

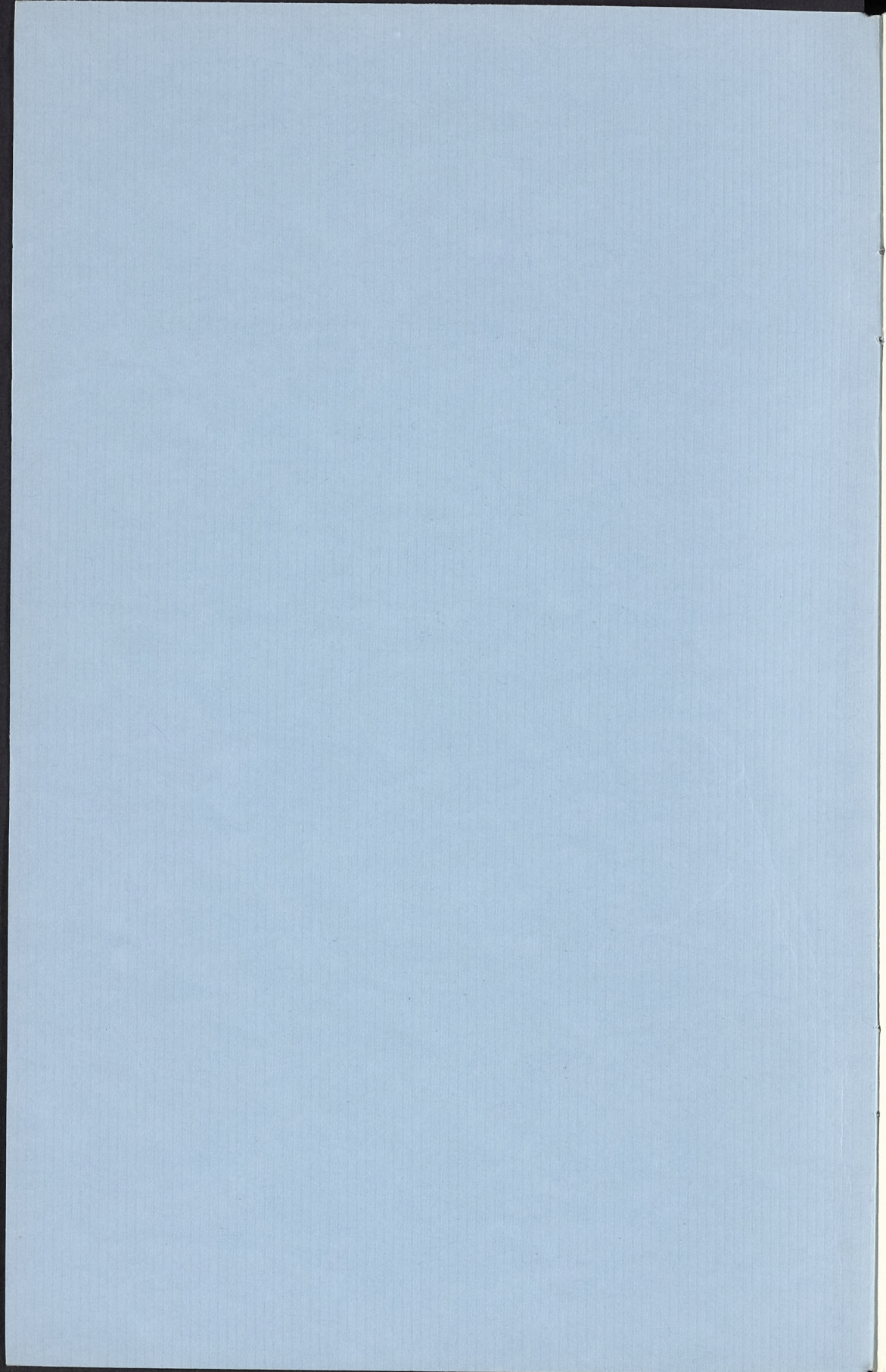
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**JOURNAL
of the
ROANOKE
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Volume Twelve

Number Two



1988

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GEORGE KEGLEY

Editor of The Journal

The Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, Volume Twelve, Number Two. 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.

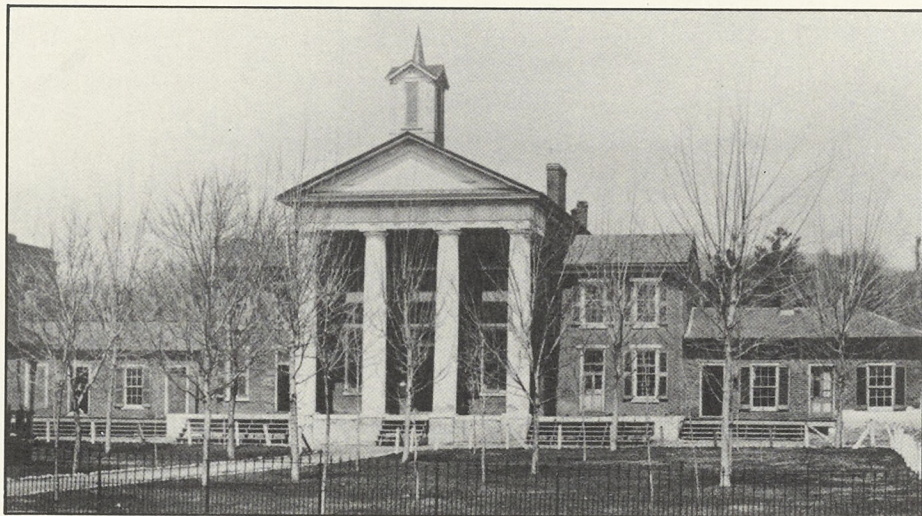
First County Courthouse Stood From 1841 to 1909

by W. L. Whitwell and Lee Winborne

The original Roanoke County Courthouse represents an important part of local history, despite a second and a third replacement. The first courthouse, like others throughout America, played a role in town planning similar to that of European churches because it reflected a desire of the townspeople to build something of lasting value. American courthouses epitomize self-government and democracy. Dignity and respect for the law are portrayed by the fineness of public buildings. "The courthouse . . . has been a dominating feature making the transition from a settlement without focus to an awareness of its role as the judicial and administrative center of the county."¹

In the South, the courthouse was so central to many communities that it was often completed before churches. It was particularly crucial to settlements because land deeds were recorded there. From the beginning, the area around the courthouse served as an important gathering place; it endured as a Southern institution beloved by novelists as well as the "good ole boys" who sit there on benches. Business districts developed around the courthouse squares, so that lots facing the square naturally became valuable properties.

As the focal point of town, builders intended their courthouses to represent the county's "stature, prosperity, and confidence in the future."² Local affluence was often judged by the degree of pretentiousness of the courthouse. Early, crude framed or log buildings were quickly replaced in the nineteenth century by structures in the Greek Revival style. "Gifted amateurs designed properly proportioned Doric columns for the Classical Revival temples that served as county courthouses in all parts of the nation before the Civil War."³



First Roanoke County Courthouse, circa 1900.

Credit: Clerk of Court, Roanoke County.

W. L. Whitwell, professor of art at Hollins College, and Lee W. Winborne of Roanoke are the authors of The Architectural Heritage of the Roanoke Valley. This article recognizes the 150th anniversary of Roanoke County observed in 1988.

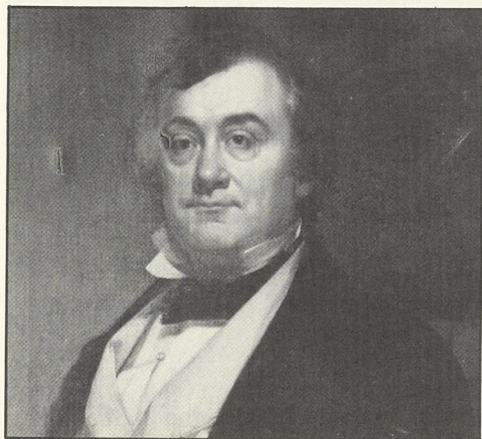
Virginia law mandated that each county have a courthouse on two acres of property. The 1792 Code of Virginia, reprinted April 1, 1803, specified detailed requirements for court buildings, but by 1838 when Roanoke County was formed, and in need of a courthouse, those specifications were no longer enforced.⁴ The Code did continue requiring every county to provide a courthouse and a fireproof clerk's office.⁵ The two acres of land had to "be occupied with the courthouse, clerk's office and jail, and the residue planted with trees and kept as a place for the people of the county to meet and confer together."⁶ The Code specified neither the form nor shape of the buildings; the layout generally followed tradition. Interiors of most nineteenth century courthouses appeared simple and plain. The courtroom arrangement seldom varied with its judge's bench, desk for clerk, tables for lawyers, and witness stand.⁷ Often the courtroom functioned as a community assembly hall. For instance, soon after being built, the Roanoke County courtroom was rented to a local debating society.

Roanoke County's first courthouse came into being after March 30, 1838, when the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia created the county out of Botetourt County. At that time, 1838, the population numbered "about 5,000." The 1840 Federal Census shows "3,843 whites, 1,553 slaves, and 100 free colored for a total of 5,449 [sic]."⁸

Five commissioners from surrounding counties were appointed to decide on a place for holding temporary court and for later erecting public buildings. The first organizational meeting of Roanoke County's court was held at the residence of Benjamin Farris.⁹ On May 21, 1838, the court formally met in a house owned by James C. Huff and continued to meet there regularly until a new courthouse was finished.¹⁰ Courthouse planning probably occupied discussion during the first session, because the following session on May 24, 1838, called for building models.

It is ordered by the Court that William M. Peyton, Edward Watts, William Langhorne, John F. J. White, and William C. Williams be appointed commissioners for the purpose of reporting to this Court at the next term, models for a courthouse and an estimate of the cost of each model, and that they visit such courthouses as they may deem proper.¹¹

Two of the commissioners, William Madison Peyton and William C. Williams, played a significant part in the courthouse planning and construction. Peyton, commonly known as the "Colonel," served as justice of the peace and commissioner of revenue for the County. He designed the courthouse. Williams, politician, publican, postmaster, and noted promoter of Salem development, acted as contractor and builder.



William Madison Peyton

Courtesy the Historic New Orleans Collection, Museum/Research Center, Acc. No. Col. Dames #4114-2.

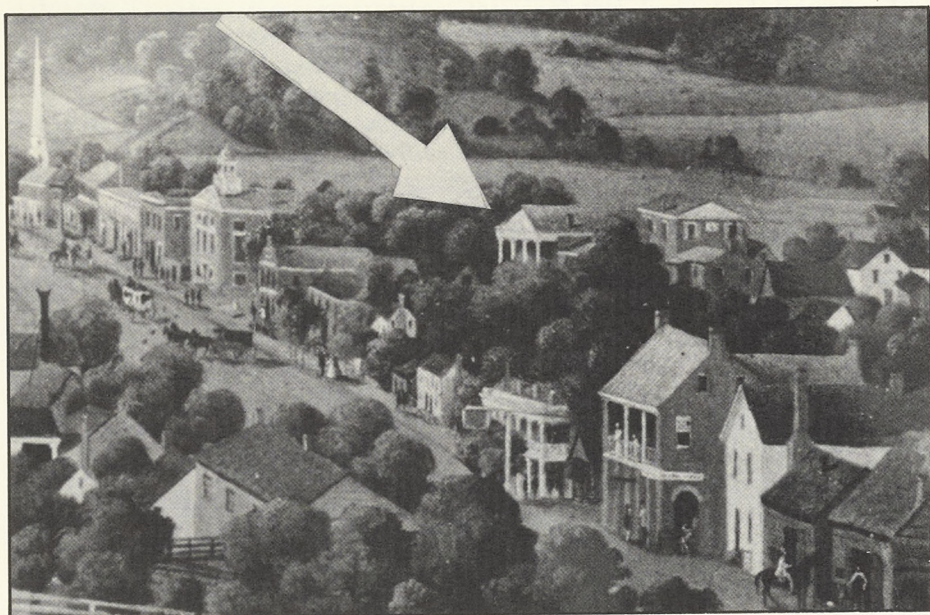
Peyton was born September 4, 1805, in Montgomery County, Virginia.¹² Sometime during 1808 or 1809 his family moved to Staunton. At the age of 12 he attended Staunton Academy, where he received a "good classical and mathematical education."¹³ During the 1821-22 academic year he attended Princeton, where archives list him as "a non-graduate member of the Class of 1824." In 1823 and 1824 he attended Yale University as a member of the Class of 1825. Although he did not graduate, he studied mathematics, philosophy, geometry, and classical literature, according to Yale's archives.

In 1826 Peyton married Sallie Taylor, who owned estates in Hot Springs. Peyton studied law by apprenticeship



First Roanoke County Courthouse, wings, circa 1900.

Credit: Clerk of Court, Roanoke County.



First Roanoke County Courthouse in Town of Salem, from oil painting by Edward Beyer, photo by Roger M. Winborne Jr.

and was admitted to the bar in 1828. By 1837 he had come to Botetourt County, where he served as a member of the Vestry of the Episcopal Church.¹⁴ The portion of Botetourt County in which the Peytons lived became Roanoke County in 1838, the same year he was elected to the House of Delegates.

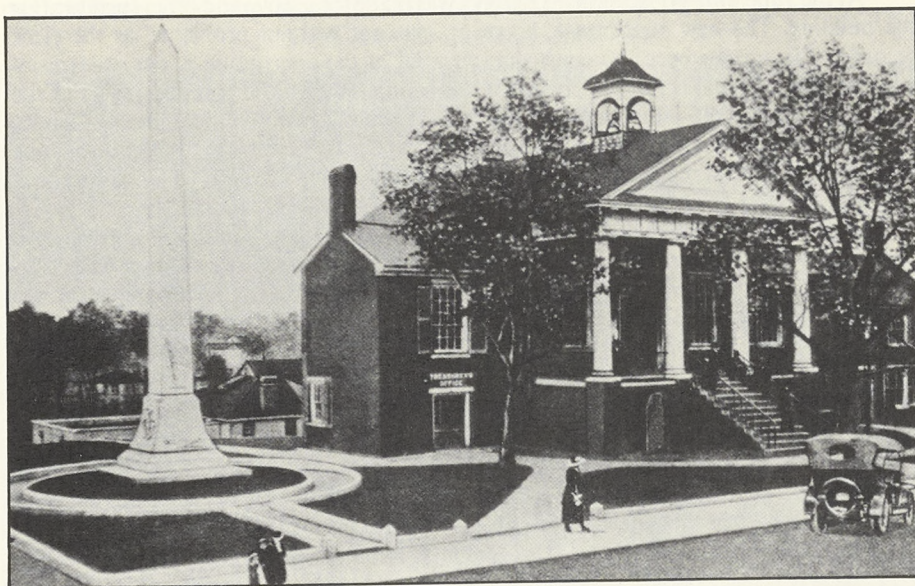
After deciding where to place the new county's courthouse, Peyton and the other commissioners contracted on June 21, 1838, to buy two lots in the Town of Salem from John H. Gay for \$400.¹⁵ Included in the levy was \$2,000 toward building the courthouse.¹⁶ The court also requested proposals "for the erection of the courthouse."

Peyton submitted a design; at the August 23, 1838 session, the court authorized the committee to make changes. The other commissioners changed the size of clerk's offices and jury rooms from 18 feet square to 20 feet square and the stone foundations for the center and wings to brick. Where Peyton called for "the front to be plastered and lined in imitation of stone," the court simply left brick. Peyton had the first story 16 feet 6 inches high; the committee decided on 17 feet. The committee added two neatly turned columns for the gallery and painted woodwork for the courtroom. Charging the committee with contracting "on the most advantageous terms for the courthouse with authority to make modifications as will not seriously affect the cost . . .,"¹⁸ the court also asked the committee to superintend the building to completion.

On August 24, 1838, the day after the plan was submitted, an agreement was reached with William C. Williams and his helper, Linsay Shoemaker, to erect a courthouse and jail for \$10,400.¹⁹ Builder of a store on Main Street, Williams was "experienced enough in construction business — with adequate capital, access to supplies and laborers — to execute this commission."²⁰ An early twentieth century historian of Roanoke County wrote about Williams: "in entering into the contract for building the Courthouse he looked more to the public good than to his own private interests for he undertook the work believing it would prove a financial loss and the event justified his belief."²¹

The last court session at Huff's house was on March 15, 1841.²² Edward Watts, who had been appointed to oversee construction of the courthouse, reported that the interior was done according to the contract and the work was accepted. Commissioners were appointed to "contract for and provide chairs, benches, and all necessary furniture for the courthouse and jury rooms and also a clerk's table with railing and bannister enclosed the same."²³ During this last home court session it was ordered that the next session would be held at the new courthouse.

On April 19, 1841, the first court was held in Roanoke County's new courthouse.²⁴ In



Bedford County Courthouse, circa 1920

Credit: Virginia Cavalcade, Summer 1971, page 12.

a simplified Greek Revival style, the building rested on a raised basement of brick two feet above ground. The portico had four brick Doric columns plastered smoothly without fluting. Specifications called for the columns to be stuccoed and finished with bases and capitals corresponding to the Greek Doric order. A simple, straight-run wooden staircase, interestingly without risers, arose between the center columns. Above the columns was a Roman-like entablature with proper triglyphs, metopes, and guttae. A triangular pediment was free of ornament and a small cupola surmounted the building. The roof of the cupola was formed by four gables in a cross form; a tiny spire emerged from their intersection.

Four chimneys serving both the courtroom and wings were built into the outer walls, two on each side of the center portion. Two side wings, two stories high, flanked the main portion. The wings displayed gabled roofs abutting the central portion at right angles. Windows in all three sections had flat lintels and were shuttered. A central doorway topped by a window panel opened into the courtroom, with a separate exterior door leading into each wing. Adjacent one-story wings were added later. All sections had stairs without risers in front.

Specifications for the courthouse called for "the cornice to be a plain Doric after the stile [sic] of the Bedford County courthouse." William Campbell from Bedford, one of the first commissioners, may have influenced this design choice. (The Bedford Courthouse was built in 1833 and continued in use until 1930.) While the Doric order was basically the same for both buildings, there were some differences. Bedford's portico was raised a full story above ground; Roanoke's was only two feet above ground. The Bedford columns, in the proper Greek manner, had conspicuous round bases; Roanoke's had only square plinths. Bedford had an open cupola with a bell; Roanoke had a small gabled cupola with a spire. Chimneys were on the outside of the wings and at the rear of the center portion at Bedford, but inside the wings at Roanoke. The Bedford Courthouse proportions were squat and square, whereas Roanoke's proportions were high and narrow.

In its finished state, the Roanoke County Courthouse presented a grand, noble appearance for the new county. It was an object of immense civic pride. When the courthouse opened, the judge posted notices that a \$5 fine would be imposed for defacement of the new building.²⁵

At the June 21, 1841, session a \$200 levy was made for a stove and other furniture for the building. The new courthouse, however, was not without problems, as the clerk recorded: "It appearing to the court that the roof of the courthouse is not waterproof whereby the building is liable to be injured it is ordered that the commissioners of the public buildings withhold from the contractors a sum sufficient to indemnify the County for the deficiency of the work and the injury like to ensure therefrom."²⁶ Not until June 1842 did the builder receive any payment. Then he was paid \$1,552.10 by county levy which noted "claims and allowed W. C. Williams (for public buildings)."²⁷

If Williams, the builder of the courthouse, lost money on the endeavor, the designer, Peyton, retained his meritorious stand in the community. He was a large landowner who lived at "Elmwood," now the site of the Roanoke Public Library. Peyton's lifestyle was chronicled in detail in 1873 in a biography by his son, John Lewis Peyton. In describing his father's Roanoke mansion, John Peyton referred to a collection of art works and his father's "fondness for the arts, music, poetry, painting, and sculpture."²⁸

The son noted that his father was skilled at drawing and painting: "It was said by the late Mr. Sully, an eminent painter of Richmond and Philadelphia, that he was not only an amateur and a connoisseur, but an artist as well." From the library at Elmwood, the son remembered "many old, rare, and valuable works with plates and engravings in them."²⁹ A portrait of William Peyton painted about 1855, attributed to George P. A. Healey, which probably hung at Elmwood, now resides with a private collection in New Orleans.

Although the son may have exaggerated his father's wealth as he reminisced over pre-Civil War luxuries, the 1857 tax records indicate he certainly was not poor. Thirty-two slaves over 16 years old and 36 over 12 years old were recorded. Peyton had 25 horses, with only one carriage recorded, and 200 cattle, sheep, and hogs. Special items noted by the tax assessor included three watches, two clocks, and two harps and pianos. Peyton also owned gold, silver, and jewelry valued at \$250, and \$1,200 worth of household and kitchen furniture.³⁰

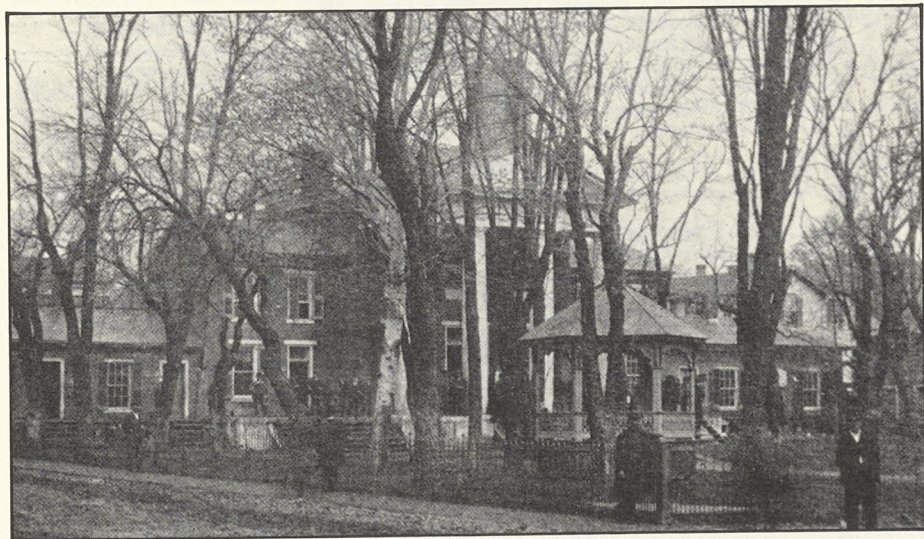
In 1859 Peyton went to New York to organize a joint stock company around his coal mining interests.³¹ A year later the land tax book in Roanoke County lists Peyton as a resident of New York. After the secession of Virginia on April 25, 1861, Federal authorities would not allow him to leave New York, according to his son. After the Civil War he did return to Virginia and his family, but poverty, sickness, and domestic troubles prevailed until his death in 1868.³² Some Roanoke ties apparently remained because William Madison Peyton's will, dated December 17, 1861, was filed in Roanoke County.³³

The Roanoke County Courthouse, as originally designed by Peyton, underwent renovation in 1888 with the addition of two one-story wings to give more room for the clerk and a vault. Architect W. P. Tinsley of Lynchburg, who designed the addition, also renovated the courtroom. His proposal, in a letter of April 27, 1888, to P. H. McCaull in Salem, stated: "The courtroom to be made entirely modern by new judge's stand, clerk's desk and office, new bar railing, etc., and all to be properly painted and otherwise well finished."³⁴ Much of the old building endured until its complete destruction in 1909. It was replaced in 1910 by the second courthouse which stood until the third seat of the county courts was occupied in 1985.

In 1938, the building was still remembered by Alvin H. Magee, who was 82 at the time. In the Centennial Edition of the Salem newspaper, Magee recalled that "I can still see in my mind the two old fireplaces that were expected to warm the building for the loafers; the rusty old stove to warm the bench, the jury, and the judge; also the old stone (ware) pitchers which were filled with drinking water from the town pump that stood on the street corner."³⁵

Today, the second Roanoke County Courthouse is being preserved as a historic landmark and the third Roanoke County Courthouse looms over Salem with angular, modern forms. Who remembers the first Roanoke County Courthouse?

(Editor's note: See poem on page 72.)



First Roanoke County Courthouse, overall view, circa 1890.

Credit: Salem, Virginia: Its Advantages and Attractions. New York. The Giles Co. Print, 1891.

FOOTNOTES

1. Richard Pare, COURT HOUSE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENT, p. 7
2. A COURTHOUSE CONSERVATION HANDBOOK, p. 7.
3. Ibid., p. 9
4. THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, 1849, p. 254-55.
5. Ibid., p. 255.
6. Ibid.
7. Richard Pare, "Courthouses: County Symbols," p. 33.
8. THE TIMES REGISTER, ROANOKE COUNTY CENTENNIAL EDITION, p. 25
9. Writers' Program of the Works Progress Administration in the State of Virginia, ROANOKE: STORY OF CITY AND COUNTY, p. 82. (Hereinafter cited as W.P.A.)
10. Ibid., p. 84.
11. COMMON LAW ORDERS A, MAY 1830-MAY 1840, p. 9.
12. John Lewis Peyton, MEMOIR OF WILLIAM PEYTON OF ROANOKE, p. 2.
13. Ibid., p. 15.
14. Robert Douthat Stoner, A SEED-BED OF THE REPUBLIC, p. 347.
15. W.P.A., p. 84.
16. COMMON LAW ORDERS A, p. 21.
17. Ibid., p. 17.
18. Ibid., p. 42.
19. W. L. Whitwell and Lee W. Winborne, THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY, p. 80.
20. Ibid.
21. William McCauley, ed., HISTORY OF ROANOKE COUNTY, p. 300.
22. COMMON LAW ORDERS B. JUNE 1840-JULY 1843, p. 86.
23. Ibid., p. 76.
24. Ibid., p. 88.
25. Carolyn Hale Bruce, ROANOKE: A PICTORIAL HISTORY, p. 30.
26. COMMON LAW ORDERS B, p. 100.
27. Ibid., p. 200.
28. John Lewis Peyton, MEMOIR OF PEYTON, p. 49.
29. Ibid., p. 49-50.
30. PROPERTY BOOK 1857-60.
31. John Lewis Peyton, MEMOIR OF PEYTON, p. 234.
32. John Lewis Peyton, MEMOIR OF PEYTON, p. 307.
33. WILL BOOK II, p. 239.
34. Vertical Files, Roanoke County Courthouse.
35. THE TIMES REGISTER, CENTENNIAL EDITION, p. 64.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Elizabeth Stokes, Clerk of the Court, Roanoke County; Mrs. Peter G. Burke; The Historical New Orleans Collection; Ms. Carol Tuckwiller; and Mrs. Lynn Davis.

Fleming Backed Constitution

William Fleming, pioneer Roanoke Valley surgeon, soldier and acting governor for almost three weeks, cast Botetourt County's vote for the new United States Constitution two centuries ago.

Fleming, who lived in a log house still standing on Monterey Golf Course along Tinker Creek in Northeast Roanoke, voted for ratification at a Richmond convention on June 25, 1788. The vote was 89 to 79 for the Constitution.

Seven years earlier, Fleming as the only member of the Council of the State of Virginia was acting governor. His role is described in this brief biography from *Journals of the Council of the State of Virginia*, Vol. V, Virginia State Library, 1982:

William Fleming (1728-1795), son of Leonard and Dorothea (Saterthwaite) Fleming, was born on 7 February 1728 in Jedburgh, Scotland. Fleming served as an apprentice to a surgeon in Dumfries, Scotland, and also studied pharmacy with an eminent Scottish apothecary before enrolling as a medical student at the University of Edinburgh in 1746. There is evidence to suggest that following his medical studies Fleming worked as a surgeon either in the British navy or on an English merchant ship. Early in the 1750s his travels brought him to Virginia.

In 1755 Fleming accepted an ensign's commission in the Virginia militia, and he fought for eight years in the French and Indian War. At the war's close he settled in Staunton, where he practiced medicine. In 1768 he moved his family to an estate called Belmont in the southwestern part of Augusta County. A year later the General Assembly separated the area in which Fleming lived from Augusta and created Botetourt County. Fleming helped to establish the government of the new county and became a justice of the Botetourt County court. In June 1774 he was appointed colonel of the Botetourt militia. In October of that year he fought in Dunmore's War at the battle of Point Pleasant, where he received a serious wound from which he never fully recovered. Although his health kept him from active military duty in the Revolution, he did serve as county lieutenant of Botetourt during the war, and from May 1777 through June 1779 he sat in the General Assembly as a state senator for Botetourt and several other southwestern Virginia counties. In June 1779 Governor Thomas Jefferson appointed Fleming to head a commission to settle land claims in Kentucky and to recommend locations for new forts on Virginia's frontier. Fleming spent more than eight months traveling in Kentucky, returning in mid-May 1780. While on this expedition Fleming learned that on 18 December 1779 the General Assembly had elected him a member of the Council of State. Early in June he set out for the new capital at Richmond to take his seat on the executive board.

Fleming, who is often confused with Judge William Fleming (1736-1824), served on the Council during a particularly trying period for Virginia, as in May 1781 a British army invaded the commonwealth, marched on Richmond, and forced the government to flee westward. Governor Jefferson's term expired on 2 June 1781, while government leaders were in Charlottesville. As the only councillor on hand during the first eleven days of June 1781, Fleming assumed the duties of governor until the General Assembly could reconvene in Staunton and elect a new governor. On 12 June the assembly chose Thomas Nelson, Jr., to succeed Jefferson, but Fleming continued to act as governor until Nelson arrived in Staunton on 19 June. The strain of these responsibilities proved too much for Fleming, and in an 8 September letter to the Speaker of the House of Delegates he resigned his place on the Council.

Several months later, however, Fleming reluctantly accepted an appointment as a commissioner to investigate charges of corruption and mismanagement in the government of Virginia's western territory. In this capacity, he once again traveled to the state's frontier. His last appearance in public life occurred when he represented Botetourt County

in the Convention of 1788, at which he voted for ratification of the United States Constitution. Although he visited Kentucky on more than one occasion in his later years, his health declined precipitously early in the 1790s. Fleming died at Belmont in August 1795 at the age of sixty-eight.

Roanoke's First Judges

by Judge Jack Coulter

Roanoke City Courts 1884-1973

When Big Lick became the Town of Roanoke in 1882, the community continued to be a part of the 14th Judicial Circuit. At that time the 14th Judicial Circuit was made up of the counties of Roanoke (including Big Lick), Botetourt, Craig, Montgomery and Floyd. Hence, until the Town of Roanoke became the City of Roanoke on January 31, 1884, legal matters requiring a court of record were handled through the Circuit Court of Roanoke County since the Town of Roanoke was still a part of the county.

Soon after Roanoke became a city, its Circuit Court was established by the General Assembly on March 17, 1884, and was made a part of the 14th Judicial Circuit. This new court held its first session on December 18, 1884. The same judge presided over all the 14th Judicial Circuit, therefore the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke was held here only two months out of the year.

By Act of the General Assembly in 1892, the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke became a part of the 18th Judicial Circuit, whose territory included Bedford County and Roanoke City. This court held its term in Roanoke four times a year. Then, in 1904, the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke became a part of the 20th Judicial Circuit, made up originally of the counties of Roanoke, Bedford, Montgomery and Floyd, as well as Roanoke City, and court was held in the city five times during the year.

On February 25, 1884, the Corporation or Hustings Court for the City of Roanoke was authorized by the General Assembly, 20 days earlier than the Circuit Court. Identifying itself as the Hustings Court, it convened every month except August. In June 1902, this court began calling itself the Corporation Court, but in June 1928 reverted to the Hustings Court.

In 1910, the Law and Chancery Court of the City of Roanoke was organized, holding court every month except August, but having no criminal jurisdiction.

In order to avoid confusion in the names of the courts, the General Assembly enacted statutes during the 1950s, naming the courts precisely: Hustings Court of the City of Roanoke, Court of Law and Chancery of the City of Roanoke, and Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke.

In 1973, all of these courts, the Circuit, Hustings and Law and Chancery, were merged by the General Assembly into the Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke as part of the 23rd Judicial Circuit. The Circuit Court of Roanoke County and the Circuit Court of the City of Salem became a part of the same circuit.

Judge Jack Coulter of Roanoke City Circuit Court, writer of this article, led in the recognition of Roanoke's first judges in 1984. Through his efforts, portraits of the judges of the city's courts of record from 1884 to 1973 were placed in the new city courthouse. Twenty-three men were judges of the Circuit, Hustings (Corporation) and Law and Chancery courts during this period.

Statistical Summary of pre-1973 Judges

Up to the time that the courts of record for the City of Roanoke were consolidated in 1973, there had been 25 judges of the three courts — Circuit, Hustings and Law and Chancery. These 25 judicial positions, however, were filled by only 23 men since Judges William W. Moffett and Herbert B. Gregory served as judges of both the Circuit Court and Law and Chancery Court. Since 1973, four additional judges have served on the Circuit Court bench, making a grand total of 27.*

Through 1984, Judge Frederick L. Hoback served the longest period of these 27 judges, a total of 32 years (1952-1984), closely followed by Judge S. L. Fellers, who was on the bench for 30 years (1944-1974). Judge Henry E. Blair was on the Circuit Court bench for 31 years (1873-1905), but he served the City of Roanoke for only eight of those years.

Judge Gregory was a member of the judiciary for 28 years, but 21 of them were as a justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Judge Cephus B. Moomaw was a Circuit Court judge for the shortest period, 135 days (October 1, 1905, to February 12, 1906). The average term served by the pre-1973 judges was 9.6 years.

The average age of the 23 judges who served through 1973 was 46.2 years at the time of their first appointment. Judge William Gordon Robertson, appointed at age 28, was the youngest, while Judge Roy B. Smith, appointed at the age of 63, was the oldest. Judge Archer E. King was also appointed a Circuit Court judge at 28, but that was as judge of the Circuit Court of Fluvanna and other adjoining counties, a post he resigned after six years.

Of the 21 judges who are deceased, Judge Fellers lived the longest, to the age of 90, closely followed by Judge John M. Hart, who lived to 89. Judge Robert J. Rogers, the youngest, died at 48. The average life span of these judges was 66.85 years.

Of the 23 judges who served before 1973, 18 were born in the last century and nine before the Civil War; only five were born in the Roanoke Valley (Fox, Woodrum, Fellers, Edwards and Ballou). Five were graduates of Roanoke or Jefferson High School (Keister, Hoback, Fox, Edwards and Ballou). Eleven received their law degrees from the University of Virginia (Dupuy, Tucker, Hoback, W. G. Robertson, Woods, King, Hart, Almond, Kuyk, Ballou and E. E. Robertson); and six were graduated from Washington and Lee Law School (Gregory, Keister, Fox, Staples, Edwards and Fellers). Only Judge Tucker was not a native-born Virginian. He was born in Philadelphia, but he grew up in Richmond and had perhaps the most notable Virginia pedigree of them all.

Of these 23 judges, two went on to Congress (Woodrum and Almond); one became attorney general and governor (Almond); two went on the federal bench (Tucker and Almond). There were five who served as a commonwealth's attorney (Blair, Woodrum, Almond, Edwards and Smith); three were mayors of the City (Moomaw, Woods and Edwards); and two served on City Council (King and Hart).

There were four who were in the state legislature, either as a delegate or senator (Blair, Tucker, Moffett and Hart). W. G. Robertson was very active as a delegate from Roanoke at the Constitutional Convention of 1902. E. W. Robertson was the only unmarried judge. Tucker, Keister, Woods and Almond had no children.

Five judges died in their 50s (Dupuy, W. G. Robertson, Woods, Edwards and E. W. Robertson). Although some may have technically resigned shortly before their deaths, only six of these 23 pre-1973 judges died while serving on the bench (E. W. Robertson, Smith, Moffett, Keister, Edwards and Hoback). Judge Rogers, who died a few days after resigning, was elected after 1973.

**This article was written before the election of Roy B. Willett and G. O. Clemens to the Circuit Court bench in 1985 and Clifford R. Weckstein in 1987. The other four judges elected after 1973 were: Robert J. Rogers, elected in 1974, Jack B. Coulter, elected in 1975, Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr., elected in 1976, and Kenneth E. Trabue, elected in 1977. Hence, there have been seven additional judges since 1973, making a grand total of 30 men who have served or who are presently serving as judges of the courts of record for the City of Roanoke.*

Biographical Sketches

JUDGES OF THE PRE-1973 CITY CIRCUIT COURT 1884-1973

| Judge | Period Served | No. Years Served | Age at Appointment | Age at Death |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Henry E. Blair | (1884-1892) | 8 | 49 | 81 |
| James A. Dupuy | (1892-1900) | 8 | 38 | 55 |
| John Randolph Tucker | (1901-1904) | 3 | 46 | 72 |
| Cephus B. Moomaw | (1905-1906) | 1 | 56 | 66 |
| William Walter Moffett | (1906-1923) | 17 | 52 | 72 |
| Herbert B. Gregory | (1923-1926) | 3 | 39 | 67 |
| Thurston L. Keister | (1926-1952) | 26 | 38 | 64 |
| *Frederick L. Hoback | (1952-1973) | 32 | 47 | 79 |
| *Tom Stockton Fox | (1970-1973) | 4 | 60 | 76 |

*Judges Hoback and Fox continued on the bench after the consolidation of the courts in 1973.

Henry Edmundson Blair (1825-1906)

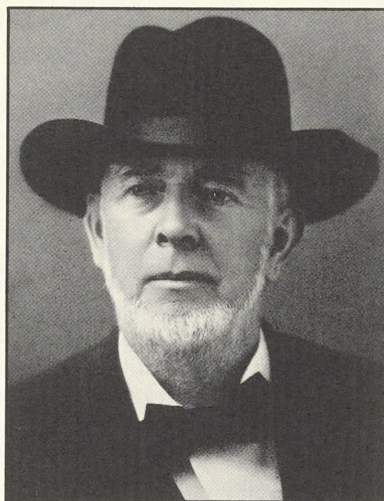
When the Town of Roanoke became the City of Roanoke on January 31, 1884, Judge Henry Edmundson Blair had been serving in Roanoke County as judge of the 14th Judicial Circuit for nearly 10 years. He had succeeded Judge A. B. Mahood in July 1874 and was a member of the House of Delegates from Roanoke County at the time.

Judge Blair was 49 when he became a judge. All told, he served as a circuit court judge for 31 years, until he resigned in September 1905, but he was judge of the Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke only from 1884 to 1892. In 1892, Roanoke City broke away from the 14th Judicial Circuit to form the 18th Judicial Circuit with Bedford County.

Born in Richmond on January 31, 1825, Judge Blair was the son of Walter D. Blair and a grandson of the Reverend John D. Blair, an eminent Presbyterian minister. He moved to Salem in 1847 and formed a 27-year partnership for the general practice of law with his uncle, Col. Henry A. Edmundson, which continued until he was elected to the bench. On October 4, 1866, he married Miss Evelyn A. Burke of Botetourt County.

He enlisted in the Civil War as lieutenant of the Salem Artillery and served through the entire war. His battery was one of the last in action at Appomattox.

From 1856 to 1868 he served as commonwealth's attorney for Roanoke County, and again from May 1870 to January 1871. He was president of the board of trustees of Roanoke College and was an elder of the Presbyterian Church in Salem. He died on October 17, 1906, at the age of 81, survived by his widow and his daughter, Ellen, the wife of Dr. R. Minor Wiley. His descendants included three granddaughters, the late Mrs. John P. (Blair) Fishwick of Roanoke and Washington, D.C; Ellen Edmundson Blair



Blair

Wiley Rice of Roanoke; and Evelyn Blair Wiley Chapman of Greenville, Tennessee; and seven great-grandchildren, including Mrs. Dudley (Evelyn R.) Marsteller of Roanoke and Mrs. Robert (Lellen) Dawson of Salem.

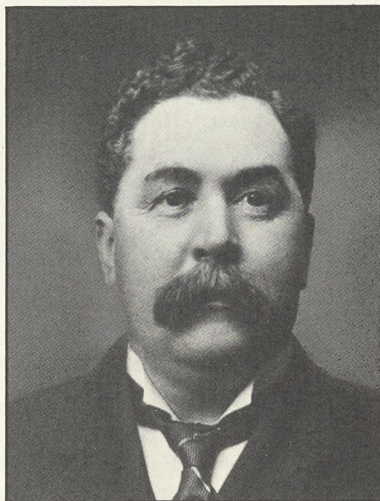
James Asa Dupuy (1854-1909)

James Asa Dupuy was the first judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit, created in 1892. He served the City of Roanoke and Bedford County until the circuit was reorganized in 1904.

Born in Prince Edward County in 1854, Judge Dupuy was the seventh of nine children of Col. Joseph and Sarah W. Walker Dupuy. He received his academic training at Hampden-Sydney College and studied law under Prof. John B. Minor of the University of Virginia, earning his law degree in 1883. He first set up his law practice in Rocky Mount, but moved to Roanoke in 1888.

He was elected judge of the 18th Judicial Court in March 1892 at 38 and served until his retirement in 1900. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Parkersburg, West Virginia, but returned to Roanoke in 1904 where he remained until his death at 55 on October 3, 1909. He was president of the Roanoke Bar Association at the time of his death and was associated in the practice of law with S. G. Whittle, Jr.

His wife, the former Mary Vaughan, a daughter of Reverend Clement Read Vaughan of Roanoke, had died 20 years before Judge Dupuy. He was survived by a daughter, Miss Loulie Rochet Dupuy, a long-time English teacher at Jefferson High School who died August 3, 1968. Descendants of his wife's family include Mrs. Hubert (Page) Wright, S. Wilson Blain, Mary Frazier Blain and Mrs. Jack (Ann Blain) Weldon. Relatives include Mrs. G. Donald Black of Blacksburg and Mrs. Kitty Dupuy Nelson of Yorktown.

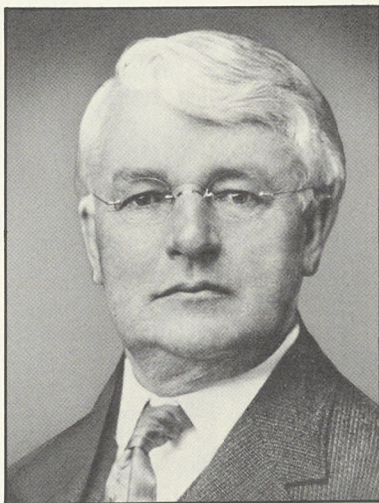


Dupuy

John Randolph Tucker (1857-1926)

John Randolph Tucker was elected by the General Assembly on February 7, 1900, to succeed Judge Dupuy as judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit, beginning January 1, 1901. His time on the bench was shortened, however, by the reorganization of the circuit courts throughout the state in 1904. The Circuit Court of Roanoke City became a part of the 20th Judicial Circuit.

Judge Tucker was born of distinguished paternal and maternal ancestry in Philadelphia on August 13, 1857, the son of Dr. David Hunter and Elizabeth Dallas Tucker. On his father's side he was a 10th generation member of the famous Tucker clan that first came to Virginia at Jamestown in 1606. Some of them migrated to Bermuda where his great-great-grandfather, Col. Henry Tucker, was secretary of state for Bermuda prior to the Revolutionary War. His great-grandfather, Col. St. George Tucker of Williamsburg, married



Tucker

Frances Bland, the widow of John Randolph and the mother of John Randolph of Roanoke Plantation. His grandfather, Henry St. George Tucker, was president of the Virginia Court of Appeals from 1831 to 1841. On his mother's side, he was the grandson of George M. Dallas, a senator from Pennsylvania, who served as vice president of the United States from 1845 to 1849.

John Tucker's early life was spent in Richmond, but, because of the early death of his father and the family's property losses during the Civil War, he had to stop school at 17. He worked in a cotton factory in Manchester and then for the Richmond and Danville Railroad. Later he attended Washington and Lee University and in 1881-82 studied law under Prof. John B. Minor at the University of Virginia.

He began his law practice in Richmond, but soon moved to Bedford County where he practiced until elected to the bench in 1900 at the age of 46. After leaving the bench, Judge Tucker was elected to the State Senate where he served from 1908 to 1913. He was appointed a federal judge for the 2nd Judicial Division of Alaska at Nome in 1913, serving there until 1917 when he returned to the private practice of law in Richmond.

Judge Tucker died at the age of 72 in Bedford on December 18, 1926, and was buried in Columbia, South Carolina. He had no children, and he was survived by his wife, Mary Singleton Hampton Tucker, the daughter of Confederate General Wade Hampton of South Carolina, and one sister, Mrs. Forest Brown of Charles Town, West Virginia.

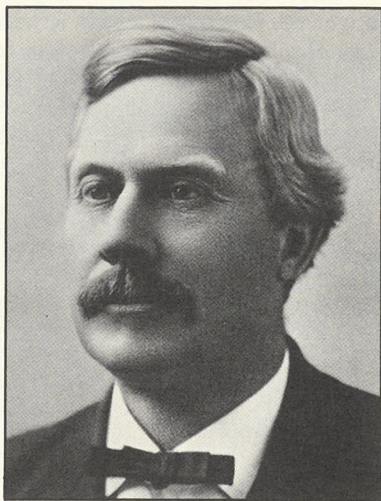
Cephus Benjamin Moomaw (1849-1915)

Cephus Benjamin Moomaw became the first judge of the Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke after it became a part of the 20th Judicial Circuit. He served only 135 days, from October 1, 1905, to February 12, 1906, the shortest term of any judge in our history. He was appointed to succeed Judge Blair who had resigned as judge of the 20th Circuit because of failing health.

Judge Moomaw, the son of Joseph and Polly Moomaw, was born in Botetourt County on October 23, 1849. He was initially a farmer, but read law privately and was admitted to the bar of Botetourt County in 1882. He came to Roanoke and formed a partnership with John W. Woods, a partnership which continued until November 1892, when Woods was elected to the Hustings Court bench. In April 1893, he went into partnership with Woods' brother, James P. Woods, until the summer of 1903. After his tenure on the bench, Judge Moomaw went into partnership with his son, Hugh Moomaw. He died on October 18, 1915, at the age of 66.

Judge Moomaw was a member of City Council and was mayor of the City of Roanoke from 1913 until 1915. He was also city solicitor from 1897 to 1905.

He was married to Sarah E. Mangus of Botetourt County, and they had three children: Edith, Hugh M. and Joseph Frank Moomaw. Hugh Moomaw's daughter, Mrs. William (Dolly) E. Hall, lives in Roanoke.



Moomaw

William Walter Moffett (1854-1926)

In January 1906, William Walter Moffett was elected by the General Assembly to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Blair in October 1905, succeeding Judge Moomaw who had been appointed as interim judge by Governor Montague.

Judge Moffett had been the county judge of Roanoke County from June 19, 1893,

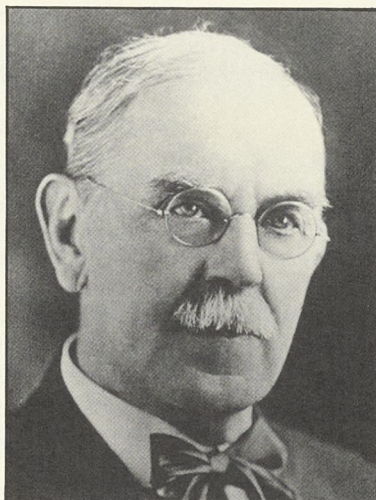
until 1902 when the county court system was abolished by the new Constitution. He had moved to Salem in 1891 from Washington, D.C., where he had practiced law for five years.

Judge Moffett was of early Virginia stock, his forebears having located in Fauquier County in the early 1700s. He was born July 19, 1854, in Culpeper County, the eldest of four children of John and Sarah W. Brown Moffett. His father died when he was only 13 and he was reared by his uncle, Horatio G. Moffett, under whom he read law after graduating from the Rappahannock Academy. He was admitted to the bar in 1877 and was elected to the Virginia legislature from Rappahannock County in 1883.

Judge Moffett went on the Circuit Court bench at the age of 52 and continued to serve as judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit for 17 years, until 1923. He then moved to the Law and Chancery Court of the City of Roanoke, succeeding Judge Roy B. Smith. He served that court as its third judge until his death on August 25, 1926, at the age of 72.

Judge Moffett also was president of the board of trustees of Hollins Institute, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia for two terms, and chairman of the executive board of the Baptist Orphanage of Virginia.

He was survived by his widow, Jessie Mary, and four daughters: Mrs. Frank (Gates) Jones, Mrs. B. N. (Fannie) Eubank, Mrs. W. N. (Sarah) Walters, and Lois Umstot, all of whom are now deceased. His grandchildren include Mrs. Jessie Miller Turner of Washington, Virginia, Mrs. Mary Lee Walters Worrell of Richmond, and Mrs. Sarah Umstot Jones of Atlanta.



Moffett

Herbert Bailey Gregory (1884-1951)

In 1923, Herbert Bailey Gregory was appointed at the age of 39 as judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit, which then comprised the counties of Roanoke, Montgomery and Floyd as well as the City of Roanoke.

He succeeded Judge Moffett, who had moved over to the Law and Chancery Court of the City of Roanoke. In 1926, Judge Gregory followed Judge Moffett to the Law and Chancery Court. He served until 1930, when at the age of 46 he was elected by the General Assembly to the Supreme Court of Appeals. He was a Supreme Court justice for 21 years until his death at 67 on March 9, 1951.

Judge Gregory was born in Westmoreland County on April 10, 1884, the son of the Reverend Werter Hancock Gregory, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Sallie Payne Gregory. He was educated at private schools, attended Randolph-Macon Academy at Bedford and Pungoteague Academy in Accomac. He earned his law degree at Washington and Lee University in 1911, was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa, and later



Gregory

received an honorary degree of doctor of laws from his alma mater.

He was survived by his wife, Margaret Kossen Gregory, and three children: James Blair Gregory, Kossen Gregory and Mrs. Herberta Eagler.

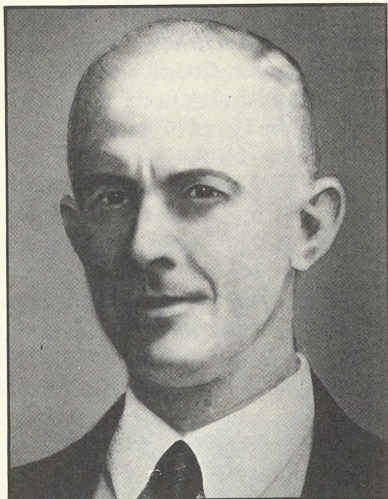
Thurston Lantz Keister (1888-1952)

Thurston Lantz Keister was born in Bowman, Shenandoah County, on October 6, 1888, the son of the Reverend T. O. and Ellen Rebecca Lantz Keister. He was graduated from Roanoke High School in 1904 and from Roanoke College, with honors, in 1910. He earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1913 and began the practice of law in Roanoke and Salem, first with R. W. Kime and later with R. T. Hubbard. During World War I, he served in the Field Artillery.

Judge Keister was appointed by Governor Harry Byrd to fill the unexpired term of Judge Gregory as judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1926 when Gregory moved to the Law and Chancery Court of the City of Roanoke. He was elected to the position by the 1927 special session of the General Assembly and was re-elected for successive terms until his death on October 26, 1952, at the age of 64, having served 26 years on the bench.

He was survived by his wife, Marion Zirkle, whom he married in 1923; his three sisters, Mrs. R. W. (Mary) Stoneburner of Edinburg; Mrs. A. Pelzer (Rebecca) Wagener of Williamsburg; Mrs. J. F. (Emma) Ouzts of Greenwood, South Carolina; and five nieces and nephews.

He was a trustee of Roanoke College from 1933 until his death. He was also a member of College Lutheran Church in Salem; the Kazim Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of Mystic Shrine; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and was a charter member and the first commander of Salem Post 19 of the American Legion.



Keister

Frederick Lane Hoback (1905-1985)

Frederick Lane Hoback, the chief judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit for 10 years, was on the bench for 32 years, a longer period of service as a circuit court judge than any other of the 30 judges who have served or are serving the courts of record in Roanoke.

Judge Hoback was born in Floyd on December 1, 1905, to Frederick S. and Lottie Howard Hoback. He grew up in Roanoke, was graduated from Roanoke High School in 1923, earned his B.A. degree with honors from Roanoke College in 1927, obtained a master's degree in economics with honors from the University of Virginia in 1928, and in 1931 he earned his law degree with honors from the University of Virginia, where he made Phi Beta Kappa.

Judge Hoback practiced law in Salem from 1931 to 1952, and for many years he was a partner



Hoback

in the law firm of Kime and Hoback. He served as assistant trial justice for Roanoke County from 1932 to 1952, and was professor of business law at Roanoke College for 34 years, from 1936 to 1970. He was active in many civic and professional organizations, serving as president of several and served on the Judicial Council of Virginia for many years.

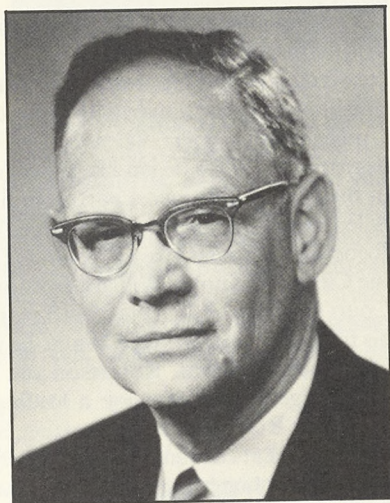
He was elected judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit, to succeed Judge Keister, in 1952 and was re-elected four times. He died on January 3, 1985, survived by his wife, Louise Van Lear Hoback, whom he married on February 3, 1934; their three children, Frederick L., Jr., Charles Van, and Andrew F., and several grandchildren.

Tom Stockton Fox (1910-1987)

Tom Stockton Fox was born in Roanoke on August 18, 1910, the son of Horace M. and Mildred S. Fox. He grew up in Roanoke, graduating from Jefferson High School in 1927. He attended Roanoke College from 1927 to 1929 and earned his B.A. degree from Washington and Lee University in 1931 and his law degree from the same university in 1933. He began his law practice in Roanoke in 1933, was with the Department of Agriculture from 1935 to 1942, and then resumed his practice in Roanoke. He was an instructor in business law at the National Business College from 1942 to 1950 and served in a leadership capacity in many civic, fraternal and professional organizations, particularly the Shrine and Masonic lodges.

Judge Fox was elected by the General Assembly as a judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit on March 13, 1970, for an eight-year term. He suffered a stroke, however, in 1974 and was obliged to retire for reasons of health, effective January 15, 1975.

He was married to Ellen Crush Fox on August 1, 1964. By his first wife, the former Virginia Lacy, Judge Fox had two children: Laura F. Hardy, deceased, and Thomas Stockton Fox, Jr.



Fox

JUDGES OF CITY HUSTINGS (CORPORATION) COURT 1884-1973

| Judge | Period Served | No. Years Served | Age at Appointment | Age at Death |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| William Gordon | | | | |
| Robertston | 1884-1892 | 8 | 28 | 54 |
| John W. Woods | 1892-1909 | 17 | 34 | 54 |
| Waller R. Staples | 1909-1914 | 5 | 37 | 56 |
| A. E. King | 1914-1919 | 5 | 56 | 73 |
| Clifton A. Woodrum | 1919-1922 | 3 | 32 | 63 |
| John M. Hart | 1922-1933 | 11 | 56 | 89 |
| J. Lindsay Almond, Jr. | 1933-1945 | 12 | 35 | 87 |
| Dirk A. Kuyk | 1946-1964 | 18 | 48 | 81 |
| Richard T. Edwards | 1964-1968 | 4 | 53 | 57 |
| *Ernest W. Ballou | 1969-1973 | 17 | 48 | — |

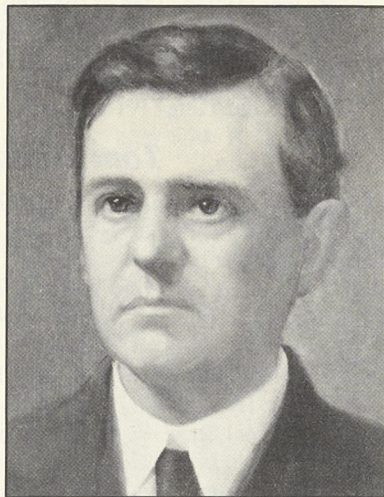
*Judge Ballou continued on the bench from the time of the consolidation of the courts in 1973 until his retirement on January 1, 1987.

William Gordon Robertson (1856-1910)

William Gordon Robertson was the first judge chosen by the City of Roanoke, assuming the bench of the newly organized Hustings Court on February 25, 1884. The City had inherited Judge Henry Blair as part of the 14th Judicial Circuit when it became an incorporated municipality.

Judge Robertson was the son of Judge William J. Robertson, who was a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals for six years. He had eight brothers and sisters by his father's first wife, Hannah Gordon, and five half-brothers and half-sisters by his father's second wife, Alice, the daughter of General Edward Watts. One of his half-brothers was Edward Watts Robertson, who was the first judge of the Law and Chancery Court of the City of Roanoke, serving from 1910 to 1918.

Judge William Gordon Robertson was born at Charlottesville on February 12, 1856. He received his early education at Col. Horace Jones' preparatory school and in 1873 he entered the University of Virginia, where he received his law degree in 1879. He began his professional career in Big Lick and formed a partnership with John Allen Watts, a nephew of Judge William J. Robertson's second wife and a son of Col. William Watts. In 1884 when the Town became the City of Roanoke, William Gordon Robertson was named the judge of the Hustings Court at the age of 28. He served 8 years and returned to private practice in 1892, rejoining his former partner, J. Allen Watts. Edward Watts Robertson was soon added to the firm, which became Watts, Robertson and Robertson.



W. G. Robertson

Judge Robertson took a leading role in the Constitutional Convention of 1902, serving as Roanoke's representative. Some of his forceful arguments are recorded in the debates of that convention, particularly his views urging the abolition of the county court system, the abandonment of the archaic requirement of unanimous jury verdicts in civil cases, and the disallowance of bench trials in not-guilty criminal cases.

He died at the age of 54 on March 15, 1910, survived by his wife, Nannie, who was the daughter of Peachy Gilmer and Julia Anthony Breckinridge; and their seven children, Julia Anthony (Mrs. Maurice) Breckinridge, William Joseph Robertson, Peachy Gilmer Robertson, William Gordon Robertson, George Morris Robertson, Anne Anthony Robertson (an accomplished violinist with the New York Philharmonic), and Sarah Brand Robertson, who married Carroll St. John of Salem. Some of his living descendants include Dr. Mason Gordon Robertson of Savannah, James C. Robertson of Adelphi, Maryland, George R. St. John, a prominent attorney of Charlottesville; Lindsay G. Robertson, a law graduate from the University of Virginia; and Judge Phillips Breckinridge, a former judge of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

John William Woods (1858-1912)

John William Woods was born in Roanoke County July 27, 1858, the son of William and Sarah Jane Edington Woods of Catawba. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, his forebears having settled in the Roanoke Valley in 1770.

Judge Woods attended public schools and Roanoke College. Later he studied law at the University of Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in 1887 and located in the City of Roanoke. He represented Roanoke City and the counties of Roanoke and Craig in the Virginia House of Delegates for the term 1889-1890. In 1892, at the age of 34, he was appointed judge of the Hustings Court to succeed William Gordon Robertson, who had resigned to return to private practice. He was twice elected to the same position on the bench by the General Assembly, each term being for a period of six years. At the expiration of his last term in 1909, he refused to accept reappointment.



Woods

On December 4, 1900, Judge Woods married Minnie P. Staples, daughter of William and Patience Manchester Staples of Frostburg, Maryland. Judge Woods was a member of Greene Memorial Methodist Church and served as steward and Sunday School superintendent for a number of years. He was the senior member of the law firm of Woods & McNulty. At varying times he was president of the City National Bank, the First National Bank of Rocky Mount, the Bank of Vinton and Farmers Supply Company. He was elected mayor of Roanoke City in 1910 and died in December 1912, at the age of 54, while serving in that office. His brother was Col. James P. Woods, also a former mayor of the City of Roanoke, a representative of the 6th District in Congress, and a founder of the prominent Roanoke law firm of Woods, Rogers, Muse, Walker and Thornton. Judge Woods had no children. His living collateral descendants include James P. Woods, Jr., of Salem, Elizabeth Woods Denison of Lynchburg, and Kathryn Woods Cobbs of Roanoke.

Waller Redd Staples (1871-1927)

Waller Redd Staples, the son of Samuel Granville and Caroline DeJarnette Staples, was born at Stuart in Patrick County on September 14, 1871. He was educated at Washington and Lee University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked in engineering for the U. S. government in the Land Office in Washington. While engaged in such work, he studied law at the National University and was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1899.

He practiced a few years in Lynchburg and Marysville, West Virginia, moving to Roanoke and forming a partnership with A. B. Hunt in 1905. In 1908 he was elected judge of the Corporation (Hustings) Court, taking his oath of office on February 1, 1909. He resigned in 1914 to resume private practice. While on the bench he



Staples

was appointed by Governor William H. Mann to try the celebrated Allen murder cases in Hillsville.

During the latter years of his practice, he was a partner in the law firm of Staples, Cox & Hazlegrove, and associate trial counsel for the Norfolk and Western. He died in Roanoke County on March 21, 1927. He was survived by his wife, Olivia Trout, the sister of Dr. Hugh H. Trout, Sr., who founded the Jefferson Hospital, and by their two children, Mrs. George Emerson (Olivia) Smith and William Staples. His living descendants include his granddaughter, Mrs. Allen Bissell of Virginia Beach and her children, Lelia and William. He was the uncle of Abram Staples who served Virginia both as attorney general and as a justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Staples was the father of Allen Staples, a prominent Roanoke attorney, and Abram Penn Staples, both of Roanoke and now deceased; William Hunt Staples, Portsmouth, and Mrs. English (Jean) Showalter, Roanoke.

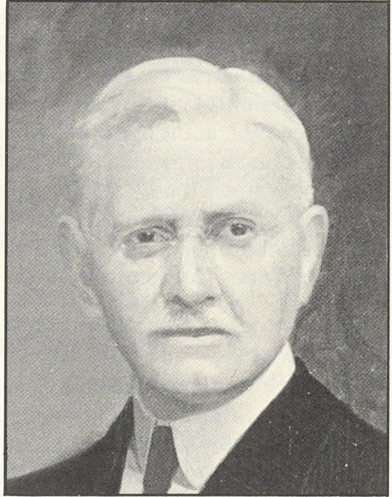
Archer Emmett King (1858-1931)

Archer Emmett King was born in Fluvanna County on October 22, 1858, the son of Major Joab and Sarah Elizabeth Thomas King. He was educated in the public and private schools of Fluvanna County and earned his law degree at the University of Virginia in 1883.

After graduation he returned to his native county where he began his professional career with James O. Shepherd under the firm name of Shepherd and King. He practiced in the courts of Fluvanna, Goochland, Louisa and Albemarle counties. In 1886 he was elected to the bench in that circuit at the age of 28. Four years later he came to Roanoke and formed a partnership with Roy B. Smith under the name of Smith and King. After 19 years of practice, their firm was dissolved in 1909 when Judge King joined Poindexter and Hopwood in a new association.

Judge King was appointed a member of the City Council to fill the unexpired term of the late J. H. Skinker and was later elected and served a full term in his own right.

He was elected judge of the Hustings Court, taking his oath of office on August 24, 1914, and served for five years until his resignation on August 19, 1919. He continued thereafter in local practice, moved to Florida in 1925 and died in February 1931. He was survived by his wife, Laura E. King, and their three sons: Lt. Cdr. Archer E. King, J. Minor King, and W. Courtney King, Sr., a former vice mayor of the City of Roanoke. Judge King's living descendants include two grandchildren: W. Courtney King, Jr., currently practicing law in Roanoke, and Mrs. James L. (Muriel) Trinkle and their children.



King

Clifton Alexander Woodrum (1887-1950)

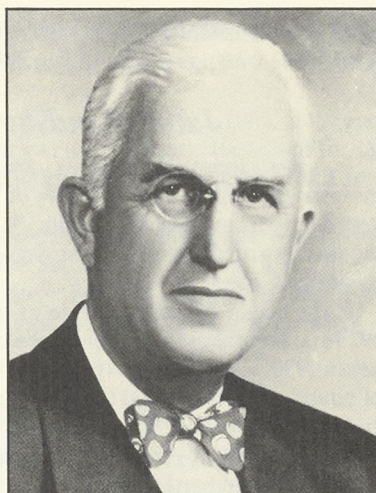
Clifton Alexander Woodrum was born in Roanoke on April 26, 1887, the son of Robert H. Woodrum, who was the first commonwealth's attorney for the City of Roanoke, serving from 1884 to 1888. Woodrum started off to be a pharmacist, passing the state pharmacy examination in 1904 and operating the Belmont Pharmacy in Roanoke for nearly two years.

After his marriage to Martha Lena Hancock on December 26, 1905, he moved to Lexington where he studied law, returning to Roanoke to read law under Judge Samuel

Hairston. He passed the state bar examination in June 1908, practiced law for several years and became commonwealth's attorney in Roanoke in 1917.

At the age of 32, he was named judge of the Hustings Court in 1919 upon the resignation of Judge A. E. King. He resigned three years later in 1922 to campaign for Congress, upsetting the incumbent, James P. Woods, by a narrow margin. He served in Congress for 23 years, gaining national recognition as a strong supporter of President Franklin Roosevelt. He was a pioneer aviator (Woodrum Field is named in his honor) and a singer of considerable renown, touring the country as a soloist with the Army and Marine bands and performing nationally on Major Bowes' radio "Amateur Hour" in 1937.

Judge Woodrum died October 10, 1950, survived by his widow and their two children, Martha Anne Zillhardt of Fincastle and the late Clifton A. Woodrum, Jr., the father of lawyers Clifton A. (Chip) Woodrum, III, currently Roanoke's representative in the House of Delegates, and a member of the law firm of Dodson, Pence, Viar, Young & Woodrum, and Lanier Woodrum of the law firm of Fox, Wooten & Hart.



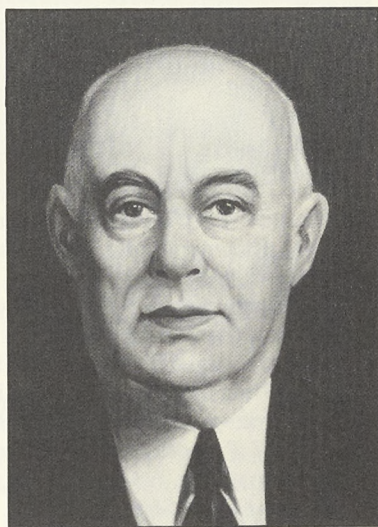
Woodrum

John Marion Hart (1866-1955)

John Marion Hart was born in Prince Edward County on January 2, 1866, the son of John Marion Hart and Fannie Sanford Smith Hart. He attended Prince Edward Academy, Hampden-Sydney College and earned his law degree at the University of Virginia in 1889. He came to Roanoke and formed a partnership in 1896 with his brother, James P. Hart, the father of our present-day Col. James P. Hart and John L. Hart.

Judge Hart was elected to the Board of Alderman of the City of Roanoke in 1903 for a two-year term and was re-elected in 1905. He was elected to the State Senate in 1907 and went back for a second term in 1911. He resigned from the Senate in 1914 when he was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as collector of internal revenue for the 6th District of Virginia.

He was appointed judge of the Hustings Court by Governor E. Lee Trinkle in 1922 to succeed Judge Woodrum, who had resigned to run for Congress, and he was twice re-elected to that position by the General Assembly. In a heated judicial battle in 1932, in which the Senate and House were divided, J. Lindsay Almond was elected to succeed Judge Hart who stood for his third term. Judge Hart thereafter ran for commissioner of revenue in Roanoke and unseated R. D. Hunt, who had led the judicial fight against him. Judge Hart continued as commissioner until his resignation in 1954.



Hart

Judge Hart died December 12, 1955, survived by his widow, Carrie Harris Hart, and his two daughters, Marion Hart Nuckolls Lamons and Margaret Hart Barnes, now

deceased, the wife of the late Raymond P. Barnes, a lawyer and one of Roanoke's leading historians.

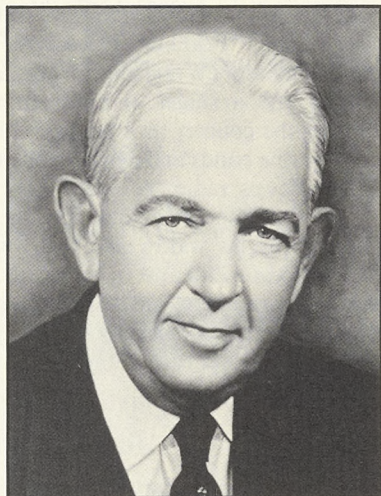
James Lindsay Almond, Jr. (1898-1986)

James Lindsay Almond, Jr., was born in Charlottesville on June 15, 1898. He earned his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1923 and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from William and Mary in 1969, while he was governor of the Commonwealth. He was awarded doctor of laws degrees in 1982 from Christopher Newport College and Roanoke College.

He began his law practice in Roanoke in 1923 and became assistant commonwealth's attorney in 1930, serving for two years. In 1933 a group of young lawyers decided they wanted to replace Judge Hart on the Hustings Court bench and persuaded Lindsay Almond to be a candidate. In a bitter political battle, Almond won the election in the General Assembly by six votes, a rare feat of upsetting a sitting judge. Almond served as judge of the Hustings Court for 13 years until he resigned in 1945 to succeed Clifton A. Woodrum as the representative of the 6th District of Virginia in Congress. He resigned in 1948 when he was elected attorney general for the state, serving until 1957. He became governor of Virginia in 1958, breaking with Senator Harry Byrd soon thereafter because of his stand against massive resistance.

Upon the conclusion of his term as governor, he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to be associate judge of the U. S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, a post he held from 1962 to 1973 when he became a senior judge.

He married the former Josephine Minter in 1925; they had no children. Almond died April 21, 1986 in Richmond where he lived in retirement.



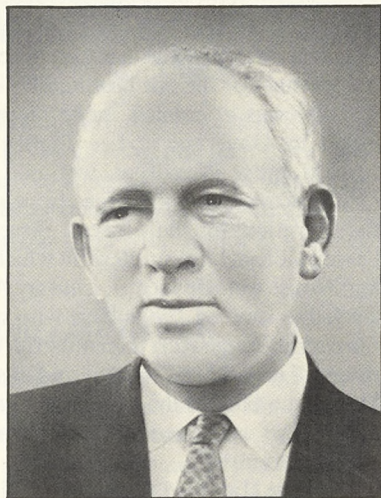
Almond

Dirk Adriaan Kuyk (1898-1979)

Dirk Adriaan Kuyk was born in Nottoway County on December 15, 1898, the son of the Reverend Christian Robert Kuyk, an Episcopal minister, and Mary Powell Goodwyn Kuyk. He moved to Richmond, and he was still a young boy when his father died.

He was educated at the University of Virginia where he was an outstanding baseball player, and he was also a member of the football team. He graduated from the law school there in 1922 and began his professional career in Roanoke associated with E. W. Poindexter. He soon organized his own law firm with A. B. Coleman, Jr., which later merged with English Showalter and T. X. Parsons to become the law firm of Showalter, Parsons, Kuyk and Coleman.

Judge Kuyk married Mary Terry Goodwin, the daughter of a pioneer Roanoke family, on October 30, 1929, and they had two children,



Kuyk

Dirk A. Kuyk, Jr., a professor of English at Trinity College in Connecticut, and Mrs. James G. (Martha) Hull of Belleville, Illinois. In 1938 Kuyk was president of the Roanoke Bar Association.

Judge Kuyk was elected to the Hustings Court bench on January 17, 1946, at the age of 48 to succeed Judge Almond, who had resigned to run for Congress. He served for 18 years until his resignation in late 1964. He served as judge of that court longer than any other judge.

Judge Kuyk was an outstanding gardener, specializing in camellias, and won many awards from the garden clubs of Virginia and America. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved sports. He died on July 8, 1979, survived by his wife and children and grandchildren, Dirk A. Kuyk, III, Lucinda Lee Hull and Robert C. Hull, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Richard Thomas Edwards (1911-1968)

Richard Thomas Edwards was born in Roanoke on April 15, 1911, the son of E. Harvey and Clara Greenwood Edwards. He was educated in the public schools of Roanoke, graduating from Jefferson High School in 1929. He received his A.B. and LL.B. degrees from Washington and Lee University and began his practice in Roanoke soon after graduation.

He served as assistant commonwealth's attorney for the City of Roanoke from 1937 to 1941 and thereafter formed a partnership with John D. Copenhaver under the firm name of Copenhaver and Edwards. After service in the Navy during World War II, he resumed his law practice in Roanoke and soon became heavily involved in community affairs, serving on City Council from 1946 to 1950. He was mayor of Roanoke from 1946 to 1948 and served on the City School Board from 1957 to 1961 and the State Board of Law Examiners from 1962 to 1964. He was president of the Roanoke Bar Association in 1951, served as president of several other civic organizations, and taught the Men's Bible Class at St. Mark's Lutheran Church for 29 years.

Judge Edwards, at 53, was elected judge of the Hustings Court to succeed Judge Kuyk on December 3, 1964, and served until his resignation shortly before his untimely death four years later.

He died at the age of 57 on December 11, 1968, survived by his wife, Augusta Saul Edwards, their two sons, Dr. Richard T. Edwards, III, and Attorney John S. Edwards, their daughter, Betsy Anderson of Charlotte, grandchildren, and a brother, H. Greenwood Edwards.



Edwards

Ernest Wade Ballou (1921-)

Ernest Wade Ballou was born in Roanoke on December 3, 1921, one of seven children born to Clara Wade and Charles Edward Ballou. He grew up in Roanoke and was educated in its public schools, graduating from Jefferson High School in 1939. He attended Roanoke and Emory and Henry colleges and was graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1949.

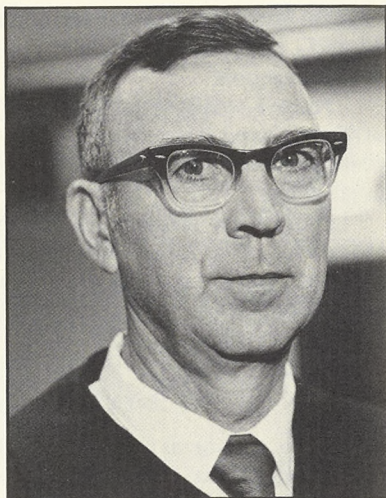
Judge Ballou served as a Navy officer aboard a destroyer escort in World War II. He was recalled to service during the Korean conflict and served on active duty for 18 months. He retired some years later from the Naval Reserve with the rank of commander.

Judge Ballou practiced law in Roanoke until 1969, except for military service during the Korean conflict and for a short period before and after that conflict when he was in private practice in Fairfax County.

In 1969, at the age of 48, he succeeded Judge Richard T. Edwards on the Hustings Court bench. He served four years as the last judge of the Hustings Court until the consolidation of the courts in 1973 and continued as one of the judges of the 23rd Judicial Circuit until his retirement became effective January 1, 1987.

Judge Ballou has been very active in state judicial affairs, having served as chairman of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission and the Committee on District Courts and as a member of the Judicial Council of Virginia. He was president of the Roanoke Bar Association in 1968-1969.

Judge Ballou is married to the former Ruth Sachers of Roanoke, and they have four children: Ernest Wade Ballou, Jr., Kathryn Ballou Clement, Eric Edward Ballou, and Robert Stewart Ballou.



Ballou

JUDGES OF CITY LAW AND CHANCERY COURT 1910-1973

| Judge | Period Served | No. Years Served | Age at Appointment | Age at Death |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Edward Watts Robertson | 1910-1921 | 11 | 42 | 53 |
| Roy B. Smith | 1921-1923 | 2 | 63 | 65 |
| William Walter Moffett | 1923-1926 | 3 | 69 | 72 |
| Herbert B. Gregory | 1926-1930 | 4 | 42 | 67 |
| Beverley Berkeley | 1930-1944 | 14 | 50 | 65 |
| *Stanford L. Fellers | 1944-1973 | 30 | 55 | 90 |

*Judge Fellers continued on the bench for one year after the consolidation of the courts in 1973.

Edward Watts Robertson (1868-1921)

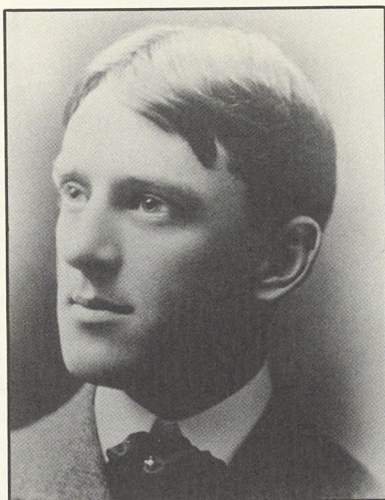
The first judges of both the courts that served only the City of Roanoke were the sons of Supreme Court Justice William J. Robertson, who served on Virginia's Court of Appeals during the Civil War.

Edward Watts Robertson, the younger half-brother of William Gordon Robertson, was born in Charlottesville on January 11, 1868. His mother was Alice Watts, Justice Robertson's second wife. His early education began at Pantops Academy, near Charlottesville. He was graduated from the University of Virginia in 1890, and soon thereafter joined the prominent Roanoke law firm of Watts and Robertson, made up of J. Allen Watts, his cousin, and Judge William Gordon Robertson, his half-brother. After the death of Watts, Edward Robertson became a member of the law firm of Robertson, Hall and Woods, his partners being Harvey T. Hall and Col. James P. Woods. It continued as a highly successful firm until 1906 when Robertson was stricken by a disease while attending the annual meeting of the Virginia State Bar Association. He was a cripple for the rest of his life.

When the new Court of Law and Chancery was created in 1910, the Roanoke Bar induced Robertson to accept the appointment, and he was thereupon elected its first judge at the age of 42, serving for 11 years until his death in 1921.

Judge Robertson, who never married, was an avid reader and literary expert. He bore his illness with amazing fortitude and a cheerful mind, being carried to and from the bench during his many years of service.

The following poem which he wrote about his own burden shortly before his death became a local classic. It was framed and hung for many years in the chambers of the Law and Chancery Court. It is spread of record in Common Law Order Book 4, at page 398:



E. W. Robertson

ANIMUS TRIUMPHANT

Life was fair, and I loved it so
When, at its best, a cruel blow
Suddenly struck and laid me low,
To walk no more where others go.

A high ambition had held me thrall,
Of the strength that was mine I'd given all,
And then — with the goal of the race in sight —
The darkness fell, and the hopeless night.

Deep was my anguish, bitterness, hate —
Destiny's puppet, plaything of Fate —
But the spirit within arose and fought
And victory won in the realm of thought.

For helpless is Fate to conquer him
Whose heart and spirit it cannot dim;
Though it leaves in ruins each hope and plan,
He's safe while he loves his fellow man.

L'ENVOI

And you who pity me, little know
All that life holds for me,
In looking on at the passing show
With love and sympathy.

For the body's ill is lost to sight,
And Fate's no more unkind
To him who has found the pure delight
Of a contented mind.

Roy Booker Smith (1858-1925)

Roy Booker Smith was born April 1, 1858, in Campbell County, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Booker S. Smith. He was educated in Lynchburg and taught school for two years before entering the University of Virginia School of Law from whence he was graduated on June 20, 1882. He began his law practice in Lynchburg where he formed a partnership with William Minor Lyle, who later became dean of the Law School at Charlottesville.

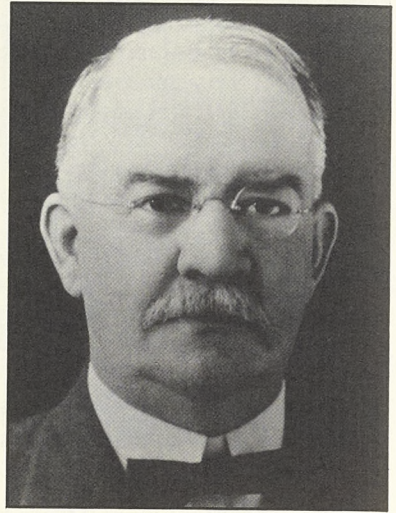
Smith moved to Roanoke soon after it became a city and formed a partnership with T. W. Miller which lasted until Smith became Roanoke's commonwealth's attorney on July 1, 1888, a post he held until June 30, 1892.

In 1909 he was a leading candidate for the judgeship of the Hustings Court upon the retirement of Judge John A. Woods, but in a close and controversial battle in the General Assembly, Waller R. Staples won out by 9 votes, 57 to 48.

Judge Smith was very active in the war effort during World War I, being in charge of the local draft boards. He was president of the Shenandoah Club and prominent in the Masons and other fraternal organizations. He was in partnership at one time with Judge A. E. King, and his last partnership before assuming the bench was with King Funkhouser.

Upon the death of Judge Edward W. Robertson, Judge Smith was the unanimous selection of the Roanoke Bar Association to succeed him. He took the oath of office on May 3, 1921, but shortly thereafter became ill and for his last two years on the bench was a patient at St. Albans Hospital in Radford.

He died on November 3, 1925, survived by his wife, Florence Hatcher of Lynchburg, and three children: a daughter, Mrs. Charles H. Carson, Roanoke, Roy H. Smith, Jr., of Lynchburg, and William Minor Smith of Atlanta, all now deceased. He was buried in Lynchburg. His only direct descendants, Lelia Carson Albrecht and her son, Charles Ray Cox, both of Roanoke, are journalists with the *Roanoke Times & World-News*.



Smith

William Walter Moffett Herbert Bailey Gregory

Upon the death of Judge Smith, Judge Moffett, who was sitting on the 20th Judicial Circuit, which included the Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke, was elected to succeed him. He served as judge of the Law and Chancery Court until his death in 1926.

Judge Gregory followed Judge Moffett to the Law and Chancery Court bench by the same procedure and served until his appointment to the Supreme Court of Virginia in 1950.

Biographical sketches of these two judges appear under the pre-1973 Circuit Court section.

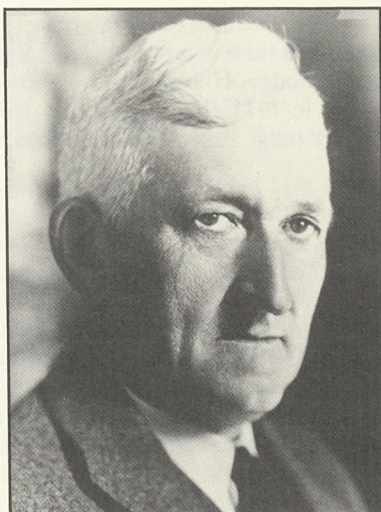
Beverley Berkeley (1880-1945)

Beverley Berkeley, the son of "Colonel" William Wilberforce and Betty Sims Read Berkeley, was born at Glade Creek in Roanoke County on April 29, 1880. He was educated in the public schools including Allegheny Institute in northwest Roanoke. He

was graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1904 and joined his father's law firm of Berkeley and Bryan. Some time later he was a partner of Peter H. Dillard, who later served as Circuit Court judge in Franklin and Bedford counties.

In August 1909 Beverley Berkeley was appointed Civil and Police Court justice for the City of Roanoke, a position he held for 21 years. Upon Judge Gregory's elevation to the Supreme Court in 1930, Judge Berkeley received the endorsement of the Roanoke Bar Association and was appointed judge of the Law and Chancery Court. He served on that bench for 14 years until his retirement in November 1944. When Judge Berkeley's total judicial career is counted (21 years as Civil and Police Court justice and 14 as a Circuit Court judge), he served on the bench 35 years, a longer period than any of Roanoke's other judges.

Judge Berkeley died on May 11, 1945, survived by his widow, Alla Southall Turner, his son, Beverley, Jr., and his daughters, Mrs. Paul S. (Alla) Cooper of Vienna, Virginia, Mrs. Peter H. (Sara) Hinck of Miami, Florida, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Berkeley

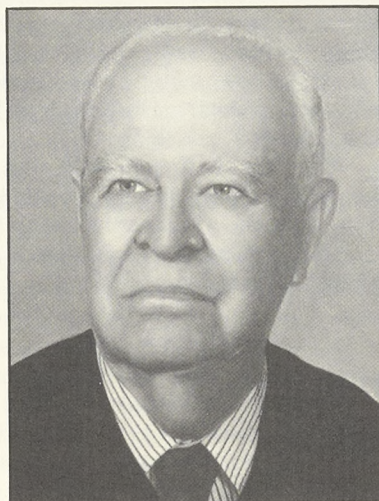
Stanford Lee Fellers (1890-1980)

Stanford Lee Fellers, the son of M. L. and Sudie E. Nininger Fellers, was born in Roanoke County on January 8, 1890. He attended the schools of Roanoke County and Daleville College at Daleville. He was graduated from Roanoke College in 1911 and earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1913.

His law practice was interrupted by his service in the Army during World War I, but he continued his profession in Roanoke after the war, gaining fame and considerable respect as a commissioner in chancery in many important and complicated causes.

He was appointed to the Law and Chancery Court bench in January 1945, succeeding Judge Berkeley who had resigned, and continued on the bench until his resignation at the age of 84 on February 1, 1974, shortly after the consolidation of the three city circuit courts into one. He served as the first chief judge of the newly created 23rd Judicial Circuit.

Judge Fellers died on March 25, 1980, soon after his 90th birthday, survived by his wife, Louise Harris Fellers, to whom he was married on November 16, 1920; one son, S. L. Fellers, Jr., a Roanoke lawyer, and one daughter, Catherine H. Fellers.



Fellers

* * * * *

This concludes the biographical sketches of those 23 men who served as the judges of Roanoke's three courts of record before their consolidation into one court in 1973. They include Judges Hoback, Fox, Fellers and Ballou who continued on the bench after the merger in 1973. Since one judge, Robert Jett Rogers, who was appointed in 1974 to succeed Judge Fellers, has since died, his biography is also included.

Robert Jett Rogers (1928-1976)

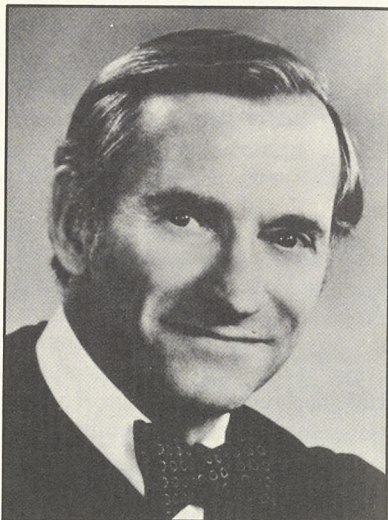
Robert Jett Rogers was born on December 10, 1928. He was the twin brother of Frank W. (Bo) Rogers and the brother of Virginia (Jinks) Holton, Virginia's first lady when Linwood Holton, her husband, was governor. His parents were Frank W. and Annie Jett Rogers. His father and brother have been outstanding lawyers in the Roanoke community. Judge Rogers was graduated from Episcopal High School at Alexandria in 1947. He thereafter went to Princeton, where he received a B.A. degree in 1951 and his LL.B. in 1954. After graduation, he served three years in the Judge Advocate's Corps of the Army, mostly in Germany, and attained the rank of major.

He joined the firm of his father, Woods, Rogers, Muse, Walker and Thornton, in 1958. He soon became established as an outstanding trial lawyer and gave his time and talents to many professional and community service activities, particularly the Red Cross and the Society for the Crippled of Southwestern Virginia.

He was elected to the bench in 1974 to succeed Stanford L. Fellers, although the Court of Law and Chancery of the City of Roanoke had been merged into the 23rd Judicial Circuit the year before. He served with dedication and considerable courage as cancer claimed him soon after he assumed his judicial responsibilities. He died shortly before his 48th birthday on November 21, 1976. He was survived by his widow, Barbara, and their five children: Robert, Jr., Christopher G., Anne, Scott and Hilary.

The close of Robert Fishburn's *Roanoke Times & World-News* editorial on Judge Rogers on the occasion of his death sums up his life:

"He approached the law the way he approached everything else in life: with dedication and fairness."



Rogers

A Tale of Two Houses

by Frances McNulty Lewis

Milton Hall in Alleghany County and Santillane in Botetourt are two of the handsomest houses in our part of Virginia, the first one built in mid-nineteenth century Victorian Gothic style and the other in the Colonial-Federal of three generations before.

Travellers driving north on Route 220 often admire and wonder about Santillane, the large brick house with two-story columns which graces a hilltop on the left as the highway approaches Fincastle. About 40 miles farther on, on Interstate 64, they see the Victorian villa, Milton Hall. It is down in the valley called Callaghan, to one's right soon after passing Covington, quite close to the highway.

The history of the two houses is linked by the two English families for whom these dwellings were home, the once closely-knit lives in England and Virginia of Viscount Milton, son of Earl Fitzwilliam, and Dr. Thomas Miller, Lord Milton's companion and physician. Reminiscences about them, with their wives and their children, their English and American friends, their servants and farmlands, their ancestors and descendants, may soon fade from memory, though these two families, in their own way, once created a sort of little England in the upper James River country.

Fortunately some of the Millers' grandchildren and great-grandchildren are with us today, with their cherished family lore, as are church and courthouse records at Fincastle. A principal source for this saga is conversations with a Miller great-granddaughter, Dorothy Simmons Kessler, and her brother, William Simmons, both of Fincastle. She is an indefatigable worker in family and legal archives. A granddaughter, Elizabeth Foster Orndorff of Roanoke, remembers Dr. and Mrs. Miller well and has written some charming recollections of both. And, happily, these and other Miller descendants also possess some valued records of the noble Milton family, as do the present owners of Milton Hall.

By the autumn of 1873, Earl Fitzwilliam's son, Viscount Milton, and his wife, searching for a climate in which he might build up his weakened constitution, had visited western Canada, about which he had written a book, and also New York State, where lived a brother of his (some say of hers) who had come over and fought on the Union side in the American Civil War. They, with their children and the doctor's family, spent some time in Staunton, too, and probably it was there that they heard about the Callaghan "stand" on the Bluegrass Trail (now old U.S. Route 60). It had once been a famous stagecoach stop, offered for sale in 1872 because the railroad had taken most of its customers away. The Miltons bought the whole stand: inn, outbuildings and acreage for farm and garden.

The innkeeper, Joseph Dixon, stayed to welcome the newcomers. His relatives have kept memories of the British entourage's impressive arrival, and of that snowy night when the main building burned to the ground. Some have said the fire happened the very night they arrived, December 29, 1873, though the truth seems to be that it happened later on in that winter. One account has it that Lady Milton had made a return trip to England in the late autumn of 1872, returning in midwinter for a belated Christmas with the family in Virginia, and that all the portmanteaus full of Christmas presents she had brought back with her were consumed in the fire. Whenever it happened, Eliza James, a 13-year-old servant girl, lost her life when she darted back into the flames to search for her mother's ring, a gift she had brought from England. Her ring was found the next day in the ashes, as were Lady Milton's diamonds, still intact, although their gold settings had melted away.

Frances McNulty Lewis, historical writer and former board member of the Society, tells of interesting homes in Alleghany and Botetourt Counties.



Milton Hall, a Victorian villa near Covington, was the home of Lord and Lady Milton.

Needing a roof over their heads, the Miltons went back to Staunton. But they soon returned to Wood Hall, as they had named the place, with their three children, a young son and heir, aged one, and his three- and four-year-old sisters. Also came the doctor and his wife with their five, plus house servants for all of them. The two families managed to live in the buildings that remained. Soon, however, a home for the Millers was remodeled from an unscathed structure which had contained the old inn's dining hall, butler's pantry and a storage area. The Miltons moved into a cottage near the gate of the property.

Within weeks, a new brick villa was going up, oriented for coolness against a steep shale bank. Both kitchen and flower gardens had been started, too, and the raising of farm crops and cattle had begun.

For three busy years, 1873 to 1876, they all made the Callaghan Valley their home. But evidently Lord Milton's health was failing rapidly for the troupe crossed the ocean again, this time to try the salubrious air of the English Channel Island of Guernsey. Said to have been a "debility" brought on by overwork at his studies and writing, Lord Milton's illness may really have been that all-too-common plague of those times, "consumption," as tuberculosis was then euphemistically labeled.

This group soon moved to the French mainland to consult doctors in Rouen whom Dr. Miller either knew or knew about. These did what they could. But before the year was out, the invalid had returned to England where he died.

By 1877, the Millers had returned to Virginia. At the time they visited Rouen with the Miltons they had settled their daughter Florence in school in France and the two elder boys, Hugh and Frank, at school in England. One family report said that, with the three younger children, Florence, Montague (Monty) and Helen, they spent a few more months in France, and this is possible since then they could all come to America together at the close of an academic year. It is of record at the Botetourt County clerk's office that Dr. Thomas Miller bought the Bowyer place at Fincastle, which we know today as Santillane, from Henry Bowyer's heirs on September 14, 1877.

Lady Milton must have planned to come back to Virginia, at least temporarily, for she did not immediately sell Milton Hall. The Miltons' farm manager, David Guy, had

never left; he is buried there beside the young servant girl, Eliza James. Lady Milton's brothers, Sidney and Herbert Beauclerc, or Beauclerk (it is spelled both ways) had come over to live at Milton Hall and, after the Viscount's death they both stayed on in America. Herbert was a bachelor; Sidney had his wife and children with him. (His daughter Laura Marie was born at Milton Hall.) The Sidney Beauclercs moved to Vermont, but Herbert remained in the neighborhood. Eventually, he became a golf professional at the Homestead Hotel at Hot Springs.

Milton Hall did not go out of the Milton-Fitzwilliam family for several years. In later years, after a five-year ownership by a lady from Baltimore, Mrs. Annie Hollins, it was bought at auction by another native of England, the colorful Captain Henry E. R. Rum-bold, late of the Essex Rifles. He had not only witnessed the Charge of the Light Brigade, but had also served in India during the Sepoy uprising.

The eighth Earl Fitzwilliam, our Viscount Milton's grandson, is said to have sent five pounds in the 1930s to Hugh McAllister, then the owner of the Hall, for restoring the tombstones of David Guy and Eliza James. This earl was killed in 1948 in a plane wreck in France, reportedly the same crash that killed Kathleen Kennedy, sister of the future president of the United States.

The father of Lady Milton and her Beauclerc brothers had been Charles Beauclerc, eighth Earl of Saint Albans of Devonshire. He was a direct descendant of King Charles the Second and Nell Gwyn, whose son by Charles had been created by that monarch, the first Earl of Saint Albans of Devonshire.

Their mother had been Laura Marie Teresa Stepford, daughter and heir of a long-time English ambassador to Spain. Lady Milton was named for her. At the time Wood Hall (Milton Hall) was built, the Miltons and Beauclercs possessed among them at least seven other houses in Britain, including country estates, two castles in Ireland and a town mansion on Grosvenor Square in London. A tragic episode which must have shadowed the Beauclercs' lives was the death of their father, the ambassador-earl, while he was assisting with the rescue of a lifeboat crew off the shore at Scarborough.

The atmosphere of both Milton Hall and Santillane can be brought to life by the treasures left to those who came after them. The descendants of Dr. Thomas Miller and his wife, Edwina, still treasure and use some of the things their forebears possessed, including heavy, old embossed leather albums of lively or impressive photographs, brought over from England.

Mrs. Orndorff has the sampler her great-grandmother, Dr. Miller's mother, embroidered in 1811 when she was eight years old, which was brought from England by the Millers. Great-granddaughter Mrs. Kessler has an English walnut rocking chair, probably the only furniture Dr. and Mrs. Miller found it convenient to transport across the ocean. For their American furnishings, they are said to have gone down the James to Lynchburg by railroad or canal boat. We can assume these were in the late Victorian style, judging from the high-backed carved bedstead to which Mrs. Orndorff fell heir. She doesn't have either that or her grandfather Miller's tall bookcase now because modern



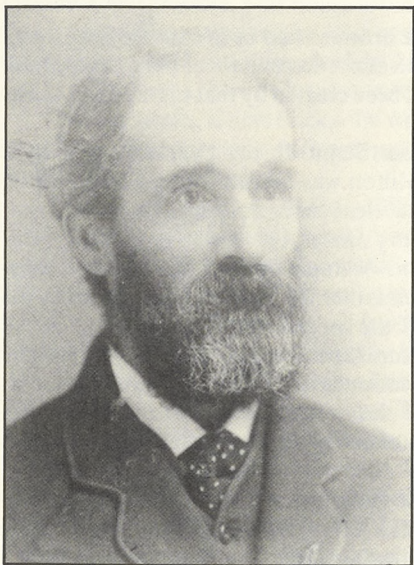
Monty (left), Helen and Florence Miller rest after a tennis match at Milton Hall.

ceilings are too low. A Miller chest of drawers is still in her possession, however, as is her Aunt Florence Miller L'Engle's desk. Mrs. Kessler cherishes an ornamented silver chest which holds ivory handled knives and forks, also a walnut sewing box and a very handsome wide gold bracelet set with turquoise and pearls, all from her great-grandmother Miller. And Mrs. Orndorff is the owner of her mother's (Helen Miller Foster) Book of Common Prayer which was presented to his daughter, Helen, by Dr. Miller himself. It was carried by his great, great-granddaughter at her wedding not long ago.

Particularly important, and a lasting tie between the two families, are two paintings in oils by Helen Miller Foster. One is of the remaining buildings in the old Callaghan Stand, with Milton Hall in the background. The other shows Milton Hall in the early years of this century, looking very much as we see it still. The Miller young people became close friends of the Rumbolds, then owners of Milton Hall, and had many happy visits at Callaghan.

Unfortunately, many of the Miller family "things" were dispersed at a sale after the doctor's death. And some must have gone either with son Montague to North Carolina, where he lived for some years, or to Florida with daughter Florence after she married Dr. Claude L'Engle of Jacksonville, a member of a family of a noted pioneer in the treatment of yellow fever. Some years after Florence Miller had wed Dr. L'Engle, Helen Miller married a Botetourt County native, Archibald Foster, and at first lived just a few miles from her parents. Later, the Fosters moved to Salem.

Over at Milton Hall, it would be surprising to find any Milton "things" at all. There is one reminder, though: a Beaulerc coat-of-arms painted on leather still hangs on a wall of the long front hall. And we can deduce something about their character as a family, their way of life, from the house itself. The outside of their brick mansion may be classed as elaborate "high" Victorian, with its gracious French doors in the main downstairs rooms, its "gingerbread" trimmed eaves, its patterned slate roof, above which rise double and triple chimney stacks and gables with finials at every possible point. The brick, plastered



Dr. Thomas Miller



The Miller family: Florence (seated, front), Helen (seated, left), Dr. Thomas Miller and his wife, Edwina Miller; Hugh (standing, left), Monty and Frank.



Lord Milton



Lady Milton

interior walls are a solid eight inches thick, but the woodwork of all 17 rooms, except for a mantel or two, is of the plainest. Perhaps these gentle people did not want to flaunt material riches, but chose to live as simply as their Western neighbors. Somehow Lord Milton appears to us as an intensely serious, even sad, young husband and father, a wanderer on the face of the earth despite his great wealth — or because of it.

His wife, on the other hand, could have personified beautifully the ancient aristocratic ideal of noblesse oblige. Her picture shows her as a young, tall, blond, with smooth hair and blue eyes and an air of gracious dignity. Years later, a niece, one of Sidney Beauclerc's daughters, visited Alleghany County and called on Susie Martin, a very old black woman who had been her aunt's chambermaid 60 years before. "Aunt Susie's" dearest possessions were her many memories of "her lady's" benevolence, of hard-working, unselfish kindness to the whole community, rich and poor, black and white.

When the Millers had bought Santillane, they had bought not only an elegant setting, but also actual American history, both local and national. Before 1800, there were few great houses in Botetourt to compare with those of the Tidewater. Along with the Breckinridges' Grove Hill, though, George Hancock's handsome dwelling (later christened Santillane by Mrs. Miller) was certainly one which did.

A colonel in the then-prestigious Virginia militia, Hancock was often host to important travellers, among them Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their trips back and forth to St. Louis, getting ready to launch their famous expedition across the continent.

When the explorers returned at last from the far Northwest, bringing with them certain army personnel, a delegation of Osage chiefs, and the Mandan chief Sheheke, his wife and son,* the two by-then-famous explorers were guests at the Hancock mansion and were feted in Fincastle for days, with speeches and fireworks, balls and parades. Not long after, Clark was married to Miss Judith Hancock in her father's house. An extant letter from the bridegroom shows he even deposited in the care of his father-in-law priceless records of his and Lewis' history-making journey, until the documents could be properly assembled and transported to The Historical Committee in Philadelphia by his friend, Dr. Nicholas Biddle, who came to Fincastle in 1810. (It is known, however, that President Thomas Jefferson saw the papers first.)

Colonel Hancock later sold all his extensive Fincastle holdings and moved up the Roanoke River to build a place, now called Fotheringay, near Elliston in Montgomery

*Quoted from Robert Stoner, "A Seedbed of the Republic," pp. 253-54, from *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Univ. Ill. Press, 1962.



Santillane, Fincastle home of the R. D. Stoner family, was occupied by Dr. Thomas and Edwina Miller in the late 1870s.

County. He never finished the handsome house there, but others did over 100 years afterward. He is supposed to have been buried standing up in a tall white tomb, which is still easily seen from Route 11, so he could keep watch over the superstitious workers in his fields.

After the Hancocks, the important Bowyer family lived at Santillane, then called "the Bowyer place," until the Millers came. The state and local public offices, Civil War records and prominent Virginia and Kentucky marriages of both Hancocks and Bowyers would fill chapters. Col. Henry Bowyer was Botetourt County's clerk for a record 47 years.

Naturally, the very center of the Millers' Fincastle existence was the good doctor. All the family's activities seem to have radiated, like the wheel-spokes of his own horse-drawn buggy, from his personal inspiration and guidance. Twenty miles in every direction, it is said, he would drive or ride horseback to care for his patients. His business sense was sound, too. And, raised in the Church of England, the family became active members of Episcopal Saint Mark's Church in Fincastle.

Even today, many Fincastle folk in nostalgic mood will describe the charm of the social life in their village and its countryside in the olden days. So it is not hard to imagine Santillane's spacious rooms, two on each side of the great central hall beyond whose impressive arch rises a wide staircase, as scenes of all sorts of entertainment when the Millers lived there — charades, tableaux, "conversaciones," musical evenings, parlor games and dancing, and, of course, the Englishman's inevitable daily afternoon tea.

Edith Taylor Miller (Monty's wife) often described to her granddaughter Dorothy Simmons Kessler those regular teas at her mother-in-law's, loaded with cake, desserts and sandwiches if there were guests, simpler for just the family. "Mrs. Dr. Miller," her kin remember, always addressed the servants, male or female, by their last names in the formal English fashion. At the proper moment, "Smith" or "Walker" would announce that the water was boiling on the kitchen stove, and Edwina Miller herself would then go back and brew the tea for her maid to carry in. Also, she always washed the fine china teacups with her own hands, as people say many Virginia ladies used to do. Reprinted here is one of her "receipts" from "The Housekeeper's Friend," the 1896 Fincastle Presbyterian Ladies Aid's cookbook to which the whole community contributed. (The elegant but somewhat

fractured French of the dish's title must have been taken down exactly as Mrs. Miller pronounced it.)

Le'che Crema

Beat up three eggs, leaving out the whites of two; add to them gradually one and one-half pint of milk; then mix carefully four tablespoons of flour and two ounces of powdered sugar, with grated lemon peel to taste. Boil these ingredients over a slow fire, stirring constantly until the flour is quite dissolved. Prepare a shallow dish with some macaroons or slices of stale sponge cake at the bottom, and when the crema is sufficiently boiled pour it through a sieve upon the cakes. Serve cold, and just before sending to the table, some powdered cinnamon should be dusted over it.

Mrs. Dr. Miller

It is well to remember that the late nineteenth century was a time when many British gentlefolk, frequently younger sons, came seeking their fortunes in North America, whether in Florida orange groves, on western or Canadian ranches, or perhaps on farmland in England's former seaboard colonies, especially Virginia.

Travel may have been arduous then, but it was intrepidly accomplished: witness the fact of the whole Miller and Milton contingent having crossed on the original Mauritania, arriving in New York in May 1872, after a record-breaking passage of only 11 days, followed by their procession overland by train and stage to Virginia. Miller descendants of today recall being told that in Lord Milton's train were an English lady medical student, who came along as a nurse, and a German governess, both well-fitted for ensuring both good health and good order among their charges. Dr. Miller, it is also remembered, later made several voyages back to England to see his mother. (The Kesslers have a picture of the Millers' English home.) And, in 1883, Lady Milton returned briefly to Milton Hall, and paid a visit to the Millers.

Frank and Montague Miller both married English brides. About 1900, Dr. Miller sent his son Frank to France to go on with his medical studies. There he attended the lectures of a famous English professor of natural history, Dr. John E. Taylor. Dr. Taylor's daughter, Kathleen, was travelling on this tour with her father and they all became such good friends that Frank followed Kathleen to her home in Ipswich. Before long, his brother, Montague, came over to visit, and very soon Frank married Kathleen and Monty wed her sister, Edith. Granddaughter Dorothy Simmons Kessler and grandson William Simmons remember well their Miller grandparents, Edith and Monty. Mrs. Kessler owns copies of her great-grandfather Taylor's collected lectures and states that these books influenced her decision to major in biology at college. William Simmons named his daughter, Montague, and calls her Monty.

Dr. Frank Miller and his wife, Kathleen, often visited their Botetourt kin. After their deaths in Clifton Forge, their daughter Dorothy, who never married, spent her last years, the 1950s, in Fincastle. As her parents' only child, this maiden lady cousin was a storehouse of British lore for her younger relatives.

Dr. Thomas Miller sent his eldest son, Hugh, to Guy's Hospital in London for training, to follow his own footsteps; Thomas' father, doctor/farmer William, had sent his son there. Surely the Virginia doctor intended that Hugh would share the Botetourt County practice with him. But Hugh died at about 30; how, we do not know, and was buried in Godwin Cemetery at Fincastle. He was the only Miller child who did not marry.

Dr. Thomas Miller's mother, Eliza, and his wife, Edwina Eliza, both bore the same last name, Ablitt; the couple must have been related to each other. They were married in January 1861. By 1872, they and their children were living in Woburn, Bedfordshire, where Thomas had bought a practice. By 1873, they were in America.

We have referred to Dr. Miller's business wisdom. The great land "boom" of the early 1890s hit Fincastle as hard as it did many another western Virginia community. People went wild. Factories were going to be built, more railroads were expected, whole towns were laid out. A railroad seemed almost certain to come through Fincastle on its way to join with the Chesapeake and Ohio.

In 1891, Dr. Miller sold Santillane, with its 440 acres, to the Fincastle Land and Improvement Company, James Godwin, president, for \$30,000: \$15,000 in cash, and the balance contingent upon the sale of the lots. A great crenellated castle-style hotel was to be built on the place; some say the Santillane house barely escaped being torn down. Then, in 1892, the doctor bought, from Hunter Breckinridge, Catawba Manor on Catawba Creek, part of the extensive Breckinridge lands, and moved there. But the boom collapsed, the bubble burst.

Here is where the doctor's foresight shone. In 1895, Santillane, with 377 of its acres, was reconveyed to him, and he still had his \$15,000. The family did not live there again, however, choosing to remain at Catawba Manor. The doctor sold Santillane to a family named Spencer.

In 1905, he sold Catawba Manor back to the Hunter Breckinridges at a handsome profit, its productivity greatly enriched by the intensive farming, especially in grass and sheep, he had learned during his boyhood in England. Both families apparently were satisfied. Later on, he bought more land "on Catawba," records show.

Closer to highway U.S. Route 220 than the Santillane mansion is a large frame house in late Victorian style. This is Santillane Lodge which Dr. Miller built in 1902 for his son, Montague, and Monty's English bride. With it went (for one dollar) 218 acres of land.

In 1903, the elder Millers bought a farm of 92 acres (from Alfred Beckley) on the hill across present U.S. Route 220 from the Santillane holdings and moved into its much smaller dwelling, which they called Stoneycroft. It is there that the doctor had his office, which in the English manner he called "the surgery," for the last 10 years of his life. The name Stoneycroft seems to have been forgotten in Fincastle, but the house is still there.

Stoneycroft is the place Thomas and Edwina's grandchildren would have known best. After the couple's 14 years as master and mistress of Santillane, followed by nearly 14 more years living in the same style at Catawba Manor, and with their four remaining children all married, simpler surroundings could have been a welcome change. In 1905, Dr. Miller was in his early 60s and Mrs. Miller was nearly as old. He lived until 1916, she for many more years, the last of which she spent in the house of her daughter Helen Foster in Salem where she died in 1927. They are buried in Godwin Cemetery, Fincastle. Their great-grandchildren remember hearing that a little boy wearing a black armband was sent through the streets of Fincastle to announce the death and funeral of Mrs. Miller, following an old custom of both England and Virginia.

Let us see this English pair through the eyes of their granddaughter, Elizabeth Foster Orndorff, now a grandmother herself:

"Grandpa mixed his own medicines, or most of them, in his office. A laxative pill of his was in such demand that he had it made up for him in Richmond, and it could be obtained there under the name of Miller's Pills. When we went to see him, Mother often asked him to look us over, whereupon he made us stick out our tongues and (then) gave Mother calomel pills for us. Calomel is a dangerous product of mercury — not used in these days — how I hated it!

"Once a mad dog came to Catawba Manor. It bit the beloved little dog, Fritz, a dachshund, and Monty Miller, too, before it was destroyed. There was no antitoxin in those days, if there had been it would have had to come from far away. Dr. Miller heated a knife and applied the flat side to the wound, searing the flesh. It must have been almost as painful for Grandpa as for Monty, but there were no after-effects, except that the poor dachshund got rabies.

"Grandpa was a charming man, beloved by his patients and his friends. He rode or drove many miles to see them. It was said he never lost a case of pneumonia

if he was called in time. He liked to hunt and fish. There were deer antlers at the top of the dining room sideboard, and deer were far less plentiful than now.

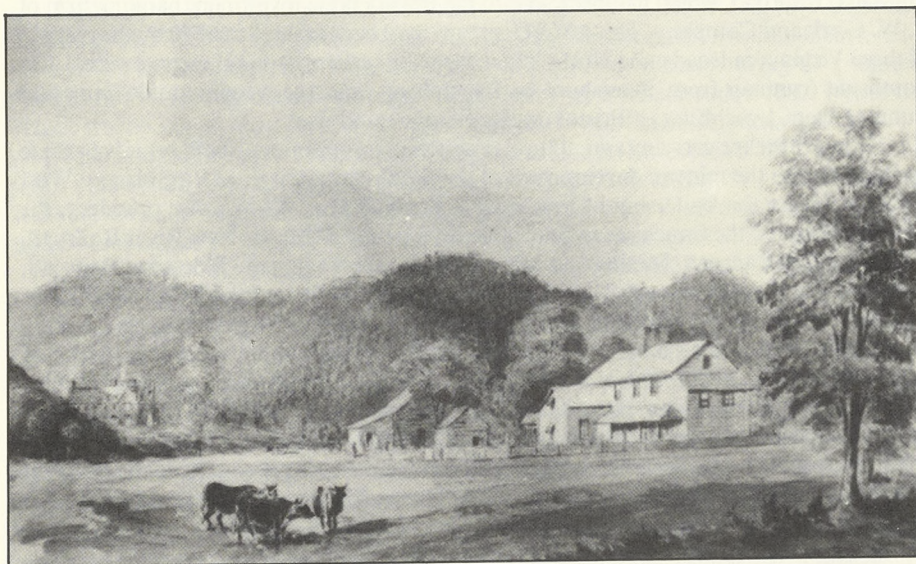
"He left the management of the house and children and servants to Grandma and she was a good manager and a stern disciplinarian.

"He was very fond of children and took pleasure in his grandchildren. Gwen Miller, the first, (later Mrs. Simmons) and John Miller, the last, (both Monty's children) were his favorites. He called John 'Jack, my boy' and was much amused by his antics. When I was small, he called me 'Lady Betty,' and when I was a little older he liked to have me sing to him, such songs as 'Comin' Through the Rye,' 'Annie Laurie,' 'The Blue Bells of Scotland' and Stephen Foster songs."

"Jack, my boy" grew up to become the popular radio announcer and umpire of sports in Winston-Salem, known always as Johnny Miller.

Catawba Manor burned some years after the Millers left it. Lovely Santillance, after the Spencers and several other owners, became the home of the family of Robert Stoner, Botetourt's historian and for 21 years clerk of its county court. Milton Hall, after Captain Rumbold's ownership, was bought and modernized in the 1930s by the Hugh McAllisters, who lived there for over 40 years. Now, after several shorter ownerships, it has become the property of Mary Dudley Dowdy, an Alleghany County native who, with her husband William, also has a home at Bonsack. She has restored the main building, inside and out, to its original dignity, even to the extent of designing a more formal garden than she believes the Miltons had a chance to develop. At times, she operates the estate as an exclusive bed-and-breakfast inn, and at other times rents all or part of the estate for longer terms.

As for our Viscount Milton and his lady, Burke's Peerage states facts about the outstanding military and civil career of the seventh Earl Fitzwilliam, the baby who lived at Callaghan, and his many positions and honors. We can find in Burke that Lord and Lady Milton's only son, William Charles de Meuron, born July 25, 1872, became the seventh Earl Fitzwilliam, succeeding to the title of his grandfather, his father having died young, as we know. But there is not a word about the restless travels of this brilliant, ailing young father, not a word about Virginia. And, of course, not a word about the father's companion and friend: devoted, gifted, resourceful Dr. Thomas Miller.



A painting of the old Callaghan Stand, with Milton Hall in the background, by Helen Miller Foster.

Norfolk and Western Archives at VPI

by Glenn L. McMullen

The early archival records of the Norfolk and Western Railway, along with those of its predecessors and subsidiaries, were placed on permanent deposit in the Virginia Tech libraries in Blacksburg by an agreement concluded in 1981, Norfolk and Western's centennial year. The collection, housed in the Special Collections Department of Carol M. Newman Library, is organized and open to researchers. Known for short as the Norfolk and Western Railway Archives, the collection in fact contains archival records from over 90 companies historically connected with N&W, including other railroads, coal companies, and land development companies. Comprising 300 linear feet of manuscript material, much of it previously inaccessible, the N&W Archives promises to become a major resource for research in the history and economic development of Southwest Virginia.

For some of the companies whose records are included in the collection, only the most basic records have survived, usually minute books for stockholders and directors meetings. For many others, the available documentation is much greater, both in terms of the variety and number of materials that have survived. Fortunately, the records of N&W itself and of its direct predecessors are among this latter group. For these railroads, the records available to researchers may include minute books, stock ledgers, financial records, construction records, and executive correspondence and subject files. Even where the documentation is most complete, however, gaps in the historical record are evident, and it is hoped that other relevant materials may be uncovered and added to the collection in the future.

A brief summary of the early history of N&W and its predecessors will help explain how the major groups of records listed below fit together.¹ The Norfolk and Western Railroad was organized in 1881, growing directly out of the ailing Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, which had been sold to the Philadelphia investment banking firm of E. W. Clark and Company. The AM&O, in turn, had been created in 1870 by the merger of three Virginia railroads: the Norfolk and Petersburg (connecting these two cities), the Southside (running from Petersburg to Lynchburg), and the Virginia and Tennessee (running from Lynchburg to Bristol on the Tennessee border).

Primarily a line carrying agricultural products at its inception, N&W rapidly became associated with the mineral development of the Southwestern part of Virginia and West Virginia. Under the leadership of Frederick J. Kimball, then N&W's vice president, the railroad acquired the franchises to four other lines in mid-1881: the New River Railroad, the New River Railroad, Mining and Manufacturing Company, the Bluestone Railroad, and the East River Railroad. Together, these became the basis for N&W's New River Division, which ran to the coal fields of West Virginia and Southwest Virginia.

Much of the early history of Norfolk and Western can be written in terms of expansion and the absorption of other lines. In 1890, it acquired the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, which ran from Roanoke to Hagerstown, Maryland. By 1891, an Ohio extension was well underway, giving the railroad access to the industrial Midwest. In 1892, N&W leased the Roanoke and Southern Railroad, connecting Roanoke with Winston-Salem, and in 1893 it leased the Lynchburg and Durham, connecting these two cities. But

Glenn L. McMullen, special collections librarian at the Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech, prepared a description of the Norfolk and Western Railway Archival Collection at Virginia Tech.

the economic depression of the mid-1890s hit N&W hard, sending it into receivership in 1895. It emerged in 1896 as the reorganized Norfolk and Western Railway. The Railway, of course, still exists today as a subsidiary of the Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The archival records summarized below represent two groups of materials: those relevant to the early history of N&W (including the history of its predecessors) and those relevant to research in Southwest Virginia history. Not all of the companies whose records are included in the collection are listed. Nor can a summary do justice to the richness of the collection in terms of the individual gems it contains. To give only a few examples, it includes an 1881 petition from the citizens of Salem asking that their town (rather than Big Lick) serve as the junction between the Shenandoah Valley Railroad and the AM&O; the reports of the Englishman J. B. Austin to Frederick Kimball on the resources of Southwest Virginia (1881); and Kimball's own recollections of his role in opening the Pocahontas coal fields (circa 1896).²

ATLANTIC, MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1870-82. Ran from Norfolk, Va., to Bristol, Tenn. (408 miles). Incorporated in Virginia in 1870 for the purpose of consolidating the Norfolk and Petersburg, the South Side, the Virginia and Tennessee, and the Virginia and Kentucky railroads. Sold in 1881 and reorganized as the Norfolk and Western Railroad Co. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1870-76, 2 vols.); stock ledger and index (1 vol.); financial journals (1871-76, 5 vols.); cash book (1874-76, 1 vol.); side ledgers (1871-76, 7 vols.); bills payable (1871-76, 1 vol.); unpaid wages (1873-81, 1 vol.); copies of documents dealing with the sale of the AM&O (1881-82, 1 vol.); subject files and contracts (1871-81, .5 cu. ft.); annual reports and other printed materials (1871-80).

LYNCHBURG AND DURHAM RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1887-96. Ran from Lynchburg, Va. to Durham, N. C. (115 miles). Chartered in 1886; road opened in 1890. Leased to Norfolk and Western Railroad Co. (1892). Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1891-96, 1 vol.); stock ledger (1887-92, 1 vol.); trial balance book (1891-93, 1 vol.); contracts, indentures, etc. (1888-96, .5 cu. ft.).

NEW RIVER INVESTMENT COMPANY. RECORDS, 1889-1904. Chartered in Virginia in 1889 for the purpose of developing land in Montgomery County, Virginia. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1889-1904, 1 vol.); vouchers, deeds, correspondence, etc. (1889-94, .5 cu. ft.).

NEW RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY (VIRGINIA). RECORDS, 1879-86. Ran from the New River Bridge at Radford to the Flat Top Coal region (75 miles). Chartered in Virginia (1872) as the New River Railroad, Mining and Manufacturing Co.; name changed in 1877. Consolidated with the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1882. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1881-82, 1 vol.); financial journal (1881-84, 1 vol.); cash books (1879-81, 2 vols.); cash book for lands and leases (1880-81, 1 vol.); day books (1880-81, 2 vols.); Virginia penitentiary account book (1879-81, 1 vol.); ledgers (1879-86, 4 vols.); ledger for lands and leases (1880-81, 1 vol.); voucher book (1880-81); capital stock ledger (1 vol.); construction contracts, reports, etc. (1881-82, .3 cu. ft.).

NEW RIVER RAILROAD, MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY (VIRGINIA). RECORDS, 1873-1882. Chartered in Virginia (1873); name changed to New River Railroad (1877); consolidated with the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1882. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1873-79, 1 vol.); capital stock ledger (1 vol.); correspondence, rights-of-way, etc. (1881-82, .3 cu. ft.).

NORFOLK AND PETERSBURG RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1853-69. Ran from Norfolk to Petersburg, Va. (81 miles). Chartered in Virginia (1851); consolidated in 1870 with the Southside, Virginia and Tennessee, and Virginia and Kentucky railroads to form the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1853-69, 2 vols.); stock ledger (1 vol.); stock transfer book (1 vol.); financial journals (1855-71, 8 vols.); cash books (1858-62, 1865-66, 2 vols.); ledgers (1858-62, 1866-71, 7 vols.); chief engineer's account book (1853-56, 1 vol.); chief engineer's accounts with assistants (1854-58, 1 vol.); construction accounts (1854-58, 2

General Mahone;

We the undersigned Citizens of Salem and its vicinity, are much interested in its being selected as the point of junction of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad with the A.M.&O.R.R.

We are fully persuaded that you possess power to aid us, and earnestly request you to address a communication in favor of Salem as the point of junction, to those who have in hand the decision of the question. It is true, Big Lick (the competitive point) is (2) two miles nearer than Salem to Clondeston (the point of divergence). Yet Salem is (7) seven miles further west than Big Lick, - and if the Shenandoah Valley Railroad is to be extended south-westwardly into North Carolina, it must necessarily pass near and beyond Salem, and up the South Fork of Roanoke River. But it is needless to make any suggestions to you who are so thoroughly acquainted with every consideration of topography, and trade affecting the question. — 38 April 1881.

J. M. Haunstrup

G. B. Beard

Jacob Parish

H. H. Shuff

Joe Johnston

Alfred Johnson

L. H. Stetson

J. R. Bruffey

J. C. S. S. S. S.

L. M. S. S.

Robert Armstrong

H. L. Grand

W. O. Wesson

J. C. B. B. B.

Dr. A. Cobb

A. M. Shipman

John W. Evans

J. H. Smith

S. A. Raffess

C. M. Webber

Mr. S. S. S.

H. H. Chambers

John M. Harlowe

R. J. Williams

W. J. Shipman

H. J. Oakey

Leading Salem citizens sent this petition to General William Mahone, president of the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad, asking his support in locating the junction of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad and the AM&O at Salem. Mahone later said Salem was "the more desirable point of junction," but Big Lick was chosen as the connecting point in 1881.

Courtesy Norfolk and Western Railway Archival Collection at Virginia Tech.

vols.); bonds given for the hire of Negro slaves (1858, 1 vol.); subject files (1857-69, .5 cu. ft.); annual reports (1869-70).

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1881-96. Main line ran from Norfolk, Va., to Bristol, Tenn. (408 miles); later branches ran to the coal fields of West Virginia and Southwest Virginia. Reorganized from the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad (1881); went into receivership (1895) and reorganized as the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1896. Records include stockholders', directors', officers', and committee minutes (1881-96, 15 vols.); indexes to minutes (1883-86, 4 vols.); index to secretary's papers (1881-90, 1 vol.); index to valuable papers (1881-92, 1 vol.); stock ledgers (13 vols.); indexes to stock ledgers (5 vols.); real estate ledgers showing property owned (1881-90, 3 vols.); index of registered bonds (1 vol.); stock list of Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, Southside Railroad, and Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad (1880, 1 vol.); register of common stock certificates returned (1881-95, 1 vol.); rolling stock records (1886-96, 3 vols.); inventory and appraisal of equipment (1895, 1 vol.); treasurer's letter books (1881-96, 91 vols.); treasurer's statements (1882-96, 9 vols.); treasurer's bank deposits (1893-94, 1 vol.); treasurer's miscellaneous memoranda (1886-95, 2 vols.); treasurer's newspaper clipping scrapbook (1881-96, 1 vol.); unclaimed wages (1881-88, 2 vols.); advances on payrolls (1895-97, 1 vol.); sealed instruments (1887-96, 1 vol.); register of recorded papers (1883-91, 1 vol.); arbitration correspondence (1894, 1 vol.); arbitration record books (1894-96, 4 vols.); pass register (1884-89, 1 vol.); catalogue of map tracings and blueprints (1 vol.); executive correspondence, reports, subject files, and contracts (1881-96, 20 cu. ft.); indexes to letters (1895-96, 3 vols.); scrapbooks of newspaper clippings (1882-93, 17 vols.); receiver's records (1895-98, 3 vols.); minutes of executive reorganization committee meetings (1895-99, 1 vol.); annual reports and other printed materials (1881-96).

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY. RECORDS, 1896-1930. Reorganized in 1896 from the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Records include executive correspondence and subject files (1905-18, 35 cu. ft.) and card index to them (ca. 10,000 entries); preferred stock index ledgers (2 vols.); treasurer's letter books (1896-97, 11 vols.); records of auditor's claims (1896-99, 1 vol.); inventory and appraisal of equipment (1896, 1 vol.); rolling stock records (1909-21, 2 vols.); letters received index (1904-08, 2 vols.); account book (1914-24, 1 vol.); cash books (1925-30, 6 vols.); estimated expenditures (1918-19, 1 vol.); sealed instruments (1896-1911, 1 vol.); unclaimed wages (1896-1933, 6 vols.); advances on payrolls (1898-1930, 27 vols.); files dealing with labor disputes, train robberies, World War I, and train accidents (1915-30, 13 cu. ft.); annual reports and other printed materials (1896-1930).

POCAHONTAS COAL AND COKE COMPANY. RECORDS, 1927-39. Incorporated in New Jersey (1901) with the authority to purchase and lease coal lands and rights in Virginia and West Virginia; controlled by Norfolk and Western Railway. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1927-39, 2 vols.).

POCAHONTAS COAL COMPANY. RECORDS, 1885-1909. Chartered in Virginia (1884) for the purpose of developing coal and coke lands; controlled by the Norfolk and Western Railroad Co. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1885-1909, 1 vol.); stock ledger (1 vol.); contracts, leases, etc. (1889-96, .3 cu. ft.).

RADFORD BRICK COMPANY. RECORDS, 1889-1917. Chartered in Virginia (1889) for the purpose of manufacturing brick in Radford, Va. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1889-1917, 1 vol.); stock ledger (1890-92, 1 vol.); scrip book (1895-96, 1 vol.); letter books (1890-95, 5 vols.); correspondence and subject files (1890-1910, 2 cu. ft.).

RADFORD LAND AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY. RECORDS, 1888-98. Records include title abstracts and deeds (1888-98, 1 vol.).

RADFORD SOUTHERN RAILROAD AND MINING COMPANY. RECORDS, 1899-1911. Chartered in Virginia (1898) for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Radford, Va., to a point in Patrick County, Va., and developing timber and mineral

lands in the area. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1899-1911, 1 vol.).

ROANOKE AND SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY. RECORDS, 1886-96. Ran from Roanoke Va., to Winston-Salem, N. C. (121 miles). Chartered in Virginia (1886); leased to Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1892. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1886-96, 1 vol.); stock ledger and index (2 vols.); subscription books (1886-90, 3 vols.); contracts, reports, etc. (1887-95, .5 cu. ft.).

ROANOKE MACHINE WORKS. RECORDS, 1881-97. Chartered in Virginia (1881) for the purpose of building and repairing railroad engines and cars; controlled by the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Works situated in Roanoke, Va. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1881-97, 1 vol.); stock ledger (1881-88, 1 vol.); first mortgage bond ledger (1883-84, 1 vol.); account books (1885-95, 2 vols.); voucher indexes (1884-96, 3 vols.); construction contracts, equipment leases (1881-95, 1.5 cu. ft.).

SHENANDOAH VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1870-90. Ran from Hagerstown, Md., to Roanoke, Va. (238 miles). Chartered in Virginia (1867). Controlled by the Norfolk and Western Railroad after 1883; purchased by Norfolk and Western in 1890. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1870-91, 6 vols.); indexes to minutes (1870, 1887, 2 vols.); index to papers (1870-80, 1 vol.); secretary's letter books (1881-84, 3 vols.); treasurer's statements (1880-89, 5 vols.); treasurer's scrapbook of newspaper clippings (1881-83, 1 vol.); construction cash books and journals (1879-81, 3 vols.); construction ledger (1879-81, 1 vol.); financial journals (1879-85, 5 vols.); ledger (1879-81, 1 vol.); daily estimates of gross earnings (1886-89, 1 vol.); register of income mortgage bonds (1883-90, 1 vol.); drafts issued (1880, 1 vol.); treasurer's memoranda (1881-84, 1 vol.); executive correspondence, reports, subject files, and contracts (1870-91, 4 cu. ft.); scrapbooks of newspaper clippings (1881-86, 4 vols.); annual reports and other printed materials (1870-90).

SOUTHSIDE RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1849-73. Ran from Petersburg to Lynchburg, Va. (123 miles). Incorporated in Virginia (1846). Consolidated with the Norfolk and Petersburg, Virginia and Tennessee, and Virginia and Kentucky railroads (1870) to form the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Co. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1849-68, 4 vols.); stock ledger (1 vol.); financial journals 1864-71, 5 vols.); cash book (1868-71, 1 vol.); bills payable and receivable (1854-60, 1866-71, 2 vols.); ledgers (1860-62, 1865-71, 7 vols.); bonds, stock balance sheet, etc. (1871-73, .5 cu. ft.); annual reports (1865-70).

VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1860-71. Chartered in Virginia (1869) for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Bristol, Tenn., to Cumberland Gap, Tenn.; construction never begun. Acquired by the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad in 1870. Records include directors' minutes (1860-62, 1 vol.); ledger (1860-66, 1 vol.); letter book (1869-71, 1 vol.).

VIRGINIA AND TENNESSEE RAILROAD COMPANY. RECORDS, 1848-71. Ran from Lynchburg, Va., to Bristol, Tenn. (204 miles). Incorporated in Virginia (1848) as the Lynchburg and Tennessee Railroad; name changed to Virginia and Tennessee in 1849. Consolidated with the Southside, Norfolk and Petersburg, and Virginia and Kentucky railroads in 1870 to form the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Co. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1853-71, 3 vols.); draft stockholders' and directors' minutes (1855-57, 2 vols.); memoranda book (ca. 1869, 1 vol.); financial journals (1848-71, 17 vols.); day books (1855-67, 8 vols.); cash book (1866-68, 1 vol.); ledgers (1848-71, 20 vols.); contract ledgers (1852-67, 2 vols.); bills payable and receivable (1850-68, 2 vols.); stock ledgers (5 vols); stock transfers (3 vols.); bond book (1 vol.); Salt Works Branch mortgage interest coupons (1857, 1 vol.); contracts, bonds, etc. (1849-71, .3 cu. ft.); annual reports (1852-70).

VIRGINIAN RAILWAY COMPANY. RECORDS, 1907-26. Incorporated in Virginia (1904) as the Tidewater Railway Co.; name changed to Virginian Railway in 1907. Records include stockholders' and directors' minutes (1907-08, 1 vol.); letter books (1907-26, 6 vols.); printed documents (1 vol.).

NOTES

1. Norfolk and Western has been the subject of two excellent historical studies: Joseph T. Lambie, *From Mine to Market: The History of Coal Transportation on the Norfolk and Western Railway* (New York: New York University Press, 1954) and E. F. Pat Striplin, *The Norfolk and Western: A History* (Roanoke, Virginia: Norfolk and Western Railway Company, 1981).
2. A detailed inventory of the collection is available in Carol M. Newman Library. For further information, contact the Special Collections Department, University Libraries, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, 24061.

When "Old Hickory" Visited "Salum"

President Andrew Jackson was a frequent traveler through the Roanoke Valley, riding from The Hermitage, his Nashville home, to Washington while he was president. Norwood Middleton's book, *Salem, A Virginia Chronicle*, contains a letter written to his son, Andrew Jackson Jr., while the president was stopping at the home of Dr. John Johnston, at the Great Spring, later Lake Spring in West Salem.

Doctor Johnstons
Salum July 17th 1836

Dear Andrew,

I am thus far on my way to the Hermitage, but from the State of the roads, there can be no calculation made when we may reach there — it took us seven hours to day, to travel 10 miles, and in the Streets of Salum broke a swingle tree and the fore axes of the Carriage — in many places it takes ten horses to pull through the bog one waggon — in this section of country it has been raining for 14 or 16 days and the earth is perfectly full of water, we shall proceed on as early tomorrow as we can, after refitting. It is now clear and a prospect of fair weather, and we are determined to leave the old road and take a new one by the way of Peppers ferry, as the old road from this to Newriver, is impossible with carriages, and indeed, for single horsemen. I shall write you again from Abingdon . . ."

Jackson's letter of 1836 bespeaks volumes for the woes of just moving about in wet weather in Salem in those days, Middleton wrote. "Getting through the mud was perhaps even more onerous than coping with swirling dust during dry spells. the residents fumed and fussed at the condition of the roads and paths."

Roanoke Catholic Churches

by Anna Louise Haley

On the grounds of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Roanoke, looking out over the city that grew as St. Andrew's developed, is a small burial plot guarded by a statue of St. Joseph, patron of the universal church. In it is buried Father John William Lynch, founder of St. Andrew's parish. He lived from September 27, 1847, to December 4, 1926.

Around it is physical evidence of the labors of the priest who guided the destiny of St. Andrew's from 1882 until 1910: the Rectory, built in 1887; the orphanage/convent, 1892; Ryan Hall, 1898, and St. Andrew's Church, 1902.

Scattered around the Valley are other parishes that branched from St. Andrew's: Our Lady of Nazareth, 1914; St. Elias, 1917; St. Gerard's, 1946; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1963.

The Catholics of the Roanoke Valley were not always so well served, spiritually. Until assigned their own missionary, Catholics in the counties around Roanoke were dependent on pastors of these other parishes: Wytheville, Staunton, Lynchburg and especially Sweet Springs.

The earliest history of the Catholic Church in Virginia is similar to the early history of the Church in Rome; for Virginia, like most English colonies, was not given to the toleration of Catholicism. The Anglican religion was the established religion and harsh laws were passed against dissenters, especially against Catholics. Because of the penal laws, very few Catholics came to Virginia. They could not vote nor hold office, nor keep arms, nor own a horse worth more than 5 pounds, nor even be a witness in any cause, civil or criminal. The Catholics scattered throughout Virginia were deprived of religious succor and the faith, with few exceptions, died out among them.

Only in Maryland and Pennsylvania were priests permanently located. Maryland had about 16,000 Catholics and 12 missionary Jesuit priests. Most of the Catholics in Virginia were near the borders of Maryland, along the Potomac River. The Jesuit priests of Maryland came secretly into the parts of Virginia least remote from their province. One of the most zealous was Father (later Bishop) John Carroll, who founded the episcopacy in the United States. Bishop Carroll, as religion began to be free in Virginia, employed one or two priests exclusively on the missions here.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, the presence of Catholic officers and soldiers during the Revolution, the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom in 1786 and the appointment in 1789 of Father John Carroll as the first Catholic bishop of the United States encouraged the growth of the faith in Virginia. Growth was slow. In his "Relation of 1785," Father Carroll stated that there was not one priest in Virginia, and that the Catholic flock numbered about 200 souls. Few of these were in the Roanoke Valley.

The first settlers of the Roanoke Valley were primarily Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and German Lutherans or Brethren who came into the area, beginning around 1740. Most groups were accompanied by their religious leaders. Any Catholics in the area lacked spiritual guidance since there is no record of any priests stationed here for over a century. If Sacraments were received, they were conferred by ministers of another faith. The Rev. John Craig, a prominent Presbyterian minister of the mid-1700s, in his baptismal records lists baptisms of several babies of Catholic parents.

Up to Father Carroll's visitation in 1785, the Catholics in the Harper's Ferry-Martinsburg area had been visited four or five times a year by Jesuit priests from Maryland and Pennsylvania. They had all received an education second to none in

Anna Louise Haley, longtime Roanoke City school teacher and member of the Society's board, prepared this article on Roanoke Valley Catholic churches. She died on March 2, 1988 after a long illness.

Europe. Their very profession in the Society of Jesus was equivalent to high social and intellectual standing in centers in Rome, Paris, London and Liege.

In the colonies they were harassed by penal restrictions and were keenly sensitive to the bigotry that was always latent, and sometimes evident, in the colonial life around them. Their flocks were scattered and timorous of Protestant neighbors. Throughout such trials and hardships the missionaries bore up with tactfulness and courage. Meanwhile, most of western Virginia was an unorganized spiritual wilderness. But change was coming.

On December 10, 1840, the Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan, the first resident pastor of Harper's Ferry and its missions (1835-1841), was consecrated bishop of Richmond. The diocese had six priests and a Catholic population of 6,000 scattered over 61,000 square miles. Bishop Whelan sent urgent appeals to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. With that help, he erected mission chapels at Lynchburg, Wytheville, Jeffersonville (later Tazewell), Parkersburg, Weston and elsewhere. Poverty of means, of priests, of Catholic population were continuing problems as the Dioceses of Richmond and Wheeling were formed. Missionaries from All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland, helped relieve the shortage of priests. The Catholic population grew as the railroads pushed into the western part of the state and coal and iron mines were opened.

In 1850, the Richmond Diocese was divided and Bishop Whelan became bishop of the new Diocese of Wheeling. Rev. John McGill became the third bishop of Richmond.

That same year, 1850, the parish of Sweet Springs, West Virginia, was established. It covered four West Virginia counties in the new Wheeling Diocese. The priests, however, went outside the parish into Alleghany, Botetourt and Craig counties, in the Richmond Diocese of Virginia. Father John Walters and his two successors, Father Hugh McMenanim and Father David Walsh (between 1850 and 1874) baptized, officiated at weddings and celebrated Mass in private homes until a priest of the Diocese of Richmond was assigned to the area in 1874.

Before that happened, Bishop McGill was called on to see his diocese through the ravages of cholera and yellow fever plagues, to cope with the anti-Catholic activities of the Know-Nothings, and to rebuild after the death and destruction caused by the Civil War. The Diocese of Richmond was a battlefield.

In October 1869 Bishop McGill appointed Father James McGurk pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Lynchburg. Father McGurk built up Catholicity in the city and surrounding missions, one of which was Lexington, 52 miles away, which he visited on horseback.

On October 20, 1871, Bishop McGill sent Father Thomas Murray to attend the Lynchburg parish while Father McGurk was away. When Father McGurk returned, Father Murray was made assistant pastor. He ministered also in the missions. Lexington was visited monthly and there Father Murray built St. Patrick's Church. On July 19, 1874, Bishop James Gibbons, who had succeeded Bishop John McGill, dedicated the church and appointed Father Murray its pastor. The bishop also gave Father Murray charge over Rockbridge, Botetourt and Roanoke counties. Father Murray had recently ministered in Roanoke County in Salem.

The earliest known Catholics in the Roanoke area were in Salem. Best known was the John A. McCaull family. Captain John Anthol McCaull was an attorney and landowner in Salem. He was commonwealth attorney for Botetourt and Craig counties from October 12, 1867, and apparently served until April 11, 1870. He was a member of the House of Delegates, representing Roanoke and Craig counties in 1869-70, and Roanoke County in 1870-71. From April 26, 1871, until the end of 1875, when the paper ended its existence, Captain McCaull was editor of *The Roanoke Times*, a Salem newspaper owned by Frank and Charles Webber. During his editorial career, Captain McCaull spent much time in the state and national capitals. On September 21, 1871, he was married in St. Peter's Cathedral, Richmond, by Bishop John McGill, to Angela Monteiro, a member of a prominent Richmond family. After the ceremony, the bridal

party "took the cars" on the Danville railroad for Salem, the home of the bridegroom.

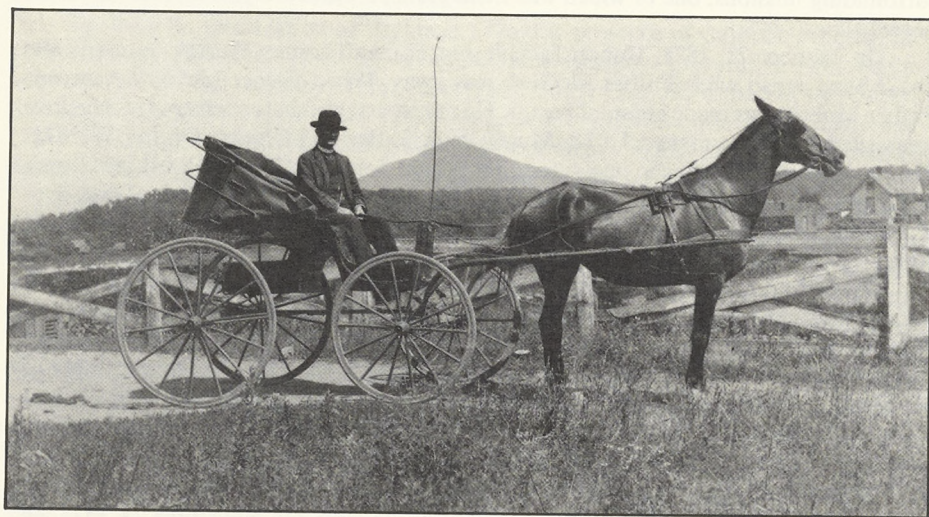
Four children were born during the years following. A son, born about 1872, died July 17, 1873, and was buried in Richmond. Three daughters were baptized in Salem during the next four years: Mary Lavinia on March 4, 1874, quite probably by Bishop James Gibbons. One of her sponsors was Father Murray, assistant pastor at Lynchburg. Angela Agnes McCaull was baptized on April 20, 1876, by Father Murray. Leonora Monteiro and Patrick H. McCaull were her godparents. On March 5, 1878, Margaret Blandine McCaull, was baptized by Father Peter J. Hasty. A month later, April 5, 1878, Leonora Monteiro, age 30, died of cancer. She was buried in Richmond.

Father Murray was pastor at Lexington until January 1877. The second pastor at Lexington was Father Peter J. Hasty, who arrived on January 18, 1877. Scarcity of funds and the extent of his mission territory were problems during his short pastorate. When his pastorate ended is unclear.

On September 22, 1879, the Right Rev. John J. Keane, bishop of Richmond, assigned Lexington and its adjacent missions to the Rev. John W. Lynch. The missions comprised the counties of Rockbridge, Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke. At that time neither the Shenandoah Valley, the Richmond & Alleghany nor the Baltimore & Ohio railroads had entered Lexington, so the missionary priest had to travel for the most part on horseback. Even after the railroads were built, much of the mission territory was inaccessible by train. Some trains did not run on Sunday and accidents often delayed service.

Father Lynch held services in Salem in 1879. He intended to start a church in Salem in a building near the present J. Sinclair Brown Bridge, but Roanoke began to develop so he moved. A great many of the first Catholics in the Roanoke Valley were skilled mechanics from the North, who came here when the Roanoke Machine Shops opened in 1882.

So far as is known, no services proper were held in Roanoke prior to November 19, 1882, when Mass was celebrated in Passenger Car #6 of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. From then until a church was built, services alternated between the passenger car and Rorer Hall, a frame building on the site of the existing Times-World Corporation parking lot which served also as theatre, fire station, courthouse, mayor's office, and jail.



Father John W. Lynch, first pastor of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 1882-1910, was ready to make his calls when this early photograph was taken.



The first St. Andrew's Catholic church, built in 1883, and its Rectory, dating from 1887, stood alone on their hill in Northwest Roanoke in this rare photograph.

Courtesy St. Andrew's Catholic Church Historical Collection.

St. Andrew's Church

A meeting was called for October 26, 1882, in the parlor of Kimball House, a place of lodging on Norfolk Avenue east of Jefferson Street, to consider erection of a church in Roanoke. At that time there were about 50 Catholics in the area.

The first proposal to build a church was made by William Welch, master mechanic of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, who said it was vitally necessary to the success of the railroad. Although a Protestant, he said he would subscribe \$50 towards it. The Roanoke Land and Improvement Co. offered any desirable unselected lot in the gift of the company as a site for the new building. Father Lynch chose two acres at the top of the hill where the present church now stands.

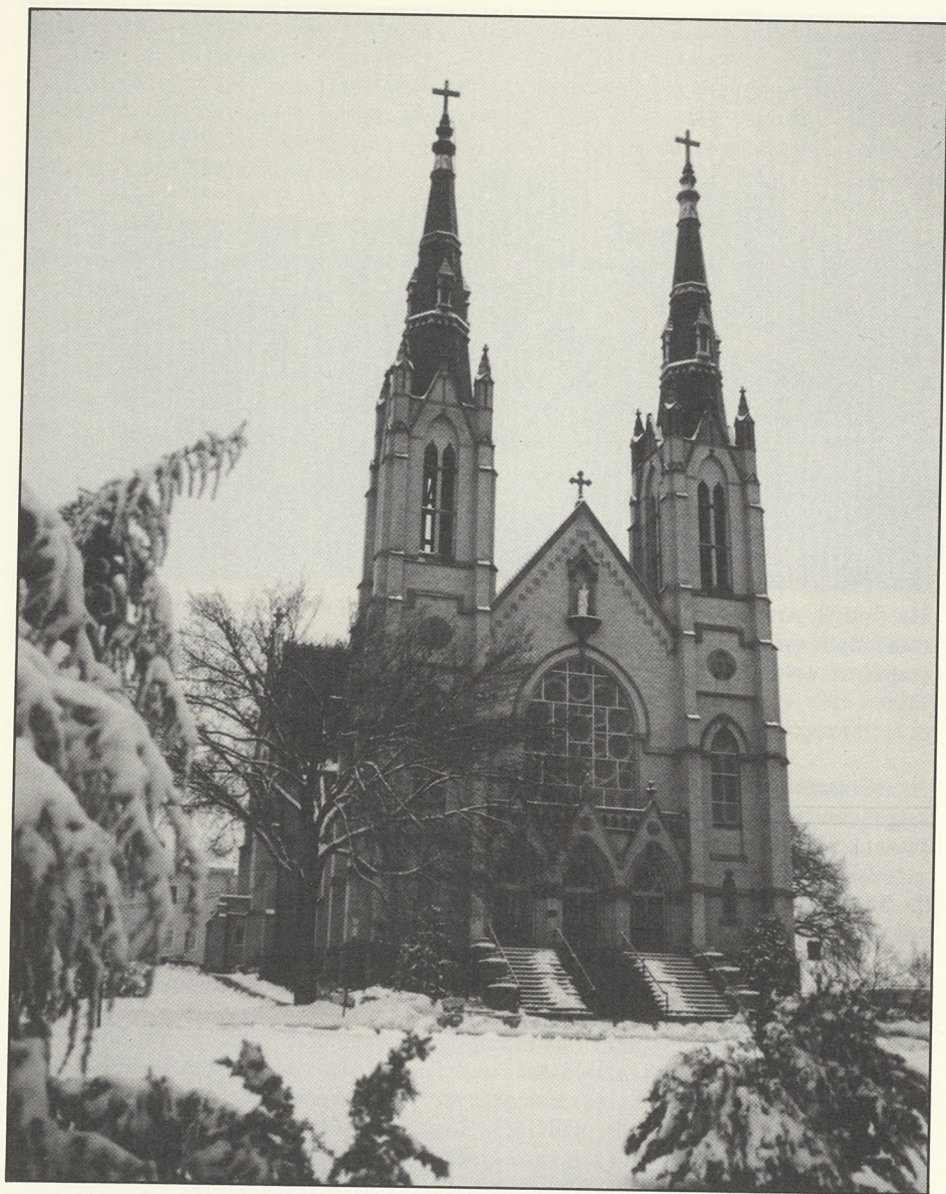
A year and two days after this meeting, on October 18, 1883, a neat little brick church, adequate for the 18 families then in the parish, was dedicated by Bishop Keane.

There were now six churches serving the major denominations already established in the community: St. John's Episcopal (1850), First Presbyterian (1851), Greene Memorial Methodist (1859), St. Mark's Lutheran (1869), First Baptist (1875) and St. Andrew's.

In his "History of the City of Roanoke," Raymond Barnes cited a notice in the Post Office "that Bishop Keane of Richmond would dedicate the new Catholic church and that night lecture on the Holy Land. It was a coincidence, but just above this announcement was one in larger type stating that a distinguished doctor of divinity would lecture at the same hour in the new Lutheran church on the life of Martin Luther."

As the congregation grew, so did its activities. A choir was organized. The first choir director also organized the vested choir at St. John's Episcopal Church and conducted the music for that congregation for five years. He had charge of the music at the dedication of both the old (1883) and the new (1902) St. Andrew's Catholic Church. He was also director of the musical program at the Decennial Celebration in 1892.

St. Andrew's congregation raised needed funds through fairs and picnics. (The July 4th picnic in Woodland Park served a dual purpose.) Sunday School classes were organized. Twenty-eight candidates were prepared for confirmation on October 25, 1885, and 29 for confirmation on August 14, 1887. Lay teachers operated a school until the



St. Andrew's, mother church for Roanoke Valley Catholics, as it appears in the snows of winter.

Sisters of Charity arrived in 1893. In 1887, men of the congregation formed a group to visit the sick, bury the dead and provide food, clothing and shelter for the needy. Social ministry has continued as a major parish interest.

Because of the scarcity of priests in the diocese, Roanoke remained a mission of Lexington until 1889, despite the fact that a rectory had been completed in 1887.

As the city grew (the population passed the 16,000 mark in 1890) the parish flourished. A little wooden school was built at the bottom of the hill, near Lick Run, about 1888. A 104-acre cemetery was bought in 1890. The brick orphanage was completed in 1892 for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who arrived the next year to assume care of the orphans and to staff the school. The Ryan School was built in 1898 with funds from Mrs.

Thomas Fortune Ryan. Her husband, a New York investor, was one of the wealthiest men in the nation. The proposal made by Mrs. Ryan to buy the recently completed hospital was dropped because of public protests against denominational management.

By 1897, a larger church was needed as the congregation numbered over a thousand. The present St. Andrew's Church was dedicated November 23, 1902. Modernizing and improvements, including a side entrance, have left the building structurally intact. In 1972-73 it was declared a state and national landmark. Eight pastors have served the parish since Father Lynch. Father William S. O'Brien was named pastor in 1981.

Our Lady of Nazareth

The continued growth of the city and of the Catholic population indicated the need for a new parish. In 1914, Father James Gilsenan, (January 1, 1877-September 12, 1953) who first came to Roanoke in 1904 as assistant to Father Lynch, returned to St. Andrew's as assistant to Father Joseph Frioli, with the commission to start a new parish. St. Andrew's congregation had about 2,000 members. In 1915 two lots were bought on West Campbell Avenue in the "fashionable West End." The anticipated acquisition of the adjoining property to the east was never realized.

The Campbell Avenue property is part of a crown grant made to Thomas Tosh in 1781. In the succeeding years it was owned by other prominent citizens of the area, including Jonathan Tosh, William McClanahan and Ferdinand Rorer. The frame house that stood on the site of the rectory was the home of Charles Thomas, famous for the ride which resulted in the selection of Big Lick as the connecting point for the Shenandoah Valley Railroad with the Norfolk and Western. This led to the subsequent growth of the village of 600 to 700 people in 1881 to a city of over 5,000 three years later.

Our Lady of Nazareth Parish had a school before it had a church. In 1916, the Thomas house became the school and the Walker house, next door, became the convent. In the fall of 1918, St. Andrew's Hall, the little wooden school at the foot of St. Andrew's Hill, was razed and the lumber used in erecting the hall which still stands at the rear of the old Nazareth property on West Campbell Avenue. Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell blessed the hall and named the parish on February 16, 1919. The hall was used as the church and the school auditorium until a brick church/school was completed in June 1926 to serve the nearly 300 families on the church roll. In 1930, the Nazareth rectory was completed and occupied. Members of all three parishes helped to furnish it. Until then, Father Gilsenan had lived with Catholic families on Chapman Avenue. A small frame building on Nazareth school grounds served as his office.

Nazareth remained a mission of St. Andrew's until the fall of 1920. Until then, Sunday Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew's and marriages, baptisms, deaths, first communions and confirmations were recorded there.

During Father Gilsenan's pastorate (1914-1953), May was usually a month of church and school celebrations: first communions, the annual May procession, the school play and music recitals.

Population trends and political and economical developments world-wide brought changes to Nazareth. Many new families came when the General Electric plant opened in Salem in 1955. Nazareth High School, which graduated its first class in 1924, was consolidated with St. Andrew's High in 1950 to form Roanoke Catholic High. By 1973, the primary and elementary grades of the two schools were merged.

And by 1973, a parish move was being discussed to meet the new needs and larger numbers of the congregation. During the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Caroluzza (1976-1983) a modern complex, designed to accommodate the recommendations of Vatican II, was completed at a new location on Electric Road in Southwest Roanoke County. It was dedicated on July 9, 1978, by Bishop Walter F. Sullivan. Growth continued in the new location.

In July 1983, Rev. Thomas F. Shreve came to Our Lady of Nazareth Parish as its



Nazareth School, circa 1918; Thomas house was at left and Convent at right. Iron hitching post, gate and fence, hidden by shrubbery, fell to the scrap iron drive in World War II.



Congregation of Our Lady of Nazareth Church on Feb. 16, 1919, the Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell blessed the hall and named the parish.

seventh pastor. Prior to coming to Roanoke, he studied canon law at North American College in Rome. Father Shreve served as vice officialis of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, a church court that considers annulments of broken marriages involving Roman Catholics. He was succeeded in October 1985 by the Rev. William Gardner who came from Richmond. Father Gardner had been the first pastor of St. Jude's in Radford.

St. Elias Church

Except for St. Elias, the Catholic communities in Roanoke Valley are under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Richmond. St. Elias is part of the Maronite Diocese erected in 1966 with its see in Detroit. The see is now in Brooklyn, New York.

The story of St. Elias is closely tied to the ministry of Father (later Monsignor) Peter Rabil who served the people of Roanoke for approximately 51 years, from 1913 until his death on February 19, 1964.

Father Rabil was born on July 10, 1884, at Hammana, Lebanon. He attended Lebanon College and was ordained on November 5, 1907. Before he was appointed to the Roanoke parish on January 20, 1916, he had served at St. George Maronite Church in Hammana and at Goldsboro, North Carolina.

When Father Rabil first came to Roanoke in 1913, he was a traveling missionary priest attending the Lebanese people in North Carolina, with his station in Goldsboro. A sizable Lebanese colony had developed in Roanoke in the decade after the boom resulting from the junction of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad with the Norfolk and Western. The bishop of Richmond asked Father Rabil to establish a parish for the Lebanese in Roanoke. This he did.

Father Rabil celebrated mass at St. Andrew's which had ministered to the Lebanese before his arrival, and baptized the babies born between his visits. Soon thereafter, the upper floor of St. Andrew's Hall was made available. After a brief tenure, the St. Elias congregation found it needed more space. The Lebanese population had increased to about 250. Members of the congregation bought a church at 626 Salem Avenue from the Ghent Brethren. The church was remodeled, furnished and ready for dedication on December 23, 1917, when it was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell. The congregation was proud not only to have a church in which it could celebrate in its own rite, but the church was paid for.

Until the Maronite Apostolic Exarchate (Diocese) was erected by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on June 11, 1966, St. Elias was under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Richmond. At regular intervals, Father Rabil was required to request permission from the Sacred Oriental Congregation to remain another three years in the Diocese of Richmond. Reports to the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Rite were required in English and Arabic.

As a priest under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Richmond, Father Rabil participated in inter-parish activities. He was present at religious ceremonies, graduations and parish festivities. At the Corpus Christi procession at St. Andrew's on June 18, 1922, the Blessed Sacrament was carried in royal state under a silk and gold canopy borne by the Right Rev. Maximo Saigh, archbishop of Tyre, Syria, and by the Rev. Peter Rabil and Rev. Nicholas Arnaktiagh.

In 1927, while on a one-year visit to his native land, Father Rabil was ordained a chor-bishop by the Patriarch of Antioch. This gave him the right to wear the vestments and cross of a bishop. He was also allowed to celebrate a Pontifical Mass twice a year, on the feasts of Easter and Christmas. For years, St. Elias was the only church in Roanoke to have a midnight mass on Easter.

There are a few liturgical differences between the Maronite and the Roman Rite. Some of the Roman Rite changes adopted since Vatican II were already part of the Maronite liturgy: Communion under both species, the "kiss of peace" and the use of the vernacular language are examples.

The congregation grew during Father Rabil's ministry. In 1938, there were 312 Maronite Lebanese in the parish. About 75 of them understood only enough English to do business. By 1962, the congregation numbered about 500, most of whom did not understand Arabic.

Four Lebanese priests have served St. Elias since Father Rabil died. Father Assad Awad (1966-69, 1972-), the current pastor, was appointed monsignor by Pope John Paul II in the fall of 1984.

In 1967, the congregation celebrated the golden anniversary of the parish. While looking back at the accomplishments of half a century, they looked forward to new growth. Under Father Awad's direction, the congregation bought land on Cove Road in Northwest Roanoke, where a community center was opened in 1977. On December 18,

1983, ground was broken for the erection of a new church, and it was completed by All Saints Day, November 2, 1984.

St. Gerard's Church

St. Gerard's Catholic Church at 809 Orange Avenue, N.W., is geographically at the hub of the Roanoke black community. It originated in 1946 when the Redemptorist Fathers were invited by Bishop Peter L. Ireton to assume the spiritual care of black Catholics in Roanoke. On September 15, 1946, the Rev. Maurice J. McDonald, C.S.S.R., (Latin for Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer) arrived in Roanoke to establish a Roman Catholic Mission for the blacks in the city. The Redemptorists devote themselves primarily to establishing new congregations, especially among blacks in the South.

Sunday Mass was first celebrated on September 22, 1946, in a room at Harrison School, rented from the Roanoke City School Board. On the first Sunday, 17 people came to Mass. In October 1946, a house at 833 Moorman Road, N.W., was bought. It served as chapel and rectory for four years.

The present church was built in 1951 and dedicated on December 23, 1951. At the time it was built, only 30 members of the parish worked for wages. Its facilities, under one roof, included a sanctuary/hall which doubled, five days a week, as a day care center. In 1955, a rectory was added.

The pastors of St. Gerard's have been active in civic and ecumenical affairs and have involved their congregation. The \$70,000 building drive conducted in 1951 was itself an ecumenical affair. A prominent black Presbyterian doctor was co-chairman of the drive. Contributions were made by people of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths and by blacks and whites alike.

During the civil rights activity of the 1960s, the attempt to close St. Gerard's was prevented by vote of the congregation, but steps were taken to integrate it. Father Edward McDonough (1969-1974) helped establish a Tuesday night interracial group at St. Gerard's that met for worship and fellowship, emphasizing the power of the Holy Spirit. Both Protestants and Catholics attended the group. He was also active in interdenominational social ministry in the Valley and was among the early supporters of Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM), as well as the Catholic Office of Social Development groups to involve the church with the needs of the poor.

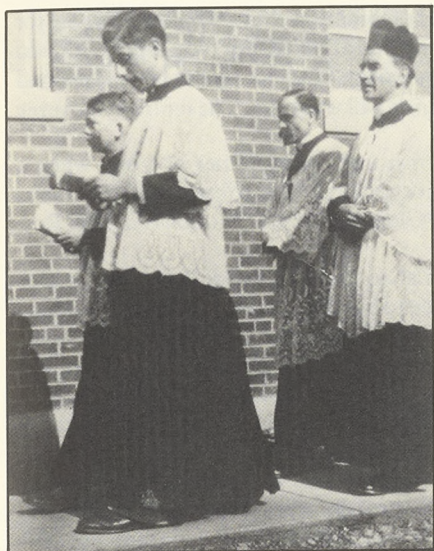
Between 1946 and 1974, 18 Redemptorist priests served St. Gerard's parish. In 1974, the parish was transferred to diocesan administration, with the specific desire of the bishop to bring black Catholics into the mainstream of diocesan and ecclesial life, with emphasis on developing, sharing and celebrating the unique spiritual and cultural heritage of the black Catholics.

In October 1974, Bishop Walter Sullivan appointed the Rev. Michael Schmeid the first diocesan pastor of the black parish. He helped to phase himself out of the job as diocesan black clergy, and religious and lay leadership developed. The Rev. Walter Barrett was succeeded by the Rev. Lloyd Stephenson in 1985. They were the first black priests in the diocese.

In 1974, St. Gerard's congregation numbered about 75 families, 96% of them black, and 98% of the blacks converts to Catholicism. By 1977, the parish included 96 families and grew to 133 families by 1983. The parish broke ground on October 2, 1983, for a new fellowship hall, a gathering area and classrooms. The new rooms freed the worship area for its primary purpose. The congregation dedicated its new facilities in April 1984.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the newest Catholic parish in the Roanoke Valley, lies a little distance west of Route 11 at 314 Turner Road in West Salem. Like St. Andrew's, the church is located on a hill, with a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains.



Marchers in a May procession at Nazareth Church about 1927 were (from left) Jimmy Mercer, Pasquale Bisise, Father Peter Rabil and Father James Gilsenan. Rabil was pastor of St. Elias Church from 1917 to 1964.



Father Walter Campbell, administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Salem from 1948 to 1951.

Local history notes that there were a few Catholic families in Salem at the time of the Civil War. It also notes that Cardinal Gibbons, then bishop of Richmond (1872-1878) offered Mass in a private home there in the 1870s. This could have been March 4, 1874, when Mary Lavinia McCaull was baptized or July 25, 1876, when four persons were confirmed in Salem.

Until Salem had its own church, Salem Catholics were largely dependent on the Roanoke Catholic churches. Scarcity of priests was one reason requests for their own parish and priest had not been granted. In 1945, Mass in Salem was celebrated in the Colonial Theatre by the Diocesan Missionary Fathers. From 1946 until 1949, Mass was celebrated by the Redemptorists on the grounds of Roanoke College, first in the chapel and then in the Laboratory Theatre.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help began in 1948 as a mission of St. Gerard's, which the Redemptorists had established two years earlier. Bishop Peter L. Ireton asked the Redemptorists on April 11, 1948, to establish the mission in Salem. In less than a year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help was a reality. In the summer, land at the corner of Green and West Main streets was donated by Lorenz Neuhoff, Sr., for the construction of the church.

Through the efforts of Father Walter Campbell, C.S.S.R., an Army chapel at Camp Butner, Durham, North Carolina, was dismantled and moved to Salem on April 3, 1949. A large proportion of the financial aid came from the Diocese and from the Redemptorist Fathers.

The priests from St. Gerard's ministered to the Salem mission while continuing to reside with the Redemptorist community on Orange Avenue. In October 1963, Our Lady of Perpetual Help became independent. Father Bernard Krimm, C.S.S.R., who had been pastor at St. Gerard's, became the first pastor at Salem and remained as pastor until 1969. A building behind the church was purchased for a rectory.

Due to the growth of the parish and the cramped area of the church and rectory, a new location became necessary. Land was purchased west of the original site and the present church was built. It was dedicated by the Most Rev. John J. Russell, bishop of

Richmond, on May 27, 1973. The building was a combination church/hall, with space for five classrooms, and a sanctuary seating 400. A building at the rear of the property housed the church offices and the rectory. Changes are underway. The rectory has been converted to classrooms, the church was enlarged and a parish hall was built. The renovated church was dedicated on February 12, 1984.

Redemptorist priests ministered in the parish until the summer of 1980, when a diocesan priest was appointed to head the new diocesan marriage tribunal and to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Rev. Glenn Charest was followed by the Rev. James E. Parke as pastor.

Catholic religious experiences vary from parish to parish. The five Roanoke parishes are examples of the unity in diversity that has come to be characteristic of the post-Vatican II Catholic Church. The diversity is expressed in architecture. St. Andrew's is a classic Gothic structure; St. Gerard's has been renovated from a multipurpose space to a worship center. St. Elias is a new church of Middle Eastern Design. Nazareth and Our Lady of Perpetual Help have been constructed since Vatican II and both attempt to articulate some of the principles of the reformed Catholic liturgy.

The diversity also comes from the age, economic, ethnic and cultural differences of the people who form the parishes. These socio-cultural differences express themselves in music, gestures, rites and ceremonies. But all still confess their faith in common not only here in Roanoke but with the church in Richmond and with the universal church.

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ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1869-1969.



Four prominent Roanoke Valley Men — two dressed for sport — were photographed at Monterey Golf Course about 1930. They were P. C. "Pete" Huff (left), Frank Read, Harvey Hall and S. D. Stokes.

Letters from School, 1842-1843

Mary Jane Allen of Botetourt County was 17 in 1842 when she left for boarding school in Maryland, where she would remain for over a year. Her home was "Beaverdam," built c. 1817 by her grandfather, Judge James Allen. (Since about 1900, "Beaverdam" has been the home of the Wickline family, who graciously opened it for our Society's 1967 History Tour.)

Of the many letters Mary Jane must have written her parents from school, only the following seven have been preserved. Five of them went to her father, John James Allen, in Richmond, where his position as a justice on the Virginia Supreme Court required him to spend much of his time. The other two were addressed to her mother, Mrs. Mary E(lizabeth) P(ayne) Allen, "near Pattonsburg/ Botetourt Cty/ Virginia." (Pattonsburg was renamed Buchanan a few years later.) Mrs. Allen was a niece of Dolley Payne Madison, wife of President James Madison, and a daughter of long-time congressman, John George Jackson of Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). The letters contain references to "Aunt Madison" as well as to the Jackson relatives.

The school Mary Jane attended was the Patapsco Female Institute on the outskirts of Baltimore. It was presided over by Mrs. Almira Hart Phelps, who, like her better known sister, Emma Willard, was a pioneer in women's education. Not only did Mrs. Phelps beef up the traditional girls' school curriculum of the period, she also wrote textbooks for many of the courses which were widely used in other schools as well as her own. Mary Jane's estimate of her headmistress's abilities, accomplishments and influence is confirmed by an article in *Notable American Women: 1607-1950, A Biographical Dictionary* (Vol. III, p. 58 et. seq.)

In 1850, Mary Jane married William Watts of Roanoke County and moved to his family home, "Oaklands." The young couple lost their first child in infancy in 1853. A second son, born March 30, 1855, was named John Allen Watts for her father. He became a prominent lawyer in the early days of Roanoke, and left a number of descendants. His mother, however, did not survive the illness she contracted following his birth. She died on June 1, 1855, four months before her 30th birthday.

Patapsco F Institute
December the 3 1842

My dear Papa

Your kind letter was received with much pleasure not only from the gratification I felt to hear that you were well but also from the assurance contained in it of your approbation. It has strengthened me in my resolutions of improvement and I feel assured that if I labor not only from the pleasure of acquiring knowledge but also from a desire to please you that I will succeed. My course of study gives me pretty constant employment but I find that I still have leisure to take exercise needful for my health and *write to my parents*. This is owing to the regularity and uniformity that prevail throughout this establishment. When I last wrote (to use a nautical phrase) we had not set fairly under weigh. The teachers had not all arrived from their respective homes and new scholars were coming daily

These letters of Mary Jane Allen, written a century and a half ago, were edited by Jean Showalter, her great-granddaughter, and by Clare White.

(Editor's note: The first of the letters is being published in its entirety so the style of the writer may be seen. The other letters have been edited in the interest of brevity, particularly by deleting the philosophical musings and leaving enough to give a picture of the young woman off at school and an idea of the school itself.)

breaking in on the regulations and rules of the school. The classes had not been well arranged and I thought I would be compelled to study all the time without any recreation. Now a different order of things prevails and I find there is a season for all things. We have quite a large school at the present time and it is increasing daily. I do not know the exact number of pupils but believe it is about 75. The teachers as well as pupils have returned to the Institute with renewed energy and appear (if possible) to take more interest than before in the improvement of the girls intrusted to their care. I have just returned from reciting a lesson in Chimistry (sic). These lessons were written by Mrs. Phelps several years ago. Last January she revised and corrected the work and we are now studying the second edition. I commenced Chemistry with Mrs. Sheffey but thought it dry and difficult — now I am very fond of the study and to quote from Mrs. Phelps “think it a most comprehensive science — while it instructs philosophy in the constitution of matter it teaches us how to perform the most common operations in the business of life.” The lecture today (I have not the book near me) treated of Vaporization, Ebullition Gases and Vapors. We have a very good chemical apparatus but our teacher has not yet shown us many experiments. Professor Aiken of Baltimore will deliver lectures at the Institute after the Christmas holidays.



Mary Jane Allen

Mrs. Phelps writes with so much ease and simplicity that it seems almost impossible for me not to become interested in her works. She has written a great deal for the improvement of youth and certainly merits the title of a benefactress to her country. Her series of volumes on Botany, Philosophy, Chemistry and Geology are used in all the best female institutions in New England which is a sufficient testimony of their worth. Mrs. Phelps is certainly one of the most remarkable women of the present day not only for her literary talent but for vigor of thought and action. She enforces strict obedience to all the rules, yet she is always amiable and kind. We are deeply immersed in the enigmas of Lord Yeame (?) — as we proceed in the work I become more and more interested. If we had not a competent teacher the study would be irksome and difficult but Miss Lincoln appears to be perfectly familiar with the work which proves I think that *some* if not all females are capable of learning a *little more* than the elementary branches of an English education. The advantages derived from the study of this work are very great. It not only gives us a better knowledge of the philosophy of the human mind but it refines our taste and makes us prefer the more elevated pleasures to those that are low and grovelling. As for French I am tired of it. I can read the language tolerably well and the time I devote to it could be better employed however if you wish me to proceed with it I will do so.

I am very fond of drawing. I will continue to take lessons this term and hope to have some pieces to show you when I return home. I received a letter from Eliza Jackson a day or two since. I do not think there is much probability of her return here. Her brothers will remain at home during the winter and commence their collegiate course in the Spring. Her father has purchased a country residence somewhere on the Ohio and she said that it was probable that they would leave Parkersburg before Spring.

I was sorry to hear of the disagreement between the families at Clarksburg but it is nothing more than we all expected. It is well we are removed from all their contentions.¹

My visit to Washington has not yet been fully decided upon. If Mrs. Phelps determines to go her stay must necessarily be very short. Do you think it would be well for

me to write and apprise Aunt Madison of my intention to visit the city this winter. Mrs. Phelps thinks it will be better but it looks to me as if I were trying to force myself on her notice. This I would not do upon any consideration. Will you write to me your opinion on the subject and of course I will abide by it. Mrs. Phelps will draw on you for funds whenever it is necessary. I have always applied to her for funds when I required them but she says you provided me very amply before you left here.

I have not heard from Mama since I last wrote but hope her silence does not proceed from illness. I am very anxious to see her and the children and look forward to Spring with joyful anticipations. This letter is full of blunders but I cannot get in a quiet place. The girls are speaking to me every moment and I scarcely know what I have written.

Please answer my letter immediately as we will probably go to Washington in two or three weeks.

Your affectionate daughter
Mary J. Allen

P.S. Mrs. Phelps sent for me a few minutes ago and desired me to give her best respects and enclose to you two circulars. She intends writing to you very soon but says it is not so necessary for her to give you an account of *my* improvement as it would be for a younger pupil. My letters she said would show you how much I improve but I do *not agree with her as many sensible well-educated women write indifferent letters*. She also said a great many complimentary things about my deportment, studiousness etc. but as she will write to you soon herself I will not repeat them.

Directed to: Hon. John J. Allen
Court of Appeals
Richmond
Virginia

(Two postmarks: one reads "Patapsco Female Institute" and was perhaps the school seal. The other reads "Ellicotts Mills Md., Dec. 5")

Patapsco F Institute
January the 6th 1843

A happy new year to you my dear Father. You will not I trust have thought me very ungrateful for your kind letter though it has been left so long unanswered

Last Christmas and New years day I spent at home with my little brothers and sister little expecting that I would ever again tread the halls of a Female Institute. *This* year's festivals I have enjoyed among strangers. The next I hope will be spent at home. New Year's day was a happy one — of the happiest, perhaps the most so, which I have ever spent. In the morning we had an excellent sermon addressed principally to the girls. Monday evening we had vivants tableaux and dancing.

. . . I had anticipated visiting Washington this week and wrote to Aunt Madison to that effect. Since then I heard that she was in Virginia and of course will remain at the Institute. That affair of young Spencer it is said has thrown a gloom over the city. The president's family² are in deep mourning and do not receive company. I was but little disappointed in not going as it would interfere with my studies and divert my attention from books to the frivolities of the city. And again the examination is fast approaching and I must apply all my *energies* to be prepared. I look forward with much pleasure to my return home but I shall never forget the kindness I have received from Mrs. Phelps and the teachers, and though the clouds of the future may partially dim the brightness of the remembrance, still it shall never quite fade away, but endure, "like the perfume of the withered rose, until life itself shall end"

I wrote some time since to Mama that I was ill — I am now *pretty well*. I intend writing again very soon. You must excuse the brevity* of this letter as it (is) dark and as I said before I'm only *pretty well*. Mrs. Phelps received your letter containing a check on the bank of Virginia.

Your affectionate daughter
Mary Allen

P.S. Mrs. Phelps desires me to say that Mr. Phelps received your letter containing the check and answered it — she believes.

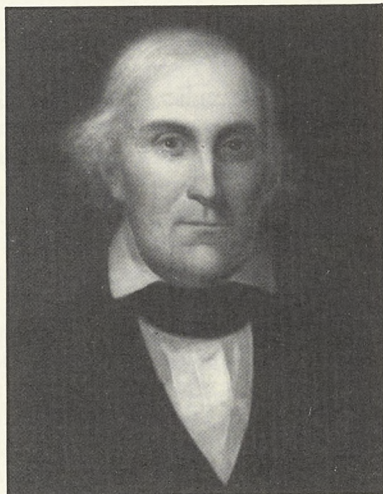
(Addressed, as the first letter was, to her father in Richmond, with the Ellicott's Mills, Md. postmark, stamped with date Jan. 11.)

Patapsco F. Institute
Feb. 3rd 1843
Friday evening

My dear Papa

Thank you for your kind letter. My apology for not answering it sooner is somewhat uncommon — a *visit paid* which with me are like angels' visits, few and far between. This I hope will be considered a sufficient excuse when I assure you that it is the first time I have been permitted to accept any invitation of the kind since I came to Maryland. Last week Dr. Thomas asked Mrs. Phelps to let me accompany his daughters home the next Friday. She consented to do so and Friday night (the time I generally write to you) he sent his carriage for us. The night was piercing cold, it makes me shiver even now to recall the sensations of the ride although I was snugly enveloped in cloaks and furs. We reached Dr. Thomas's alive and was kindly welcomed by the whole family. I cannot say enough of their cordial kindness — it made me feel as if the handsome rooms and pleasant grounds were old familiar scenes. Saturday the day was lovely and I rode on horseback for the first time since I left home. The visit has had a good effect upon me and I have returned to the Institute happier and with renewed energy to pursue my various studies . . . I must acknowledge that after spending 8 months at the Institute I was heartily glad to leave it for a short time.

I am happy to say our school continues prosperous. Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon all the young ladies assemble in the hall. On Friday evenings the reports of the officer of the week and teachers are read. If we have passed through the week without any palpable offences and with a good degree of order and industry the Principal assigns us a general *credit* which she writes in the book of the teachers reports. For any disorder in which a number of the pupils are implicated or where the offenders are not known Mrs. Phelps orders a general fault mark for the whole school which is recorded in the same manner. These marks form what is called the conduct list which is read aloud at the examination for the benefit of the public. This evening (Friday) I received 5 credits (the highest number given) for all my recitations during the week. On Wednesday afternoon we assemble in the hall with our needlework. After the reading of a few select



Judge John James Allen, 1797-1871
Virginia State Library photo

pieces or compositions by the pupils Mrs. Phelps, who always presides at the assembly, gives us a familiar lecture on those duties which as women we must be prepared to perform.

I still take drawing lessons — it is an accomplishment much attended to in this school and painting in water colors is taught with skill and taste. We have an excellent music teacher and I hope to make some progress in this branch before returning home. I have not taken up Italian as the studies I now have occupy the greater part of my time. In mental philosophy the meditations are very interesting. To this subject the first hour of the day is devoted when my mind is clear and not wearied with the daily routine of lessons.

I received a letter from Mama some days since — she said that she was very lonely since you returned to Richmond. Beaverdam is a dull place to her but with *me* the feeling of *home* throws light and loveliness over the most uninteresting spot.

Last week I inclosed to her a letter which I received from Aunt Madison. The letter is very flattering and gives evidence for one so far advanced in life of great strength of mind.³ Although she has been the center of a circle composed of the gay, the refined and exalted in rank, both foreign and American, she appears to be a pattern of gentleness and affection

....
Mama has probably written to you of my illness. I am *very much* better now. The complaint in my side is indeed most pertinacious if not hopeless. I have therefore only to meet it as cheerfully as I may. Whether I shall return to you all brighter and in better health I know not but I hope there is a prospect of my returning improved

How much I wish to be with you all once more. Mama wrote that I would have to remain here next vacation. I felt very badly about it at first as I had anticipated seeing you and Mama a few days after the close of our examinations. But as she says there is no alternative I suppose I must be resigned. Did you receive a letter from Mrs. Phelps? I hope she gave me a good report. *She is expecting* an answer. Please answer my letter very soon.

Your affectionate daughter
Mary Allen

Patapsco F. Institute
June 4th 1843

My dear Mama

Four weeks have elapsed since I received a line from home and during this time I have written repeatedly to you and once to Papa. I fully anticipated receiving a letter this morning and the disappointment has redoubled my uneasiness and anxiety to hear from you. I fear that either you are ill or Grandpapa⁴ is worse and I hope Mama that you will answer this letter as soon as it reaches you; living in a state of uncertainty day after day is terrible. I do not even know if Papa's journey home was accomplished in safety and you can well imagine how badly I feel

You are probably aware that I take the graduating studies this session. They consist of French, Italian, Mathematics, Music, Painting and Brown's Philosophy. The latter work comprising two very large volumes is very difficult and metaphysical and requires much attention and deep reflection. We read over several chapters every day and then write an analysis upon them — This is not an easy task but with patience and perseverance I hope to accomplish it and be prepared for our semiannual examination. Miss Gable from Baltimore is my only classmate and one of us must necessarily be appointed to write the valedictory. I do not wish the office to devolve on me (although I need not have any such apprehensions) for I am fully convinced that I could not discharge it with honor to myself and to the Institution to which I belong . . . In Italian we are reading Silvio Pollico. This language is very soft and beautiful and I like it much better than the French . . . I continue to take music lessons from Mr. Rohbock; he is an excellent teacher and I intend practicing very diligently this term. Tell Papa that my arm is well but as it is impossible for me to be without some disease I have a very sore *foot* or rather *toe* brought on by my

awkwardness in leaping from a rock. Mrs. Phelps sent for me a few moments ago and had a poultice applied it; she also made me put on a pair of Indian moccasins which had been presented to her by Mr. Ross and my foot looks both *sizable* and *showy* . . .

Last week one year since I was enjoying the calm and rational pleasures of *home* and *this day* one year since I had been entered at the Patapsco Institute for an indefinite period. Next spring I hope to spend at home with those I love, but I may find by that time still greater changes . . . I will hope for the best and look forward with bright anticipations to the future — the fall when I shall return home.

It is so warm that I am almost suffocated and my little room is as close as a cell. Mrs. Phelps wants to know if any one wishes to engage a governess in your neighborhood as she desires to procure situations for several young ladies during the summer.

Give my best love to Papa,
Grandpapa and the children
and believe me my dear
mother

your affectionate daughter
Mary Jane Allen

Addressed to: Mrs. Mary E. P. Allen
Pattonburg
Botetourt Cty
via Winchester Virginia

Patapsco F. Institute
Oct. 29, 1843

My dear Mama

I have been expecting a letter from you for three weeks and indeed have had some fond hope of seeing Papa in propria persona but in both of these pleasant anticipations I have been sadly disappointed and am consequently *very uneasy*. I have written you a letter this *vacation* and two others during the *term* since I received a line from you and I now feel the dull heart sickening suspense of awaiting tidings — tidings which my heart tells me (the heart too faithful prophet of the future!) may be possibly bad. Your last letter my dear Mama said Papa was ill and my anxiety has been proportionally increased. You cannot know the agony of experience in waiting every day the return of the servant from the office — each minute seemingly an age — and then the disappointment which has hitherto awaited me! — The daily repetition (sic) of this has made me desponding and heartsick and I hope therefore, even though your letter may be the bearer of bad news that you will write me immediately on the receipt of my letter.

I enclosed you a paper containing an account of our examination which you have probably received. We had a very large audience during the three days particularly on Wednesday. The crowd was so dense on the evening of the last day that many persons were not able to enter the salon . . .

As I have before said to you Mrs. Phelps has so arranged her public examinations that every pupil is brought thoroughly to test her own requirements, not in comparison with a classmate, but with her own previous knowledge. The standard of excellence here is that every one must do the best she can and the appeal is to her own conscience, not to the station she holds in her class. *This* is said to have been our best examination, and *everything*, the music, compositions, recitations, manners etc. have been highly commended by all the Baltimore papers. The diplomas are very neat and pretty . . . I can scarcely realize that I am no longer a "school girl." I cannot place too high an estimate on the obligations I owe to my father. He has given me every opportunity for cultivating my mind, and although they have been in a great measure neglected yet I trust he will find that I have not wholly unappreciated his kindness or unimproved these advantages. I will not speak of my good resolutions but let my *future conduct* speak for any that I may have

formed in my heart.

The greater part of the pupils have returned to their homes but enough remain to make the vacation pass pleasantly . . . You will naturally ask, how do you employ your time. Well I will tell you. I *sew*, practice, read, ride, walk, and *talk* — but *more particularly* the latter. As for *sewing* I have been *very* industrious — made me a wrapper and am about making a nightgown. I have had several very kind invitations to pass the vacation with some of my school companions and intend accepting several of them. Gen. Howard and Dr. Thomas have both sent for me this week but I have declined their invitations as I have my wardrobe to arrange and besides felt exhausted both in mind and body after the great excitement I have so recently gone through. I will however go out next week and spend a day or two with my friends.

Mrs. Phelps is not at the Institute. She left last evening for Troy⁵ and will probably be absent some weeks. No one accompanied her but her little daughter Mira. Mr. Phelps and our dear good vice principal remain with us. Mrs. Phelps lauded me very highly before she started for my industry and said she was as much pleased to see me sewing as she was two weeks since to see me applying myself to my studies. She is a kind lovely woman — indeed I do not think she has but one fault if it may be called such, and that is, she is an *egotist* — not a *bas bleu* however. But I think *this* fault, in *her*, is excusable when we bear in mind that she is wholly self educated and that one or two of the best female schools in this country have been founded by her, sustained by her talents and their improvements have been effected by her perseverance . . .

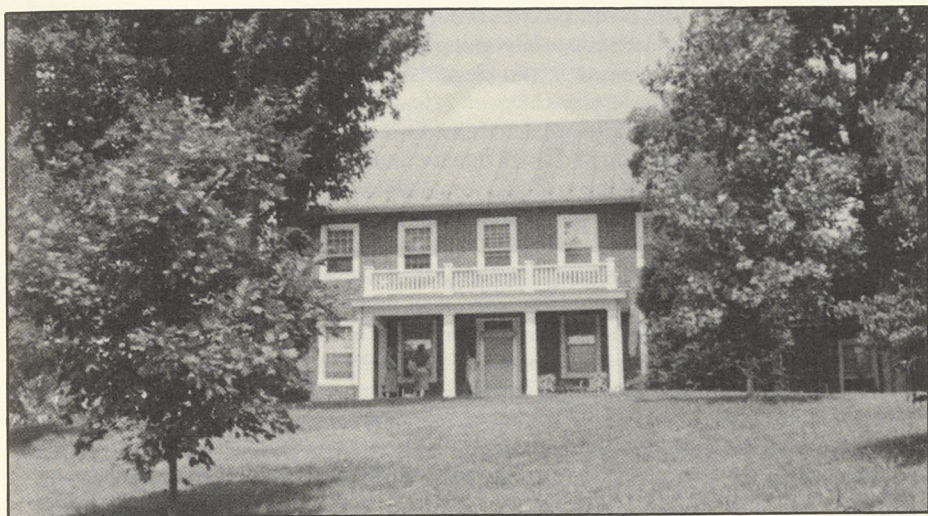
I suppose Papa has returned to Richmond. I sent him a paper today containing an account of our examination. I don't think he will fancy more than I did our names being put in the paper. I am in a state of uncertainty as to Papa's intentions with regard to me — whether I am to remain a part of next term and still attend to my studies — the languages and music, or whether I am to remain only as a boarder. Mrs. Phelps has received no communication from him and therefore does not know what course she shall adopt in regard to me. The bill for my tuition etc. has been drawn up and she does not know if it is Papa's wish that she shall advance me any money that I may want. Thus you see it is very necessary that I should receive intelligence from you or Papa.

I hope dear Mama you will write immediately and tell me everything and anything. How the children are — what they say and what they are doing. Kiss them for me and tell them sister is more anxious to see them than they can be to see her for she has had no one to love, while they have all been together and of course could not miss her so much. How is Jane? How is James Allen? Have you heard from Grandmama?⁶ How is Grandpapa? My love to him. Love to Papa when you write. Where is Virginia Harvey? Has anyone bought Mount Joy or happiness I do not remember which.

Addressed to: Mrs. Mary E. P. Allen
near Pattonsburg
Botetourt Cty
via Winchester Virginia

Patapsco F. Institute
5 o'clock
Oct. the 1843

Your letter my dear father was received last evening, and in compliance with your request to write immediately, I have risen very early in order to do so before the close of the mail. I recollect in one of your former letters you said to me "promptitude in matters of business was always necessary" and acting upon your suggestions, I have determined although with many misgivings and much shame to enclose the account for my tuition and other expense. I was startled when I opened the bill and read the *sum total*, but much to my relief found upon looking it over that a *little* could be deducted — the singing lessons



Beaverdam, built about 1817 in Botetourt County, was the home of Judge John James Allen and his family. The Wickline family has lived there since about 1900.

and stationery. I also find upon comparing the bill for cash advanced with my own private ledger book that he had charged me 10\$501/2cts more than I have actually received. Of this fact I am perfectly confident since I have been very careful in making entries into this book whenever I have asked for money. Mr. Phelps is *very* liable to make such mistakes in drawing up the accounts — he is imbecile both in mind and body, and again he is apt to get his bills confused. I did not say anything to him about *this* mistake, because I thought you would rather pay than have any difficulty. I know you will think me very extravagant and blame me deservedly but I have endeavored to economize this summer. I have purchased but very little clothing and I thought (erroneously, it seems) spent but little money — I have also another bill of 20\$ which has not been added to the account. When I expected to return home at the close of the term I bought some books and presents for the children and a little present for home — the whole amount to 17\$ — the other three dollars I paid (to particularize) for some winter stockings. If you will send me 25\$ I will pay for my board until December and cancel the debt of which I have spoken. I do not wish or expect you to give me any more money before I return home. I have already spent more than enough.

I wrote Mama a long letter containing an account of the examination which I asked her to enclose to you. The examination was attended by a crowded audience . . . Bishop Whittingham was here the second day — he appeared to take much interest in the recitations and said afterwards that he was both gratified and astonished at the unexpected progress made by the pupils in the various branches . . .

You say I am to remain here as a boarder until December and although I am very anxious to return home I will make an effort to be contented and endeavor to pass the time profitably . . . I hope I shall never mistake my interest or happiness so much as to wish to step forth from my appointed niche in the seclusion of the domestic circle to take a stand in the exhibition room of fashion — therefore you need not have any fear on this point — my motive to study has proceeded from a desire to strengthen and enrich my mind, not to add to my attractions before the world. Knowing the state of society in our vicinity I shall endeavor to make *home* the seat of innocent enjoyment as well of real improvement . . . I agree with you in thinking we should pursue a course of solid instructional reading of the best authors and have therefore marked out a plan for myself. Miss Tuthill and I have commenced reading systematically the works of the English and American poets. It is a great pleasure to have the companionship and assistance of a person as highly gifted as Sarah Tuthill . . . We have read Campbell and commenced reading the works of one of our

most celebrated American poets today — those of Bryant. Campbell is certainly a poet of most exquisite taste. His *Gertrude of Wyoming* is a most beautiful specimen (sic) of poetry — the language copious, smooth and elegant with many fine touches of sentiment interspersed through it.

As for prose reading I have not determined what authors I shall read first — indeed the library here is so indifferent and small that we find little in it either to instruct or amuse and I would be much obliged to you if you would mark out a course of reading for me and I will procure the works if possible . . . Mrs. Phelps left home last Wednesday for Troy and will probably be absent a week or two. Mr. Phelps and the vice principal remain at the Institute. The pupils generally have returned to their homes but enough remain to form a pleasant family circle. We walk, ride, sew, read and talk. We have taken some long rambles . . . Mrs. Phelps intends taking us one day to Baltimore to visit Green Mount cemetery. I think I have seen every thing else in the city worth visiting.

I made some improvement in Italian last term but we had an indifferent teacher. Mr. Phelps has just come in and says I was charged for a *semester* singing and that he made a mistake, I never took but three singing lessons and as I hurt my breast Mrs. Phelps made me discontinue the lessons. I suppose however you will have to pay him 10\$ of the 20\$ for singing.

I have forgotten one inquiry you made me in respect to a Piano but I cannot nay do not wish you to purchase me one under existing circumstances. If my bill had not been so large I would be much pleased to have a Piano but as this cannot be remedied now I will not tax your generosity and kindness any further. You have given me every opportunity for improving my mind and I should not expect anything more. I think I wrote to you a good Piano could be procured at 150\$ or 200\$. I received a long letter from Mama (the) day I received yours. They were all well. I intend answering Mama's letter today. You must excuse this letter but I have been writing in a room without fire and am very cold and chilly. I will write soon again.

Your affectionate child,
Mary J. Allen

Patapsco F. Institute
November 29, 1843

My dear Papa

Your letter of the 26 inst was received yesterday morning and I have several excuses to offer for not answering it immediately — the principal of which was, unfortunately, that it was handed to me in the carriage on the road to Baltimore and I was thus compelled to defer answering it until today. You may from this circumstance (my going to town) know that I am convalescent. I wrote to you a week since and I believe gave you some little account of my occupations as well as the state of my health. Of the latter I can truly say that I feel much better than when I wrote last although I was confined to my room some time with the influenza. A deep seated pain in my breast was felt for several days brought on I suppose by the cold. I lost no time in resorting to remedies which I have found most successful. The pain has completely subsided and the cough is leaving me. Should my health continue to improve as it has done for a few days past I may hope soon to recover so as to be prepared to commence my journey home. I was grieved to hear that my slight indisposition had given you so much uneasiness and hope this letter will relieve all apprehensions in regard to my health.

The pleasant news you gave me has had a most exhilarating effect upon my health and spirits. I am *so much* obliged to you for this handsome present, it will indeed serve to make the time pass pleasantly in the country and I will endeavor to teach my little sister. I look forward to this day two weeks with many delightful anticipations as the day that I shall return to my sweet home. I have provided myself with warm clothing for traveling and feel assured that my health will not suffer from any exposure to the weather. I practice, read and walk and thus continue to be occupied the greater part of the time . . . I passed a

very pleasant day in the city yesterday — made several calls and visited the Catholic convent. With the latter place I was agreeably disappointed. Mrs. Phelps says she wishes to send this letter to the office before the mail closed and as I wish to write a few lines to Mama this morning I must say farewell. You will excuse all mistakes as I have not time to rewrite the letter. Do not however think that I am not well from my writing so miserably, it is for the want of time.

Your affectionate daughter
Mary Jane Allen

FOOTNOTES

1. Mary Jane's maternal grandfather, John George Jackson, was a resident of Clarksburg. He had children by a second marriage whose families are referred to in these paragraphs.
2. John Tyler, president, 1841-45.
*Half of this letter has been deleted.
3. Dolley Madison was 75 years old in 1843.
4. Judge James Allen, who continued to live at Beaverdam. He died the following year, 1844.
5. Troy, N.Y., location of the school founded and headed by Emma Willard, Mrs. Phelps' sister.
6. Widow of John George Jackson, step-grandmother to Mary Jane.

Electric Line to Blacksburg Wanted in '96

Efforts to provide a better transportation link between the Roanoke Valley and Blacksburg date back almost a century.

In 1896 plans were made to connect Salem and Blacksburg by an electric railway line. On Jan. 23, 1896, an act was passed by the General Assembly permitting incorporation of the Salem and Blacksburg Electric Railway Co., according to the Salem Times-Register of May 27, 1938.

The company was to be capitalized at \$300,000 and the incorporators were J. W. F. Allemong, E. P. Wilson, C. P. Kanode, J. C. Langhorne, James Chalmers, D. B. Strouse, M. W. Bryan, T. J. Schickel, and S. D. McCammon. The main office was to be in Salem. The line was to start at Salem "running hence by the most practical and eligible route deemed advisable by the board of directors of said company to the town of Blacksburg," according to the newspaper report.

But the company did not materialize and the electric railway was not built, apparently because the stock was not sold.

Salem Mills

By Norwood Middleton

Only street signs preserve the memory of one of the critical enterprises in the homespun life of early Salem.

Sites where once-proud, water-powered grist mills stood receive only vague, passing notice by the existence of Mill Lane in West Salem and Kesler Mill Road and North Mill Road in East Salem.

No such locator even hints at the third and earliest, and the most historic such mill that once operated a few yards west of Union Street and south of today's westbound tracks of the Norfolk and Western Railway.

Grist mill. Water mill. Merchant mill. Flour mill. Feed mill. By whatever name, the mill with its water wheel beside the stream was as romantic as it was utilitarian, as social as it was mechanical. It brought relief to the housewife from the arm-wrenching chore of pounding corn into meal with pestle and mortar. It brought neighbors into the company of each other.

The operator exacted as his fee a standard portion of grain delivered to him for grinding into flour, meal or feed. In the early days, the miller took one-tenth of the grain brought in by the grower. As they have a habit of doing, costs increased, however, and later one pound of every eight went to the miller; and more recently, one of every six. Occasionally, the arrangement was based on leaving behind a stipulated portion of the final product.

So vital was flour and meal to the diet of early settlers, mills could be found near most rural communities if grains were grown and there was a stream nearby.

The sometimes lengthy wait at the mill for the slow process of subjecting the grain to the millstones afforded farmers a chance for conversation and gossip, and if there were several waiting, so much the merrier. Nearby, the youngsters often took a dip in the refreshing waters of the millpond, or skated on the ice if it were winter. At the mill across Union Street from the railroad station, there was an added attraction — small boats to paddle on the Roanoke River.

Even the names of the mills may be unfamiliar, changing as they did over the 130 years they were in operation. Here is how the three handy to the people of Salem were known, the names, dates and site of each:

Samuel Lewis' Mill, Salem Mills, Pitzer & Martin Mill, Martin's Mill — About 1817 until 1903. On the north bank of the Roanoke River, west of Union Street between the N&W Railway's east- and west-bound main lines.

Roanoke Mills, Bellevue Mills, J. C. Langhorne's Roller Mills, Shank Milling Co., Moore Milling Co. — Before 1844 until 1947. On the north side of the Roanoke River, east of Mill Lane and south of the N&W tracks and Tidewater Street. Mill Lane was once Langhorne's Lane and at that time was the western corporate boundary of the town.

Garst Mill, Salem Roller Mill, Kesler Mill — 1820 until 1938. On the western bank of Mason Creek, between the creek and Kesler Mill Road and north of Garst Street.

There were many others in Roanoke County.

Operators of early mills built dams to impound water to a depth sufficient to channel a strong flow through a wooden flume onto a huge wheel with sills. As the wheel turned, crude cogs on the other end of the shaft meshed with cogs on a grooved stone that revolved to grind the grain between it and the bottom, stationary bedstone. The grain was fed

Norwood Middleton, retired managing editor of the Roanoke Times & World-News, researched the mills of Salem while working on his book, Salem, A Virginia Chronicle.

through a hopper into a hole in the middle of the upper stone, and the grist worked its way out to the edges of the stones, thence into reels and through sieves of various fineness to separate the flour or meal from the bran and refuse.

Furrows or ridges were chipped into the burrstones, as they were called, to provide the grinding surface. These stones became collector's items. Arthur H. "Pete" Moran laboriously dug up part of a millstone at the Union Street mill site a few years ago and numbers it among many treasured mementoes of Salem's past.

Eventually, grains were pulverized between metal rollers turning at different speeds.

Three such mills in what is now Salem indicate there was an ample harvest of corn, wheat and other grains in the area, as well as a good market for flour for the kitchen and feed for the stable.

Martin Mill

Salem's first grist mill of record once stood near what was envisioned as a dock for boats that would bring merchandise up the Roanoke River from the Atlantic. Samuel Lewis, the second son of General Andrew Lewis, probably built the mill.

Following the legislative chartering of the Upper Roanoke Navigation Co. in 1816 for the purpose of making the Roanoke River navigable between Salem and Weldon, N. C., a single bateau was drawn and poled from Weldon to Salem. Its docking on an undetermined date near what is today the W. Frank Chapman Bridge at Eddy Avenue occurred in the midst of a commercial boom that developed in futile anticipation of canal-like traffic from the ocean to Salem.

"The Salem Mills were built about the same time," according to William McCauley in his monumental 1902 history. "Union Street, along which it was expected that other business houses would be erected, was to be a sort of Broadway through Salem to the head of navigation, near the Salem Mills."

On the basis of that account, an approximate 1817 date has been ascribed for the startup of the Salem Mills.

That Samuel Lewis built the mill is deduced from the fact that the 1822 Botetourt County Land Book assessment against the owner, Charles Johnston, bears the notation that it was "known by Sam'l Lewis' Mill." That, plus the fact that the 13 1/2-acre site was part of extensive holdings formerly owned by his father on the Roanoke.

In 1831 or 1832 the mill came into the possession of Dr. John Johnston, who owned large acreage near Salem, including what is now the Lake Spring Park area. In February 1836 Dr. Johnston sold the tract to Joseph and George Johnston, and in the deed of that transfer the name "Salem Mills" is first documented. They in turn sold it for \$9,360 to two Salem business men, Madison Pitzer and Bernard Pitzer, in October 1836.

The first Roanoke County Land Book in 1838, the year in which the county was created, assessed the Pitzers for taxes based on a valuation of \$5,000 for the buildings and \$5,319 for land and buildings, the same basis that had been in effect since 1822. The valuations went up in 1840 to \$7,500 for buildings and \$8,302.50 total.

The mill and a large adjacent storehouse were burned by the Federal forces of General William W. Averell during his Civil War foray on Salem to disrupt the Confederate supply line between Richmond and the salt works and bread basket of Southwest Virginia.

Destruction of the mill in the raid was reported in two news stories at the time, written by correspondents of the *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, one of which said it was "burned to the ground, destroying an immense quantity of flour and wheat, only allowing the miller to remove three or four barrels." The County Court ruled a year later, in a tax adjustment case, "that the value . . . was reduced \$7,000 in December 1863 by the destruction by fire of the mill, store house etc."

In his official report of the raid on Dec. 16, 1863, Averell said his forces found 2,000 barrels of flour, 10,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels of shelled corn and 50,000

bushels of oats in buildings near the Virginia and Tennessee Rail Road. "The depots with their contents were burned . . . parties were sent 4 miles to the eastward and 12 miles to westward to destroy the road."

By 1865 the mill had been replaced at a cost of \$4,500 and William R. Martin had bought the interest of Madison Pitzer, who died in 1861.

Tax records continued to designate the property "Salem Mills" through 1886. However, it became popularly known as the Pitzer & Martin Mill based on the names of the operators, Bernard Pitzer and William R. Martin, Robert A. Martin and Conrad B. Martin, who bought Pitzer's interest, and in 1882 naturally it became Martin's Mill, or the Martin Mill.

The mill was on 13.5 acres in a V-shaped plot bounded by the river and Union Street. In 1884, exercising a function that today is under federal control, the Roanoke County Court granted James W. Martin & Co. permission to build a four-and-a-half-foot-high dam across the river, on condition that a suitable fish ladder was installed for the passage of fish.

George P. Tayloe bought a half interest in 1888. Two years later, D. R. Beale & Co. bought the property and operated it 12 years before selling it to the founder of what was by then the Salem Machine Works, Edward Corbett, who kept it only 15 months before selling it to J. H. Smith in 1903.

A month later, at 1 a.m. Tuesday, June 16, 1903, fire broke out and within an hour and a half, the "mill, stable, corn house, 2 wagons, plows and farming implements were smoking ashes," the *Salem Sentinel* reported.

Its days as a mill were over.

Two footnotes may be added to its history: (1) Salem policemen began issuing warrants for unlawful swimming in the millpond in the summer of 1904. (2) The people of Salem were dismayed if not appalled when a work force arrived in December 1906 and began a major re-channelization of the river near the mill site; the purpose was to eliminate a sharp bend so tracks of the new Virginian railroad could be laid in a straight line.

Concrete ruins of the mill dam are still visible on a spot that today is well removed from the river because of the re-channelization. The site is gradually being covered by fill dirt.

Moore Mill

A flour mill well remembered by many near the Roanoke River in west Salem started out as a sawmill and brick plant.

Operated before 1844 by William L. Walton, his business was known as the Roanoke Mills and occupied a small part of the 249-acre tract he owned about two miles west of town. This information comes from 1844 real estate records showing that Walton sold his "brick manufacturing mill, sawmill and appurtenances" on the north bank of the Roanoke River to Robert Sutphin. Taxes were assessed against Sutphin in 1845 on the basis that this one-acre plot was worth \$7,016.81, of which his buildings were valued at \$7,000.

Sutphin apparently substituted a grist mill for the brick plant and ran into a problem, perhaps financial, because a year and a half after he bought it, he returned the property to Walton, and Walton canceled Sutphin's promissory notes. The 1846 deed formalizing this repossession mentions only "a merchant mill and saw mill," the term merchant mill a common one for a grist mill. In December the same year, Walton sold a one-quarter interest each to George W. Shanks, Henry H. Chapman and Lewis Zirkle, all prominent Salem area residents.

The new owners changed the name to "Bellevue Mills," by which it was known 33 years. Shanks still headed the company but had at least one new partner when, in 1852, Shanks, Martin & Co. advertised in Salem's weekly, the *Roanoke Beacon*, that "this large brick mill" was for sale. The ad spotlighted its "four pair of stones, with never failing water

power," as well as its location "in one of the finest wheat-growing countries in the State with every facility for sending it to market when converted into Flour." Its pinpointed location as "about a hundred yards from the Railroad" was somewhat anticipatory inasmuch as the ad appeared a year before the Virginia and Tennessee tracks reached it. There was no outright sale but apparently there was an infusion of new capital, because by mid-1853 the operating firm was known as G. W. Shanks & Co. and advertised the mill had "recently been newly repaired and improved with new cloths of superior quality." Moreover, the ad said Bellevue wanted to buy 20,000 bushels of wheat and would deliver it "when ground, if desired . . . on the Railroad, *free of charge*."

By 1855, Shanks had sold out to members of the Chapman family. At first, the principals were Henry Harrison Chapman and his son, Henry Clay Chapman; then by 1865, James and Orlando Chapman; and joining them within a few years was F. J. "Joe" Chapman, who by then was operating two resort hotels, Lake Spring in Salem and Roanoke Red Sulphur Springs at Catawba.

In 1879, James C. Langhorne paid \$9,000 for Bellevue Mills to consolidate its ownership after another period in which a number of leading business and civic leaders had become financially involved. Among them were Robert H. Logan, Joel C. Green, William Watts, James S. Persinger, Josephus Johnston, John T. Johnston and Joel S. Thomason.

The name became Langhorne Mills. In major capital improvement projects in 1885 and 1887, the millstones used in grinding grain were replaced by newly available iron rollers to produce smoother and finer flour. A large, new sign was painted on the four-story tower, reading "J. C. Langhorne's Roller Mills." The manager was E. G. Langhorne, and two brands of flour, "Patent Family" and "XX," were being marketed. By 1890, Salem's corporate limits had been extended to embrace the mill.

A year after Langhorne died in 1912, Shank Milling Co. paid \$10,500 for the mill. For Shank Milling, this was a natural extension of its interests; since its incorporation in 1909, it had been operating an electrically powered flour mill in a building beside the Salem Foundry and Machine Works near the N&W Railway passenger station. The machine works was owned by members of the Shank family and produced flour mill machinery that was being shipped throughout the southeast. Henry D. Shank was president of the milling company, John E. Shank, of the machine works.

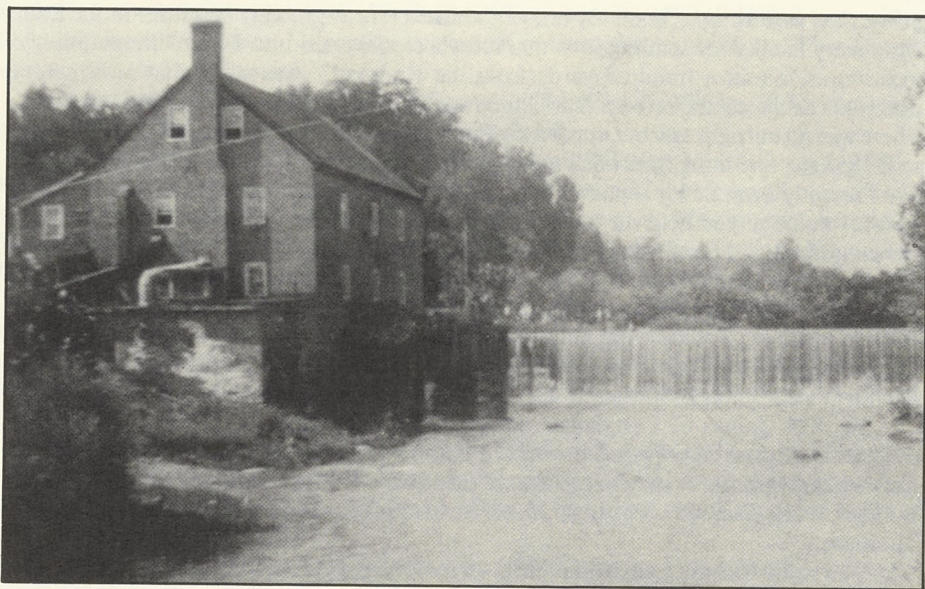
Most of the machinery from the original Shank mill was moved to its new operation. However, new turbines were required to take advantage of water power available at the river site, according to J. Leonard Shank, a former Salem mayor who, as a boy, pushed a broom and did other odd jobs for his uncle one summer at the mill.

"Old Dominion" brand flour proved popular, and Shank, in 1919-1920 added a brick building adjacent to the old mill and modernized its equipment to increase capacity. Assessments for taxes increased from \$9,000 in 1919 to \$25,000 in 1922. Even with its modern roller equipment, however, Shank continued to turn out corn meal on "the old corn rocks," or millstones, Leonard Shank recalls.

In a move with interesting overtones in light of recent water supply negotiations involving both Roanoke and Salem, the City of Roanoke paid \$75,000 in 1924 for the mill and adjacent property, principally for its water rights, and kept it until 1934. The flour mill, however, continued operations, presumably under a lease arrangement with the City of Roanoke. Henry Shank was the sole operator, the Shank Milling corporation having been formally dissolved the same year that Roanoke bought the property.

Even though the grain market was dominated during this period by the Roanoke City Mills, which opened in 1918 about nine miles away and had a 1,200-barrel-a-day capacity, there was still a place for a successful smaller operation.

New owners took over in 1934 when a Salem partnership of R. A. Moore and T. Munsey Moore, trading as Moore Milling Co., paid Roanoke \$11,001 for the mill. The city, however, retained the water and impoundment rights and kept them until 1946, when they were relinquished to Moore for \$5,000.



Garst Mill, built in 1845 by John Gharst Sr., closed in 1922 and it was razed in 1935.

Moore Milling was incorporated in February 1936, with D. E. Moore, president, R. A. Moore, vice president, Munsey Moore, treasurer, and Grace Moore, secretary. Munsey Moore became sole owner in November 1938.

As in the case of Martiñ Mill 44 years earlier, fire was Moore Milling's nemesis. In October 1947, the mill went up in flames. Only an abandoned railway spur, a patch of asphalt and a trickling remnant of the once gushing raceway mark the site today.

Kesler Mill

Milling and the Garsts were almost synonymous in early Roanoke County, and the Garst Mill that stood 93 years in present-day Salem was drawn into a bit of history during the Civil War.

There were at least two other Garst Mills, one at Hanging Rock, the other southwest of Roanoke on Mud Lick Creek.

Salem's Garst Mill was a predecessor of Kesler Mill, after which the street that runs north from near Lakeside past the mill site was named. It was also known as the Salem Roller Mills for a time.

The mill was on the west bank of Mason Creek, a few feet north of Garst Street and between the creek and Kesler Mill Road, which links East Main Street and Hanging Rock.

During the war, Henry Garst, the owner, produced flour and meal for the Confederacy and, according to historian William McCauley, "rendered invaluable service to the cause" after being detached from the army for the purpose.

The mill also may have served as a headquarters of one of the Confederate generals when the southern forces were chasing the Union troops of General David Hunter through Hanging Rock during a retreat from Lynchburg in June 1864. Roanoke historian Raymond Barnes mentioned this use of the mill in a newspaper article, but without attribution.

Chronologically, the Garst Mill at Hanging Rock was the first built and stood on the west bank near a shallow "U" in the creek. Its date of construction has not been determined, but John Gharst, Sr., is known to have built and operated it. (He insisted on spelling his name with an "h.")

This same John Gharst built a new and larger, brick mill 1.4 miles downstream from Hanging Rock, facing a wagon road and backing up to the creek and a dam. The date of construction is recorded as 1845 in a Roanoke County land book of tax assessments, the specific notation reading "\$2,500 added for new mill 1845." However, a family Bible owned by Virginia Clark Solloway of Roanoke, great-great-granddaughter of John Gharst, gives an earlier date in an entry reading: "This mill was built 1840." Gharst was given permission by the county court in 1853 to erect a dam "to a height of ten feet," possibly indicating that an earlier dam may not have been high enough. In any event, it was operated as Garst Mill more than 40 years and became the Salem Roller Mill, then Kesler Mill.

The mill was sold in November 1855 by John and Christine Gharst to their son, Henry Garst, who lived nearby and probably was operating it for his father. This sale included a 195-acre tract on both sides of the creek.

The Henry Garst residence, which burned some years ago, stood on a rise west of the road; the foundation remains. A Garst family graveyard higher on the bluff overlooks the former mill site, and just east of the mill site is one of Salem's oldest houses, the log house of Henry's brother, William Garst, now occupied by the Kenneth Blounts.

Ledgers detailing grain and product transactions, individual customer accounts, and work records of mill employees in the 1880s are owned by Mrs. Solloway.

Newly designed milling machinery became available in the mid-1880s, and in order to modernize the operation, Henry Garst sold a two-thirds interest in November 1888 to W. H. Shuff & Co. Affiliated with Shuff were Josephus Johnson, Sparrel F. Simmons and Joel S. Thomason. The deed contained two interesting provisions: (1) The \$5,796 purchase price was to be spent by the Shuff company to remodel the mill and fit it with a "roller system" to manufacture 35 to 40 barrels of flour a day. (2) A spring in the yard of the Henry Garst home place across the wagon road to the west was to be available as a source when water at the miller's house was insufficient.

Salem Roller Mill was the name under which Shuff & Co. operated the property, which in the sale was defined as a little more than a two-acre portion of the 195 acres in the Henry Garst tract, Thomason, one of the Shuff & Co. partners, became sole owner through buyouts in 1898.

Thomason's acquisition came at the time of a devastating Mason Creek flood, in which one person was drowned farther downstream. A cloudburst over Fort Lewis Mountain on Saturday night, Aug. 13, 1898, sent the creek far out of its banks. The Garst grist mill and sawmill at Hanging Rock were swept away, along with his machinery, farming implements and tools, and a carriage house that housed his surrey and buggy.

At Joel S. Thomason's Salem Roller Mills, the surging waters washed out some 20 feet of the dam, "the fare boy, penstock and trunk," and part of the foundation of the brick building. Following repairs, milling resumed, a news account said.

When Otho D. Kesler moved to Salem from Bloomington, Ohio, in 1904, he brought a background of milling experience with him and probably went to work for Salem Roller Mills. This assumption is based on his experience plus the fact that he moved into a nearby house that still stands; it is set back off the west side of Kesler Mill Road near North Mill Lane. In this house, Kesler reared his family, three members of which live in this area. Misses Isabel and Emily Kesler, his daughters, are in Salem and William O. Kesler, a son, in Roanoke.

Kesler and a partner, H. H. Sides, of Winston-Salem, N.C., bought the mill in May 1906 and changed the name to Kesler Mill, which marketed its flouring products with the "Green Ridge" label.

During its last years, the Kesler millpond was popular for swimming and ice skating. Roanoke College students were among the steady customers, who paid a small admission fee.

Competition intensified on both the milling and recreation fronts after Roanoke City Mills, with a 1,200-barrel-a-day capacity, opened in 1918 and after Lakeside opened its

large swimming pool in July 1920. Kesler Mill closed in 1922 and was razed in 1938. Part of a concrete footing and reinforcing rods for the dam remain in the creek bed.

Move the Courthouse in 1843?

Moving the new Roanoke County courthouse from Salem to Big Lick apparently was the subject of this old unsigned poem, found recently by Palmer St. Clair of Roanoke. No other information on this theme has been discovered.

There was a meeting at the Lick,
They thought they would move the Court House quick.
Up came old Watts with talents bright,
Saying they are wrong and we are right

Says Gen'l Watts, I know ther plan,
I am a bright and talented man.
We will have the papers throughout the County
And pay the men a handsome bounty.

Now Watts got up to make a speech,
Says he, these men I won't impeach,
For if with money we can get it,
Oh says Clag Campbell never quit it.

Now down to de Sembly we will go,
And papers long & mighty show,
And on the table we will throw them,
Shanks and Paten they will know them.

Now Salem is a pretty sight
And Williams works with all his might,
The timbers hewed, the plank is sawing,
The paints are bought, the brick is drawing.

Now if we can their plan frustrate,
I know that Salem it will hate,
For everything there turns an axes
But still they fill out there hevey taxes.

Now Capt. Cook's the clerk you know,
But he don't care where the Court House go.
He says the licens he will sell,
If Old Watts goes to hell.

Says Watts, I am a wealthy man,
One hundred Negroes on my land
And money aplenty in my drawer,
And what I lack, I soon can borrow.

And now says Johnston don't be scared,
Ile tell you news that I have hered,
For Watts and Campbell will raise the money,
And the way weal get the Court House will be funny.

Said Robinson as the meeting's full,
It's at them folks I make a pull,
For i keep a house that cant be beaten
Yes I have all that can be eaten.

Now Martin has goods in store,
And if he had the cash head buy some more.
Oh send the court house to the city
And the way Ile thrive will be a pity.

Said Peck I want to keep an inn,
And then Ile make that Robinson grin.
My eating shall be nicer & quicker,
And Ile give the people all my Liquor.

Old folks young folks clear the kitchen,
Old Virginia never tire,
Ash pone and sit by the fire.

A Roanoke Visit in 1762

by Felix Hargrett

That John Bartram (1694-1777), pioneer American botanist, renowned not only on this side of the Atlantic but as well throughout the scientific community of Europe, visited the Roanoke Valley on one of his botanical explorations is a fact almost forgotten and seldom if ever mentioned in books of Virginia history, local or state.

This gentle, unassuming Pennsylvania Quaker was a recognized figure in the intellectual life of his age, a life-long, intimate friend of Benjamin Franklin, a longtime correspondent of Linnaeus, Gronovius, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. John Fothergill and other eminent European scholars and men of science. His opinions and advice on botanical matters were eagerly sought by fellow botanists and plant collectors throughout the colonies. Among them were Virginians William Byrd of Westover, Daniel Parke Custis of Williamsburg and John Clayton of Gloucester County.

For several decades, Bartram traveled widely on botanical expeditions throughout the British colonies of North America. These excursions, always on horseback and for the most part alone, took him from Canada to Florida. It is a well-documented fact that he visited Virginia on a number of occasions in the years from 1737 to 1762. Botanizing in the Shenandoah Valley seemed to have an especially strong attraction for him.

He came to the Roanoke Valley in the fall of 1762 on his way back to Pennsylvania, toward the end of a journey of several weeks and some 1,100 or 1,200 miles through South Carolina, the western part of North Carolina and a portion of Southwest Virginia. The only known surviving account of this journey has come down to us in a letter which he wrote on Nov. 9, 1762, to his son, William.

"I am now returned home," he writes, "in good health . . . I had the most prosperous journey that ever I was favored with. Everything succeeded beyond my expectation; and my guardian angel seemed to direct my steps, to discover the greatest curiosities . . . In this ride I found a wonderful variety of rare plants and shrubs."

Setting out from Charleston, South Carolina, on his return trip, he rode for about 250 miles to the Moravian settlement (where Winston-Salem, North Carolina now stands). Upon taking leave of his friends in that community he soon joined the company of "four hunters who were just going to the mines (meaning the lead mine on New River in Virginia) and to Holston's river."

Their course took them to the headwaters of the south-flowing Yadkin River and the headwaters of the north-flowing New River. Here he and his hunter companions were somewhere in the general vicinity of the present-day towns of Sparta and Mt. Airy, North Carolina.

After crossing "very high mountains," it seems that his four hunter companions left him and proceeded on their way toward the Holston River. In any event, Bartram continued his journey into Virginia in the company of a single guide until the two of them reached the lead mine in the southern part of what is now Wythe County. At the mine and along the river bank they rested themselves and their horses for an afternoon, one of the few rests in which Bartram indulged himself in his journey of many weeks' duration. The next morning, accompanied by the overseer of the mine, they crossed the New River in a boat, the stream being "about 10 yards over," and "away to Fort Chisel (Fort Chiswell)," the well-known fortification east of present Wytheville which had been erected in 1750 by the colonial authorities to protect the frontier settlements against the French and Indians.

Felix Hargrett, bibliophile and scholar, wrote this account of John Bartram's travels before moving from Roanoke to Lynchburg where he lives at the Westminster-Canterbury Home.

After riding in a northeasterly direction for what must have been some 30 or 40 miles, the travelers were ferried across the New River, now the main stream, "where it was three hundred yards broad."

Of the next part of his journey, Bartram wrote to his son: "Set out early, and by noon my guide parted with me and I set forward alone; being obliged to my guide, and very thankful to Providence, being now on the branches of Staunton (the Roanoke River) and among the inhabitants." The lone traveler had now reached the Roanoke Valley, somewhere near the present City of Roanoke.

There were no well-established, smooth roads in the sparsely settled, remote region which Bartram had just traversed to reach the Roanoke Valley, and we can be sure that he found nothing of the sort here. The valley and its surrounding mountains were still largely a rough, uncharted wilderness in which travel was difficult and dangerous.

It was Bartram's custom to comment, though uncomplainingly, in his journal and letters on the hardships he suffered and the perils he encountered in the wilds, while describing carefully plants, shrubs, grasses, trees and other interesting features of the land through which he was passing. We know for a certainty that he followed this custom in his journey in the fall of 1762 through the Carolinas and Southwestern Virginia, and presumably in his passage through the Roanoke Valley.

These descriptions have not come down to us. Nevertheless, of the difficulties of the journey we may gain a fair understanding from a letter he wrote some years earlier to one Alexander Catcot about his travels in other and probably similar, remote, unsettled regions of the colonial back country:

"Thee (he writes to his Quaker friend) may suppose that I am often exposed to solitary and difficult traveling, beyond our inhabitants, and often under dangerous circumstances, in passing over rivers, climbing over precipices among the rattlesnakes, and often obliged to follow the track or path of wild beasts for my guide through these desolate and gloomy thickets."

We know that John Bartram did not linger in the Roanoke Valley but continued right along his lonely journey northward through the Shenandoah Valley — his beloved Great Valley of Virginia — toward his home and garden on the west bank of Schuylkill River near the southern limits of the City of Philadelphia.

Shortly after reaching home on October 31, 1762, he wrote a letter to his London patron, Peter Collinson, containing an account of his recently completed travels in the Carolinas and Virginia, along with a map of the country through which he had toiled. The fruitful journey had produced many new botanical discoveries which he wished to share with his fellow botanists and friends abroad.

Some months later, Bartram sent a journal of these travels to Collinson. Unfortunately, the records reveal no further information about the fate of the letter, the map or the journal, all of which appear to have been lost or destroyed. There can be little doubt that these papers, could they be found, would afford not only an invaluable addition to our knowledge of large regions of the Carolinas and Virginia in their 18th-century primitive state but as well the earliest description of the Roanoke Valley by a keenly observant naturalist. Our loss is indeed a grievous one. But we may rejoice in our knowledge that so distinguished an American man of science was here in the autumn of 1762 and be grateful for that bit of the early history of the beautiful valley in which we live.

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Roanoke Fast Becoming Known For Its Hay-Rides And Picnics

(from *The Roanoke Times* of July 17, 1921)

Pittsburgh, the Smoky City; Chicago, the Windy City, and Roanoke, the Magic City, will surely be known to all the world as the City of Hay-Rides — that is if Roanoke, growing more important daily, clings to the traits that make her dear to the pleasure-seeking young folk.

Who looking so far into the future will dare to say Roanoke may not some day be famed for summertime joy-riding picnickers (sic) as widely and as justly as Nice, France's renowned City of Spring Carnivals?

Some Nearby Spots

Bent Mountain, Carvin's Cove, Glenvar, Blue Ridge Springs and a host of other ideal mountain picnic spots see scores and scores of young folk daily and nightly seeking, perhaps unthinkingly, the beauties of nature, an hour's relief from social and business thought, and above all, the freedom of spirit found nowhere so quickly as in the great, restful beauty of the mountains.

Early in June trucks freighted down with boys and girls, young men and women, begin wending their way with many a noisy shout and hollow, through the business streets of the city, thence out quiet roads that lead to well-remembered pleasure retreats. The Roanoke hay-ride season is thus heralded in.

Then as unexpectedly as cooling, darkening thunder showers come in sultry days, the



A wagon-load of young people enjoyed a ride behind a team of horses in the early 1900s. *Blue Ridge Institute photo.*



A band of Bent Mountain residents paused for a picture on and beside a wagon. Where were the horses?

city's hay-riding season comes to full bloom, blossoming with hundreds of shouting, happy, carefree, young people seeking their favorite mountain resort, truck load after truck load following unfrequented mountain roads. On until September these picnicing bands, all of them deemed hay-rides, form and reform, yielding at last before only the uncompromising advances of winter.

Nor are these hay-rides limited to any one strata of the social scheme. From factories, from shops, from offices and from the ranks of the "idle rich," participants are drafted, one and all in search of nothing more definite than a "good time."

Of course, the mountain fastness might tell many a moving tale of inspired couples who sat unwrapped to watch the moon or stars. But even so, that has little to do with hay-rides and the joys thereof, for all the world knows that youth will be youth and billing and cooing is perhaps as old as these wise old mountains that mayhaps stoically watch the hay-riders seek the goddess of pleasure in Nature haunts.

Billing and Cooing

Then, too, this billing and cooing would go on in the stifling atmosphere of the city even without the hay-ride's help. Thus, the only glory Roanoke as a hay-riding city may claim in this is, after all, only the inspiration mountain scenes of beauty lend the lagging, halting tongue of a modern Romeo whose slowness exasperates the heart of the winsome, versatile Juliet.

Furthermore, the hay-ride and the following picnic lends itself but poorly to the cupid victimized couple. There are far too many present, gripped by the rollicsome spirit of the crowd, what chance has the lone would-be spooners? They, by force of circumstances must abandon the soulful role and join in the frolic.

First, of course, there comes the work of preparing for supper. A cloth is spread, and immediately a thousand and one things, all unexpected, appear and must be done. Everyone works an hour just getting ready.

Then comes the frolic of eating. Never in the world did things taste quite so fine, no, not even on the last picnic. "We brought twice as much as anyone ever dreamed we'd eat, and just look at the basket now, absolutely empty," is the almost unvarying exclamation of picnickers.

The work of putting cloth and the few picnic utensils in baskets then begins. Someone tells a joke on someone else, and forthwith the butt of the hearty laughter feels bound to reciprocate. Another story and another hearty laugh. Comes a minute of personal pleasantries and without anyone realizing just how it has happened some particular form of fun making is in full swing, perhaps story telling.

After what seems like a minute or so someone happens to glance at a watch. With an exclamation the time is told. There is a guilty start of picnickers, much wondering about how in the world the time has gotten away, and then comes a hurried scurrying for the truck. Thus one typical picnic is done.

Between silent, dark, night-outlined mountains the journey home begins, singing, shouting, laughter and jesting abound upon trip. Perhaps this part of the outing is paramount in the minds of picnickers, because from it comes the name, hay-ride designating the entire trip.

At last in the city all gives way to shouting and so the yelling erstwhile picnickers wend their way to the dispersing point. One big hay-ride finished.

An Old Custom

Year after year has seen this form of pleasure seeking grow in vogue, greater numbers joining its pursuit just in such proportions as the city numbers increases. Not the oldest citizen can remember when Roanoke had no hay-rides.

"Why yes when I was a boy we used to go on 'em regularly," one citizen who remembers when all Roanoke people could stand in a good size living room, said recently. "It was then a regular country custom," he said priding himself a little that the city of Roanoke had retained at least one of the customs that marked the endeared Roanoke of his boyhood days.

However, sad or pleasant, the fact is that the City Roanoke's hay-rides are not the hay-rides of the Village Roanoke, nor even of the present day country town. In Roanoke of old, and in the country today, the moonlight night alone was destined to see the old two-horse wagon yanked out, the body covered with hay and the young folks piled in. Too there was no stop or picnic, the riders jogging continuously over bumpy country roads.

Too, old style hay-riding, it might be added, has become obsolete in practically all the country towns. For all small town and farm young folks prefer joy-riding in the flivver or near-flivver to the custom of the parents and grandparents. The Roanokian hay-ride, the picnic and truck trip; to and from the grounds is altogether unexploited by them, and likewise the other cities of the country.

Its local popularity of course is due to the attractiveness, natural surroundings, the ideal picnic coves and springs continuously inviting to the open country. And, as these will be, all hope, unmolested by Roanoke's growth who is to say the city in time may not become nationally known as the City of Hay-Rides?

Roanoke History in 1923

The headline in the Nov. 11, 1923 Roanoke Times read:

Pictures of Big Lick and Old Roanoke Thrill Big Audience

A subhead continued: Collection Shown by Mayor Blair J. Fishburn Leads to Plans for Permanent Historical Society — Many Citizens See Old Sights Thrown Upon Screen.

The newspaper story said:

Ancients of Big Lick, early comers to Roanoke, men and women who laid the first foundation for the city they now love and honor, turned out to the number of four or five hundred last night and packed the Chamber of Commerce assembly room to overflowing to see Mayor Blair J. Fishburn's valuable collection of stereopticon views and hear his lecture on the early history of Big Lick and Roanoke. It was difficult to seat everybody that sought admittance, but Secretary Ben Moomaw finally accommodated most of the interested ones.

Historical Society

It required nearly two hours to show the pictures and hear from old residents who told what they knew about the various scenes and incidents; and when the last view was shown and the lights turned on, at the suggestion of Dr. W. C. Campbell the meeting resolved itself into a Roanoke Historical Society. For the purpose of perpetuating the history that Mayor Fishburn had brought to light, and also to honor the memory of that almost forgotten hero of Point Pleasant and the American Revolution, Col. William Fleming, who lies in an unmarked grave just beyond the limits of the city.

Mayor Fishburn, who acted as chairman, encouraged the movement and when Dr. Campbell had concluded his remarks, entertained a motion of J. W. Hancock that an historical organization be formed, by the appointment of a committee to take charge of the matter, and do what is necessary to get the movement in tangible shape. Mayor Fishburn will announce the personnel of the committee later on.

Many Old Pictures

The first view exhibited was that of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, that stood on the site of the present Greene Memorial. This was followed by a picture of the Bell Printing Company building on the site of the present Times building; the old post office on Campbell Avenue, the Bridgewater Carriage building, the Vigilant Fire station, 1888, the Trout house on present Ponce de Leon site; the old mill at Crystal Spring; the hotel in Old Lick (Gainsboro) known as the Franklin house; view of Big Lick in 1882 from "Bunker Hill" and a view of Roanoke from the same point twenty years later; N&W yards in the early '80s; the Gambill home at the corner of Roanoke and Campbell; Rorer Hall; old N&W office building; two views of South Roanoke before any buildings were erected; Elmwood fifty years ago; fire companies, including the Vigilants Junior Hose company and Friendship Fire Company; livery stables, laying of cornerstone of first Masonic Temple and many others. The last was the fine old picture entitled "Big Lick at Sunset" taken in 1873 by A. H. D. Plecker.

During the exhibition of the pictures, remarks were made concerning the early history of Roanoke by L. E. Lookabill, M. C. Thomas, C. Markley, S. P. Figgatt and others.

Fishburn Commended

The movement to found a permanent historical society was crystallized when Dr. Campbell took the floor, who after commending the work of Mayor Fishburn in gathering the valuable data pertaining to the early history of the community, and recounting some of his own recollections of the Big Lick days, told in a brief way the story of Col. William Fleming, who is buried on the Read farm just north of the city. Dr. Campbell said it has been suggested that the remains of Col. Fleming be taken up and buried on the Municipal Square, and that a suitable memorial be erected to perpetuate the memory of one of the greatest men of Colonial and Revolutionary days. Wounded severely at Point Pleasant, he carried an Indian musket ball in his lung at the time of his death. Col. Fleming died in 1795. His plantation was known as Belmont and his residence is supposed to have occupied a commanding little knoll just across Tinker Creek from the Cloverdale Road.

J. W. Hancock followed Dr. Campbell and submitted the motion looking to the formation of a permanent historical society.

A rising vote of thanks was tendered Mayor Fishburn for his interesting collection and excellent entertainment.

(This effort to organize an historical society more than 60 years ago did not succeed. The Roanoke Valley Historical Society grew out of the observance of Roanoke's 75th anniversary in 1957.)

When Good Roads Were at a Premium Here

(The Times-Register, Salem, May 27, 1938)

Many residents of Roanoke County today speak of the past when a hard-surfaced road in this section was a miracle, and the earlier automobilists were demons of the highway, fit only to scare horses and raise great clouds of dust.

At the time when the first automobiles were chugging and snorting over the county, stopping every five miles to tinker with balky engines and patch punctured tires, Roanoke County was sliced again and again with toll gates, erected by the county for the purpose of maintaining the road systems. Toll gates were familiar pictures to many of the county residents. Many complex systems of charging had to be worked out with the advent of the automobile, and motorists had to purchase cards of different colors depending on their destination.

ROANOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Amor montium nos movet

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