was the first order of business after the quality of the land; Mark Evans made sure of the adequate supply, not only for himself but also, conceivably, for the two sons who accompanied him to the valley. Water was necessary for human and animal consumption and to raise crops; it was also prized as the requisite for the mills which played so important a part in pioneer economy. Evans had secured two mill sites: the incomparable Crystal Spring and the creek north of Orange Avenue which flowed between two hills just above a spring. The mill at Crystal Spring was well established in 1753 with Daniel Evans, son of Mark, as the miller.[2] The first mention of a mill on Peter Evans Creek occurred eight years later, in 1761,[3] although it could have been there much earlier.

Mark Evans died during the winter of 1748-1749, some eight years after coming to the valley.[4] Considering he was married in Philadelphia in 1723[5] and assuming he was a young man then, he was probably in his late forties or early fifties when he died. He did not leave a will, so the estate went to his eldest son, Daniel, in accordance with English law. Soon after the settlement of the estate in 1751, Daniel, who must have been already in residence at Crystal Spring, sold the Barrens tract to his brother, Peter. The deeds divided the land into three 400-acre tracts for each of which Peter paid £50.[6]

Daniel would have been about 24 when his father died, which would have made him 16 to 18 when the family came south. In those days, 16 was an adult and he could have been married by then, but it seems unlikely as, when he died in 1756, he left only two young daughters and his wife Rhoda.[7] His brother, Peter, married Mary Tosh, daughter of Thomas Tosh who is first mentioned as being in the valley in 1746.[8] We do not know when they were married.

For many years, Peter Evans' name was associated with the land he bought from his brother, as well as with the creek by the little brick house. That stream was known as Peter Evans Spring Branch, Peter Evans Mill Creek, Evans Branch, or Peter Evans Creek from the time he took possession until the village of Gainesborough came into being. Malcolm Campbell identified it in 1761 as Mill Creek, having already

designated it as "Evins Branch" in a survey relating to the same tract.[9] Since the mid-1800s, it has been called Lick Run.

Thanks to Campbell's will, we know a mill was on the Evans' creek well ahead of the more famous stone mill farther downstream which a court order will date as 1773. It would appear that Peter Evans built his mill between 1755 (see below) and 1761. The mill has been proved to be just upstream from the spring. It is conceivable that Peter Evans lived on the site of the brick house in Washington Park, adjacent to the mill, although no proof can be found. If he did, his house would certainly have been of logs; brick was almost unheard of in 18th century western Virginia. His mill was surely built of wood; it burned in 1821.[10]

The 1755 date is of interest because in that year Peter Evans made a declaration of the improvements he had made on the land he had bought from his brother four years before. (Improvements were required when a piece of new land was settled.) His list included one "logg" house 15 by 10 feet, one house 22½ feet by 12 feet, and one spring house, along with 28 acres of cleared land, 100 fruit trees, five horses, 22 cattle, a breeding sow and assorted tools.[11]

The building of a spring house would indicate the houses were near a spring. The springs on the property of which we are aware are the two at the homeplace, the Cedar Spring and the spring on Peter Evans Spring Branch near Orange Avenue. There may have been another near the Great Road (Orange Avenue) about half a mile west of the brick house. A dwelling was there in 1815.[12] Or, Peter Evans may have built at Cedar Spring; the family of Capt. Andrew Lewis was living there in 1815,[13] having bought the Evans lower or Cedar Spring Farm.

To the confusion of who lived where, we must add another element. There was another son. At the time of Mark Evans' death no mention was made of any sons except Daniel and Peter. The first reference to Nathaniel Evans, brother of Daniel and Peter, occurs in Daniel's will in 1756. In his will, he left his brother Nathaniel £20, two-thirds of the profit from the sale of what were called "moveables," and a horse, more than he left to Peter. Peter, however, was named an executor; Nathaniel was not.[14]

Where Nathaniel had been all that time is anybody's guess. Judging by what we know of him after he turned up in the Roanoke Valley, he could have been anywhere. There were Evans in the neighborhood of Looney's Creek (Buchanan) and on the north fork of the James River (near Glasgow).[15] There was another Daniel Evans and another Nathaniel Evans in those areas who may have been relatives of the Mark Evans family. While, by comparing dates and records, the two Daniels and the two Nathaniels can be disentangled, no light is thrown on where Mark's son spent his early years. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that Nathaniel, son of Mark, did not accompany his father and brothers to the Roanoke Valley, nor did they seem to know where he was.

As for Nathaniel living near the spring on Peter Evans Spring Branch when he finally arrived, there is no evidence for or against. The only information we have on where he may have lived is a road order of 1779 which called for a road, petitioned by Nathaniel Evans and others (unnamed), to be established from Thomas Barnes (on the hill above the Big Lick in northeast Roanoke), passing by Nathaniel Evans and into the main road near James Bryant's (at the big spring in Salem).[16]

That would put him on the Great Road, but where on it is impossible to say.

We can be sure, however, that a mill was on Peter Evans Spring Branch by 1761. Malcolm Campbell's will, written in 1761 and recorded in 1763, refers to a tract of land he had patented in 1751 and was devising to his son Archibald as being on "Mill Creek."[17] A survey of the land done in 1751 locates it on a branch of Roanoke "called Evins Branch."[18] Then, in 1774, Archibald Campbell was granted a license to "Build a Grist Mill on Peter Evans' Mill Creek, he being proprietor of the land."[19] The license not only establishes the existence of an earlier mill on the creek, it dated the construction of the stone mill that was to be built farther downstream on the property Archibald had inherited.

Malcolm Campbell, Archibald's father, who owned 400 acres of what became downtown Roanoke, was somewhere in the valley by 1748.[20] He had the survey done in 1751 on 42 acres "on Evins Branch," listed as a part of Zachariah Lewis' Order of Council to take up 30,000 acres. One of Lewis' partners in the James and Roanoke Co., a company formed to sell the lands of the grant, was John Smith, a surveyor for James Patton.[21] In 1756, Smith patented 400 acres in the Roanoke Valley, including the Big Lick. He sold it to Malcolm Campbell in 1759,[22] eight years after Campbell had entered his small patent. Whether Campbell ever lived on the 42-acre tract before he acquired the larger piece is not known. It was an unusually small tract to patent in those days of open lands. Also, it is doubtful if Smith ever lived in the valley, although Tinker Creek was at that time called Smith's Creek. It seems quite possible, in light of what we know of 18th-century land practices, that Campbell was a squatter on the Smith land, on which Smith took out a patent to secure it, intending all along to sell it to Campbell, who would then have made the improvements required by Council. The 42 acres may have simply appealed to Campbell as a mill site, there being no suitable site on the 400-acre tract.

In any event, by 1774 there would seem to be two mills on Peter Evans Spring Branch, one above 20th-century Orange Avenue, one below. The upper one would have been built between 1755 and 1761, and the lower sometime after 1773. The upper mill was located not far upstream from the spring on land now under a landfill. The dam for it was on the upper line of an 1815 Mill Lot of 14 acres. Using that 1815 survey as a measure, the dam was about 100 yards above the mill.[23] The lower mill would have been under the hill on which St. Andrew's Catholic Church stands and its dam was on the lower line of the Peter Evans survey, just below Orange Avenue.[24] The upper mill was obviously built of wood for it was consumed by fire in 1821, the lower was built of stone.

A tract that has been confused with Malcolm Campbell's 42-acre patent is one for 72 acres entered by his son Archibald. This plot is referred to in Archibald Campbell's will, as well as in later deeds. The land was south of his father's 42-acre grant and evidently lay between that plot and the 400-acre tract. Archibald's will reads: to John Simpson (his nephew) "one plantation on Mill Creek that was willed to me by my father" (the 42-acre tract), and to Archibald Simpson "one tract adjoining the above on lower side sd. Mill Creek."[25]

Archibald Campbell, who got the license for the stone mill and presumably built it, wrote an unusual provision in his will. He left his

sister Jean (or Jane) Campbell one Negro girl named Peg (or Pegg) who was about 9 years old "in case that my sister Jean doth not intermarry with Nathaniel Evans, brother of Peter Evans, her and her increase forever. But if my sister Jean should marry the said Evans my Will is that the Negro girl Pegg shall be sold by publick vendue and the money arising by such sail (sic) to be equally divided between my Brother William's son Thomas Campbell and William Simpson's sons John Simpson and Archibald Simpson."[27] Archibald's sister Elizabeth had married William Simpson.

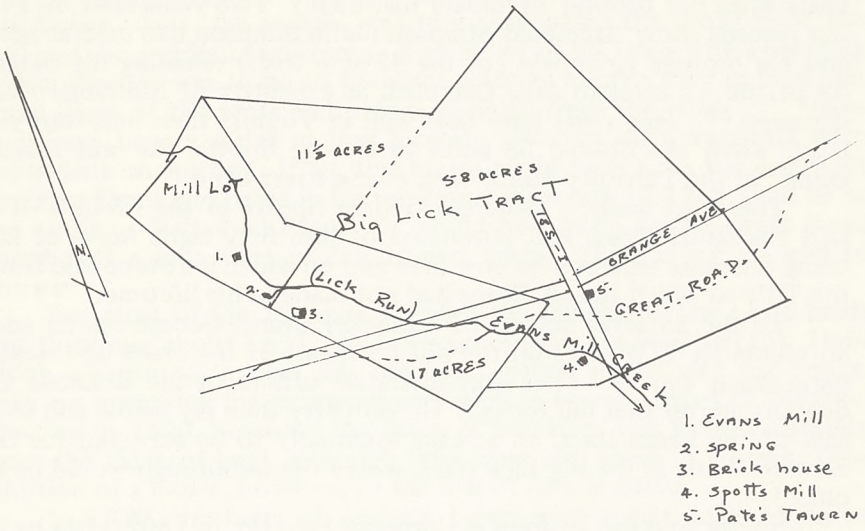
The will was recorded in April, 1774. In May of that year, Nathaniel was presented at court for unlawfully cohabiting with his housekeeper. That the housekeeper was Jane Campbell is borne out by a second court appearance in the fall of that year, this time for unlawfully cohabiting with Jane Campbell.[28] Archibald had reason for the terms of his will.

The next reference to Nathaniel was the road order of 1779. Then, in 1781, he was again in court, or rather he was supposed to be in court. James Barnett (or Barnes)[29] brought suit against him in May, 1780. In February of the next year the suit came up again. It was listed as "an Attachment." According to the minutes of the court, the defendant, Nathaniel was "solemnly called but came not," and the ruling was in favor of the plaintiff. Barnett was to recover against "said Defendant his acct. amounting to fourteen gallons of good merchantable whiskey at the rate of £15 per gallon & it is ordered that the Sheriff make sale of the still by him attached and apply as much of the Money arising from such sale towards satisfying this judgment of £210 & his costs by him in his behalf expended."[30]

By April, Nathaniel was in real trouble. The court "ordered that Nathaniel Evans be discharged from his Confinement on his first giving Bond and Security for his good Behavior in future in the form of twenty thousand pounds."[31] This prison term and extremely high security bond can only be explained by the assumption that Nathaniel had been found to be a Tory. At the time of this order, there were other judgments on men whose offence was spelled out as being Tory activities and only on those charges were the bonds required for good behavior so high. The nearest in size was that for John Griffith, £10,000 for himself and £5,000 for the man who would go his security.[32] Griffith was known to have taken up arms in the Tory cause. It would be interesting to know what Nathaniel had done.

Nathaniel's brother Peter was also having trouble in 1781. According to his father's patent, he was the owner of 1,200 acres of land in The Barrens and the adjoining Cedar Spring Farm. It seemed to his neighbors, however, that he was claiming more than 1,200 acres. Finally, in 1787, the county surveyor was ordered to make a resurvey of the land.[33] The survey, when finally finished, showed 1,910 acres, more than 500 off the mark.[34] Peter Evans elected to pay the difference and keep the land.

During these land hassles, which took years to settle, Malcolm Campbell's claim to the 42 acres he had patented on Evans Creek must have entered the proceedings. The tract may have been seen as a part of Mark Evans' original grant or, as it was a portion of the 30,000 acres granted by order of the Virginia Council to Zachariah Lewis for settlement, it may have never been properly entered. For whatever cause,



A map of the Big Lick Tract shows the 58 acres patented by Nathaniel Evans in 1787 and the 11½ acres patented by George Spotts in 1798. The parcels adjoined the Evans land which went to Capt. Andrew Lewis in 1812. The old village of Gainesborough was laid out on the lower part of the Big Lick Tract at what is the Orange Avenue interchange of Interstate 581. (Map by Clare White.)

Nathaniel Evans entered 58 acres on Evans Spring Branch in 1787, which included 38 of the 42 acres "devised by Malcolm Campbell to his son Archibald."[35] That land was now in the hands of Archibald Campbell's nephew Archibald Simpson. The uproar amongst the Campbells can be imagined. Not only were they about to lose the land, but also the stone mill they had built. Nathaniel's patent held.

Nathaniel's final appearance in the Botetourt Court took place the following year and the Campbells may be forgiven if they got a certain satisfaction out of it. Nathaniel was caught stealing, and this time the court threw the book at him. The court order for April 21, 1788, lists seven counts of theft which, although none was of much moment, had been committed against some of the most prominent men of the neighborhood, including Thomas Preston, Anthony Gholson, and George Spotts. He was accused of taking such items as bacon, a hoe, "linning overalls & woolen stocking legs," and a cowbell. He was sent to the General Court in Richmond for trial, and eight plaintiffs gave bond that they would go to Richmond to testify. The General Court was to meet in June.[36]

What was decided at the court in Richmond we do not know; the Henrico County records were burned during the Civil War. However, in August of that year, 1788, a case Nathaniel had brought against John Vineyard in the Botetourt court was dismissed, "the plaintiff being dead." An attachment George Spotts had brought against him was dismissed for the same reason.[37]

Nathaniel Evans left a will in Henrico County in which he appointed Jane Campbell as his executrix. (So she never married him and there is no hint of what their relationship may have been during those fourteen

years since her brother Archibald had died.) Two years later, in 1790, the records show Archibald Simpson (John Simpson had died at age 12 and his brother Archibald got the 42-acre tract) releasing his claim to 38 of the 42 acres to Jane Campbell as executrix of Nathaniel Evans, deceased.[38] Jane must have been still in Virginia then but, four years later, when she deeded 58 acres to George Spotts, she was listed as being "of the Territory South West of the River Ohio."

The deed reads: "Whereas George Spotts in the lifetime of the said Nathaniel Evans had purchased of him fifty eight Acres of Land being the same whereon he now lives and on which is a Stone Mill House, the Title to which the sd. Evans had not made in his lifetime..."[39]

To the 58 acres bought of Nathaniel Evans, George Spotts added an adjoining 11½ acres on the hill northeast of the creek and next to Peter Evans' line.[40] (The administrative offices of the Roanoke City Schools are on that hill today.) His property then lay below and to the east of the Evans tract, an acreage eventually to be surveyed for Gen. Edward Watts as the Big Lick tract, where Gainesborough would be laid out.[41]

Spotts sold out to John & Cornelius Pate Co. in 1802, after he had migrated to Greenbrier County. He got £1,000 for 58 acres "where they now live and on which there is a stone mill house." He also sold them the 11½ acres adjoining.[42] The Pates ran the mill and a store, as well as a tavern. A little community had begun to grow.

In the meantime, Peter Evans had died; his will was recorded in January of 1797. He left the lower part of his land, known as the Cedar Spring tract, to his son Mark, who seems to have been the eldest of his four sons.[43] Thus Mark inherited the Evans mill. In 1800, Mark married Temperance Bratcher of Bedford County[44] and, five years later, sold 500 acres, his inheritance, to James Breckinridge.[45] In 1812, a deed was recorded from Breckinridge to Capt. Andrew Lewis, son of John Lewis and grandson of Gen. Andrew Lewis.[46] Capt. Lewis had married Jane McClanahan, daughter of William McClanahan and sister of Elijah McClanahan whose land adjoined the Evans on the west.

Three years after Lewis had purchased the land, he was dead, leaving his widow and eight children. His widow was assigned as her dower the land south of the Great Road, including the Cedar Spring and a dwelling house. She also got a 17-acre tract on Peter Evans Mill Creek, the southern tip of the strip down the creek, just below what would be known as the Mill Lot, and just below the spring. It is that 17-acre tract upon which the little brick house was built. However, no house of any sort was mentioned in the dower assignment and it was customary to do so if there was a house there. The Andrew Lewis family lived at Cedar Spring.[48] It makes sense to conclude that the house at Cedar Spring was the house where Mark Evans, son of Peter, had lived, the house Peter Evans had built. Also, it must surely be significant that, from Peter Evans' time, the southern part of his estate was called the Cedar Spring Farm, implying that the center of the farm was at Cedar Spring, not the spring on Evans Creek. There is, however, another house that could qualify as having been built by Peter Evans.

In 1821, the portion of the Lewis land north of the Great Road, excepting the 17-acre tract, was divided between the eight children. The commissioners laid out the land in eight parcels of equal value, leaving two lots to be jointly owned. The Mill Lot, containing 14 acres

and the spring, went to the eight children and to the widow as part of her dower. Jane, the widow, was to get one-third the profit from the mill and the children two-thirds. A small lot of 2¾ acres with a dwelling and outhouses was to go to the eight children jointly, they to have "an equal share of the rents and profits deriving from the same."[49] There may have been a spring at that location also; the early dwellings were dependent on springs. If so, this house could have been the one built by Peter Evans and listed in his improvement report of 1755, later to be the home of Nathaniel Evans. It would have been on the Great Road about half a mile west of the 17-acre tract. There is just no way to know.

For most of the 12 years between the division of the Lewis lands and their sale about 1827, the tax accounts are not very helpful. Until 1820, everything taxable was lumped together in the land tax books, with no notations for improvements such as houses, barns or the like. Starting in 1820, however, the value of buildings was listed separately from the value of land, although they were also given in a lump. The addition of a house, however, or the loss of one, is noted.

In 1820, the heirs of Andrew Lewis were taxed on the basis of $1,300 worth of buildings on 245 acres of land.[50] The north 255 acres of the 500-acre farm bought by Andrew Lewis had been sold to Gen. Edward Watts in 1815[51] and would become the Watts homeplace. The 1821 tax record carries a notation that the mill on the Lewis land had burned, and the evaluation for buildings dropped to $700. The note stated that $600 had been taken off for the loss of the mill.[52] A mill was always worth far more than a house, so it could be the $700 remaining tax was for two houses, the one at Cedar Spring and the one on the Great Road.

The tax records are no further help until 1827 when the remainder of the Lewis land came on the market. A man named Jeremiah (Jerry) Whitten bought most of it, a piece at a time. One of his first purchases was the 17-acre tract.[53] No tax assessment was made on it for buildings, however, for the next 10 years.

In 1834, the town of Gainsborough was laid off adjoining the 17-acre tract and, in 1836, a significant agreement was drawn up between Elijah McClanahan and Edward Watts, neighbors on either side. Elijah McClanahan, brother of Jane Lewis and advisor for the family, traded water rights to the spring on the old Mill Lot for Watts' right to take water out of the portion of Evans Spring Branch now on McClanahan's land. Watts now owned the old Mill Lot and had built a new mill in 1831 on the site of the old mill.[54] He did not own the land on the creek above the mill, however, and traded with McClanahan for the right to divert water from that part of the creek for his mill.[55]

The following year, $900 was added to Whitten's taxes for a building on the 17 acres.[56] That has to be the brick house. The sequence can be easily read as Whitten wanting to build on his land near the new village and McClanahan securing for him the right to use the water of the spring so he would have a water supply. According to later deeds and surveys, Whitten built almost on the dividing line between his property and the mill lot, evidently to have ready access to the spring. When Whitten got into financial troubles years later (1840 to 1848 off and on) and had to sell portions of his property, reference is made to this particular piece as "the tract upon which the said Whitten formerly resided."[57]

(The Watts mill stayed in operation until well after the Civil War; the Watts papers first show wheat being sent to Richmond in 1872 to be ground into flour.[58])

The records do not offer much information on the Whitten family, where they came from nor where they went. (A short street near St. Andrews is named Whitten on today's map of Roanoke.) The first reference to them is in 1827 when Jeremiah started buying the Lewis land. At one time he owned 400 acres on both sides of the Great Road, about half of it the former Lewis holdings, and the other half bought from Elijah McClanahan (north of the road) and James C. Madison (south of the road). He owned the Cedar Spring farm, but the house there was tied up in Jane Lewis' dower rights which she did not release until 1843[59] when Whitten was about to sell that land to the Rev. Uriah Powers.

Whitten's wife's name was Susan, and they had six children, four boys and two girls, according to the census records. The records show Whitten to have been born about 1794, his wife about 1800. They were evidently married about 1817.[60] Presumably he was a farmer for most of his life. In 1843, when his holdings were listed as security for debt, he had six slaves. Twice he mortaged all he had to get out of debt, and twice he managed to redeem it by the sale of land.[61] In 1843, he sold the Cedar Spring tract, then 196½ acres, to the Rev. Uriah Powers,[62] who would build a new house on it named Melrose. That land was to pass, in 1870, to R. B. Moorman and, in 1890, 72½ acres of it on the north side of Orange Avenue to the Creston Land Co. The house at Cedar Spring went to Moorman's daughter, Mrs. T. J. Buford, and from her to Dr. George Moore. It has been restored by Jim Lindsey.[63]

Jeremiah Whitten's name disappears from the land tax books in 1849. He had deeded the last of his land, 200 acres, to William M. Peyton for $5 in 1848.[64] The 1850 census records give his occupation as manager for Peyton, who was then living at Elmwood and who had a hand in various commercial ventures. The space on the census for the value of real estate was blank. In 1860, his wife was dead and he owned real estate worth $200.

As for the 17-acre tract, on which it is presumed the brick house was built, Whitten sold that in 1840 to one John Bowers.[65] Bowers sold off 4¼ acres of it[66] and paid taxes on the rest until 1849 when it went to Elijah McClanahan,[67] who soon deeded it to his son Elijah G. McClanahan.[68]

In 1852, the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad came through the valley, missing the village at Gainesborough by almost a mile. In the succeeding years, the village moved to the railroad and property near Gainesborough (or Gainsboro) deteriorated in value. In 1854, Elijah G. McClanahan sold the 17-acre plot, now down to 12½ acres, to Mary A. Sowers.[69] The Sowers held it until 1872.[70] After that, it went through several hands until 1888 when Peyton L. Terry bought it as the site of Roanoke's first dairy.[71]

During all that time, the tax books showed buildings on the lot. The value of the buildings fluctuated from $600 to $1,000, possibly reflecting the fortunes of the neighborhood as Gainesborough, now called Old Lick, gradually became a black community. No real pattern can be established for the fluctuations.

In 1890, J. Allen Watts, grandson of Gen. Edward Watts and heir

to the Watts property, sold the homeplace, Oaklands, and almost 1,000 acres to Cornelius O'Leary.[72] In the deed, Watts reserved "the spring used by P. L. Terry for his creamery and one acre of land surrounding said spring." By the following year, however, Terry had found one acre not enough, so he purchased a larger portion along with the spring. (At last, the spring was on the same lot as the brick house.) The dairy property now consisted of 10.70 acres (see survey).[73]

To run his dairy, Terry brought in Charles T. Lukens of Pennsylvania and settled him in the house in today's Washington Park.[74] The neighbors to the east were the Williamsons for whom Williamson Road would be named. One day, goes the story, a cow from Lukens' herd strayed onto the Williamson land. When Lukens went to round up the cow, he met young Lucy Williamson. They were married in 1893 in the tiny Methodist Church on Commerce Street in Roanoke.[75]

The Lukens lived in the brick house on what was then called the Lynchburg Turnpike (Orange Avenue). At that time, the house was much larger, having two wooden additions on the west side of the brick portion. (see picture). The city directories of the period list Lukens as living at the dairy.[76]

In 1896, Terry's bank, the Roanoke Trust, Loan and Safe Deposit Company, closed its doors in failure,[77] a victim of the bursting of the real estate boom in Roanoke. The Eagle Dairy disappeared also, but not necessarily as a result of Terry's problems, although the property was put into the hands of trustees as security for debts.[78] In 1901, Lukens took over the notes and bought the property for an additional $1,000.[79] The Lukens and Mrs. Nancy C. Williamson, Lucy Lukens' mother, sold it to the city in 1922.[80]

Tradition has it the Eagle Dairy house was burned at the turn of the century and the city directories bear out the story. Lukens is listed as living there in 1895, running the dairy as well as a restaurant in town on Jefferson Street called the Eagle Dairy Restaurant. The 1896 and 1897 directories show him living on Patton Avenue, several blocks south of the dairy property; his occupation is given as a planter. Neither the dairy nor the restaurant are listed after 1895. 1898-1899 finds the Lukens at 15 Elm Avenue and he is the manager of the Roanoke Creamery. In 1900, he is manager of the Clover Creamery and is living at the Williamson house, listed as "suburbs,ne" (northeast).[81] There they would remain, probably because William Littleberry Williamson, Lucy's father, had died in 1898.[82]

The Williamson house was back of 20th-century Searstown and, until Williamson Road was opened in 1911, faced west. Access to it was by a road from the Lynchburg Turnpike. The house had been the home of the Rev. Clack Campbell, a Methodist minister whose family had come to Roanoke from eastern Virginia. He and his wife were childless and reared a niece, Nancy Campbell, as their own child, leaving her all their considerable estate. Nancy married W. L. Williamson and continued to live at the Campbell home. It was Nancy's daughter who had married Charles Lukens.[83] In time the house would become known as the Lukens House; it was demolished in 1974 to make room for Roanoke's city service center.

As far as can be ascertained, the old stone mill on Peter Evans Spring Branch, now Lick Run, went into a decline in the first quarter of the 19th century. A survey of the property made at the request of Gen.

Edward Watts in 1832 makes no mention of a mill; the only buildings listed were a tavern, barn and outbuildings.[84] In 1834, the land was sold to William Rowland, who was to lay it out in lots as Gainesborough. Again, there is no mention of a mill, although the tract is identified as the same sold to George Spotts and the Pates.[85] The last reference to the old mill is a deed of Jan. 4, 1829, transferring this same tract to one James Bullock, an interim owner:

". . .one tract of land lying and being in the aforesaid County of Botetourt on Mill Creek, a branch of Roanoke on which there is a Stone Mill & known by the name of Spotts' or the Mill Tract containing 58 acres by patent bearing date on the 23 day of August 1787 which said Tract of Land was granted to Nathaniel Evans and conveyed to George Spotts and by George Spotts to John & Cornelius Pate & Co. Sept. 7, 1802.

". . .also 11½ acres adjoining last mentioned tract, the land of Peter Evans & Daniel McNeel, granted to George Spotts by patent April 11, 1798 and sold by Spotts to John & Cornelius Pate & Co."[86]

To sum up, the little brick house on Orange Avenue is hardly the oldest in Roanoke; it was built by Jeremiah Whitten in 1837. Moreover, there is no way of knowing whether a log section of the brick part was built then, only that a house was built. The value placed upon it would argue for brick. Neither Peter Evans nor his colorful brother Nathaniel lived there, unless in a house that disappeared in the 18th century. What is sure is that the environs have been busily engaged since the first settlers drank from the spring. Two mills used the waters of the stream, one site being so occupied for over a hundred years. The spring was an asset as only a spring could be during the early history of the valley and continued to be so until 20th-century methods made both spring and stream more of a nuisance than a necessity. However, all three, the spring, the stream and the house, are still there.

The old house in Washington Park stands as it has for almost a century and a half, little used in 1984.

NOTES

1. Augusta County Deed Book, p. 27. (hereafter Aug. Co. DB)
2. Moravian diaries, Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. XII, p. 153.
3. Augusta County Will Book 3, p. 266. (hereafter Aug. Co. WB)
4. Aug. Co. WB 1, p. 116.
5. Pennsylvania Archives, Series II, Vol. 9, No. 2, p. 73 ff.
6. Aug. Co. DB 3, pp 518-530.
7. Aug. Co. WB 2, p. 147.
8. Augusta County Order Book, Nov. 1746. (hereafter Aug. Co. OB)
9. Aug. Co. WB 3, p. 266.
10. Botetourt County Land Tax Records 1821, microfilm at Botetourt County Court, Fincastle.
11. Aug. Co. WB 2, p. 98.
12. Bot. Co. WB C, p. 21.
13. Preston papers on microfilm, No. 522112, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.
14. Aug. Co. WB 2, p. 147.
15. A number of deeds, particularly Aug. Co. DB 11, p. 248; also Bot. Co. Order Book, May 15, 1771; and Bot. Co. WB A, p. 48.
16. Bot. Co. OB 1776-1780, p. 206.
17. Aug. Co. WB 3, p. 266.
18. Aug. Co. Survey Book No. 1, p. 53.
19. Bot. Co. OB 1772-1776, p. 314.
20. Bot. Co. OB, Nov. 1767: in the settlement of Malcolm Cambpell's estate a debt, incurred in 1748, was paid to Mary McDonald, admx. Edward McDonald, for "tanning & currying leather."
21. Patricia Givens Johnson, JAMES PATTON AND THE APPALACHIAN COLONISTS, pp. 59-60.
22. Aug. Co. DB 8, p. 238.
23. Bot. Co. DB 17, p. 273.
24. Bot. Co. DB 9, p. 12.
25. Bot. Co. WB A, p. 78.
26. Bot. Co. DB 4, p. 235.
27. Bot. Co. WB A, p. 78.
28. Bot. Co. OB, May 10, 1774, and Nov. 8, 1774.
29. The spelling of names in the early order books, deed books and will books was done phonetically and varies.
30. Bot. Co. OB 1780-1784, Part I, p. 15 & p. 90.
31. ibid., p. 95.
32. ibid., p. 40.
33. Bot. Co. OB, Aug. 15, 1787.
34. Va. Patent Book No. 25, p. 38 ff, Virginia State Library, Richmond.
35. Bot. Co. DB 5, p. 44-45.
36. Bot. Co. OB 1788-1792, Part I, p. 13.
37. ibid, Aug. 12, 1788, & p. 91.
38. Bot. Co. DB 4, p. 303.
39. Bot. Co. DB 5, p. 44-45.
40. Bot. Co. DB 18, p. 598.
41. Bot. Co. Survey Book No. 4, p. 227.
42. Bot. Co. DB 8, p. 56-57.
43. Bot. Co. WB A, p. 440.
44. MARRIAGE BONDS OF BEDFORD COUNTY 1755-1800, Earle S. Dennis & Jane E. Smith compilers, p. 21.
45. Bot. Co. DB 9, p. 12.
46. Bot. Co. DB 11, p. 75.
47. Bot. Co. WB C, p. 21.
48. Bot. Co. DB 17, p. 65; Preston papers No. 522112 as above.
49. Bot. Co. WB C, p. 322; the phrase "rents and profits" does not necessarily mean the house was rented. It was a standard phrase used in wills and deeds as part of the format.
50. Bot. Co. Land Tax, 1820, microfilm.
51. Bot. Co. DB 11, p. 633 & 615.
52. Bot. Co. Land Tax, 1821, microfilm.
53. ibid. 1820-1827; Bot. Co. DB 17, p. 273.
54. Bot. Co. Land Tax, 1832, microfilm.
55. Bot. Co. DB 17, p. 2; ibid. p. 51.
56. Bot. Co. Land Tax, 1837, microfilm.
57. Bot. Co. Survey Oct. 9, 1843, for Jonathan Reed.
58. Watts family papers in the possession of William Watts.
59. Roanoke County DB B, p. 169 (hereafter Rke. Co.)
60. U.S. Census Records, microfilm, Roanoke Public Library.
61. Rke. Co. DB B, p. 107; ibid. p. 443.
62. Rke. Co. DB B, p. 165.
63. Roanoke Times-World News, Sept. 8, 1983.
64. Rke. Co. DB C, p. 352.
65. Rke. Co. DB A, p. 182.
66. ibid., p. 252.
67. Rke. Co. DB C, p. 445.
68. Rke. Co. DB D, p. 451.
69. Rke. Co. DB E, p. 332.
70. Rke. Co. DB H, p. 651.
71. Rke. Co. DB R, p. 639.
72. Rke. Co. DB 4, p. 505-506.
73. Rke. Co. DB 24, p. 231.
74. Roanoke City Directory 1890.

75. The Methodist Church on Commerce Street had been built in 1875 as St. John's Episcopal Church. In 1892, when the Episcopal church moved to its new church on Jefferson Street, Trinity Methodist took over the former Episcopal building, where they remained until 1901, when the congregation of Christ Episcopal took over.
76. Roanoke City Directory 1890.
77. The Roanoke Times, June 16, 1896.
78. Rke. Co. DB 23, p. 581.
79. Rke. Co. DB 24, p. 229.
80. Rke. City DB 384, p. 298.
81. Roanoke City Directories 1895-1900.
82. Rke. City WB 1, p. 339.
83. Family records of the Nelms and Campbells, compiled by Robert C. Nelms and Sylvia Nelms. Roanoke.
84. Bot. Co. Survey Book No. 4, p. 227.
85. Bot. Co. DB 21, p. 34.
86. Bot. Co. DB 18, p. 598.

Vinton's Beginnings

From the small dirt roads with horse and buggy transportation and a population of a few hundred people to a thriving town of 8,027 (1980 census), the Town of Vinton has endured because of the determination of its people and the concern they have shown one for another.

Vinton's history encompasses more than just the past 100 years since the Town was chartered. The town can trace its heritage back to the mid-1700s when the area was first settled or even further back in time when the area was a part of an Indian trail which led to the Carolinas. Among the early settlers of this area was the Matthias Gish family (spelled Gisch) who arrived in Philadelphia in 1733 from Germany. Christian Gish, son of Matthias who was born around 1735, was one of the first members of the Gish family to arrive in the area. In 1797, the Gish brothers, Christian and David, established a grist mill on Glade Creek, and this led to the first "official" name for the Vinton area—Gish's Mill, with Gish's Mill becoming a part of Roanoke County.

As the railroad expanded into the Roanoke Valley, Gish's Mill became a flag stop for the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad. Gish's depot, initially nothing more than a small boxcar, was burned by Stoneman's Calvary in 1865. After the Civil War, through the persuasion of George McHenry Gish, the railroad company constructed a more substantial depot building.

Before the War Between the States, William Gish operated a general store near the depot. When the war broke out, his sons George and Griffin Gish joined the Confederate army. Upon the death of Captain Madison P. Deyerle, George McHenry Gish was promoted to the rank of Captain of the Roanoke Grays and his brother, Griffin, was designated as corporal in the same company. A neighbor of the Gish brothers, M.P. Preston attained the rank of first sergeant. After the war, the Gish brothers returned home and engaged in the mercantile business and Preston continued farming and land speculating.

There is no doubt the Gish, Vinyard, and Preston families play an important part in establishing the town. In fact, much of the land which is a part of the town was formerly the Gish land. Captain George McHenry Gish gave the land on which the depot was constructed as well as the property on which Washington Avenue was built. The Vinyards and the Prestons also owned much of the land on which the town now stands. However, over the years other families settled around Gish's Depot. Among the early families were the Prestons, John C. Fox, Jones, Funks, Pollards, Pedigos, Walkers, McLains, Bushes, Ruddells, and others.

This account of Vinton's beginnings is from a new book, Vinton History 1884-1984, by Irma Trammel Moseley and Madeline Simmons Forbes. The book, priced at $10, was published by the Vinton Centennial Committee.

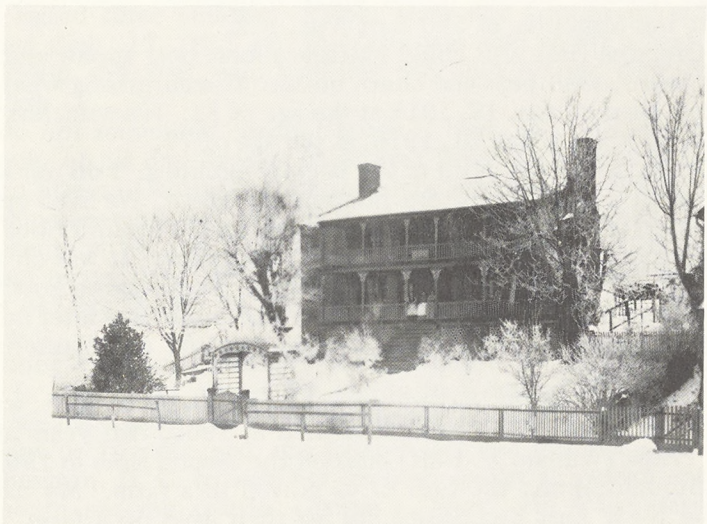
How Dr. Hart Lost His Sight

(Editor's note: Two views of the cause of Dr. H. C. Hart's blindness are given here. The first is by his grandson, W.H. Hart, a binder of books who retired from American Viscose Corp. Another opinion came from George L. Hart, a son of the doctor. George L. Hart, an owner of the old Roanoke Evening News later was a court reporter in Roanoke and Washington. His son, George L. Hart Jr., a federal judge, died in Washington on May 21, 1984, at 78.)

by W. H. Hart

My grandmother told me that her son Clayton I. Hart, years ago had a nightmare and his father, Dr. Henry Clay Hart went to see about him and fell, hitting his head on the steps, causing him to become nearly blind. He did not believe in operations unless it was the last and only thing to do, but another doctor talked Dr. Hart into allowing him to operate. After the operation Dr. Hart never was able to see again. This was in September 1886, so the record shows.

I, Winfred H. Hart was born in 1898 so I did not know him when he had his sight. I remember that I lived with them at "Magnolia" in 1912. How do I remember the date? We received a message by phone that the Titanic sank April 15, 1912. We had the old fashioned telephone on the wall in the hall. That was when we turned the crank to ring the operator and she rang the number for us. I think I am right in



A snowy view of Magnolia, the Hart home, when a fence stood along present Orange Avenue. A corner of another house can be seen on the Williamson Road side.

remembering the phone number to be 1831-J. The number of Mrs. Artie Richardson (Dr. Hart's daughter) I think was 1821-R, but I do not claim to remember other numbers.

I also remember my grandfather got up each morning and got his tin cup, which was kept in that certain place so he could find it. He got about a pint of hot water and I think he added a little salt, stirred it and took a sip at a time, drinking it before eating his breakfast. No coffee; no tea; but nature's water. He did not believe in stimulants, I am told, and served only milk or water at the table.

He, being a doctor, did things the old-fashioned way, which seemed the best way. Although he was blind, he would do a lot of things and he did them well. I worked with him also but it was fascinating to watch him. He would put a small log on the saw-buck and with a hand saw cut the wood about a foot long for the kitchen stove, then split it with the ax without getting hurt. He got a few scratches now and then, we all do.

Dr. Hart had a stick for a cane, about 6 feet long by ¾ inch thick. He used it to help find his way around, to prevent him bumping into something. He would carry the milk bucket to the barn, milk the cow and feed the cow and horse, leaving his cane at the gate leading to a well at the old Thomas place about 150 feet east from the barn which supplied water for both places. He took two buckets to the well and got water for the cow and horse. At the well he would turn the crank backwards and lower the bucket. The heavy bucket would sink into the water and fill. He turned the crank, winding the rope around the cylinder and up came the bucket of water.

He would empty it, draw another and carry the two buckets of water, one in each hand, to the barn. Since the path was lower than the grass on both sides, it was easy to follow.

If the well was still there today, it would be about 200 feet from Orange Avenue, looking north, where Williamson Road is now. At that time it was Magnolia, at 550 Hart Ave., N.E.

Grandpa Hart also could halfsole shoes, peal apples and potatoes, string beans, shell peas and churn butter. It is surprising what the blind can do. He died Jan. 17, 1918 at the age of 81. His wife, Mrs. Pluma A. Thayer Hart, died May 31, 1916, at the age of 77.

I was told I was born in the Beehive Building. I do not know why they called a plain, two-story building a beehive. We lived upstairs and Papa operated a bicycle shop downstairs on the ground floor. Imagine me being born in a beehive and not getting stung. It was on the northeast corner of what is now Wells Avenue, Northeast, across the street from where the old American Legion Auditorium was later on. Now, it is a parking lot, a block from the old Norfolk and Western Railway passenger station.

According to the record, my brother, George W. Hart, was born in 1894, now deceased. My mother died in 1900, two years after I was born. Papa (William H. Hart) married the second time in 1903 to Mary Jane Stoughton and the four of us moved to a farm. My dad worked for the N&W East End Shops but we then lived on a farm. He was a machinist and later worked in the upstairs toolroom until he retired April 25, 1938. I think all of us would fare better if we could spend some time on a farm and learn to do whatever is to be done to work.

Papa bought the Jim Day farm of nearly 40 acres, which joined

Dr. Henry Clay Hart and his wife, Pluma Artilissa Hart

the Poor House Farm on the Poor House Road, now Colonial Avenue, across from the former Jefferson Hills golf course.

On the farm, we had a large barn. We lived in a two-story house. We used an old log cabin for a do-it-yourself workshop and we had a woodshed, spring house and good spring water. Papa and my step-mother raised three children—Ralph, Mary and Lenore—all still living. Papa died Sept. 12, 1953 and the farm was sold about a year later to G. G. Fralin and Son, who sold lots and built houses, now known as Fralin Park.

I do not remember cousin George L. Hart, Jr. in his younger days. The family of his dad lived in southwest Roanoke a block or two from Jefferson Street. George Hart became a federal judge in Washington.

I remember his dad, my uncle, George L. Hart, coming to visit my grandparents in the old Magnolia building that was built for a hotel in horse and buggy days. He drove a car, as I remember, that looked a bit like the old fire truck. Being high off the ground, you had to climb up to get on it.

During President Harding's administration, as I remember, Cousin George L. Hart's dad moved the family to Washington, D. C. Both his parents are deceased and I think are buried in Washington.

Eight or 10 years ago, my sister-in-law and her husband took me to Washington, D. C. to visit her brother, Ashby Crawford and Ashby took me to see my cousin, George L. Hart. He could hardly walk because of arthritis but still was judge of a lower court.

I have been told he was judge of a high court but had to become judge of a lower court when he reached a certain age. I think he is still active as judge, or was the last I heard.

Dr. H. C. Hart's Life

The following biographic sketch of Dr. Hart was prepared by his son, George L. Hart, many years ago.

Dr. Henry Clay Hart, eldest son of David and Submit Coleman Hart, was born in Wayne, Ashtabula County, Ohio Aug. 11, 1837. His mother died May 6, 1839, and he was reared by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Coleman, in Williamsfield, Ohio, with whom he remained until February 1863, engaging in farming and carpenter work. He then moved to Bristol, Ohio, where he continued the same avocation; and in 1867 he removed to Linesville, Pa. He married Pluma Artilissa Thayer of Linesville, Crawford County, Pa. Dec. 24, 1863.

Before reaching the age of 21, the subject of this sketch was elected township trustee in his native town, but was unable to serve. After reaching his majority he was again elected in Trunbell County, O., and served for three years. He was also supervisor in Crawford County, Pa., for three years.

He entered a medical school, where for four years he was engaged in the study of medicine. After graduation, Dr. Hart located at Westfield, Chautaqua County, N.Y. Six months later he joined the Ingersoll Health Institute, at Corning, Steuben County, New York as assistant superintendent. While at the Institute Dr. Hart treated many patients of the Dunkard faith from Roanoke and Botetourt counties, Virginia, and they prevailed upon him to establish a similar sanitarium in their midst.

Having purchased Magnolia, Dr. Dennis' residence, an old Southern home at the then Big Lick, (afterwards Roanoke) Roanoke County, Virginia, on April 14, 1875, Dr. Hart opened the Valley Health Institute.

In September 1886, Dr. Hart lost his eyesight as a result of glaucoma and retired from active practice. And thereafter for 32 years, as before, he was apparently the happiest member of the family, ever radiating the sunshine of goodwill and never uttering a complaint. He passed away Jan. 17, 1918, at the age of 81, having been preceded by the death of wife May 31, 1916, age 77 years. Dr. and Mrs. Hart were Congregationalists. Being opposed to all stimulants, they never served even tea or coffee at their table.

More Hart Memories

Alma Hart Keyser, youngest daughter of Dr. Hart, contributed additional information about the family before her death at the age of 86 in 1968.

Magnolia was built by Zachariah Robinson in 1837 of brick made from clay in the bottom field "as our father called it." Her father told her of a very thick wall between the old sitting room and the room on the west to keep noise from bothering Robinson's ill sister.

Near the house, she said, were an old kitchen, a smoke house, granary, henhouse, horse and cow barn, two old houses and the old post office where the Harts lived when they moved from Bonsack. The family moved from New York State to Bonsack and then on to Big Lick, she said.

Dr. Hart started the "Invalid's Home," she said, "but people just would not pay their bills so our father went to work for the railroad."

Dr. William Fleming Made House Calls in 1700s

by Dr. Warren Moorman

William Fleming, "Colonial Surgeon, Soldier and Patriot,"[1] commissioner to settle the public accounts in the western counties and for a brief period acting governor of Virginia, has received a modicum of notice because of his services to Virginia in the formative years of our nation, but an equally interesting facet of his life, his practice of medicine, has received little attention. This aspect of his life can now be more fully appreciated as a result of the fairly recent discovery of his Ledger Book "B" in the archives of Washington and Lee University.

W & L Archivist Richard Oram, said the ledger was in the accession records but because of lack of adequate space had somehow been misplaced for many years[2]. When the new library building was occupied in 1969 Fleming's Ledger "B" was found in good condition.

This 16-by-40-cm leather-bound volume is a part of the 432 items in the Fleming collection. Because the back is missing, the last few pages may also be missing. Fleming's signature appears nowhere in the book, but the handwriting, a rather small, carefully formed script, with few flourishes, is identical with that observed in his diary. From this account book's 126 pages of entries a rather clear picture of his medical practice can be obtained. Also, some information on 453 persons named as having accounts with him can be obtained. On the Virginia frontier in the tumultous years covered, 1769 to 1781, most individuals were on the move. In many instances Fleming recorded their place of residence. An effort has been made to determine from other sources[3] where those not identified by location may have been residing at the time of the entries. Counting excited chickens best describes this endeavor! And Fleming himself was not one to stay in one place long at a time. Edmund P. Goodwin quoted a letter Fleming penned in his latter years regarding his reason for becoming a physician (date not given) in which he observed: "My inclination leading me to the study of medicine (Phisick) rather to enable (me) to satisfy my curiosity in traveling than as a business on which I was to depend at a future day for my support." Since many of his professional charges were paid very slowly, some not ever and some in the only medium of exchange available to many, farm products or personal services, Fleming's original inclination seems very foresighted.

Fleming made his decision to study medicine at a time when the scientific method was being applied for the first time to observation of

Dr. Warren Moorman, a frequent contributor to the Journal, lives in Salem and works as a surgeon at Lewis-Gale Clinic when he isn't doing historical research. The information from William Fleming's account book came from the Fleming Papers in University Library at Washington and Lee University.

nature and before it was accepted that human kind was a part of nature. The diagnosis of diseases was still imprecise, awaiting the birth of Pasteur (1822-1895), Koch (1843-1910) and fellow Scotsman Lister (1822-1912). But foundations were being laid in the understanding of normal and morbid anatomy.

Fleming was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, February 7, 1728 of clearly middle-class parents. Education was the important ladder to improvement and his parents, Dorothea Saterthwaite and Leonard Fleming, saw to it that he received a sound basic education. He then became an apprentice under a surgeon named McKee in Dumfries and moved with him to Kirkcudbright for a period of three years. He then worked for and studied under Christopher Brown, an apothecary in Kendal, Scotland. It is clearly documented that he studied at least one session in the year 1746 under Alexander Monro, professor of anatomy at the University of Edinburgh. This was near the peak of Monro's teaching career, his classes having grown from 57 students in 1720 to more than 180 per year in 1749, the year his son, Alexander Monro, secundus, became professor of anatomy. In those days the education of a physician was not strictly prescribed and further documentation of Fleming's studies is lost. The University does not list him as a graduate.[5]

Letters by his children in the Draper collection[6] indicate that for several years after his Edinburgh studies Fleming served on board ship as a surgeon's mate, assistant surgeon and/or surgeon. Goodwin's efforts at documenting Fleming in the years 1747 to 1751 met with no success.[7] Merchant ship records were not well-kept and it is no surprise that a professional researcher, Col. M.E.S. Laws, could not find Fleming among "the rosters of all British naval ships operating in African and American waters from 1747 to 1755." Obtaining a crew for merchant ships was very irregular in those days, "shanghaing" being frequently used to get enough ordinary hands on board to clear port. Officers, which Fleming would have been, would have signed ship's articles, but such documents are ephemeral. I like the story written by his children years after their father died, in response to Lyman Draper[6], in which it was noted that he had been for a time in a Spanish prison. Fleming also said in a letter to William Preston that he had visited the Island of Fernando Po, off Africa's west coast. This island was used as a staging area by some of the slave traders. Perhaps ongoing study will shed some light on this dark period.

It is now clear from references discovered by Goodwin that Fleming practiced medicine in Suffolk from 1750 or 1751 to 1755[8]. There were other William Flemings in Virginia at the time but only the subject of this essay seems to fit the entries in the Vestry Book[9] of Upper Parish, Nansemond County.

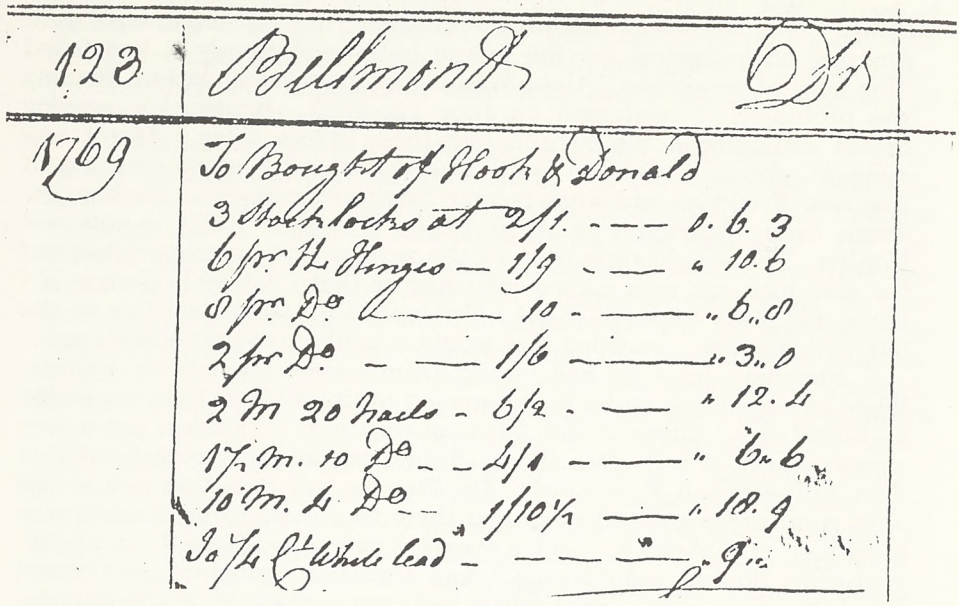
The French and Indian War may be said to have dated from George Washington's skirmish at Great Meadows May 28, 1754. Washington was forced to surrender Fort Necessity July 4, 1754. The English sent Braddock to halt French acquisitiveness in the Ohio area. With Braddock's defeat and death on July 8, 1755 the English became worried and the settlers who had been constantly moving westward, became even more alarmed. It was just the time for an able and adventuresome young man like Fleming to step forward. He did and was commissioned an ensign by Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie on August 25, 1755[10].

From February 11 to April 4, 1756 Fleming was with the ill-fated Sandy Creek Expedition against the Indians. He acquitted himself well, accusing no individual for the failure but stated simply it had failed "for want of provisions." Upon Washington's recommendation, Fleming was promoted to lieutenant on June 12, 1757. Braddock's crushing defeat emboldened the French and their Indian allies. Terror was rampant among settlers on the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiers of Augusta, Frederick and what became Botetourt counties. Washington wrote from Winchester in April 1756, "The Blue Ridge is now our frontier...The supplicating tears of the women and moving petitions of the men melt me with such deadly sorrow that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease."

Fleming's interests had moved from eastern Virginia to Augusta. When an expedition under the command of Col. William Byrd assembled at Fort Lewis, August 1760, Fleming was there. This was not a very aggressive effort and after about 16 days the militia was disbanded at Fort Chiswell and Fort Lewis. Dr. Fleming saw Staunton as a village with good prospects and so settled there to resume medical practice as a civilian. On April 6, 1763 a marriage license was issued for the adventurous doctor and "Nancy" Ann Christian, daughter of Colonel Israel Christian, a prominent settler and merchant of the southern Shenandoah Valley frontier. On September 24, 1763 Fleming purchased lot # 11 in Staunton and an additional 300 acres from the Beverly Mills tract. His practice thrived. He became a vestryman in the established church on November 24, 1764. He was appointed a justice of the Staunton District in May 1765. He had many entries in his Account Book "A" which were still unpaid when he had filled the more than 130 pages of that book. He started Account Book "B" about 1769. This was the year he moved his family to a 500-acre gift from his wife's father, Israel Christian, "at the fording of Tinker Creek." He had a home constructed that they named "Bellmont" or "Belmont." It appears to have been sufficiently complete to have become their permanent home by the spring of 1768. On page 123 of Account Book "B" is a list of items purchased from Hook & Donald including three "stock locks," 16 pair of hinges, nails and white lead. The builders were men by the names of Bates, Teatum, Martin and Davis. Work continued after the Flemings moved in. On May 10, 1771 he paid Charles Mull £ 2,12,6 for building a smokehouse, and an outdoor oven was constructed by a mason for £ 0,10,0 and Capt. Bowman received £ 1,0,0 for "waggoning" material to the building site. The inside walls were not plastered for a year or two for on January 10, 1772 Fleming paid George Berry £ 4,1,0 for plastering "Belmont."

Fleming was a man of organized energy who forged ahead. His practice thrived. In 1768 he made only seven "house calls," which he appropriately, in view of the poor road conditions, termed "journeys." In 1769 he made 31 "journeys"; 1770, 18; 1771, 51; 1772, 35; 1773, 36 and for reasons generally well-known, he made only 18 in 1774, the year of the Battle of Point Pleasant. From time to time he would mount his horse and ride back to Staunton to attend the ill and injured. One of the first such entries was on Jan. 7 to treat his father-in-law. He noted the charge for the trip as £ 1,0,0 and medicines at 0,10,0.

Dr. Fleming's pattern of charges is similiar to that observed in the



When Bellmont was under construction in 1769, Dr. William Fleming was billed for nails, locks and hinges, according to this record in the Fleming papers at Washington and Lee University Library.

account books of his contemporaries. His penmanship was decidedly better than most. His bookkeeping practices were, in my estimation, less precise than those observed in the account books of fellow Scot, John Hook of New London. It appears that Fleming's charges were about a shilling for two miles; he seems to have seldom gone less! He was careful to bill from where he was when the call came, noting "from ..." when not departing from Belmont. There was no differential that I can observe for winter and summer visits.

He noted when there was prolonged attendance and numerous were the nights he spent away from Belmont with some sick settler, as far away as Pittsylvania, New London, Staunton, the New River settlements and Greenbrier, now West Virginia. In the Roanoke valley he probably could sleep in the saddle and his horse unerringly took him home. Another pattern in his visitation charges suggests that on journeys in this valley area he would have two levels which may have been related to half and whole day investments of his time. To the Lick was £ 0,5,0. Over a decade and a half no effect of inflation is seen. Perhaps improved roads permitted him to hold down his fee when traveling within a few hours of his home.

Fleming apparently was lenient in seeking payment for his services. Lyman Chalkley[1 2] cited one instance in which Fleming in 1763 was awarded a judgment against Jessy May who owed Fleming £ 9,18,10¼ "for service and sundries." The court noted that May's wife had worked as a servant for the Flemings for three months and £ 0,10,10 should be credited to May.

Fleming was not adverse to travel, indeed a chronology of his travels reveals that he probably traveled in excess of 8,650 miles on

horseback carrying out his various official duties and 9,650 miles of documented medical "journys" are recorded in Ledger Book B! If one estimates his trips to and from Williamsburg and later Richmond, five trips to Kentucky, the Sandy Creek Voyage, the march to Point Pleasant and to Fort Duquesne, the Cherokee expedition, his retreat as acting chief of Virginia's government at the time Lt. Col. Tarleton attempted to capture Jefferson at Charlottesville and trips betwen Bellmont, Fincastle and Staunton, one has a grand total of 18,300-plus miles. On horseback at 3 miles per hour (the estimated speed of the roads) he spent the equivalent of 610 ten-hour days in the saddle! The actual distances must have been much more for these estimates do not include the tortuous trails around rough terrain, up and down streams until a safe fording was reached, searching for supplies, strayed horses and AWOL militiamen.

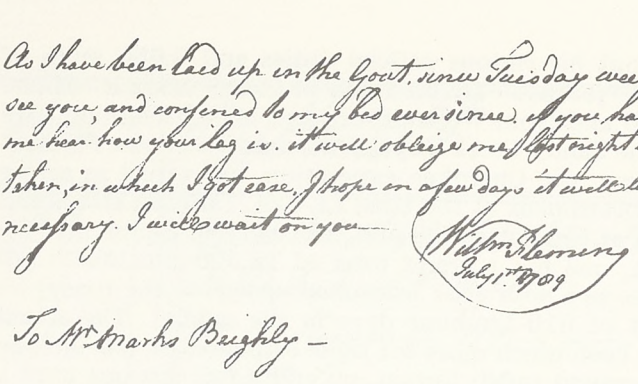
In considering Fleming's trips in service to the sick and injured one must constantly remember that he had to carry in saddle bags all the medical supplies that he used on journeys that sometimes lasted many days. He made these calls in all weather and all seasons over roads of all kinds, mostly bad to worse. Traveling alone, as he must have done much of the time, he not only was exposed to the hazards of weather and roads but to misadventure with stray Indians, runaway indentured servants and slaves. His trips to Kentucky were made in the winter months because that was generally when the Indians were less likely to be prowling about. Vause's fort at Shawsville was attacked and burned with considerable loss of life in 1756 and passage of Indian groups in this area was a familiar sight until the 1770s.

There is no indication whether he did or did not record all patients seen at his home. It seems probable he may have had many who came to his door, were treated and paid cash so no entry was made. There were no income taxes to evade and such a practice was commonplace until physicians began to see the value of clinical notes, records of previous medical encounters and patient responses. He did make entries such as "medicine sent to...by..." or "for his wife" or "for his child" or "for a negro servant."

Much prescribing was based only on secondhand accounts of the patient's problem. Since specific pharmaceutical agents were not known in Fleming's time this probably made little difference in the outcome. His therapeutic armamentarium consisted of the four "P" agents of the day which were thought to rid the system of poisons or have a countering action on wayward body functions. These caused the patient to "puke," to be "purged," to be bled of toxins, properly called in Philadelphia medical circles "phlebotomy," but always listed by Fleming as "blooding." The other "P" was application of soothing poultices or counter-irritating plasters such as mustard.

Dr. Fleming's use of surgery does not appear very extensive in today's era of desire for a "quick fix" but compared to his contemporaries he appears to have been relatively accomplished. He had studied anatomy under the world's leading professor. He had been on his own as the person who repairs shipboard injuries. He had about as much experience treating battle wounds and trail injuries as any man in the colonies by 1775.

His name is, however, missing from Louis C. Duncan's basic study, *Medical Men in the American Revolution, 1775-1783.* The reason, Dr.


As I have been laid up in the Gout, since Tuesday week, the day I designd to see you, and confined to my Bed ever since. If you have an opportunity to let me hear how your Leg is. it will oblige me. Last night was the first in wch I was taken, in which I got ease, I hope in a few days it will leave me, and then if it is necessary. I will wait on you—

Wm Fleming

July 1st 1769

To Mr Marks Bughly—

A communication to Mark Bigler from Colonel William Fleming dated July 1, 1769. The original of this is owned by Ralph W. Firebaugh, a descendant of the Bigler family.

Fleming was recovering at Belmont from nearly fatal musket ball wounds received in the Battle of Point Pleasant October 10, 1774.

One of the ways a physician is evaluated is examination of his reading habits. An inventory of Dr. Fleming's library reveals it to be one of the largest among Virginia physicians of that time. He owned 324 volumes, of which 43 were medical works. Because students then as today purchase and study the books by their professors it is not surprising to find Alexander Monro's *The Anatomy of the Human Bones*, 1726, among Fleming's books. Some of his books were published as much as several decades before he studied medicine but in those much slower times these could not be faulted as outdated. Today's better physicians are apt to become anxious with the appearances of every new edition of books related to their area of conern! It is impossible to determine when he purchased all but three of the 43 medical books in his library. These three were published just before or after he moved to Belmont and indicate his continuing interest in keeping current:

Astruck, Jean, *L'Art d'Acoucheur*, 1767 (obstetrics)
Rush, Benjamin, *Inoculation*, 1781
Dimsdale, Thomas, *The Present Method of Inoculating for the Small Pox*, 1776

Several of his books were old medical classics found in the office of many physicians of the day such as *The Aphorisms of Hippocrates*, the *Aphorisms of Hermann Boerhaave* and William Lewis' *New Dispensatory*.

In evaluating Dr. Fleming the work of shrewd New London merchant, John Hook, must be viewed as sound testimony to Fleming's reputation among his knowledgeable contemporaries. Hook wrote[13] his business partner, David Ross in 1773 asking his assistance in finding a doctor for the growing Bedford area. He added, "Fleming in Botetourt is the nearest, there is not one of skill or experience in any of the counties nearer than Goochland."

That Dr. Fleming maintained a high level of intellectual curiosity is obvious from many entries in the journals he kept of his travels. He recorded carefully distances traveled, the kind of terrain, condition of rivers and soil. On his way to the Ohio River in 1774 he described the Gauley River, an outcropping of coal which "burned very well"; and

there were "two curious Springs, the Vapour of which kindles quick as Gunpowder and burns with a surprising force," though the water "tasted unctious." He had found the natural gas of the "Burning Springs" east of Charleston, W.Va. He recognized the role contaminated water played in transmission of disease without knowing the actual agent. In 1779 he wrote in his journal[14] about conditions in Harrodsburg, Kentucky:

> "The Spring at this place, is below the Fort and fed by ponds above the Fort so that the whole dirt and filth of the Fort, putrified flesh, dead dogs, horse, cow, hog excrements and human odour all wash into the spring with the Ashes and sweepings of filthy Cabbins, the dirtiness of the people, steeping skins to dress and washing every sort of filthy rags and cloths in the spring perfectly poisons the water and makes the most filthy nauseous potation of the water imaginable and will certainly contribute to render the inhabitants of this place sickly."

Additional evidence of Dr. Fleming's scientific curiosity is found in items in his diary. For example, he took the trouble, while enroute to Kentucky to settle land claims, to dissect the spine of a buffalo to understand the nature of the buffalo's hump:

> The hump or that remarkable rising on the shoulders of a Buffalo[15] is formed by the Spinal Processes of the nine first Vertebrae of the back gradually rising in hight from the ninth to the third. The Second and the first being some thing shorter than the third, and the process of the third rising sometimes in bulls to the length of Eighten Inches the ninth to 3 or four inches these spines cut off and dressed the meat is reconed the sweetest part of the Buffalo.

As one reflects upon the entries in Fleming's ledger from the vantage point of today the question of doctor-patient relationship is the only aspect which permits comparison. Definitive drug therapy did not exist. Had there been a Federal Drug Administration in his time to evaluate the effectiveness of medicines, only Cinchona bark, opium, some of the mercurial preparations, Ipecac and perhaps some of the topical applications would have been rated as "questionably effective."

So if his materia medica (material used in preparing remedies) was so ineffective why did so many individuals seek his ministrations and pay well for his services? The answer must be that he somehow sustained the spirit of patient and family while the patient's own natural resources were responding to the challenge. And when death appeared inevitable he provided the comfort of his kind, wise and stable personality. He knew something of suffering from personal experience, having been a prisoner of the Spanish near starvation and a casualty of three Indian musket balls which inflicted wounds with a very high mortality rate in those days.

A more detailed analysis of Dr. Fleming's Ledger Book "B" and of his journeys in service to the sick and injured would serve no useful purpose. He gave without reservation to the advancement of his state and nation. Wayfarers received a friendly welcome at Belmont. He was a friend to ministers of many faiths. While never wealthy he was viewed as having provided comfortably for his family. His wide-ranging interests, intellectual attainments, engaging speech, dignity and courtesy made him a favorite in the social life of Virginia. Although away from home often, his devotion to his wife "Nancy" Christian Fleming and their

children would justify an extended essay. It was in the blood and toil of our ancestors and their friends like Nancy and William Fleming that the payments for this nation were made.

In summarizing his exertions one must reflect with appreciation approaching reverence upon his well-balanced life. He was an individual revealed by the records to have, as his contemporaries might have said, "worn the whole armour of God[16]...the shield of faith" who went about "with good will doing service" to those of his time and to those who have followed him.

Fleming's medical heritage traces directly back to Dr. Hermann Boerhaave of Leyden, Holland, the most renowned physician of Europe in the period "when reason reigned and charity was reborn." Boerhaave had intended being a clergyman but was excluded from that study when he asked a minister who was violently critizing Spinoza if he had actully read Spinoza's works. Boerhaave's great contribution was the idea of placing the patient's interests first; he remarked on one occasion "the poor are my best patients for God always pays me for them."

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THE WILLIAM FLEMING FAMILY

John Fleming
of Hugil

m

?

Leonard Fleming
of Reston

m

William
Saterwhaite

m

?

Dorothea Saterthwaite
of Hawkshead, Lake
Windermere

John
Apr. 1721

Leonard

Mary

Catherine
Aug. 1725

William
Feb. 7, 1728

m 1763

Israel Christian

m

Elizabeth Stark

Anne (Nancy)
Christian

Priscilla

m

Thomas Bullitt

Rosanna

m

Caleb Wallace

William

m

Anne Henry
sister of
Patrick Henry

Mary

m

Stephen Trigg (1st)
Robert Daniel (2nd)

Leonard Israel

Elizabeth

m

Cary H. Allen (1st)
Rev. M. Dawson (2nd)
Samuel Ramsey (3rd)

Anne

m

Rev. George A. Baxter

Dorothea

m

James Bratton

Priscilla

m

Samuel Wilson

William C.

m

Sarah N. Lewis

John (died aged 18)

Benjamin Keagy's Home

by Martin O. L. Spangler

The Benjamin Keagy house on Lee Highway in 1976

In 1941, my parents, Horace C. and Ruth (Webster) Spangler purchased an old house now known as Keagy House from the heirs of William H. Trout. They lived there until their deaths in 1970 and 1977, respectively. My sisters and I did much of our growing up there. When we moved to Keagy House I was 13, Jo was 11, Mary was 6, and Eleanor was 2.[1] What follows is information on the old house and some of the people who lived there before us.

Between 1851 and 1855 Benjamin Keagy purchased the 135 acres of land upon which he was to build Keagy House from the heirs of George Trout, his father-in-law, who had died in 1849.[2,3,4,5] The land was south of the Roanoke River and most of it was east of Cravens Creek. The deeds show that the tract of land included both sides of the creek near its mouth, where it flows into the Roanoke River, and a large spring west of the creek and directly across the stream from the site of the house. This spring is still being used as a source of water for Keagy House although it was covered over about 1977. Benjamin and

Martin Spangler, a chemistry professor at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa., lived in the Keagy house from the age of 13 while he was growing up. His family still owns the house on Lee Highway at the southwestern edge of Roaoke. Spangler, a graduate of Bridgewater College, holds a master's and doctorate from Virginia Tech. Clare White added to Spangler's work.

Catherine (Trout) Keagy were already living on the property when they purchased the land, as is mentioned in the 1855 deed by which Anna Airheart's one-tenth interest was transferred to the Keagys.[6] (Anna Airheart was Catherine Keagy's sister.)

Keagy House, or at least the larger portion of it was built by Benjamin Keagy in 1857. The Roanoke County Land Book for 1857 shows the value listed for buildings on the property as $1,500, an increase from the $800 listed the previous year. An explanatory note on the listing was "$700 for improvements."[7] While other changes in valuation for buildings on the property were noted between 1834 and 1903, in every case except the above the changes were made because of reassessments.[8]

The 1857 construction seems to have been adjacent to an older brick house, with the two joined by a back porch. Today (1983) the two houses are joined by a bathroom which was added in about 1945. As far back as 1822, the land books show a valuation for buildings of $400 and $800. The valuation was $400 until the 1840 reassessment, and $800 from 1840 to the 1857 construction.

George Trout (Catherine Keagy's father), his wife Mary (Miller) Trout and their infant son John (b. Feb. 13, 1813) had moved into the Roanoke Valley in 1814, and settled on land near the mouth of Peters Creek which flows into the Roanoke River from the north several miles down the river from Cravens Creek. He built a "sturdy brick house" there in 1823.[9] Another couple, Michael Miller (Mary's brother) and his wife, Elizabeth (George Trout's sister), settled on an adjoining farm. Their homes were about a half-mile apart, in full view of each other.[7,8,9,10]

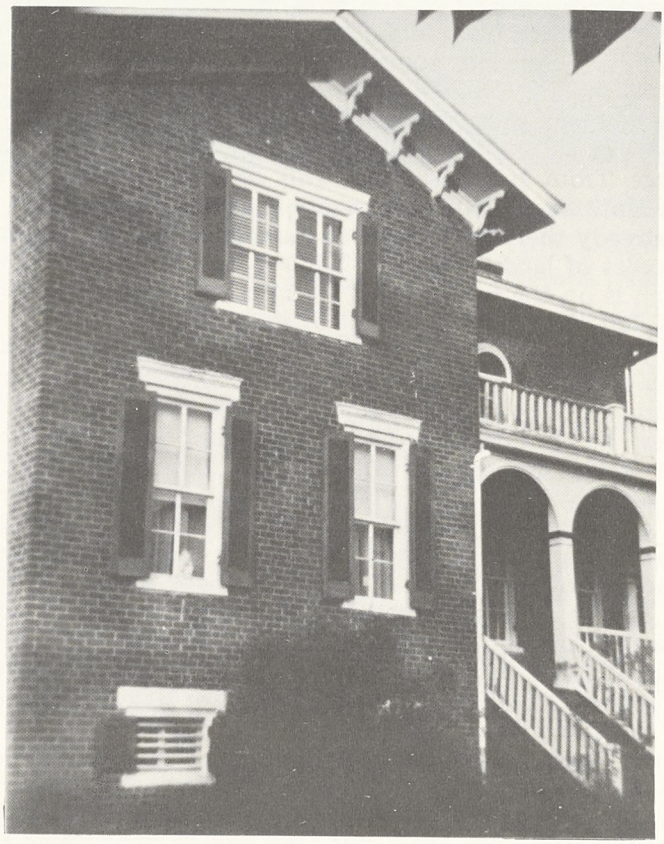
George Trout purchased the 135 acres on Cravens Creek from Michael Frantz in 1825.[11] A small, 1½-story brick house was presumably already there at the time of purchase. Michael Frantz reserved "twenty poles of land to be laid off in regular form including the Grave Yard which is on the said tract..."[12] for himself and his family and for the Trout family and heirs. Most of the 135-acre tract was part of a tract of 245 acres of an original land grant to Ephraim Vause in 1748, which was conveyed to James Neely as recorded in Augusta County Court March 1, 1749. (Ephraim Vause moved on up the Roanoke River where he later converted his house near present Shawsville into a fort, Fort Vause, for the protection of his family and neighbors. His fort was destroyed by the Indians in 1756.)[13] Neely conveyed the property to Alexander Ingram in 1752, and Ingram sold it back to Neely, possibly as Ingram joined the general exodus from the area following the fall of Fort Vause. In 1752, Neely conveyed the land to Christian Frantz and, in 1800, Christian Frantz sold 134 acres of it, plus 1.4 acres from another tract, to Michael Frantz. The 1825 deed to George Trout states that the adjoining property west of Cravens Creek belonged to Henry Frantz whose wife was Anna Keagy Frantz (b. about 1790)[14], Benajmin Keagy's aunt.

George Trout's daughter, Catherine (b. Feb. 19, 1815), married Benjamin Keagy (born July 22, 1816) on March 25, 1841.[15] They may have moved into the old house on her father's Cravens Creek land soon after this date. By 1857, not only had Madison Pitzer built Belle Aire[15-a] (1849), a beautiful Greek Revival house, on a bluff across Cravens Creek from the Keagys, the Keagy children were also beginning

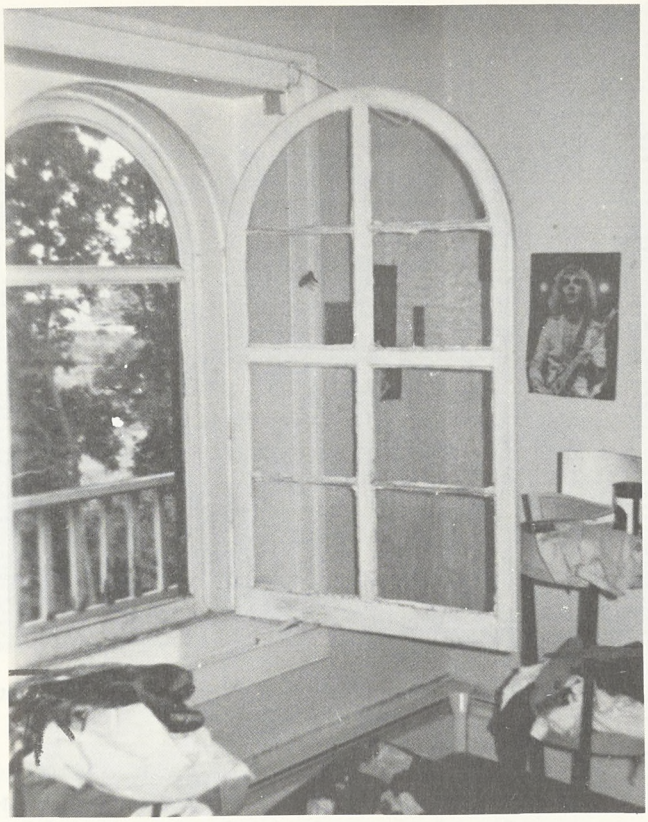
to grow up. Mary Susan, George and Anna Eliza were 15, 13 and 10, respectively; their father may have thought the time was right to enlarge the house. One room upstairs seems to have been built specifically for the girls. It is separate from the rest of the upper floor, with its own stairway, and has a beautiful view of the creek from the Italianate arched window over the front porch.

The house is of the right-angle style with a strong Italianate influence as shown by the overhanging bracketed eaves and arcaded porch.[16] The railing on the porch roof was added after 1941. There is a fireplace in each room, including the unfinished basement rooms, each with a separate flue in the two chimneys. Also, all the original floors remain, except for the back porch.

The older house consists of a 1½-story brick portion to which has been added a frame storage room on one end and a frame kitchen on the other, where a chimney serves the kitchen fireplace on one side and fireplaces for two rooms, one above the other, on the other side. The brick, at least along the front of the house, was laid by Charles Lewis, a master bricklayer and slave of Benjamin Deyerle who had laid brick "in front of the house" for many homes in Roanoke and adjoining counties. Most brick houses of the 19th century had their best-formed and best-laid bricks on their front facades.[17]



Overhanging bracketed eaves and front porch arches are features of the house built in 1857.



A hooded window opens onto second floor porch.

The slave quarters, the frame house attached to the big house, were probably built about the same time. According to the property tax books of 1858-1863,[18] Benjamin Keagy owned at least one, and in some years as many as three slaves. The brick smokehouse may have been built at the same time. The upper side of the smokehouse has a structure attached that may be the remains of a blacksmith's shop.

Benjamin Keagy died in 1872 when he was 56 years old. At his death he seems to have been a moderately prosperous farmer; he owned 302 acres along Cravens Creek and the Roanoke River at that time. His wife lived until 1877 or 1878. Benjamin Keagy's son George married Nannie S. Linkous in 1875; they had no children. The George Keagys and George's two sisters, who never married, lived at Keagy House the rest of their lives.

In 1895, all the land except 7.75 acres on which the house stands, was sold at auction to pay off a mortgage due the Holston National Building and Loan Association of Bristol, Tenn.[19] The graveyard was reserved to the Keagys[20] along with "a suitable walk right of way along the orchard fence..." The sale was enjoined and thrown into court. The injunction was dissolved in 1898 and the sale was permitted by the court. At this point 127.5 acres went to William H. Cook.[21]

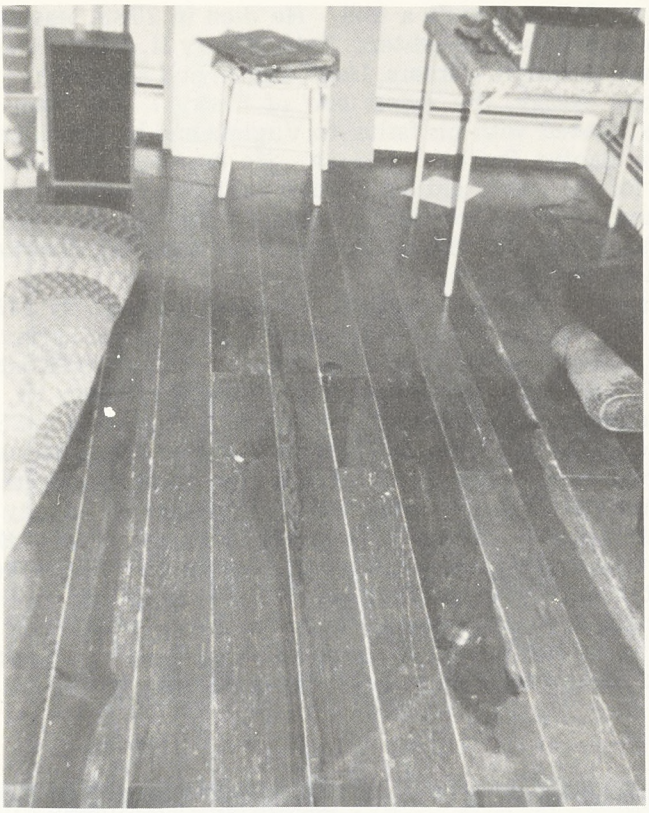
By 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Keagy and Mr. Keagy's sisters were apparently feeble and "of advanced age." All the 7.75 acres and their

Slave quarters was believed to be in frame, two-story building behind house at right.

personal property was deeded to William H. Trout, a close relative, as a result of his paying off two debts and the taxes for 1902 and 1903.[22] The Keagys were allowed to remain on the property although Trout was the legal owner. George Keagy was 59 at the time.

The Trouts were a very influential family in the Roanoke Valley. Catherine Trout Keagy's brother, John Trout, owned the Trout House, a substantial stone building where he was operating an inn in 1852. The Ponce de Leon Hotel (now the Crystal Tower Building) was eventually built at this location. He was twice a councilman, and was mayor of Big Lick, which later became Roanoke.[23] He was also an active supporter of Roanoke College which was established by two Lutheran ministers in 1842 in Augusta County and moved to Salem in 1847. John Trout's son, Henry S. Trout was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1877 to 1881, and was in the State Senate from 1882 to 1886. He was mayor of Roanoke in 1892.

The Trouts were very active in the Lutheran church. Soon after George Trout purchased the land on which Keagy House was built, the first known Lutheran church in the Roanoke Valley, Zion Church, was built on the same property. This log building was constructed in 1826, or earlier,[24] and services were held there until the congregation relocated in 1897. In 1828, the Lutheran Synod of North Carolina met there and consecrated the church. After the building ceased to be used as a church, the ownership of the lot and structure reverted to the Keagys. The Roanoke County Land Books show that Mrs. Nannie L. Keagy paid the taxes on the "Old Zion Church" property in 1901 and 1902.[25] The 1898 deed shows distinctly where the church lot was cut out of the Keagy property.[26] The church building remained until it



Random width flooring has been in place since the mid-19th century.

was torn down in 1976.

The family of Trouts is descended from the George Trout who came to Pennsylvania from the Palatinate in 1723 on the ship Eliza.[27] His wife's name was Mary. George Trout's father was Valentine Trout. His son, Michael Trout, married Elizabeth Baer and they moved to Rockingham County where he became a captain in the Continental Army. Michael Trout's son George (born Jan. 11, 1782) was the same George Trout mentioned above who came to the Roanoke Valley and then purchased the land on which Keagy House was built. He also served in the War of 1812.

The Keagy family is descended from John Rudolph Kägy (Hans Kägy) who came to the "Swiss Settlement" of Mennonites in Lancaster County, Pa. in 1715. Soon after he arrived, he married Rebecca Patterson. They had four sons and three daughters: Jacob (born 1719), Abraham (born about 1723), Rudolph (born about 1725), Henry (born 1728), and Susannah, Barbara and Anna.[28]

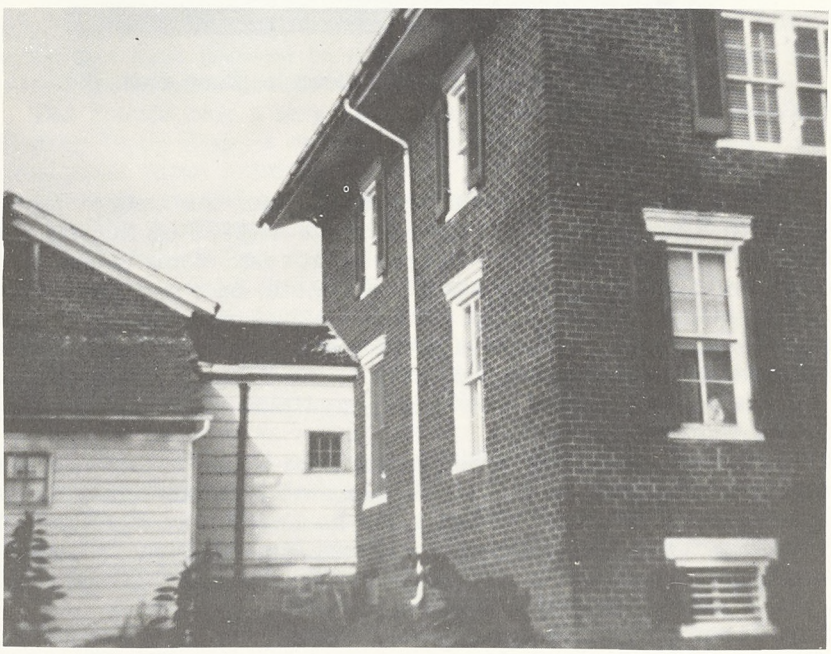
Henry Keagy I, the youngest son of John Rudolph, married Barbara Stoner in 1756. They lived near Conestoga, Lancaster County, Pa., until 1768 when they moved to Virginia. They went first to Page County, and afterward crossed Massanutten Mountain to Shenandoah County where they settled along Smith's Creek. Henry bought 404

acres in 1769 and built a mill. He died in 1783, leaving a family of eight sons and three daughters: John, Henry II, Jacob, Anna, Abraham, Christian, Rudolph, Barbara, Isaac, Martin and Elizabeth.

John Keagy, the eldest son of Henry I, was born in Lancaster County, moved with his father to Virginia and became a minister in the German Baptist Brethren Church. He was devoted to his ministerial duties for 40 years, until his death in 1845. Highly regarded for his piety and noble generosity, he became known in the wider community as Father Keagy or "the good man." He lived and died near the home place near New Market.

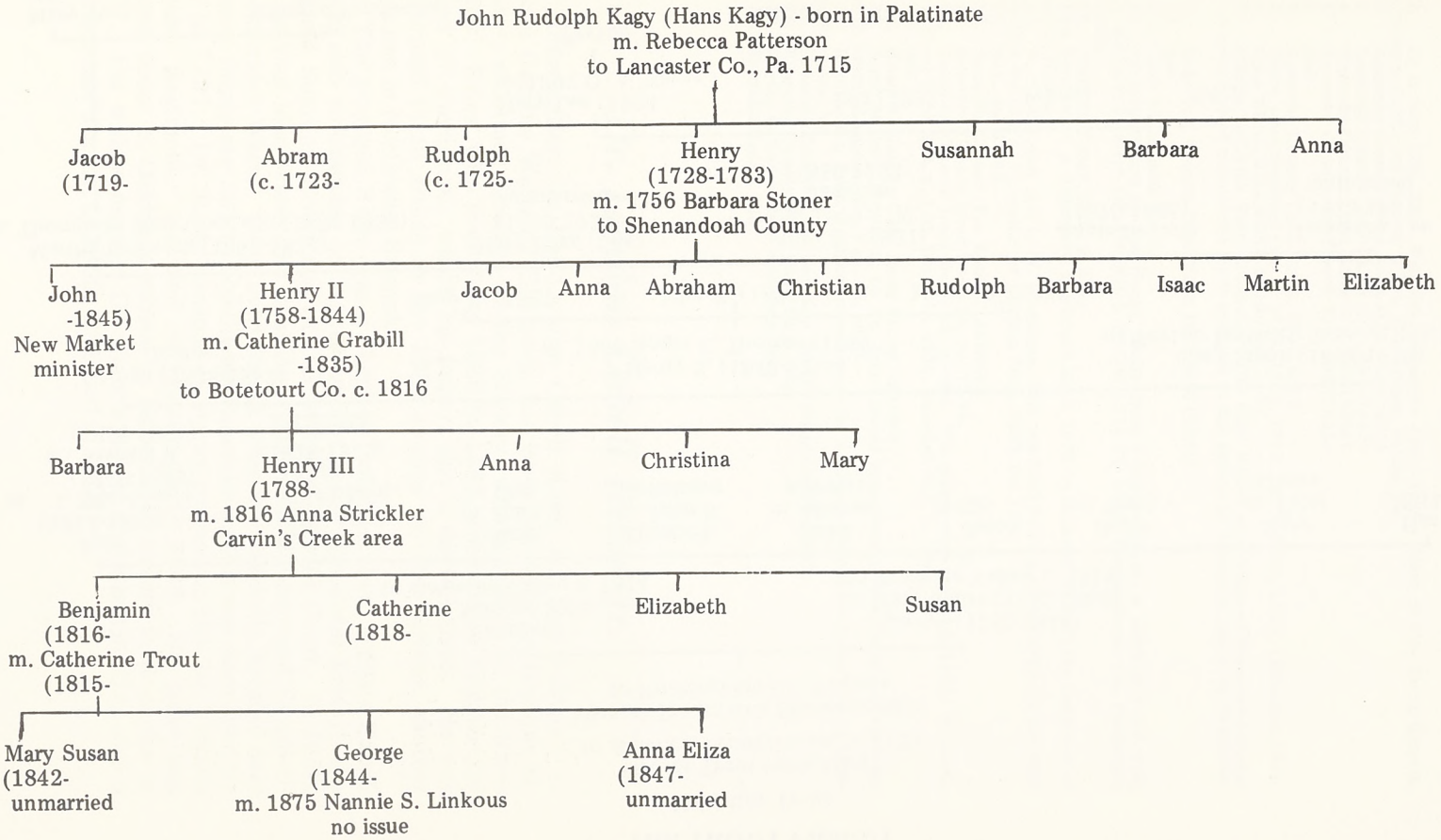
Henry II was also born in Lancaster County, in 1758, and also moved to Virginia with his father. He married Catherine Grabill and moved to that part of Botetourt County that is now Roanoke County about 1816. They had five children: Barbara, Henry III, Anna, Christina and Mary. Henry II died in 1844; his wife died in 1835.

Henry III was born in 1788 and married Anna Strickler in 1816. They had four children: Benjamin, Catherine, Elizabeth and Susan. Benjamin and Catherine were born in Shenandoah County in 1816 and 1818, respectively. Henry III, his wife and their children, Benjamin and the new-born Catherine, moved to what is now Roanoke County in 1816, the same year as his father did. Henry III and his family settled about nine miles northeast of Salem in the Carvin's Creek area and, by 1838, he owned some 485 acres in that region. His son Benjamin married Catherine Trout and eventually built Keagy House.

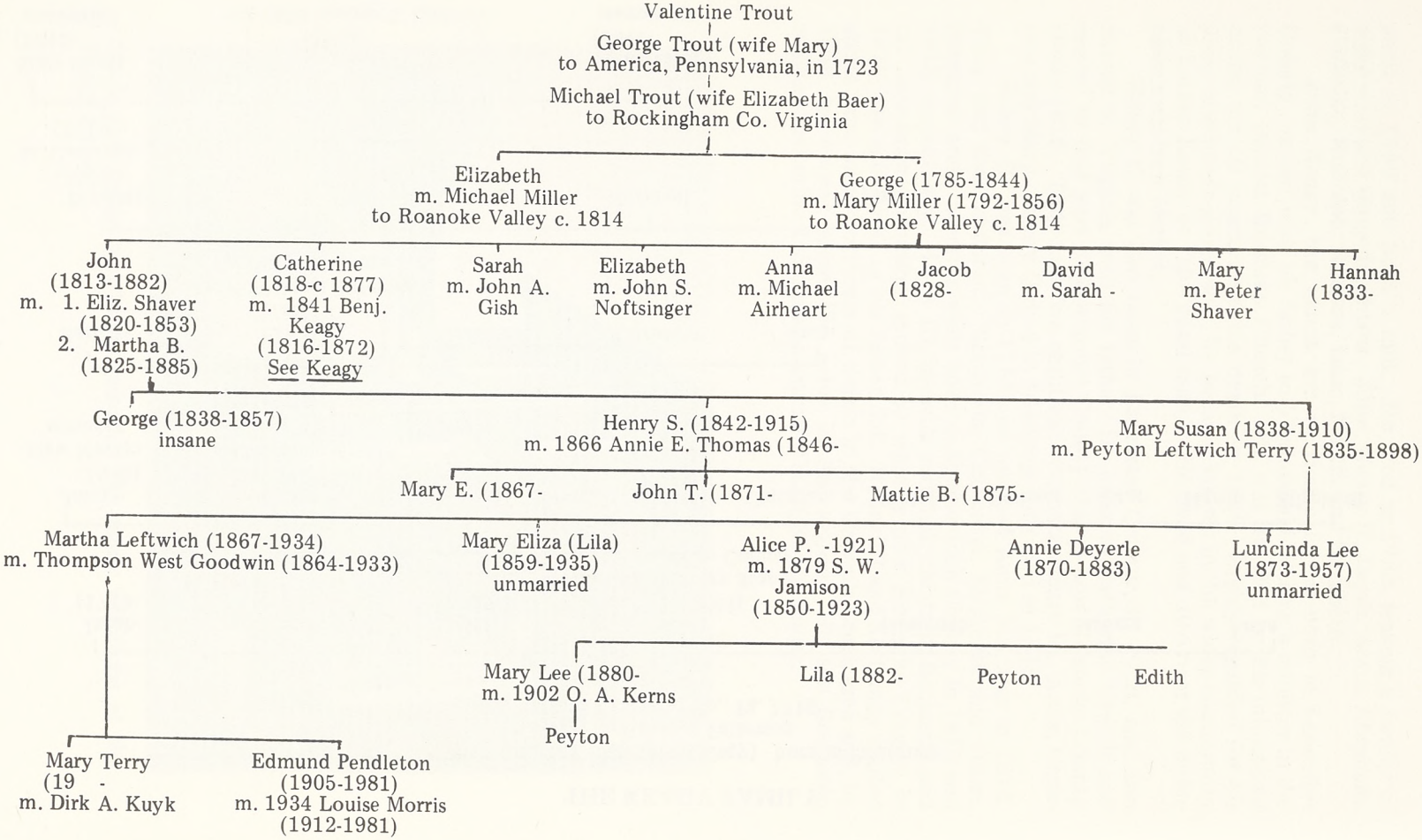


Brick and frame and brick make up the many additions at the Keagy house.

THE KEAGY FAMILY



THE TROUT FAMILY



NOTES

1. Jo is now Mrs. Fred Wampler, Mountain City, Tenn; Mary is Mrs. David Garrett, Santa Monica, Calif.; and Eleanor is Mrs. Dan Brogan, Salem, Va.
2. Roanoke County Deed Book D, p. 247 (1851)
3. Roanoke County Deed Book D, p. 351 (1852)
4. Roanoke County Deed Book E, p. 144 (1854)
5. Roanoke County Deed Book E, p. 398 (1855)
6. ibid.
7. Roanoke County Land Book, 1857, p. 16
8. There were reassessments in 1840, 1862, 1870, 1872, 1880, 1885, 1890, and 1895.
9. Clare White, ROANOKE 1740-1982, p. 35.
10. Martha Leftwich Terry-Goodwin, "The First Millers and Trouts of Roanoke County, Va.," an unpublished manuscript made available to the author by Melvin M. Scott, Jr., Waltham, Mass.
11. Botetourt County Deed Book 16, p. 310 (1825)
12. ibid.
13. Clare White, ibid, p. 10.
14. All information on the Keagy family from Franklin Keagy, A HISTORY OF THE KAGY RELATIONSHIP IN AMERICA FROM 1715 TO 1900, Harrisonburg, Pa., Publishing Co. (1899).
15. Franklin Keagy, ibid., p. 271.
15-a This home, a Registered Landmark since 1975, is currently (1983) the residence of Richard S. Whitney.
16. W. L. Whitwell and L. W. Winborne, THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY, University of Virginia Press, 1982, pp. 116.
17. ibid., pp. 87-88.
18. Roanoke County Tax Books, 1853-1863.
19 Roanoke County Deed Book 14, pp. 72-74.
20. Roanoke County Deed Book 18, p. 584. The graves were moved in 1968. Roanoke County Deed Book 864, p. 126; Deed No. 4931, recorded Nov. 1, 1968.
21. ibid.
22. Roanoke County Deed Book 27, pp. 581-583.
23. Some of the information on the Trout family came from a letter to the author from Glenn D. Trout, Roanoke, Va., Feb. 13, 1980.
24. Information from a marker placed near the Lutheran retirement home on Lee Highway in Roanoke, Va.
25. Roanoke County Land Books, p. 33 (1901) and p. 31 (1902).
26. Roanoke County Deed Book 18, p. 584.
27. Martha Leftwich Terry-Goodwin, ibid.
28. Franklin Keagy, ibid.

Dr. Landon Cabell Rives Jr.

Information on Dr. Landon Cabell Rives Jr., first husband of Letitia Gamble Watts of Oaklands, has been provided by Hoskins M. Sclater, a former director of the Society, who is related to the Rives family. Rives, who lived from 1825 to 1862, was born in Virginia and reared in Cincinnati, where his father, also a doctor, lived. He was mentioned in an article in the 1982 Journal on The Barrens, another old home in Northwest Roanoke.

The younger Rives was a nephew of U. S. Sen. William Cabell Rives, also ambassador to France, and of Judge Alexander Rives of the Virginia Supreme Court and of U.S. Western District Court. In 1850, he married Miss Watts, the daughter of General Edward and Elizabeth Breckinridge Watts. They lived for 11 years at Oaklands, located near present Interstate 581 in Northwest Roanoke until it was destroyed by fire in 1897. Dr. Rives became an Army surgeon in the 1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment. He died of pneumonia in 1862. His grave was among those at Oaklands moved to Fairview Cemetery in Roanoke in 1977. His widow married Dr. Francis Sorrel of Savannah, Ga., also a Confederate doctor, in 1865. She died in 1900.

The Back Creek Road

by Lynn Dickerson II

Some people call it the "corduroy road"; others, the "old county road" or the "wagon road." Botetourt County deed books, court order books and road order books refer to it as the "Back Creek Road." Beginning as Route 640 some two miles southwest of Buchanan in Botetourt County, it follows Back Creek in a westerly direction along the northern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to an intersection with Route 606, the old Fincastle-to-Buford turnpike. Leaving its State maintenance status behind it, the old road then plunges into the forest at Camp Bethel to emerge at the Lemon homeplace as Routes 647 and 711. After leaving Rabbit Run, headwaters of Back Creek, and passing the old Shay house, the road again disappears into farm and forest land. Continuing on its westerly course over foothills and through mountain hollows, it passes Troutville, sometimes as a State road and sometimes as a wagon road, on its way to the old Ore Bank near Cloverdale.

A .002-mile segment of the Back Creek Road over Rabbit Run to the Craighead driveway. An alteration was made c. 1910.

References to the road appear frequently in the Botetourt County deed books. An 1840 deed in the chain of title to the William B. Shay property on Route 711 notes that the boundary line comes to a point

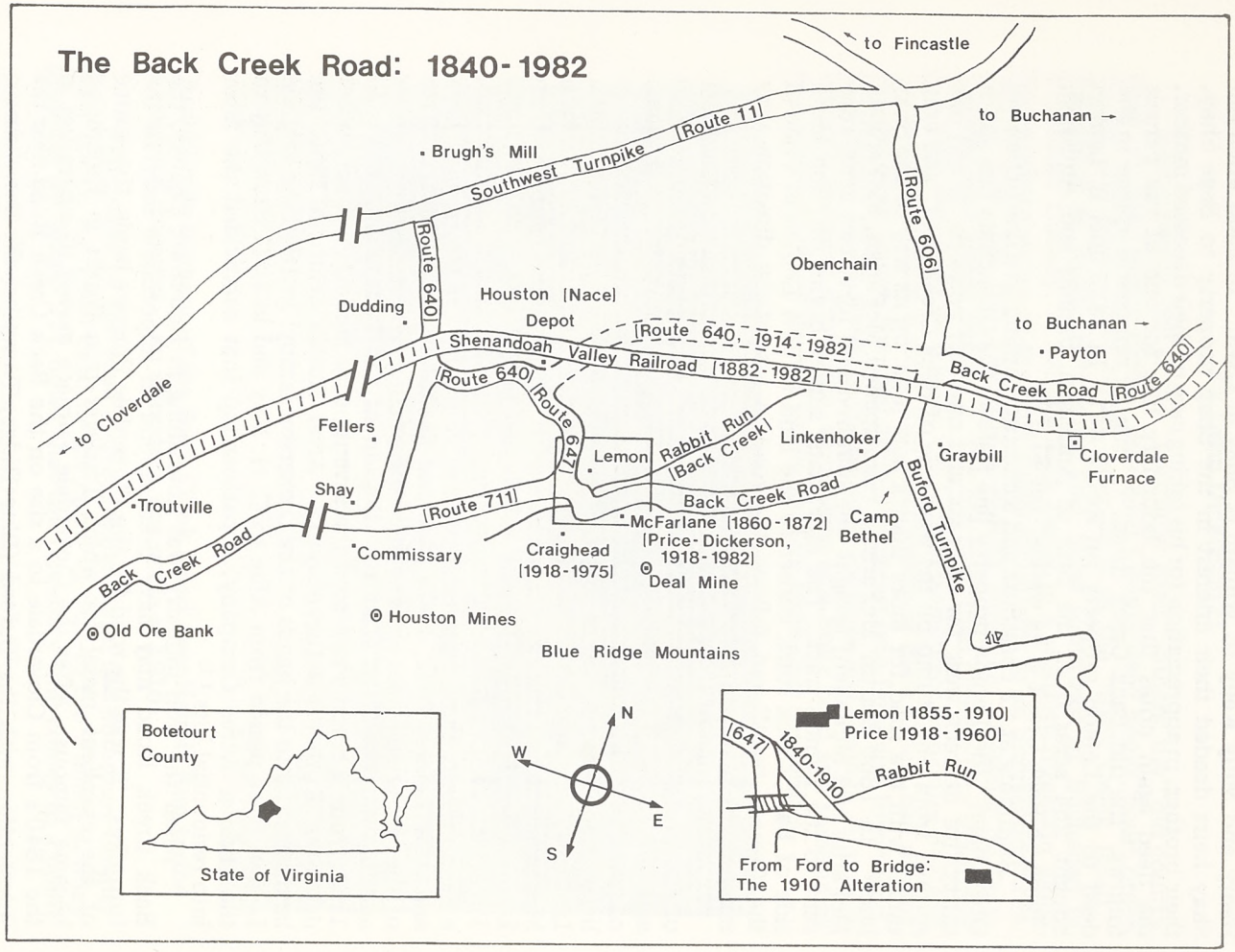
Lynn C. Dickerson II is a great-grandson of Joel Lemon, who lived along the old road until his death in 1910. Dickerson, who teaches American literature and American studies at the University of Richmond, is a graduate of that school and he earned a doctorate at Emory University. This article first appeared in the Summer 1982 issue of Appalachian Heritage.

"in the middle of back Creek road [sic] thence with the said road as it meanders 100 poles to a stake in the middle of said road."[1] The description is the same in the deed conveying the parcel of land from Henry and Milly Kelly to William B. Shay in 1849.[2] In 1936 when the Shay heirs deeded their interest in the Shay property to Bage Shay, their brother, in appreciation for his taking care of their deceased mother, the deed again notes that the boundary line for one of the parcels follows "the old Back Creek Road."[3] Similar references appear in the deed to the Lemon property on Route 647. In 1855 Joel B. Lemon bought 254 acres from the firm of Anderson, Shanks and Anderson "lying on Back Creek & its waters" for $1,778.

Beginning at "2 chestnuts and a chestnut sapling on a line of Samuel Obenchain," the Lemon property line follows the Obenchain line south thirty-five degrees west for sixty-six and one half poles to "2 red oak sprouts from one stump on the west side of Back Creek road" and continues with the road for more than a half mile on its way to the Shay line.[4] In 1860 Martin McFarlane (also spelled McFarlan, McFarland, McFarlin and McFallen) bought one hundred and forty-two acres adjacent to the Lemon tract. The McFarlane survey begins on "the south side of Back Creek road, corner to the land of Joel Lemon in a line of the furnace tract" and follows the road in a westerly direction very much in the manner of the Lemon survey.[5]

At the time of the Civil War, six families seem to have owned most of the land along Back Creek Road from the intersection of Routes 640 and 606 at Camp Bethel to the Shay property on Route 711, a distance of approximately four miles. The Shays, the Lemons and the McFarlanes lived at the western end of this section of the old road; the Obenchains, Linkenhokers, and Graybills were on the eastern end.[6] In 1872, Martin McFarlane sold his tract of land to Joel B. Lemon for $1,500.[7] When Lemon died in 1910, his heirs subdivided both tracts.[8] In 1913 and 1918, Samuel Craighead purchased two parcels of land from J. P. Saul, a Lemon heir, that included a portion of the McFarlane tract.[9] Park and Allie Lemon Price, Joel's youngest daughter, bought seventy acres of the McFarlane tract and much of the original Lemon tract for timber and farmland shortly after the division of the Lemon property. In 1951, Allie Lemon Price sold the seventy-acre McFarlane tract to her daughter, Ruth Price Dickerson.[10] After Ruth's death in 1953, the land passed into the hands of the Dickerson family. In 1960 the original Lemon tract passed from Allie to C. H. May and in 1971 from May to the Hidden Acres Company, a partnership that subdivided the farm into residential lots.[11]

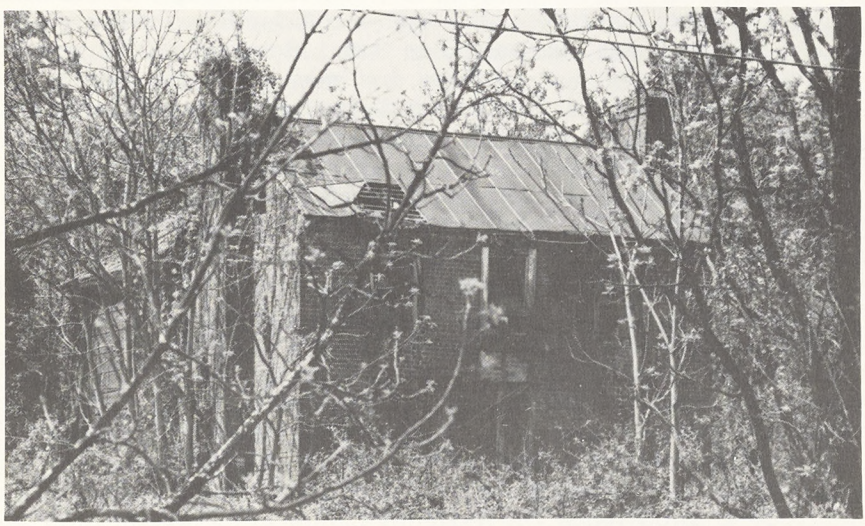
When the iron industry was flourishing in Botetourt County, the Back Creek Road may have been second in importance only to the turnpikes. It was the road for the Cloverdale Furnace lands, the source of the excellent metal for which Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond became famous. After the Cloverdale Furnace moved its operation in the 1840's from Cloverdale to a site on the Back Creek Road near the intersection with the Buford (Blue Ridge) Turnpike, the new furnace became the landmark that divided one section of the old road from the other.[12] During the Civil War, the Back Creek Road was the only way to move ore from the mines on the north slopes of the Blue Ridge to furnaces and from the furnaces to the barges on the James River and Kanawha Canal at Buchanan. An 1883 plat of the Cloverdale Furnace


The Back Creek Road: 1840-1982
to Fincastle
to Buchanan
Brugh's Mill
Southwest Turnpike (Route 11)
(Route 606)
Obenchain
Dudding
Houston (Nace)
Depot
(Route 640, 1914-1982)
to Buchanan
Payton
(Route 640)
Shenandoah Valley Railroad (1882-1982)
Back Creek Road (Route 640)
to Cloverdale
Fellers
(Route 640)
(Route 647)
Lemon
Rabbit Run (Back Creek)
Linkenhoker
Graybill
Cloverdale Furnace
Shay
Troutville
(Route 711)
Back Creek Road
McFarlane (1860-1872)
(Price-Dickerson, 1918-1982)
Camp Bethel
Butord Turnpike
Back Creek Road
Commissary
Craighead (1918-1975)
Deal Mine
Old Ore Bank
Houston Mines
Blue Ridge Mountains
Botetourt County
State of Virginia
N
W
E
S
Lemon (1855-1910)
Price (1918-1960)
(647)
1840-1910
Rabbit Run
From Ford to Bridge:
The 1910 Alteration

lands on Back Creek, bearing the name of Joseph R. Anderson and identifying the site of the furnace, shows the lands to be almost co-extensive with the road, lands that are described by Professors J. L. and H. D. Campbell as beginning two miles from Buchanan and extending towards the southwest "about ten miles."[13] The plat, moreover, seems to emphasize the importance of the Back Creek Road by naming it, enlarging it, and ignoring other public roads that existed in the area at that time. Furthermore, references in the court order books to William B. Shay's property were also references to an iron industry landmark, for Shay had a foundry at his homeplace on the Back Creek Road, and in the 1880's Houston Mines operated a commissary on the old road a few hundred yards from the Shay house.[14] Thus it is not surprising to discover that in 1857 the county court appointed a road overseer to "the Back Creek Road, leading from the old Ore Bank, down to Cloverdale Furnace."[15] In 1863 and 1867, the appointment is to "the road from Cloverdale Furnace to Wm. B. Shays."[16] In 1885 there is a reference to the road "from some point on the Buford Turnpike to Houston Ore Mines Commisary." and in 1910 the plat for the Lemon Division refers to a portion of the old road as the "Houston Mines Road."[17]

Mining along the Back Creek Road prior to the boom of the early 1880's was small scale and crude. The miner's tools were the pick, the shovel and dynamite. If there was a shaft, the miner entered it in a bucket attached to a windlass. The same bucket was used to remove the ore. After removing the ore, the mine operator had to transport it by wagon to the furnace. At best the road was paved with logs. More often than not, the team had to drag the heavy load through mud and dust, over ruts, and across the shallows of dry branches and creeks. Some times the road was simply impassable.[18]

Although the boom in the iron industry along the Back Creek Road in the 1880's was part of a larger boom that began in the James River Valley in 1879, some of the contributing factors were peculiar to the Cloverdale Furnace lands. Roanoke was experiencing extraordinary



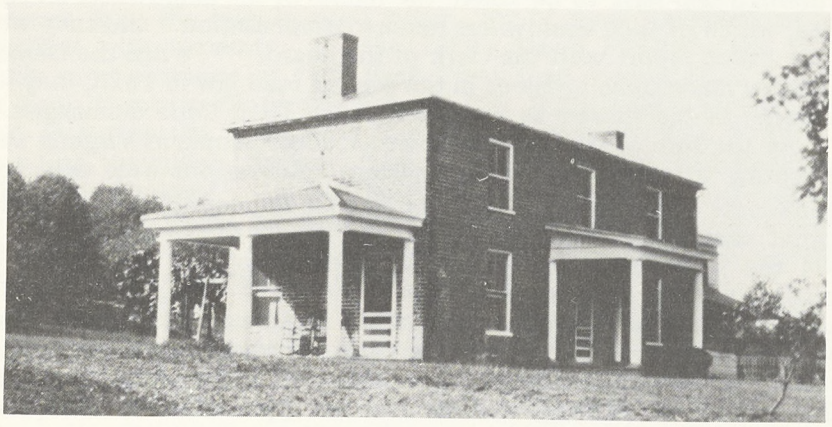
Old Shay house on Route 711 in 1982

growth, and the American Institute of Mining Engineers gave its blessing to the mining endeavors in the area by selecting the city for its 1883 national convention.[19] The 1883 report on the Cloverdale Iron Tract by Professors J. L. and Harry D. Campbell of Washington and Lee University was very optimistic about the quantity and quality of the ores and the simplicity of the topography.[20] The Shenandoah Valley Railroad was in place and serving Houston mines with a spur.[21]

Following the completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad and the acquisition of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, Frederick J. Kimball, president of the Norfolk and Western and Shenandoah Valley railroad companies, employed Andrew S. McCreath "to examine, sample, and analyze the various mineral developments tributary to the lines, and prepare a report upon their commercial values." Since the primary objective of the study was to gather data that would enable the railroad management to estimate future mineral traffic, McCreath's instructions were "to report on everything good, bad, and indifferent, just as found."[22] What is significant about this report for a study of the Back Creek Road is that it reflects the great expectations that people had for the Houston Mines. Not only is the report on the Houston Mines very optimistic but also Houston station is printed in larger letters on the railroad map than either Christiansburg, Salem or Buchanan.[23] These expectations, however, were short-lived. Centralization of the iron industry and the discovery of more lucrative deposits made the Houston Mines operation profitless.[24] A 1907 report on the mineral resources of Virginia does little more than acknowledge that in the 1880's the Houston Mines "produced considerable ore."[25] A 1919 report on the manganese deposits of the west foot of the Blue Ridge is more informative. The opening paragraph in the section on the Houston mines, however, reads like an obituary.

> The Houston mines comprise two large banks, between one-fourth and one-half mile apart on the northwest slope of the Blue Ridge about 1½ miles south-southwest of the Village of Nace. This property was first worked as a source of manganiferous iron ore but purer manganese ores were encountered in the lower part and attention was then turned to them. Some of the manganese was used for chemical purposes, but most of it was used in the manufacture of steel. Bauxite was discovered in the west bank and eight cars of it are reported to have been mined and shipped in 1915. This is said by T. L. Watson, Director of the Virginia Geological Survey, to be the only known bauxite deposit in Virginia. A railroad once connected the mines with the Norfolk & Western Railway at Nace, but the track was removed several years ago.[26]

The rise and fall of the iron industry on the Cloverdale Furnace lands was an important, but not the sole, factor in shaping the story of Back Creek Road. Another factor was the modification of the road law. Prior to the creation of the secondary road system in 1932, county roads were maintained by residents who lived in the vicinity of the road. The road work, however, was not entirely voluntary. The county court appointed an overseer, or surveyor, for each section of the road, ordering him to recruit such help as he needed from the male residents to keep the road in good repair. A resident's failure to be present on a work day or to send a substitute was punishable by a fine.[27]



Lemon-Price house in 1933. The brick home, built in 1868 from bricks made on the place, was attached to an old log cabin.

The county court, which had jurisdiction over the local public roads, was established in Virginia in 1618 when Governor George Yeardley ordered courts to be held in remote places. The purpose of these courts was to save litigants the long journey to Jamestown.[28] The men administering the affairs of these courts were generally of good character who served at the pleasure of the governor and his council. They were not, however, trained in law.[29] They were the forerunner of our present board of supervisors, functioning sometimes as administrator, sometimes as legislator, sometimes as justice of the peace.[30] The decision to elect and to pay the justices in 1850 was the first major change in the system in two hundred years.[31] Other changes followed, but the system was doomed. The Constitutional Convention of 1902 abolished the county court.[32]

In addition to appointing surveyors to keep the roads in good repair and assigning male residents to work sections of the road, the county court could grant permission to a landowner to erect a gate across a public road, could alter and discontinue roads and could open new roads. Whenever there was a petition to open a new road or to alter an existing one, a jury of neighbors or "viewers" was empaneled to make recommendations to the court. After 1834 the width of a county road was always thirty feet unless the court ordered it to be otherwise.[33]

Sending viewers to look at a road that was to be opened, altered, or discontinued was an entrenched principle in Virginia law. In 1849 *The Code of Virginia* stipulated that the viewers were to report to the court "the convenience and inconveniences that will result, as well to individuals as the public, if such road or landing shall be as proposed, and especially whether any yard, garden, orchard or any part thereof, will in such case have to be taken."[34] In 1919 the *Code* stipulated that the viewers were to report to the board of supervisors "the probable cost of establishing or altering the location of such road, landing or bridge; the convenience and inconvenience that will result as well to individuals as to the public; whether the said road, landing, or bridge may be one of such mere private convenience as to make it proper that it should be opened, established, or altered and kept in order by the person or persons for whose convenience it is desired; whether any yard, garden,

or orchard will have to be taken; the names of the landowners on such route; which of such landowners require compensation," and they were to file "such report with the clerk of the board."[35] When the General Assembly made some revisions in the general road law in 1928, they left the duties of the viewers as stipulated in the 1919 *Code* unchanged.[36]

By the turn of the century, however, some people in Virginia were attempting to modify the viewer system. Alterations were especially troublesome. The *Code of 1887* stated that the county court "shall... appoint viewers...to view the ground and report to the court."[37] In 1904 the language in the *Code* was changed to read "the board of supervisors...may appoint five viewers."[38] The change in language suggests that some alterations might not require such a cumbersome system for approval, that if the alteration were small, cost the county nothing and involved only one landowner, that alteration need have only the consent of the landowner and the approval of the local road official.

By the turn of the century, local road officials in Botetourt County had the authority to make these minor alterations without a formal hearing. In February 1886, the General Assembly passed an act "to provide for working and keeping in repair the public roads and bridges in Botetourt County." The legislation created "a board of six commissioners of road, two for each magisterial district," who would "divide each magisterial district of the county into two sub-districts, and assign one of their number to each sub-district." The legislation authorized the board to divide all the public roads in the county into three classes and provided for the third class to be "kept up by the parties benefited by said roads, as they may see fit." The legislation also stated that "the commissioner may order any change in a road in his sub-district, which may be agreed to by the board, which does not involve the condemnation of land or payment of damages, as where the landowner consents."[39] Although some modifications were made in the office and duties of the road commissioners in subsequent legislation, the provision for three classes of county roads and commissioner's approval of minor alterations apparently remained in effect as long as Botetourt County had jurisdiction over its roads.[40] Thus in 1906, following the restructuring of county government in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an act that again included the provisions to divide all county roads in Botetourt into three classes and to permit commissioners to approve road alterations when all parties agree to the change without compensation.[41]

The supervisors, however, soon began to function as road commissioners themselves. The 1906 act authorized the supervisors to accompany the commissioners on the trips to inspect and classify the public roads in the county. In 1908 the Assembly passed legislation that abolished the office of road commissioner and created the office of superintendent of public roads for each magisterial district. Although some of the duties of the commissioners went to the superintendents, others went to the supervisors. Each supervisor, for example, received $2 per day for inspecting the roads twice a year.[42] Under the 1908 act the maximum payment to any supervisor was $30 per year; in 1914 the Assembly raised the ceiling to $100.[43] In 1916 the Assembly gave the board of supervisors all the power that had formerly been vested in the county court.[44]

When the Back Creek Road was a main traveled road, surveyors, or overseers, kept the road in good repair. Six of these surveyors can be identified with certainty. In the 1850's David Firestone and Isaac Hinkle were overseers of "the Back Creek road, leading from the old Ore Bank, down to Cloverdale Furnace."[45] In the 1860's the appointment to survey the "road from Cloverdale Furnace to Wm. B. Shays" went first to William Switzer, then to William Patton, and finally to J. R. Linkenhoker.[46] In the 1880's, Samuel Burger was surveyor for the district in which lay the "road from some point on the Buford Turnpike to Houston Ore Mines Commissary."[47] The 1867 Linkenhoker appointment reads as follows:

> James R. Linkenhoker in the room of William T. Patton, is appointed Surveyor of the road from Cloverdale Furnace to Wm. B. Shays, and with the hands assigned to his section is ordered to keep the same in lawful repair. And William T. Patton & Joel Lemmon are appointed Commissioners to allot the hands to work on this road, & are required to report their allotment to Court.[48]

These appointments were for two years, and if the road was in "good order, ' the surveyor could give up his office and "not within two years thereafter be appointed surveyor without his consent." A provision in the law for prosecuting and fining surveyors who failed to keep their roads in repair discouraged some surveyors from taking consecutive appointments.[49]

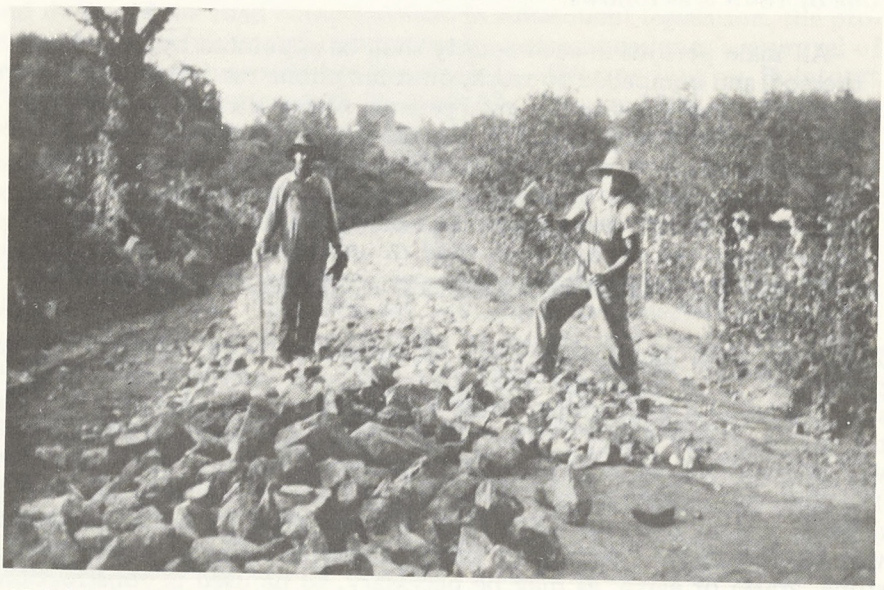
By law, every surveyor had to keep the roads in his precinct "cleared, smoothed of rocks and obstructions, of necessary width, well drained, and otherwise in good order, and secure from the falling of dead timber therein."[50] Although the county officials were authorized to reimburse the surveyor for some of his expenses and to give him a modest compensation for his work, the surveyor was expected to perform most of his duties with free labor and material. The language in the *Code of 1849* is as follows.

> All male persons in each county shall be appointed by the court thereof, and compelled to work, on some public road therein, with the following exceptions, viz: persons under sixteen and above sixty years of age; persons who reside in a town that provides for its poor and keeps its streets in order; the officers of the penitentiary, or any lunatic or other state asylum; the servants or slaves employed therein; the persons necessarily employed at any ferry; those employed on any state road or any turnpike, canal or railroad; and the officers of any literary institution, and ministers of the gospel.[51]

The *Code* then states that those appointed to work "shall either in person or by a sufficient substitute, when required by the proper surveyor, attend with proper tools, and work the road on such days as the surveyor may direct." The fine for failing to appear on a work day was seventy-five cents, payable to the surveyor within twenty days.[52] The law was essentially the same in 1887 with some changes in the days.[53] Under both the 1849 *Code* and the 1887 *Code*, the surveyor was authorized to "take from any convenient lands so much wood, stone, gravel or earth, as may be necessary, to be used in construction or repairing such road or any bridge or causeway therein."[54]

The corvée system of a local authority exacting free labor for road maintenance came from the Medieval practice of a feudal lord exacting a day of unpaid labor from a vassal. It did not meet the needs of a county entering the twentieth century. By 1886, only second class roads were being maintained by the corvée system. First class roads, "generally and frequently used by the public," were kept in order by contract, by convict labor, or by hired help, and third class roads were the responsibility of the people who used them.[55] Although road legislation for Botetourt County approved by the General Assembly on January 23, 1894, retained the provision for exacting two days labor without pay from "all male persons in said county over eighteen and under fifty-five years of age," one month later, on February 23, the General Assembly amended the January act, inserting the statement that "no person shall hereafter be compelled to work upon the public roads of Botetourt County" and including a provision for a road tax to pay people to work on first and second class roads in the future.[56]

In 1885 the Back Creek Road was still a heavily traveled road. Mining activities were booming on the Cloverdale Iron Tract along the north slopes of the Blue Ridge. The Shenandoah Valley Railroad, lying a half mile north and parallel to the old road, had turned Houston village into a major shipping point. The only alternative route from Coverdale to Buchanan was still the Southwest Turnpike, and the turnpike was almost a mile north of Houston village. Perhaps out of a deep concern for the welfare of the community or perhaps from the fear that the road through his property might become even more heavily traveled, Joel B. Lemon petitioned the Botetourt County Court on November 9, 1885, for "a change of road from some point on the Buford Turnpike to Houston Ore Mines Commissary." The proposed alteration would cause the Back Creek Road to follow generally the course of the railroad right of way to the northeast corner of Lemon's land and from that point, after crossing the tracks, to follow Lemon's north boundary line to a



Neighbors Samuel Craighead and W. P. Price keeping Route 647 in good repair c. 1930.

Joel B. Lemon feeding his sheep c. 1908. Son-in-law Park Price looks on.

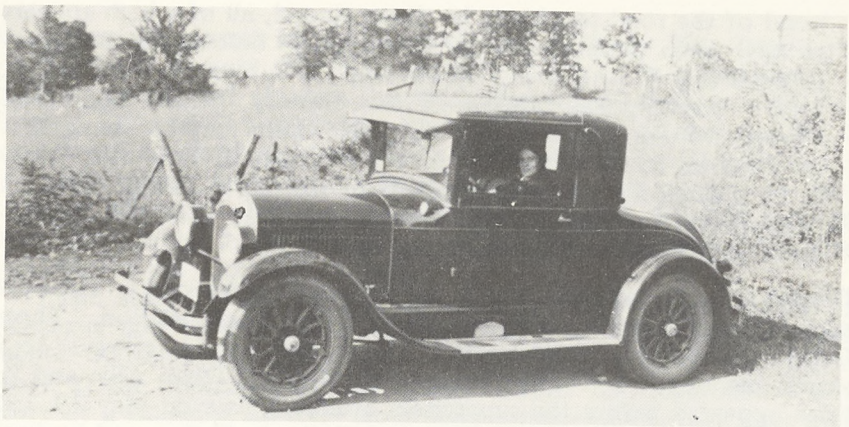
Ruth Price Dickerson riding horseback over Back Creek Road c. 1918. Corner post at left marks the route before a 1910 alteration.

road a few hundred yards south of Houston village. The effect of the change would be to divert the traffic from the road immediately in front of Lemon's house to a route that lay about one-fourth mile north of the house. The county court, however, granted Joel Lemon only part of what he requested. The justices authorized a "new road," not a "change in road." The road in front of Lemon's house, although less traveled, remained a public thoroughfare.[57] The court decision nevertheless, was to have a tremendous impact on the future of the Back Creek Road. The new road offered the village travelers a much more direct route to the Buford Turnpike and other points east. On March 22, 1913, A. M. Scaggs and others who lived on the north side of the railroad tracks at Houston village petitioned the supervisors to place the road on their side of the tracks all the way from the Buford Turnpike to the Houston depot. On March 21, 1914, the board approved the request.[58] In the 1930's the new road with the Scaggs alteration became Route 640.

By the turn of the century most of the traffic on the Back Creek Road that passed in front of the Lemon house was mining and farm-to-market traffic. During this period, the Pulaski Iron Company mined iron and a small amount of manganese from an ore bank in Deal Hollow approximately one mile south-southeast of the Houston depot. This mine was located about a half-mile south of the McFarlane house. Although "many pits and open cuts" occurred over "an area of several acres," the principal opening "was a bank about 1,580 feet above sea-level."[59] Wagons carrying the ore over the Back Creek Road passed the McFarlane house, crossed Rabbit Run at a ford in front of the Lemon house, and proceeded to the Houston depot by the present Route 647.[60] The farm-to-market traffic was not heavy during this period, for only a few families found the old road the most convenient way to the stores and depot at Houston, but the road was open, paved with logs in wet places, maintained by the County and used by the general public.[61]

The crossing at the ford in front of the Lemon house, never a very satisfactory arrangement, was becoming increasingly difficult by the early 1900's. Despite the attempt to stabilize the creek bed by building a submerged bridge, erosion from the wagon traffic had led to a wearing

Back Creek Road crossing the rolling hills of Botetourt County c. 1920. McFarlane house is in the foreground. Lemon house is hidden in clump of trees at left.



By 1933, Ruth Price Dickerson was traveling on wheels along the road.

away of the south bank and a change in the course of the branch. The only alternative was to find a more suitable crossing. Apparently around 1910, some member of the Lemon family, with the approval of a local road official, built a bridge across the branch a short distance upstream from the old ford. The Back Creek Road has followed this slightly altered route, with only one minor modification, to this day.[62]

During the 1920's and into the 1940's, families living along the old road east of the McFarlane house continued to travel the road on their way to the stores and depot at Houston, or Nace, village. Until the State took a portion of the old road into the secondary system in 1932, the County cleared the ditches and scraped the road to the point where the Craighead driveway entered Back Creek Road about forty feet south of the bridge over Rabbit Run.[63] The County effort, however, was not sufficient to keep these local roads passable, and so the residents frequently had to perform the maintenance themselves. When Allie Lemon Price and her husband, Park, began farming the Lemon property shortly after Joel's death, they also contributed labor and materials to improving the public roads in the neighborhood.

Allie and Park Price, however, disliked having a public road running through their property from the Craighead driveway, past the McFarlane house to the intersection with Ore Bank Road, and into Deal Hollow. The road, fenced on both sides, was something of a nuisance. Thus on October 19, 1925, Allie and Park petitioned the board of supervisors "to close and discontinue the road beginning 270 yards west of the McFallen [sic] house on their place and extending one half mile east."[64] Because the *Code* in effect at this time stated that "where a way has been worked by road officials as a public road and is used by the public as such, proof of these facts shall be prima facie evidence that the same is a public road" and because the provision that "when any road is altered, it shall be discontinued to the extent of such alteration and no further" was long standing, the supervisors assumed jurisdiction and appointed viewers to make a recommendation the the board.[65]

> Notice of this application appearing to have been posted at the front door of the Court House of this County on and before the first day of the October term last, and at two places in the neighbor-

hood of the road sought to be discontinued, all of which appears to have been done more than seventy days before this date, it is ordered that E. L. Boone, J. J. Paynter, R. E. Murray, E. L. Brugh, J. D. Graybill, free holders of this County, hereby appointed viewers for the purpose, any three of whom may act being first duly sworn, to view said road on the 30th day of December, 1925 at 11 o'clock a.m. and make report in writing to this Board at its next meeting, whether in their opinion any, if any, what inconvenience will result from discontinuing the road.[66]

Despite the recommendation of the viewers that the road be closed, the supervisors refused to act favorably on the Price petition. Thomas Curry, who lived in Deal Hollow and used the road to travel to the stores and depot at Nace, opposed the closing. When Allie and Park Price appeared before the supervisors a second time on May 19, 1930, the supervisors ordered that "Thomas Curry be summoned to appear here at the next meeting to show cause, if any he can, against the same"[67] The summons was executed on June 13, and Thomas appeared before the supervisors on June 16 to protest the closing. The supervisors then ordered Allie and Park, who were not at the June 16 meeting, to appear at the next meeting.[68] There is no mention of the matter again in the official records, but members of the Price family remember Allie still talking about trying to close the road as late as the 1950's.

When the Byrd Act created the secondary system of State highways in 1932, the highway department took over the maintenance of a portion of the Back Creek Road from the Lemon house to the Shay house. On April 21, 1941, the supervisors asked the State to take the rest of the road. The State granted the request and also extended Route 647 at the Lemon house another .002 mile on the county road map, an extension that brought the road to the Craighead driveway.[69] Although

E. E. Patsel (left) and Lynn Dickerson II on Back Creek Road near the McFarlane house site in 1982

the extension appears on the 1981 *General Highway Map, Supplement A, Botetourt County*, the State apparently ceased to maintain the extension, except for clearing the ditch that carries surface water from Routes 647 and 711 to Rabbit Run, after a flood washed out the old wooden bridge in the early forties. Following the flood, neighbors put the replacement bridge and new roadway just east of the old public road, an alteration that the State could not accept. In 1964 neighbors installed a culvert in the branch at the site of the old bridge and returned to using the old roadway.

The story of the Back Creek Road is a story of a region. Its industrial and economic history is a story of dreams and disappointments, of hopes and fears, of life and death. Its legal history is the story of the making of American civilization. Its social history is the story of a changing lifestyle from early nineteenth-century days to the present. Its engineering history is the story of advances in technology. But most of all, the story of the Back Creek Road is a story about a road. To know the story and to walk the road is literally to pass from one century into the next. Portions of the road are very much as they were one hundred and fifty years ago. There has been no restoration here. What remains nature has preserved. What has vanished is gone forever.

NOTES

1. DEED BOOK 24, p. 390. This research was supported by grants from the University Committee on Faculty Research and services of the Learning Resources Center, University of Richmond.

2. DEED BOOK 30, p. 60.
3. DEED BOOK 90, p. 269.
4. DEED BOOK 33, p. 36.
5. DEED BOOK 34, p. 665.
6. Botetourt Co. Va. (1864): MAP FROM THE CONFEDERATE ENGINEER BUREAU IN RICHMOND, VA., GENERAL J. F. GILMER, CHIEF ENGINEER; PRESENTED TO THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY HIS ONLY DAUGHTER, MRS. J. F. MINIS, SAVH. GA., The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.
7. DEED BOOK 37, p. 220, McFarlane is spelled "McFallen," "McFarlan," and "McFarlin" in the deed.
8. DEED BOOK E, p. 448.
9. DEED BOOK L, p. 430; DEED BOOK 225, p. 127.
10. DEED BOOK 104, pp. 339-440.
11. DEED BOOK 142, pp. 347-351; PLAT BOOK 6, p. 77.
12. Herbert P. Woodward, GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE ROANOKE AREA, VIRGINIA, Bulletin of the Virginia Geological Survey, No. 34 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1932), p. 103; Kathleen Bruce, VIRGINIA IRON MANUFACTURE IN THE SLAVE ERA (New York: Century, 1930), pp. 212-13; Botetourt Co. Va. (1864); MAP.
13. SURVEYORS RECORD BOOK, 1842-1914, pp. 392-93; CLOVERDALE IRON TRACT: REPORT BY PROFESSORS J. L. AND H. D. CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY, October 23, 1883, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.
14. On June 12, 1854, William B. Shay was appointed "surveyor of the road from Shay's shop on the Back Creek road to the forks of the road at George Simmon's plantation." COURT ORDER BOOK 1851-1857, p. 181; and E. E. Patsel, video tape May 10, 1982, Boatwright Library, University of Richmond, Virginia.
15. COURT ORDER BOOK 1851-1857, p. —, June 8, 1857.
16. COURT ORDER BOOK 1857-1867, pp. 344, 620.
17. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1878-1890, p. 185; DEED BOOK E, p. 448.
18. Patsel Video; Woodward, No. 34, p. 103.
19. Woodward, p. 103.
20. CLOVERDALE IRON TRACT: CAMPBELL, 1883.
21. SURVEYORS RECORD BOOK, 1842-1914, p. 392-93.
22. Frederick J. Kimball, "Preface," THE MINERAL WEALTH OF VIRGINIA TRIBUARY TO THE LINES OF THE NORFOLK AND WESTERN AND SHENANDOAH VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANIES, by Andrew S. McCreath (Harrisburg, Pa.: Lane S. Hart, 1884) pp. iii-v.
23. McCreath, MINERAL WEALTH OF VIRGINIA, pp. 51-54.
24. Woodward, p. 103.
25. Thomas Leonard Watson, MINERAL RESOURCES OF VIRGINIA (Lynchburg, Va.: J. P. Bell Company, 1907), p. 444.
26. G. W. Stose, H. D. Miser, F. J. Katz, and D. F. Hewett, MANGANESE DEPOSITS OF THE WEST FOOT OF THE BLUE RIDGE, VIRGINIA, Bulletin of the Virginia Geological

Survey, No. 17 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1919) p. 121.

27. CODE OF VIRGINIA (1849), title 16, ch. 52, sec. 23-28; and CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 963-982.

28. Albert Ogden Porter, COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN VIRGINIA: A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, 1607-1904 (New York: AMS Press, 1966), pp. 12-13.

29. Porter, pp. 1-3.

30. Porter, p. 348.

31. Porter, p. 232.

32. Porter, pp. 13, 309.

33. CODE (1849), title 16, ch. 52, sec. 5-20; CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 946-953, 958, 961; and Porter, pp. 174-75.

34. CODE (1849), tltle 16, ch. 52, sec. 6.

35. CODE (1919), title 18, ch. 84, 1978.

36. VIRGINIA ACTS, 1928, ch. 159, pp. 568-589.

37. CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 947.

38. CODE (Pollard 1904), title 16, ch. 43, sec. 944a.

39. ACTS, 1885-86, ch. 262, sec. 1, 4, 24, pp. 286-87, 291.

40. In 1882, Botetourt County began to request special legislation from the Virginia General Assembly for the maintenance of county roads. By 1924 the Assembly had passed more than a dozen acts "to provde for working and keeping in repair the public roads and bridges of Botetourt County."

41. ACTS, 1906, ch. 267, sec. 1-3, 14, pp. 468-69, 472.

42. ACTS, 1908, ch. 378, sec. 1-13, pp. 662-665.

43. ACTS, 1914, ch. 73, sec. 9, pp. 116-117.

44. ACTS, 1916, ch. 367, sec. 1, p. 630.

45. COURT ORDER BOOK 1851-1857, p. —, June 8, 1857.

46. COURT ORDER BOOK 1857-1867, pp. 344, 620.

47. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1878-1890, p. 285.

48. COURT ORDER BOOK 1857-1867, p. 620.

49. CODE OF VIRGINIA (1849), title 16, ch. 52, sec. 24, 34; CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 977, 1006.

50. CODE (1849), title 16, ch. 52, sec. 25; CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 982.

51. IBID., sec. 26.

52. IBID., sec. 28.

53. CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 1009-1010.

54. CODE (1849), title 26, ch. 52, sec. 32.

55. ACTS, 1885-86, ch. 262, sec. 1, 4, pp. 286-87.

56. ACTS, 1893-94, ch. 69, sec. 11, pp. 66-67; 377, sec. 11-14, pp. 443-45.

57. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1879-1890, pp. 285, 291.

58. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1904-1938, p. 120; W. E. Hughes, Cassette Tape, January 9, 1982, Boatwright Library.

59. Stose et al., p. 121.

60. H. R. Rader, Cassette Tape, May 23, 1982, Boatwright Library.

61. SUPERVISORS ORDER BOOK 2, pp. 221, 232 and ROAD COMMISSIONERS BOOK - AMSTERDAM DISTRICT, 1901-1905, p. 8. In November 1900 the supervisors accepted a bid of $10 per mile per year from Jacob Shay to keep in repair a five-mile section of road from John Graybill's house on the Blue Ridge Turnpike to Stony Battery Road. Jacob received his first payment of $16.66 on May 17, 1901. On September 12, 1904 the payment was reduced to $10 for the four-month period. In her 1925 petition to close that portion of the Back Creek Road that ran through her farm, Allie Price stated that although the road was still being used, county officials had not worked it for fifteen years.

62. In the 1910 Lemon Division, the language of the deed suggests that the change in road has taken place, but the plat does not show the alteration. The alteration appears in a 1915 photograph of W. P. and P. L. Price, Jr. and in a 1918 Saul-Craighead deed.

63. E. E. Patsel, video tape. The 1929 U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY of the Roanoke Quadrangle shows the road crossing Rabbit Run and ending at the turn-around at the Craighead driveway. The SURVEY appears to show only those roads being maintained by road officials at the time of the survey.

64. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1904-1938, p. 294.

65. CODE (1919), title 18, ch. 84, sec. 1985, 2015, pp. 745, 753-54; CODE (Pollard, 1904), title 16, ch. 43, sec. 944a, pp. 348-49; CODE (1887), title 16, ch. 53, sec. 959; CODE (1849), title 16, ch. 52, sec. 19.

66. ROAD ORDER BOOK 1904-1938, p. 294; Price Petition papers.

67. IBID., p. 348.

68. IBID., p. 349.

69. SUPERVISORS ORDER BOOK 5, p. 30; MAP OF BOTETOURT COUNTY SHOWING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HIGHWAYS, 1940, 1942.

Guerrant Family Lived At First Baptist Church Site

by Saunders S. Guerrant

My father, Samuel S. Guerrant, was born on a farm four miles north of Callaway in Franklin County on July 12, 1867, two years after the surrender. All events were dated from Gen. Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865. Daddy told me that he did not know "Yankee" was a single word until he was 21 years old.

He was graduated in medicine at Tulane University in 1890. He interned in New York where he met Florence Thomson, a young lady who trained as a nurse at St. Luke's in New York. She was born in Toronto, Canada in 1869. You will note the spelling—that is the dry "Thomson" without the "p."

Daddy was a doctor in Roanoke from 1894 to 1904. In 1897 he and Florence were married and in 1898 they purchased a house from the four children of Q. M. Word. It was on Roanoke Street, now the site of First Baptist Church. I think the number was 515. The name has been changed to Third Street. The purchase price was $4,000.

My sister, Esther, was born there on Nov. 1, 1898 and I was born there on March 14, 1900. We were baptized as infants in the First Presbyterian Church by Dr. Creighton Campbell.

Daddy inherited land near Callaway and he planted apple trees there. The apple orchard was to be for his retirement fund. He gave up his medical work and moved to his Franklin County property in the fall of 1904.

I remember very little about living in Roanoke because we left when I was 4½. I do remember standing under a water spout, fully dressed, during a rain where I got a shower bath. This did not make my mother happy.

Daddy kept a cow in a shed back of his property. Edward Saunders, a relative, came with his mother from Rocky Mount to visit us. He was a little boy at the time. He was wearing a white suit and white shoes. The cow had access to a sizable back yard where she had just relieved herself. As young Edward was walking around, he said, "Look at the pretty mud" and waded in with his nice, white shoes.

Edward Saunders went to the University of Virginia and made the best grade on record there in the School of Engineering. Later he served as dean of the School of Engineering there.

Daddy owned a horse and buggy. He did not want to use his time and energy looking after his horse so he arranged with Pitzer Transfer Co. to take care of the horse and buggy. Pitzer was a block or so away,

Saunders Guerrant, a longtime member of the 1900 Club of Roanoke, will talk and write about Franklin County at length any time. Guerrant was born at the site of First Baptist Church on Third Street, Southwest.

where Appalachian Power Co. has a parking lot across from the Poff Federal Building.

Daddy had an office at 4½ Salem Avenue, upstairs over Van Lear Drugstore. He would walk to his office early in the morning and get to Pitzer's about 10 o'clock. His horse and buggy were ready for him. After making house calls to 2, 3 or 4 o'clock, he would drive the horse and buggy to Pitzer's.

The house sat back from Roanoke Street and it faced east. Across the street was the First Baptist Church and a grocery store was next to the church at the corner of Luck Avenue. Now, the Chesapeake & Telephone Co. is on the spot where the church and the store were located.

Let's take a look in the rear of my father's property. It went down to and faced on Luck Avenue. If we look across Luck Avenue today from this property, we will see the entrance to Oakey's Funeral Home and Jamont Press. In 1907, Daddy had three houses built on his property, the part that faced Luck Avenue.

He employed a man named Pinkard to do the work. There was a sawmill and a planing mill on the farm. Mr. Pinkard would write out his specifications and Daddy would prepare and send him the lumber. He said Mr. Pinkard was an "expert Measurer."

From the farm in Franklin County to the Roanoke property there were 25 miles of mighty rough roads. The lumber was hauled by wagons. Several wagons would go together, a full day over and another day back. The drivers slept at night in their wagons and carried their

Saunders Guerrant was born in this house at the site of First Baptist Church.

food and coffee brewing equipment with them. The wagon drivers were men who "ain't never been nowhar and ain't never seen nothing."

Some years later after the building of these houses, the subject of the size of the world came up. Just how big is the world? One of the men who had been a wagon driver to Roanoke said, "I don't know how big the world is but if it is as big the other way as it is to Roanoke, it sure is a whopper."

For many years a Mrs. Peters rented the Roanoke Street property and she ran a boarding house. The three houses on Luck Avenue were rented to individual families. If my memory serves right, W. W. Anderson was the rental agent.

After World War I, business got better and better for several years. Suddenly in 1929 there was the stock market crash and the Depression and the situation was bad for everybody. In 1927, Daddy sold his Roanoke Street and Luck Avenue property to the First Baptist Church for $80,000. He did not get cash but 6 percent bonds. Then he purchased another $20,000 of these bonds. That meant his income from this transaction was $6,000 a year.

The Baptists built the beautiful building they are in now, just across the street from their old church. There were other bondholders, all of whom were looking on their 6 percent as income.

Business got worse and some good church contributors died. Others could not meet their church pledges. The church bonds did not look so good. The church wanted to go to 3 percent. At a meeting of the church leaders and the bondholders a rate of 3 percent was discussed. Daddy made himself unpopular. He said, "Tell us first how much you have cut the preacher's salary."

Daddy had a deed of trust on the property. He did not use profanity but he would walk the floor and say, "Thunderation, I don't want to own a church. I want the $6,000 a year."

The interest went to 3 percent. The bonds were finally paid off but not in my father's lifetime.

Recently I found a picture of the house where I was born. I had copies made, one of which I gave to the First Baptist Church. As a result, my wife and I and a friend were invited to lunch at the church. We were treated as honored guests.

This whole affair makes me feel a bit unique and honored. I know of no one else who has a $3 million marker to show where he was born.

Iron Ore Attracted Investors

An article in the 1982 Centennial edition of the Journal on Economic Development in Southwest Virginia, by Dr. Harold W. Mann, contained an error. A statement should have read: By the midpoint of the 1880's it was clear that the resources most likely to entice English investors were the iron ores of the Appalachians.

Where the Bonsacks Settled

by Deedie D. Kagey

The origin of the Bonsack family in America begins with the immigration of Johann (John) Jacob Bonsack and occurred at the end of his apprenticeship as a master joiner (cabinetmaker) in the city of Stuttgardt, Germany, March 17, 1786. Since it was customary for apprentices to travel from place to place learning their trade, the guild in Stuttgardt was the last known guild to which Johnann Jacob belonged.

Setting sail on a ship called the Herman and Jacob on April 22, 1786, he disembarked at Portsmouth, Virginia, from which he traveled to Frederick County, Maryland, where there was already a growing element of Germans, especially German Baptists, brethren in his faith.

Johann Jacob's reasons for emigrating to America were two-fold: 1) Religious adjustments were being forced on the people to adhere to the Catholic, Lutheran or Calvinist faiths. Reportedly, Johann Jacob "had been in France and returned to Germany because there had been an order to fight for the pope, die, or leave France". 2) A competent craftsman, he would have the opportunity to pursue his trade in America. Whatever other reasons for emigration existed, they were comparatively insignificant. Religious freedom was, by far, the primary motive, a fact that is recurringly evident in letters among family members during the late 18th and early 19th century.

Having been born in the tiny village of Eisenach, a town in the Duchy of Wurtemburg in 1760, it is believed that Johann Bonsack's family resided at one time in nearby France, or perhaps a Saxon neighborhood where French was spoken, due to French entries in the family bible.

Shortly after his arrival in Frederick County, Maryland, he met Marya (1771), the only daughter of John and Magdelena Shallenberger Hockman, and wed her in 1787. Legend says he met a weaver in Baltimore named Shallenberger who took Johann to his home in Frederick County and introduced him to his granddaughter, Marya. Of this union there were five children: three sons—John (1790 or 91), Jacob (1795) and Nathaniel (1789), and two daughters—Salome (1793) and Elizabeth (1788). At the age of 35, Johann Jacob died, only nine years after his emigration to America.

Son John migrated to present Roanoke County in March 1816, where he wed Susannah Harshbarger on June 4th of the same year. In August they purchased a 300-acre farm in Bonsack for $6,000. Three years later John's brother, Jacob, arrived in Roanoke County and took up residence on Carvin's Creek (about four miles away). Jacob wed Catherine Harshbarger, Susannah's sister, whose father was already a successful

This account of the origin of the Bonsack family appeared in Community at the Crossroads: A Study of the Village of Bonsack of the Roanoke Valley, by Deedie Dent Kagey.

Catherine Harshbarger Bonsack
wife of Jacob Bonsack

Susannah Harshbarger Bonsack
wife of John Bonsack

farmer and miller at the forks of Tinker and Carvin's Creek. Jacob died in late 1823 or early 1824 leaving his wife, Catherine, and two daughters. In 1825 Catherine married Joseph Brubaker and eventually bore ten more children. In 1836, the Brubakers moved to Tennessee, and then moved to Iowa (1853), where they remained until death. Since Jacob remained in Roanoke only three years, he had little to do with the Bonsack community directly, although it is believed he helped his brother start the woolen factory.

When John Bonsack left Frederick County, Maryland for Glade Creek, Botetourt County, Virginia, the elders of Pipe Creek Church (Dunkard) sent a letter of recommendation to Virginia. Translated from the German, it reads as follows:

Frederick County, Md.
March 17, 1816

Grace, love and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ with all that is best for you in time and eternity and also we include our hearty greetings.

As at present our beloved brother Johannes Bonsack desires to go from here to establish a new home with you, we wish to inform you that we are all at peace with him and he is in fellowship with our community and they with him, and we hope that you also will receive him as a brother.

In the name of our community we commend him to you and

your community. We are

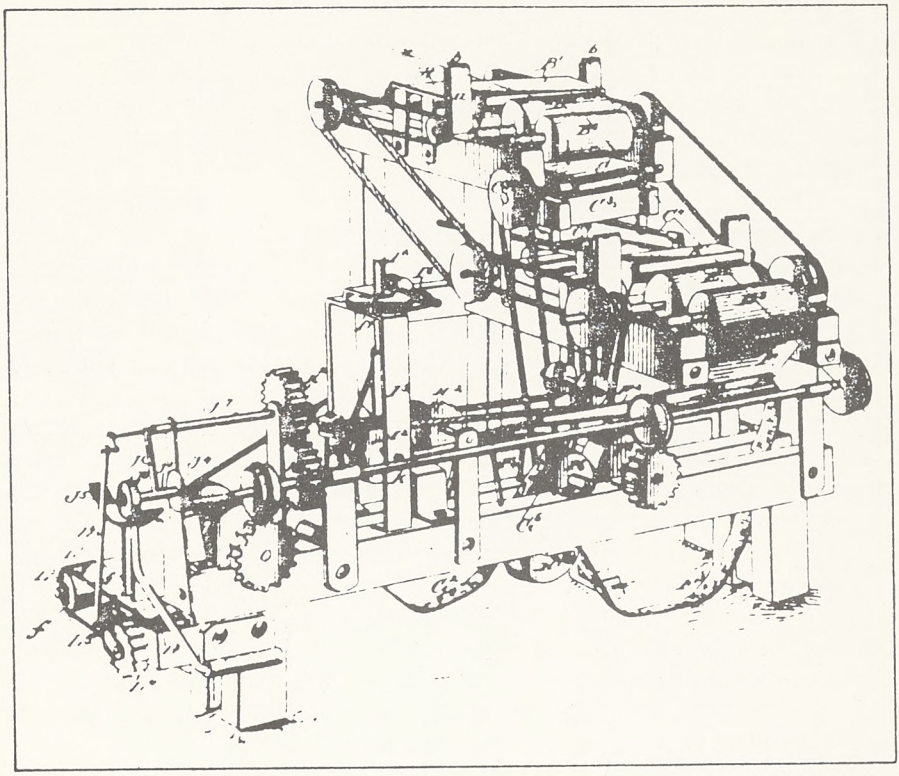
Wilhalm and his Co Brothers
Philip Englar
Christoph Jansen
Johannes Garber
David Wampler
Jacob Snader
Samuel Pfautz
Jacob Switzer

It is apparent from this letter that John Bonsack had received news of the rich, fertile soil that was available in the Roanoke Valley and Glade Creek community, probably via his former neighbor, Daniel Stoner, who had been established in the area for fifteen years.

Of John and Susannah Harshbarger Bonsack's union there were nine children. The first child, Samuel, died in infancy. The remaining births were those of Jacob (1819), Elizabeth (1821), Mary (1824), Nathaniel (1826), Salome (1829), John Harshbarger (1832), Susan (1834) and Catherine (1836-39). John became a successful farmer and established a woolen mill in 1822. When the railroad (Virginia and Tennessee) began laying tracks in 1852, he gave the part of his land for this purpose to the railroad. In so doing, the railroad called the depot, Bonsack's Station. John died in 1859.

John's son, Jacob, carried on the family business established in 1822 by his father, along with the operation of the flour mills (registered under the name of Bonsack and Kiser in 1856), and the store once run by the Stoners. Correspondence relates that Jacob was a merchant who dealt in "Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, etc." at Good Intent, (an early name for the Bonsack post office). In addition, he served as postmaster for twenty years at Stoner's Store and Bonsack's (before and after the Civil War). In 1844, he married Sarah Whitmore of Mount Meridian in Augusta County. She came from a family of means and of their union were born eight children—four boys and four girls. One of these children, James Albert, became the inventor of the cigarette rolling machine, an invention that led to the formation of the Bonsack Machine Company. The invention of the cigarette machine created wealth for father and son along with many others in the tobacco industry. By the time Jacob Bonsack died in 1889, he had amassed approximately 1,000 acres of land in Bonsack along with the mills, held $236,000 stock in the Bonsack Machine Company and owned estates in Augusta County and Rome, Georgia.

Jacob Bonsack was known to be a man of great charity, having donated the land to the Baptists for the construction of a church. This structure is presently used as the Youth and Family Development Center, child-care facilities, but it is for sale. Bonsack Baptist Church has relocated on Rt. 221 about one quarter of a mile from Rt. 460. In addition, farmers of the area entrusted Jacob with all their excess monies when they accumulated more than they wished to keep in their immediate possession. During the



—U.S. Patent Office

James A. Bonsack's cigarette rolling machine as shown on a U.S. Patent Office sketch.

Civil War, Jacob defied the command of General Hunter's troops to supply the North with cloth. His denial resulted in the burning of the Bonsack Mills and Depot, which he witnessed. By 1870, Jacob Bonsack had rebuilt the woolen mill and was in business once again.

Susan Bonsack, sister to Jacob, married Dr. Benjamin Jeter of Bedford County in September of 1853 and reared eight children on their Bonsack farm which they inherited from her father. Today, Richard Bonsack Jeter, a grandson, operates one of the largest farms in the Bonsack area.

Mary Bonsack, another sister, married David Plaine October 8, 1848 and they too took up residence in Bonsack (1849) on her father's property. The Plaine family remained on this property until 1902, at which time the descendants moved to Salem. David Plaine was of English descent and met his wife, Mary, while she was visiting relatives in Frederick County (now Carroll) Maryland. He became a zealous Dunkard preacher, ultimately preaching at Bethel Church in Bonsack. Letters indicate he often made long trips for the purpose of preaching. In 1869 David Plaine served as the postmaster of Bonsack's. Furthermore, in the 1870's, he was the schoolmaster in the old Bonsack neighborhood school near Bethel Church

(later it was part of the Big Lick District, Roanoke County Schools). He was also the first station agent at Bonsack's Station when the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad began operating in 1852. David Plaine wrote many letters until his death, many of which are on file at Duke University, Perkins Library, "Bonsack Papers".

The last Bonsack to reside in the community was the grandson of Jacob, son of John William, also named Jacob. He worked for the Norfolk and Western Railway for 52 years (in later years as a telegrapher) residing near the Bonsack Depot in a white frame house which still stands and is presently owned by the Pack family. Jacob Bonsack passed away in 1955 leaving the village of Bonsack with no descendants carrying the Bonsack name.

Samuel Elliott Bonsack III (1918), recently retired president of Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone, remembers nostalgically his boyhood days spent on the farm of his grandfather, Samuel Bonsack, in Bonsack. In 1980 a branch office of Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, located one mile east of 604 and 460, was appropriately named the Bonsack Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone office.

The Bonsack family has played a major role in the founding, development, and prosperity of this tiny community. The pioneers brought with them many skills that benefited both the residents and the area. They were industrious, ambitious, and religious people who attained the respect of those who resided within the community and without.

Many Bonsack family members are interred within the walled-in plot of the Bonsack cemetery that was once behind Bethel Church but now borders the property of Alvin R. Kagey and Mrs. Vivian Blake.

Farming at Bonsack

What were the people of Bonsack doing in the early nineteenth century? We know that Botetourt County was primarily agricultural. Pioneer Bonsack families, along with others in Botetourt County, were farming, creating economically independent units.

The records in Fincastle indicate nearly everyone was growing hemp. The Bristish placed a high value on hemp because of its uses in shipping — "providing ropes, cloth used as bagging and as sails, and the short fibers (oakum) being used to caulk vessels."

Wheat ranked second in production. Frequently, grist mills would be operating on large farms, spawning the growth of a settlement around them. Flour eventually was marketed on a large scale in and out of Virginia. The Valley became known as "the granary capital".

Corn ranked third in production, followed by a variety of root crops, and hay, oats, barley, and beans. Livestock (cattle, horses, pigs) were also raised and marketed in the eastern cities. In addition, flax was grown extensively in this area for the purpose of weaving linen cloth.