

**Clayton
Griffith Creek
History**

A CLAYTON-GRIFFITH CREEK HISTORY

Edited and sponsored by
Clayton-Griffith Creek Extension Homemakers Club and Country Life
Summers County, West Virginia

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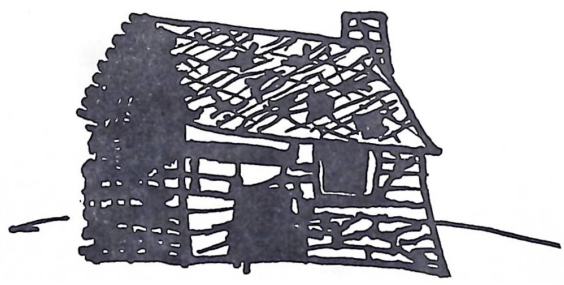
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INTRODUCTION

Interest in the past and what life was like for those who were here before us has become a growing national interest. The Congress has recognized this by passing legislation to create the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It recently recognized our neighboring community of Alderson for its work in preserving the beautiful old bridge over the Greenbrier River. Other communities all over the nation are taking similar actions, saving significant landmarks, and, equally important, recording the history of the people of previous years.

It was this concern that undoubtedly motivated the members of Country Life, an organization sponsored by the Extension Services of West Virginia, to list as one of their goals in their 1962 annual report the writing of a community history. Topics were listed and assigned to its members.

Again in 1968, this objective was listed in the records of Country Life. A little more work was done. However, it was mainly through the efforts of individuals who continued to collect information and put it down in written form that this history was completed. The most devoted of these were Evelyn Ballengee (Mrs. Kyle), who wrote most of the unsigned articles on Clayton, and Glenna Harris (Mrs. J. Arnold), who did the same for her area, Griffith Creek. Other contributors, Harry Hill, Kyle and Homer Ballengee, and Harold Harris, are credited where they have written specific articles. Leota Harris (Mrs. McDowell) has sheperded the manuscript and helped greatly with the editing. Fannie Taylor (Mrs. Elbert E.) and many whom we cannot name, have provided interesting and important information. Others, particularly the members of the Homemakers Extension Club, have done much to help put it in the final form. Mrs. Bare, our Extension Agent for Summers County, has provided much technical advice, and, most important, encouragement to carry through. Our special thanks to Nancy Vallandingham and Nancy Martin for typing the manuscript from much worked-over copy. Kimberly Stewart had fun one evening drawing cuts for us--we are grateful.

It is our hope that these pages will add to the appreciation of this beautiful area and the people who lived there.

Jackie May
Member of the Extension
Homemaker's Club
August 14, 1978

EARLY SETTLERS

THOMAS GRIFFITH

The first settler in this community, and for whom the community was named, was a man by the name of Griffith, who came here with his family and settled at the mouth of Griffith Creek near the Greenbrier River, on the land that now belongs to Maud Broyles. Thomas Griffith and his son, Paul, had cleared some land and built a log cabin. Wild game was abundant; fish was plentiful in the river, so the family was very happy. Thomas and Paul, especially, were very fond of hunting.

But tragedy came to this family early one spring morning at the peep of day in the year 1780 when Thomas Griffith stepped outside his door, and a single shot fired from a gun of a small band of marauding Indians, who lay in ambush, rang out on the still quiet morning air and snapped the life of this poor innocent man.

The Indians broke from their concealed positions to take the scalp of the fallen Griffith, but his wife, in order to prevent their taking his scalp, with the help of a broom handle, turned over a bee hive. The Indians, being frightened by the swarming bees, did not get the scalp or do any harm to Mrs. Griffith. They did capture the son, Paul, and took a westerly course up the waters of Griffith Creek to a trail across Keeney's Knob on their way to the Ohio River.

Along the way, they tied Paul in a pine thicket and left two Indians to guard him. Meanwhile, a posse of white settlers in the Greenbrier Valley gathered together and started in pursuit of the Indians. They trailed them across Keeney's Knob where they came to the boy and the two Indian guards. The two Indians were shot and Paul was returned safely to his mother.

Griffith was buried on the hill back from the log cabin now owned by Miss Velva Kincaid. He was buried between two cedars sixteen feet apart. In 1916 the cedars were cut down, and only stumps marked the spot for many years. According to W. W. Stevens, writing in 1950, "Four young white oaks stand guard."

References:

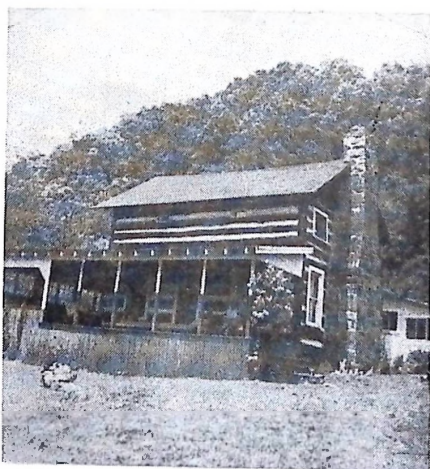
History by C. H. Graham

Clippings written by Lester Lively and Noah E. Flint

ENOS ELLIS

In the early nineteenth century a man by the name of Enos Ellis settled on this same land where Mr. Griffith had settled at the mouth of Griffith Creek. Mr. Ellis was very fond of hunting and trapping and chose the land whereon he settled in preference to the more valuable land on the opposite side of the river that he might be near the mountains with free access to hunt the wild game that was so plentiful. Ellis was a firm believer that Keeney's Knob was underlaid with beds and mines of valuable ore and mineral. Tradition tells us that somewhere and in some place unknown to any human being save himself, this old hunter went back into the unknown somewhere and dug from its original bed all the lead needed for the bullets of his famous hunting rifle. The knowledge of this lead mine died with the passing of this grand old hunter.

The late Noah E. Flint, great grandson of Enos Ellis, wrote that the log house on this farm, known as the Enos Ellis place and later the Reynolds place and now owned by Mrs. Maud Broyles, is still standing in a fine state of preservation, was built by Enos Ellis in the early nineteenth century.



Enos Ellis house

This Ellis house has a very large chimney built of native stone. It is an example of very fine workmanship. It has been reported and told time and again that this chimney was under construction for over seven years. On one occasion Ellis remarked that if he had known it would take so long he would never have undertaken the work. The contractor then replied that if he had known that he (Ellis) was in such a hurry he never would have started it.

The Broyles family use the Ellis home as a summer camp, and it is closed during the winter months.

Another pioneer citizen, C. A. (Tish) Flint, settled and built a log house approximately a mile on up the creek from the Ellis home, that is still in very good preservation. It belongs at this time to Roy and Lottie Berkley and is used for a summer camp.

Tish Flint married Elizabeth Ellis, daughter of Enos Ellis, of whom we have already written.

George Flint was a son of Tish and Elizabeth. He was a life-long resident of Griffith Creek, a prosperous farmer and timberman. George was the father of Noah, who married Ida Burdette. Wayne married Ocie Taylor and they had two daughters, Mary and Bersie.

Enos Flint, who married Sallie Withrow, was another son of Tish, and also a prosperous farmer and life long resident.

George and Enos had a sister, Miriam, who married Enos Reynolds and later owned the Enos Ellis place. They had the following children: Frank, John, Tom and Betty.

Other settlers moved into the community and settled on both sides of the creek. Some went on top of hills, building and rearing families; others settled up little hollows until houses were built all the way to the foot of Keeney's Knob Mountain. Some names connected with the early settlers were Dempsey, Still, Smithson, Kirby, Nowlan, Burdette, Thomas, Lacy, Ayers, McGraws and Knapp.

THE GRAHAM FAMILY

The Joseph Graham family was the first to settle permanently at Clayton, Summers County. His nativity was Cow Pasture near Staunton, Virginia, in 1766. His schooling was in Staunton, which included astronomy as one of his subjects.

His age was 35 or 36 when he married his cousin, Rebecca Graham, daughter of Col. James Graham, of Lowell, West Virginia. They resided a short time in Bath County, Virginia, then moved to the east side of Greenbrier River at Riffe's Bottom. From the river Joseph Graham moved into his newly

constructed log house (two story) in 1813 near Keeney's Knob. Said house, at a much later date, became the Clayton Post Office.

There were nine children born to Joseph and Rebecca Graham. Florence married John Nolan; Lanty married Sabine Ellis; John married Mary Crews; Jane remained unmarried; James married Rebecca Vass; Elizabeth married Archey Ballengee; Ann remained unmarried; David married Sarah Alderson, and Rebecca married John R. Ballengee.

The school these children attended, in most part, was at home. Their father, Joseph, was their instructor.

Joseph Graham died December 8, 1858, at the age of 91 years.

John, the second son of Joseph Graham became an outstanding civil engineer. With the help of J. Hugh Ellis (the father-in-law of his brother, Lanty) John constructed the first surveyor's compass which he used. He was a master mathematician.

At the close of the Civil War, the county court of Monroe County authorized John Graham to select two men to assist him in surveying and measuring off the district lines of the county. John selected two of his nephews, David Ballengee and Ulysses Graham, to measure and keep tally of the distance of each line. Summers County had not been formed.

The survey was begun in the autumn of 1865 at Greenbrier County line at the headwaters of the west prong of Hungarts Creek. Said starting point was later known as the North (upper) side of George Ballengee's farm on Keeney's Knob.

Uncle John thrust the Jacob staff firmly in ground - placed his hand-made compass and recorded in his field book the exact degree to a certain tree. The young men measured the distance between curves. Thus the full distance of Hungarts Creek was measured and the exact degree of all curves was recorded from source to mouth at Greenbrier River near Talcott. From the river the line continued straight to a stated point joining Forest Hill District. Thus all dividing lines between were surveyed as instructed by the court.

It was a pleasure trip to walk through the forest and farm land of Monroe County. Old friends were greeted and many new acquaintances were discovered. Apple picking, cane molasses making and seeding wheat in fields was observed.

Children were fascinated to see three strangers measuring distance from fence to fence. One house was on the line. The front man greeted the housewife. "Lady, we are surveying this District line. May we go through this house?"

"Yes, sir," and opened the door. The children thrilled to hear the chain rattle on the floor.

John Graham walked around the house and explained, "Your children may attend school and your husband vote in either district as they choose."

Another incident happened while working near Greenville. The land owner approached the surveyors and inquired as to their work. David Ballengee, wanting to be a little smart, informed him they were "confiscating." The other young man laughed heartily at the joke and confirmed Dave's statement.

Taking the joke in stride, the landowner (we think was Baldwin Ballard) talked with John Graham at length and proceeded on his way.

When evening came, as was their custom, they approached a nearby house to get lodging for the night. Ballengee and Graham were much surprised to see the man who had been the object of the joke, appear in the doorway. When asked by John Graham if he could put them up for the night, he replied, "I can take you but not those two young bucks." Dave spoke up and said "We'd like to confiscate a little of your buttermilk and cornbread, if you don't mind." Needless to say they were taken in and treated royally.

In the valley of Peters Mountain, there were three districts, which extended to the top of the mountain to the Virginia line. Two division lines were to be traced and marked. The chain was two rods long. The court order was "Survey and map all lines." For accurate measurement on steep hills John Graham required the boys to fold the chain to one rod length. Working up grade the rear chain man elevated the chain to a level position plumb over the stake and said "Stick." The front man stuck the peg at the end of the chain, which he held on the ground. The reason for this procedure was to be able to plot the land as if it were level. All field notes must be accurate as to distance and degree (to one-half degree).

The last line surveyed began near the mouth of Hans Creek, checking degree and exact distance of each meander of that historic stream to its mouth at Indian Creek and on to New River. The eleven hardwood pegs which were sharpened on Keeney's Knob, where the survey began many days before, had served their usefulness and were discarded by throwing them in the New River. These pegs were counted every 20 rods and more often on uneven area.

Their field work now completed and no horse or vehicular conveyance available, the three men walked to their home near the south side of Keeney's Knob. Their ages were John Graham, 56 years, David Ballengee, 20 years, and Ulysses Graham, 17 years.

The surveyor had a supply of large sheets of paper on which to map all the interior district lines of Monroe County as of the date 1865. Each short straight of a creek (as 18 rods, S 70 degrees) was mapped in its place, as well as 287 rods, 50 degrees W.

The paper was spread on the dining table of Rebecca Graham's house where John painstakingly completed his work and soon thereafter saddled his horse, rode to Union, and filed his report to the county court.

John Graham married at 60 years to Mary J. Crews.

The two chain carriers married sisters: David Ballengee married Delphia Flint, and Ulysses Graham married Sarah Flint, daughters of Jeremiah and Lucinda Flint.

All of the men lived to a great age. John Graham died at 84 years. All these men are buried in the cemetery at Clayton. This cemetery ground was surveyed by Joseph Graham and deeded to the following board of trustees: Henry Still, John Ballengee and David Graham. The Clayton Cemetery contains bodies of many of the descendants of the Joseph Graham family. Sarah Graham, wife of Ulysses, lived to the greatest age of 98 years. Their daughter, Mrs. Zora Burdette, continues to live at the age of 96 years.* She resides in Charleston, West Virginia. She recently told us that on one occasion, while visiting her grandmother, Rebecca, she and an older girl, who was staying at the house, were sent to a nearby field to get yellow barberry to make a tea for her grandmother.

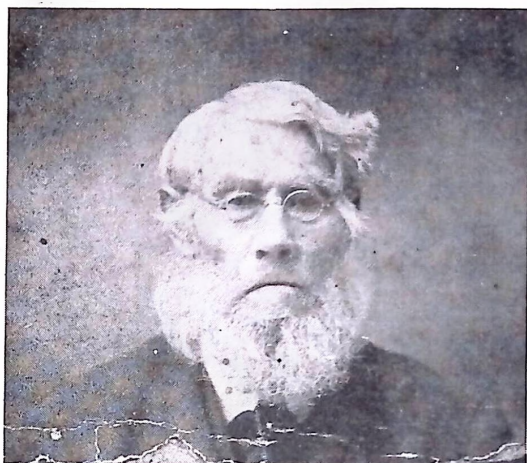
O. C. Carter, son of Mary Ballengee Carter Honaker, now 90 years of age, resides at Peterstown.

David Graham, the youngest son of Joseph and Rebecca Graham, lived to the age of 93 years.

To clarify the ownership of the D. G. Ballengee farm at Clayton, the following is copied from the Summers County History:

"The father of Rebecca was Col. James Graham of Lowell settlement, and this land of 330 acres at Clayton was patented by her father in 1786 and by him given to his daughter."

It has been in the family 180 years.



David Graham, born Jan. 1 1821



Children of David and Sarah Alderson Graham.
John, Charlie, Sidney, James Allen and Luther

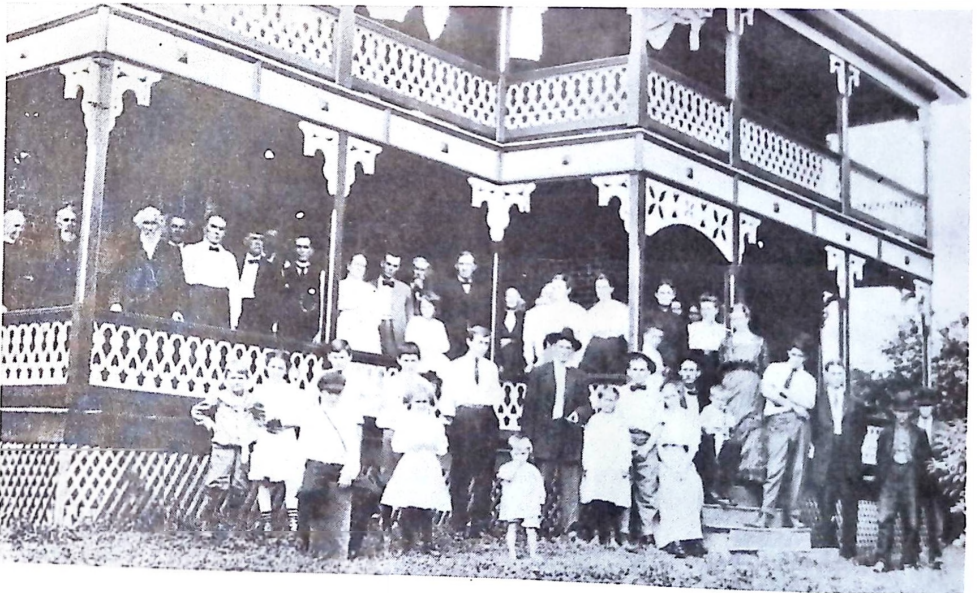
There is a path plainly visible on a plot of pasture land, which is known as the "Nowlan Path". The said path was used by both Lanty Graham, the oldest son, and David, the youngest son, and their families oldest sister, Florence Nowlan, who lived on the bank of the west fork of Hungarts Creek.

It is thought that the surveying party spent the first night at the Nowlan home. There was a public road through the Nowlan place to the Greenbrier River at the mouth of the creek at a village called Rollinsburg.

Ulysses Graham was 87 when he died and David Ballengee was 94. These two men, accompanied by Minor Ballengee and his son, Rondeau, made a train trip to California in November, 1920.

Homer Ballengee - 1966

*Zora Burdette lived to be 101 years.



David Graham's house. Burned Nov, 19, 1919

TRAILS AND ROADS

Buffalo Trail

The first county road constructed into and through our community was built by mutual agreement of Greenbrier and Monroe Counties. Greenbrier County agreed to build the road from the top of Keeney's Mountain to Meadow Bridge and Monroe County was to intersect the Blue Sulphur Turnpike from Johnson's Cross Roads at the head of Wolf Creek in Monroe County leading past what is now Creamery Post Office, thence on by way of Haynes' Ferry (now Riffe's Crossing) and passing Buffalo Lick (now Pence Springs), thence up Cobbler's Knob leading through the Hill Place; thence through the David Graham farm, which he later sold to Will Wallace. It then passed the Joseph Graham place (where the Clayton Post Office was later established) continuing up and over Keeney's Knob to Lick Creek and down the same to Green Sulphur Springs, a distance of more than twenty miles. This road followed the trail, which the buffalo had made from Pence Springs to Green Sulphur Springs.

This road was not built from the proceeds of any bond issue but by volunteer labor contributed by those living along and near the road. David Graham, a lad of 13, carried water and meals to men working on this road, which was estimated to have been built approximately in the years of 1832 or 1833. While this road was built almost regardless of grade, it filled the purpose in that day and time.

Many immigrants and travelers passed over this road going westward. It was customary for those traveling by wagon to secure the services of an extra team of horses to help pull up the mountain and usually received this assistance from the family of Joseph Graham. A mail route was early established over this road having Union as the starting point and ending at Gauley Bridge, a distance of some eighty miles. Part of this road is still in use and the print of it is quite clearly seen in various places. Later in the years 1882 or '83, it seemed advisable to change or straighten the portion of the road leading from the old Joseph Graham place (later the Clayton Post Office) past the David Graham place on past what is now the Carmel Kirby place, and on up the mountain. Previous to this time there had been a crook in the road and by mutual consent, David Graham and David G. Ballengee, who owned the land, decided to straighten it. David Graham did the surveying. The degree was changed at what is now Kyle Ballengee's lower gate and went on up to the upper gate through a cut in the bank from which David Graham had gotten clay to make brick to build his brick house.

The previous road or Buffalo Trail had gone through what is now Ira Woods' field on through Herbert Canterberry's yard and Leota Harris's yard through the spot where the power line pole now stands on George Utterback's place (formerly M. M. Ballengee's and then Eugene Jones') and on to the Sheppard place (now Mrs. A. L. Ballengee's) thence up a ridge above the A. L. (Lee) Ballengee place on across the mountain.

A Branch of Buffalo Trail

Before the original Clayton-Griffith Creek road was built the only outlet to Griffith's Creek from this community was a branch of the Buffalo Trail.

The trail crossed Buggy Branch at the original Hill place (now known as the Blake or Persinger place), thence down the trail approximately three hundred feet, then through by the Sally Fink farm, thence behind the Blevins house just outside the yard above the spring, following the foot of the hill and thence through the marshes on up back of Elmer Graham's barn following the line between Perry Utterback and Carmel Kirby, turning to the left and coming out at Luther Eggleston's.

Those who wanted to go to Griffith Creek had to travel the Buffalo Trail to near the Jim Graham (Blevins) place, thence on this branch of the Buffalo Trail to the top of the mountain.

More on the Buffalo Trail

Egypt (Creamery) was located on what was then known as the Blue Sulphur Turnpike. This turnpike followed the old Indian trail across Keeney's Knob, and was built jointly by the Greenbrier and Monroe Counties. The early roads were the old buffalo and Indian Trails and were used by the early settlers to come into this country. After the settlers came in and towns were established, a need was felt for better roads. Bond issues were not floated and taxes were not raised to build these roads but the able bodied settlers were required to perform a certain amount of free labor until the road was completed. An improved road leading from Union to the west was needed so the road off from Union by the way of the Knob by Johnson's Crossroads, by Egypt and across Kenup Knobs was built. This road served Blue Sulphur Springs, which was then one of the important watering places of the East. The road continued on and joined up with the James River and Kanawha Turnpike.

No doubt there was a considerable amount of travel on the turnpike for we find that William Hinchman, who lived at Egypt, was in 1847 granted a license by the county court of Monroe County to keep a house of private entertainment. This was an Inn where the travelers could rest and refresh themselves.

When the C & O Railway was built in 1872, a branch of the old Green Sulphur Turnpike was extended to Lowell. It was over this road that much of the traffic of central Monroe traveled. Lumber, staves and crossties were the principal items hauled.

Hog Ridge Road

There was before the Civil War a path over Keeney's Knob leading from Lick Creek to Alderson, known as the Hog Road, by which the hog drovers from Kentucky took a near cut directly across the mountain driving the hogs from Kentucky to the eastern market. They would drive them from the Kanawha over the Sewell Mountain to War Ridge, over the ridge to the Little Meadows, thence up Lick Creek over Keeney's Knob through the Earl Berkley farm, whose original owners were first the Rookstools, then the Bakers, and then the George Ballengees, thence through the John Harvey Ballengee farm through a corner of the Hambrick farm, thence to the right of the Hambrick School House, crossed the O. K. Lapham farm down the ridge above the George Ballengee's heir's camp, on down past the Eades place (Snyder), down Griffith Creek past Arnold Harris's home, thence to Alderson's Ferry; thence up Greenbrier River and across the Allegheny Mountains to Jackson's River; thence down the same to Buckhannon and the James River to the head of canal navigation.

Evidence of this old road remains to this day, and a number are still living who have ridden over a portion of this road, some of whom are Cales from Laurel Creek, Dicks from Lick Creek, George Ballengee's and Evelyn and Kyle Ballengee.

Taken from Miller's History and first hand knowledge.

The Hungart's Creek Road

Because Rollinsburg (Talcott) was a community in the early history of our community and also a Graham community, it was thought necessary to construct a road to Rollinsburg (Talcott) and thus unite the two communities.

The road began at the old Clayton Post Office, went down in front of the church and over the hill by J. B. Fink's on down into the forks of the branch following the upper branch of Hungart's Creek a short distance, thence over a ridge passing the farm of the late Will Dotson (formerly Hedrick), then crossing over another low ridge into the west valley of Hungart's Creek and crossing that stream at the home of Johnny and Florence Nolan, then directly across the foothills of the mountains down into Hungart's Creek crossing said stream at what was known as Barberry Ford, thence on to Rollinsburg as the road now is.

The Nolans were the garndparents of the late Mac Nolan of Pence Springs. They were in the lumber business on Hungart's Creek and became quite prosperous. When they moved from Hungart's Creek they bought what is now known as the Tolley farm from her father.

Mrs. Tom Allen of our community was the last one to live in the Nolan house on Hungart's Creek, and I, Evelyn Ballengee, walked over this road and spent a night with Mrs. Allen in the old Nolan house.

The Griffith Creek Road

The Griffith Creek road that leads past Arnold Harris's home on up the creek past the Griffith Creek church, thence by the O'Dell's, the Bowyers and the Jim Alderson places on to the foot of the mountain to the Henry Still place (now known as the Don Thomas place) was constructed by Henry Still and his sons before the Civil War. They built it on a splendid grade and a most practical location, and it has not been changed to this day.

As far as we know the Stills were the first settlers on the head of Griffith Creek. They took up the land by Squatter's Rights and it was a very productive fertile farm with a southern exposure. This farm received, and still does, more showers than any other farm on the south side of Keeney's Knob Mountain; therefore, it is well watered.

The Henry Stills were progressive and industrious people and the women were especially good cooks and they were hospitable people who had lots of company. During the Civil

War, Newman Feamster, an accomplished horseback rider, became a cavalry man. On one occasion when he was on a long march one of his comrades rode up beside him and asked him how he would like to eat dinner at the Henry Stills today. Since he was probably hungry it almost floored him for all who had eaten there knew how wonderful the food was.

As has been stated the Stills were industrious and progressive people in the material sense, but they were also Christian people. They were members of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, a distance of likely six miles by horseback, buggy or wagon. They had three horses for travelling and farm use. Tommy Flint, the oldest son of Jeremiah Flint, married one of Henry Still's daughters, Eliza.

One time H. C. Ballengee and G. T. Ballengee made a detour when the road was being built on the river around the cliff. They went by wagon from Arnold Harris's up by the Ann Burdette house on to the Andy Eggleston place, thence on a short distance and turned right over a certain ridge, then crossed a little hollow up by the Anan Kincaid house keeping to the left, down by Porter Boyd's and out to Eagle Branch.

(This is based on stories told by H. C. Balleng from first hand knowledge.)

The Original Road from Clayton to Griffith Creek

The print of the original road leading from the old Clayton Post Office can still be seen. It extends below the fence on Ira Wood's farm, thence to the Community Building gate, thence on and dips down at the Blevins' gate, on through Elmer Graham's yard and garden on down the mountain to the right of the Brownstone Quarry and crosses the road at the Housby place, thence down the hill past the old schoolhouse where Ernest Morgan once lived, and came out below where the bridge below the Griffith Creek Church now is, and continued on by Arnold Harris's and crossed the creek on this side of Arthur Dodd's, (this was known as the Lacy Ford), above where the bridge is now. The original road was between the Creek and where the Neely cottages now are. It went under where Neely's Store now stands on to the ferry boat across the Greenbrier.

In the year 1875, or approximately so, the court appointed Jeremiah Flint, Ballard Meadows, and George Boyd to report as to the advisability of constructing a wagon road, beginning near the Ellis house (now Everett Broyles) and extending up the river, around the cliff to Falling Branch (now up the road by Everette Broyles' house on over the hill by

Enos Flint's place, and came out near Falling Branch. This road around the cliff cut off quite a distance. The committee brought a favorable report and the day was set for someone to take bids for the construction of said road. A certain fellow bid too low. The other committee members held a caucus with John Johnson and asked him to underbid the previous bid and they would give him more than he bid. This was done and John Johnson built the road.

The portion of the road from the Housby place down by Arnold Harris' place continued for many years, but it was so steep and rough it was difficult to take a wagon over. The brakes would hardly hold. So the people of this section wished it changed to its present location above the Arnold Harris house. There was opposition by the people of upper Griffith Creek. They didn't want it changed and influenced Mr. McGraw, who then owned Mr. Harris's place, to not give the people of Clayton a right of way through his land. One day D. G. Ballengee went to see Mr. McGraw concerning this matter and after visiting a while he noticed that Mr. McGraw's clock had stopped. He commented on it and Mr. McGraw said he didn't have the money to fix it whereon Mr. Ballengee took out his pocket book and gave him the money to have it fixed. He soon stated his business and offered to pay Mr. McGraw for the right of way. Mr. McGraw agreed to grant the right of way and the road was built from the Housby place on to the foot of the mountain on its present grade above Arnold Harris's. The date was approximately 1890 when this piece of road was built. It was built by the cribbing method which was to brace the lower sides with logs. D. G. Ballengee, C. H. Graham, Clay Graham, and many others helped on this road. Porter Boyd likely supervised it.

The Clayton road on the grade it now is to the Housby place was built in 1919. It had been surveyed three years before by G. T. Ballengee, the county surveyor, and a resident of this community. It was built by D. G. Ballengee and T. C. Graham for a sum of \$850.

Previous to this J. S. Graham and his son, Elmer Graham, constructed the piece of road on the present grade from Blevins' gate to the corner of their garden. They received a certain amount of money and the strip of land below the road for their work thereby making the road the line. The road was made by a turn plow and a scraper made by Mr. Graham who was a blacksmith. A team of horses was used to plough a while then the scraper was used until a twelve foot road was completed. The date of this portion of the road is not exactly known, but Elmer Graham who is now in 1968, seventy four years old was just old enough to drive the team but not old enough to handle the plow.

This road was notorious for mud. When route #3 was being built from Shelby Neely's at the mouth of Griffith Creek the detour was through Clayton and the mud was so deep on the "mash" road that Nathan Smith, Mr. Shannon Graham's son-in-law, kept his horses harnessed day and night to pull the stalled cars out of the mud at five dollars a car as told by Mr. Graham. Some years later rock was hauled from A. Lee Ballengee's place and beat in this road. After quite an interval in the year 1952 the present road from Griffith Creek to the old Clayton Post Office was hard surfaced.

During the early period three commissioners from each district were appointed by the county court to supervise road work. A certain man would be given perhaps \$15.00 to keep up 2 or 3 miles of road then at an appointed time the commissioner came and inspected the work done and paid them if the work was satisfactory. Mr. Shannon Graham usually kept up the road near his home. Mr. T. C. Graham had a section from the Post Office to Tempa bench, D. G. Ballengee to the top of Keeney's Mountain that is a part of the old Buffalo Trail.

Roads were bidden in by individuals by the mile and they kept them up to help pay their taxes.

The Original Pence Springs Road

The original Pence Springs road started at the Joseph Graham place (old Clayton Post Office) and went to the right of Hungart's Creek on down below where the Clayton Church now stands on past the J. B. Fink farm long before J. B. Fink lived there, thence on and branched off at the old Nolan Road (Hungart's Creek Road) at the junction of two streams one of which flowed from a farm which is in our day known as the Ray Hamm farm and the other flowed from the Rhodes farm. The said road followed a stiff grade down to a point on the Hungart's Creek where the road forded the same stream three times in order to lessen the cost of building the road. The road then went just above Mary Bowden's log house (now Mr. Hypes) and crossed the creek between Mrs. Bowden and Henry Sexton thence on by the Bush School House on to the top of Fisher Hill thence on and turned down the hollow below the John Allen house on the side of a home that has been built recently thence on down to the present route #3.

Kyle Ballengee when very young walked over this road with his father who was making a preliminary survey of the road to see on what percent grade the road could be put on down this hollow. Kyle's father said it was too steep.

The road became necessary when settlers and sawmills increased, so the early settlers built this wagon road. Kyle's father, G. T. Ballengee, told him that Mr. Dave Ballengee, the Grahams and the early settlers traveled this road with cross ties and tan bark to load on the train at Pence Springs. G. T. Ballengee said his father told him that the road down the hollow below John Allens was so steep the wagon could hardly be held with brakes.

The print of the road can still be seen down that hollow or branch yet it is grown up and no longer traveled, probably impassable.

The Present Road to Pence Springs

The portion of the Pence Springs Road now in use, extending to Fisher Hill was built by G. H. and T. C. Graham in the year of 1917. It was started April 25, 1917 and was finished Sept. 20, 1917. This road was rocked by the W. P. A. in the late thirties and a great deal of the rock

was taken from the farm owned by Edgar Fink.

The road was surveyed by G. T. Ballengee assisted by Kyle Ballengee.

The road was built by man and hand machinery such as drills and dynamite for rock. Axes, pitchforks, shovels, grindstones, crosscut saws, horses, and scrapers and a one-horse stump puller which belonged to G. T. Ballengee and is now in the possession of Kyle Ballengee. Kyle Ballengee and Charlie Ballengee and Ote Phillips operated this stump puller which proved very effective. It was while working on this road with the puller that they turned out an immense pine stump and found a black copperhead which is very rare. Its existence was soon ended.

Most of the men who worked on this road are as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A. T. Lilly | 13. James Graham | 25. George T. Ballengee |
| 2. Ralph Walthall | 14. M. A. Persinger | 26. Kyle L. Ballengee |
| 3. Howard Roach | 15. W. S. Phillips | 27. Charlie Ballengee |
| 4. Burl Fink | 16. Jack Meadows | 28. Vannis Morgan |
| 5. Frank Mann | 17. H. C. Ballengee | 29. Frank Ballengee |
| 6. Earl Bowden | 18. L. H. Mann | 30. J. H. Harris *3 |
| 7. Gory Bowden | 19. D. G. Ballengee | 31. A. M. Stanley |
| 8. Leonard Miller | 20. A. S. Graham | 32. Willie Allen |
| 9. Leo Utterback | 21. Andy Rhodes | 33. Stan Bowden |
| 10. Peter Grimmett | 22. Orr Graham | 34. Lute Mann |
| 11. C. J. Williams | 23. Aubrey Mann | 35. Lee Ballengee |
| 12. N. E. Fink *1 | 24. O. P. Utterback *2 | 36. Paul Harris *4 |
| | | 37. John Wallace |

One thing of interest was that the men drew a considerable amount of their wages which were \$1.75 per ten hour day, from the C. H. Graham Commissary, which was in the outhouse** still standing on the Kyle Ballengee farm. The main articles they bought were coffee, 15¢ per pound, rice, 10¢ per pound, flour, 72¢ per bag. They also bought a great deal of tobacco at 10¢ and 15¢ per plug, dried peaches, sugar, and lamp oil to burn in lamps.

The following tools were left on hand after the road was built - 1 scraper, hammers, shovels, 2 mattocks, 2 pieces of steel, nails, rope, 2 axes, plow stock, grindstone, and 1 bucket.

The cost of the road, including tools and lumber, was \$2,215.40.

The history of this road was taken from C. (Charlie) H. Graham's Day Book in which he kept a complete record concerning the road.

- *1. Leota Harris' father
- 2. Evelyn Ballengee's father
- 3. Glenna Harris's father-in-law
- 4. Glenna Harris's brother-in-law

** outbuilding!

N. E. Fink tells that when the road was rocked in the 30's he gave permission to Dick Pence, who was then a member of the county court, to get rock from his farm, but later he found that the rock was being hauled to Monroe Co. instead of being used on the Pence Springs road, and also the men were burning his rails so he asked them to leave.

The portion of this road which connects this part of the road at Fisher Hill and continues on an up grade above John Allens and on into Pence Springs was built many years before the year of 1917 when the present road to Fisher Hill was built. The year is not known. The county court appointed a committee of three, namely Elkanah Bush, William Haynes, and one other whose name has been forgotten to establish a suitable location on the best grade down to the river bottom. Mr. Haynes and the other member of the committee wished to leave the road as it was down the hollow but Mr. Bush contended against this and refused to sign the paper therefore the road was put on the grade it now is.

Fisher Hill got its name from a family of Fishers who lived on this side near its base.

The Tempa Road

Many may think that the road from here to the top of the mountain or to Tempa as it is now called has been here from the beginning or soon after the Grahams first settled in the Clayton community, but such is not the case. The first road to the tip of the mountain started at the Graham settlement at Lowell, extended up Hungart's Creek through the section behind Talcott on by the Nolan place on Hungart's Creek, across the creek valley thence up the mountain by the Doc Miller place (now the Cox place) and came out at the Glenn Wickline home and extended on up the mountain near Perry Boone's driveway, and continued on. This continuing portion was called the Dog Trot with which many are familiar. This road up the mountain by way of Hungart's Creek was a broad wagon road and was extensively used from the top of the mountain over this road to Pence Springs. Tom Berkley who taught school at the Bush School House and 3 schools on Hungart's Creek moved to the farm (which is still in the Berkley family) over this road.

The road as it is now from Clayton to Tempa was built by the people of the Clayton community with horses, by hand and with hand tools in the year of 1890 or 1892. Previous to this David Graham had surveyed the road and it had been built as far as the Joe Graham place (now the Ray Mann's). Due to the growth of the oil production in the state there became a great demand for barrel staves. Since there was a great deal of white oak timber on the mountain owned by Charlie Graham he decided to make a road and get out timber for staves. He himself surveyed the road and it has been changed very little from the original survey. M. M. Ballengee, then a lad of ten or eleven, worked on this road since most of the road was through the forest he raked leaves ahead of the men to make it easier for the men to dig out the bed. G. T. Ballengee ran errands and carried food and water to the men of the community who were building the road.

The road was rocked by the W.P.A. in the late thirties. It was hard surfaced from the mouth of Griffith Creek to the Tempa school house during Governor Underwoods administration at the cost of \$90,000. It was resurfaced in 1968 at the cost of \$61,000. The rock used came from D. G. Ballengee's. Ballengee hauled the first load of staves over this road to Pence Springs in the late eighteen hundreds.

The former road through Hungart's Creek to the top of the mountain was virtually the same road that Clayton, after who our community was named, traveled when he went to the Gills who lived on Hungart's Creek near the Nolan place for help.

The W.P.A. rocked the road for \$3.20 per day wages.

The Fire Tower Road

It is five miles from Alderson to Keeney's Knob as the crow flies. By the present road up Griffith Creek and through the Clayton community it is about 14 miles. It would have been simpler to build a road from the vicinity of Alderson, up the face of the bluff and it would have been no more than 6 miles in length. A hard surfaced road, rock-based by the W.P.A. winds up the mountain above Clayton and for some distance one travels away from the Knob towards Judson. High on the slope near the old Tempa school house the road forks and the Keeney's Mountain route swings back sharply toward the high peak following the old logging railroad grade in part which L. E. Mankin built in 1910 to Keeney's Mountain.

For a distance of about 6 miles the dirt road moves through the forest land of poplar, oak and hickory groves. It is unlike any other mountain road in West Virginia. Nowhere does it wind or weave or coil in and out of hollows. Nowhere is it very steep. There is not a deep ravine along the whole of the mountain.

The C.C.C. boys built the road to Keeney's Knob in the late thirties. They drove from White Sulphur where there was a camp on the outskirts of town. The West Virginia University has since bought that camp and is using it to train Forest Rangers.

Henry Smith, a CCC boy, and a member of this community, helped build this road to the Fire Tower. He was killed in Sicily during World War II. A train hit a jeep in which he was riding and killed him. His body was brought back for burial in the Clayton Cemetery. Russell Carter from Pence Springs also worked on the road. Benjie Bowden, another young man of our community, was accidentally killed in a CCC camp.

Mr. Holly and Mr. George Eggleston supervised the building of this road.

THE CHURCHES

During the pioneer days in 1777, a Baptist by the name of Rev. John Alderson made his way to the Greenbrier Valley. On November 24, 1781, he organized the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson with only twelve members. He remained Pastor of this church for forty years. Soon he helped to organize three other churches; Indian Creek, Big Level at Lewisburg, the Kanawha at Pratt.

It is interesting to note that in one of the write-ups by Lester Lively found in the "History of Early Churches", that Thomas Griffith, first settler on Griffith Creek and for whom Griffith Creek was named and the last white man to be killed by the Indians in this vicinity, was one of the first to be baptized by Rev. John Alderson when he began his ministry in the Greenbrier Valley.

The Griffith Creek Baptist Church

In the year 1868, a one room school building was built on Griffith Creek for the purpose of serving the families of Clayton and Griffith Creek communities. This building was located a little below the present Griffith Creek Church in the upper end of the Harris field and the land is now owned by Arnold Ryan.

Records show that on November 22, 1885 a religious service was held in this school building. After the sermon preached by the Elder M. Ellison, the Rev. G. W. Wesley baptized eight persons.

After the baptizing, the congregation returned to the school house and a council was called to consider the question of organizing a church. Elder M. Ellison was called as moderator and Lee Meadows as clerk pro tem. All persons wishing to go into the organization were requested to turn in their names. Thirty-six names were handed into the clerk.

The Clayton Community was included in the first organization. A number of people in the Griffith Creek area were members of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson who felt the need of a church in their own community. Therefore, they obtained letters to unite with the Griffith Creek organization. Some of the Clayton residents belonged to the Hope Baptist Church, an organization which met in the Bush School House, located between Pence Springs and Clayton. When this church was abandoned, the Clayton members came to the Griffith Creek organization.

In February 1886 the organization met in the School Building, and after a sermon by the Reverend G. W. Wesley, the meeting was called to order and officially organized the Griffith Creek Baptist Church. Lee Meadows was elected clerk & William M. Ayers, treasurer, Samuel R. Thompson and T. George Flint were ordained as deacons of the church. G. W. Wesley was called to be the first Pastor of Griffith Creek Baptist Church.

A church lot containing 112 poles, a cemetery lot containing 131 poles



Clayton Church



Griffith Creek
Church

and a road leading from the church to the graveyard was deeded (by J. T. Dempsey) and this deed is on record in the Summers County clerk's Office.

At the October business meeting, 1886, after a sermon by the pastor, a motion was made by Jacob Hall to take up the question of building a church on the ground that had been deeded for that purpose. The motion passed and a committee consisting of the deacons, trustees, and five other members were appointed to collect money for a new church building.

By the end of the year, the committee reported that \$11.16 had been promised in work and \$114.50 had been collected in cash. (It was decided to get ready to put up the new building.)

The next few years were difficult for the church organization. The business meetings were taken up mostly with members bringing charges against other members for "walking disorderly".* The members accused would sometimes confess and repent. Then they would be forgiven and restored to full fellowship of the church. Others were excluded from the church. At times an individual would feel guilty on his own and ask that his name be taken from the membership. Then a committee would be appointed to talk to this certain member to try to bring back reconciliation. Some members would get offended and ask for letters to unite with other churches. At one meeting, a motion was made and passed, that two brothers, _____ and _____, would acknowledge that if they had done anything to offend each other they were to apologize for it and ask to be forgiven. After this acknowledgement was made, Brother _____ and _____ agreed never to talk about each other again, and also required the church to handle them if they should break their resolution. After they had given each other their hands, a prayer was offered by the moderator.

It was very difficult to raise money for the building and even to pay the pastor. (Different methods were used, taking subscriptions, members were sometimes assessed, and at times reading the names of those that paid.)

By 1891 the Church-Building seemed to have been under construction.

A motion was made in June 1894 not to dedicate the Church until it was completed, however it seems that the members were having services in the new church building, as Mr. Robert L. Harris was elected church sexton for one year. Then later, Mr. Frank Reynolds was appointed sexton. He was to be paid fifty cents per month and J. L. Alderson, \$6.00 per year.

What a disappointment and let down feeling it must have been, when the church building burned in the latter part of (probably December) 1901. Reverend McCormick called the meeting to order. A motion was made by M. M. Ballangee to rebuild a new church house, and the motion was carried. The size of the house was to be 40' x 28' x 12' high and to be rebuilt on the old site.

*"Walking disorderly" was a term used to designate such unacceptable behavior as card playing, dancing, drunkenness, etc.

A building committee was appointed - namely - T. P. Housby, J. H. Harris, T. G. Flint, J. L. Alderson and A. O. Still. A finance committee was also appointed - namely - E. F. Reynolds, O. C. Carter and D. F. Thomas.

At this time some division arose between the people of Clayton and the people of Griffith Creek due to the location of the building.

The new building was soon under construction and by 1903 or 1904 services were again held in the church building, although it was far from being completed. The people of Clayton kept their membership at Griffith Creek; however, Sunday School and sometimes preaching services were held in the Clayton School building. Plans were being made to construct a church building in Clayton Community.

At this time several of the Clayton members asked for letters from the Griffith Creek Church in order to organize a church at Clayton. These letters were granted and the following appointed as delegates - namely - T. P. Housby, E. F. Reynolds, J. T. Dempsey, J. L. Alderson, T. G. Flint, Mrs. Rebecca Eades, Mrs. Bessie Lacy and Mrs. Thriza O'Dell to meet with the Clayton members for the purpose of organizing the Clayton Baptist Church. W. B. Miller was called to be the first pastor, to preach on the two Sundays he was not at Griffith Creek.

We have often heard Mr. Homer Ballengee refer to Griffith Creek Church as Clayton's Mother Church. We are happy to say that the two churches have always worked together in love and harmony.

From: Griffith Creek Baptist Church
by Glenna Lacy Harris

The Clayton Baptist Church

The origin of the Clayton Baptist Church dates to the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church which John Alderson organized on Nov. 24, 1781. It seems that Alderson reached out into the sections adjacent to Alderson to get the 12 members who made up the charter roster of the church on the banks of the Greenbrier River.

Four of the the charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Wood, their daughter, and their son, James Wood. At what is now Clayton the Wood family lived. Their log cabin stood on what had long been known as the Andrew Honaker farm. It stood only "a whoop and a holler" from where the Clayton Baptist Church stands today.

Baptists at Clayton used to worship in a log chapel known as the Graham Meeting House. It was erected on a part of some land given by Joseph Graham to be used as a burial ground. The cemetery was deeded to three trustees, Henry Still, John R. Ballengee, and David Graham.

The area long had been the stomping grounds of the Graham family which settled at Clayton in 1813. They were the first permanent settlers there.

In 1882 the Graham Meeting House, which had been the place of worship for all the Christian people of the community, was destroyed by fire.

Gradually the population of Clayton began to increase. To meet the educational needs of the children the Bush School was built. It stood between Clayton and Pence Springs. In the building was organized the Baptist church that was a forerunner of the Clayton Baptist Church. It was served by such ministers as T. H. Fitzgerald, T. C. Kirtner, W. F. Hank, and C. S. Kincaid and was called the Hope Baptist Church.

By 1895 the Hope Baptist Church had ceased to exist and the remaining members who lived in the Clayton community transferred their membership to the Griffith Creek Baptist Church. The work there was kept alive by the efforts of such ministers as G. W. Parker, W. H. Harper, and J. B. Chambers. In 1901, the church was lost in a fire.

About the time the Griffith Creek congregation decided to build a new church there arose a division between the people of Griffith Creek and Clayton. But in spite of their differences the new church was erected at Griffith Creek.

In 1902 the Clayton crowd called a community meeting with a view to building a Baptist church at Clayton. The moderator of the meeting was C. H. Graham. The clerk was O. C. Carter. Money was pledged and the work on the building was started.

Henry and Luther Kirby had charge of the stone work. Shingles for the roof were rived by James Harris, George Hill and M. M. Ballengee. C. H. Graham sawed and dressed the lumber. Carpenter work was supervised by Samuel Bare, along with help from Rufus Lilly and M. M. Ballengee.

Herbert Dolin did the plastering job with the help of Lee Ballengee. Painting was done by M. M. Ballengee. When money for the project ran out the work was suspended until 1907. On Aug. 8, 1908, the Clayton members met to form the Clayton Baptist Church. There were 37 charter members, 11 of them Ballengees.

Work on the building was renewed and the job completed. On Sept. 26, 1909, the church was dedicated, debt free. The dedication was an all day affair--the biggest day Clayton had ever witnessed. Dinner was served to a large crowd. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. B. McDaniel, pastor of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church.

Written by:Homer Ballengee

The Pastors

We recognize the pastors of the Clayton Baptist Church who faithfully proclaimed God's way of salvation to lost souls. Their service being rendered under adverse circumstances. Traveling from home to the churches in rural areas wasn't smooth or easy. The distance sometimes took several

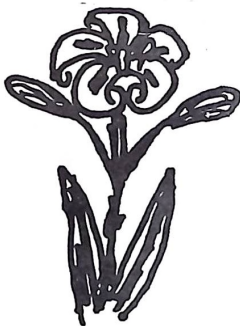
hours by foot or horseback. And they must endure the winter cold and snow - summer heat and rainstorms as well as other unexpected hardships. In face of hardships they were faithful to their calling, having a deep and abiding conviction of the truth.

The pastors and years of service:

1909-1910	Rev. Will Miller (W.B.)
1910-1912	Rev. David G. Richmond
1912-1913	Rev. E. E. McClung
1913-1915	Rev. Sam Brown
1915-1920	Rev. E. E. McClung
1921-1926	Rev. Henry Willon
1926-1928	Rev. William Hicks
1928-1931	Rev. J. B. Chambers
1932-1933	Rev. J. Lacy Basham
1934-1938	Rev. J. B. Chambers
1938-1946	Rev. G. W. Kessler
1946-1953	Rev. D. C. Craft

Charter Members of Clayton Baptist Church:

M. M. Ballengee, Mrs. M. M. Ballengee, C. C. Hedrick, J. T. Allen, Mrs. J. T. Allen, Will Allen, J. A. Fink, Mrs. J. A. Fink, Ollie Utterback, Mrs. Ollie Utterback, C. H. Graham, F. R. Graham, Mrs. J. T. Drumheller, May Wallace, Ella Ballengee, Sarah Ballengee, Dora Ballengee, Emma Ballengee, Etta Ballengee, Homer Ballengee, J. H. Harris, Mrs. J. H. Harris, Ora Harris, Cary C. Harris, Mary J. Bowden, Mary Honaker, Alice Fink, J. F. Allen, Mrs. J. F. Allen, Grace L. Ballengee, George T. Ballengee, Mrs. George T. Ballengee, Rosa Graham, L. I. Morgan, Mrs. L. I. Morgan, Hallie Wallace.



SCHOOLS

Prior to the year 1856, schools were taught on Griffith Creek in different houses, for in that day there were scarcely any school buildings and school was taught wherever an empty house could be procured or even in an empty room in a dwelling. These schools were called subscription schools, that is, each parent signed an article of agreement binding himself to send so many children to school for a certain period usually three months and to pay the teacher a certain sum for each scholar per month. The teacher was known as the "School Master", and he bound himself to teach spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic as far as the single rule of three and to keep good order. Two such teachers according to the C. H. Graham History were Mr. William Dempsey and Mr. W. H. Lacy, grandfather of Glenna Harris.

The first building erected in this community was built in 1868, five years after West Virginia became a state. According to records this building cost \$444 and served as a schoolhouse and a church. It was located just southeast of the iron bridge on land now owned by Arnold Ryan.

The first teacher who taught in this building was Professor J. G. Dunsmore, who later founded the Dunsmore Business and Commercial College in Staunton, Virginia. A later teacher was Mr. Luther Graham, who liked to tell of having in his school eleven boys each having the name of John.

This first building served the Griffith Creek and Clayton people for 16 years until 1884 when a building was erected in the Clayton community.

Sometime in the latter part of the 19th century, two school buildings were erected on Griffith Creek, one on the George Flint Farm, now the Arthur Dodd farm, was called the "Flint School". Farther up the creek another school was called the Camp Rock School. In these schools many of the older residents of the community received their early education.

Some of the teachers of the Flint School were Ras Sims, Miss Alice Allen, Miss Ocie Taylor, G. M. Nelson, Clarence Akers, C. H. Martin, Mrs. E. E. McClung, Miss Hattie Huffman and Mrs. Jennie Housby.

Some of the Camp Rock School teachers were Will Nelson, Mrs. Willa Leftritch Nowlan, Mrs. Senna Harrah Burns, Miss Rindy Swepson, Miss Florence Clarence Akers, Miss Eva Pyles, Miss Pluma Smith, Kyle Woods, Mrs. Maud Ballengee Broyles, Mrs. Lattie Allen Moody, Mrs. Annie Martin Taylor.

In 1919 these two schools were consolidated and a new two room school was built by the late Elbert E. Taylor called the Griffith Creek School. Another change took place at this time. Instead of three trustees from the community placing or hiring the teachers, a district board of education took over hiring the teachers. Mr. J. H. Harris of Clayton was secretary of the Board. This is the Talcott District. The last trustees were J. L. Alderson, William Bostick and C. M. Lacy.



Camp Rock School, teacher, Will Nelson. First row: Tom Knapp, Emmet Staton, Albert Knapp, Florence Staton, Ida Burdette, John (Bub) Alderson.

Staton, Brother Harris, Irene Harris, --Staton, Oscar Burdette, Daisy Alderson. 2nd row: Lud Watson, Bert Thompson, John Burdette. Jess Still.

Jennie Knapp, Ettie Kirby, Bess Burdette, Mintie Still, Bessie Still, Emma Knapp, Blanche Burdette, Susie Harris, Effie Alderson.



Clayton School (1920-21) Front row: Fred Duncan, David Honaker, Douglas Fink, Oakland Eggleston, Delford Walthall, Homer Fink, Denver Ballengee, Rino Graham, Anita Wickline, Oma Wallace, Carmen Mann, Nellie Mann, Jewel Ballengee, Dorothy Sheppard, Daisy Aliff, Lottie Bowden, Lola Wickline, Orpha Bowden, ---, Annie Honaker, ---, Jessie Ballengee, Lizzie Wallace,

Mamie Bowden, Rebecca Duncan, Mabel Gum, Forest Wickline, ---, Ewart Graham, William Vass, teacher. Back row: Glenna Harris, teacher, Harry Eggleston, ---, ---, Arthur Honaker, Kyle Duncan, ---, Lacy Wickline, Merle Canterberry, Ida Wickline, Lula Bowden, Florence Wallace, Jake Massie, Beryl Ballengee.



Griffith Creek School (1920-21) Front row: Clara Hamrick, Carmel Eggleston, Thelma Boyd, ---, Marjorie Kincaid, Herman Boyd, Leta Lacy, Paul Thomas, Jesse Carter, Clyde Rogers, Donald Thomas, Frank Honaker, Charles Lewis, Lynn Wenger. 2nd row: Anna Rogers, Gladys Kincaid, ---, Edna Knapp, Geo-

rgia Thomas, Archie Knapp, Emory Knapp, Frank Bostick. Back row: Clara Vass, teacher, Clyde Snyder, Marvin Lacy, Marshall Carter, Lucille Carter, Lenna Rogers, Nellie Wenger, Bertha Wenger, Cleo Lewis, ---, ---, Arlene Miller, teacher.



Old Clayton School, teacher, Luther
Graham. Back row: Joseph R. Hill,
Lee Hill, John Hill, George Hill,
---, Davis Ballengee, ---, 2nd row:
Laura Graham Harris, ---, John Bal-

lengée, Clifford Hill, ---, 3rd
row: ---, Ella Ballengee, Virginia
Graham Morgan, ---, ---, ---, Minor
Ballengee, ---, Front: ---, ---.



Row I: Okland Bowden, Frank Mann, Harry Hill, Burl Fink, George Hill, John Wallace, Joe Hill, Clowney Fink, Paul Harris, Corbitt Miller.
 Row II: Leo Utterback, Clarence Gentry, Gory Bowden, Gene Bowden, Embry Wheeler, Oliver Wheeler, Hobart Fink, Ralph Walthall.
 Row III: Elmer Graham, Leonard Miller, Laura Gentry, Maude Ballengee, Mable Wheeler, Earl Bowden, Ada Walton, Garland Bowden, Eva Wallace.
 Row IV: Evelyn Utterback, Rose Wallace, Lillie Miller, Winnie Blake, Walter Honaker, Mae Wallace, Alma Wallace, Georgia Harris, Trilby Allen, Charlie Mann (Teacher).

An incident happened October, 1924, at the Griffith Creek School that will never be forgotten by the boys and girls attending school on this day. Mr. Omer Houchins, principal, and his wife, Erie, primary teacher, drove to school this beautiful October morning as usual, but soon after entering the building Mr. Houchins became very ill. His wife and some of the older children helped him to the porch where he would receive more air, but to no avail, in a few minutes he departed this life with a heart attack.

In 1943 the decreased enrollment made it necessary to place all the children into one room with one teacher bearing the heavy load of all grades, one through eight, and continued as such until the year 1961.

It was as a primary teacher in this two-room building that Mrs. Glenna Harris, and also the school's last teacher, began her career. In 1961, after 42 years, this school was closed due to the small enrollment, and the pupils were transported to other nearby schools. The closing of the school left the community without a school of its own for the first time in 93 years.

Teachers who have taught in this building, including Mrs. Harris, its first and last teacher were C.A. Kincaid, Miss Arlena Miller, Mrs. Clara Vass, Mrs. Dorothy Gwinn Kesler, Harvey Parker, Mrs. Oma Lacy Boyd, Paul Harris, Mrs. Erie Houchins Keifer, Omer Houchins, Miss Nina Longanacre, Mrs. Evelyn Utterback Ballengee, Ross Henderson, Mrs. Brookie Henderson, Charlie Nelson, Miss Danese Haynes, Mrs. Jessie Harris, Mrs. Carrie Honaker Graham, Miss Aura Stevens, Elmo Shires, Mrs. Venna Reed Fisher, Mrs. Lelia Baker, Miss Clara Hill, Orville Grimmatt, Mrs. Elva Miller, Miss Girlie Gwinn, Mrs. Agnes Leach, Marvin Lacy, Mrs. Evelyn Chatten Duncan, Mrs. Ann Hedrick Allen, Elsworth Hedrick, Mrs. Nell Wallace Miller, Billy Purdue, Elmo Smith and Mrs. Ethel Via.

References: History of Communities by C. H. Graham
From memory - Glenna Lacy Harris

Clayton Schools

The first school shared a building with the first church. It was a large and roomy structure built of hewn logs on the site of the present church. The first school was taught by Mr. Peter Rookstool about the year 1856. Prior to that time there were schools taught on Griffith Creek in different houses, for in that day there were scarcely any school buildings and school was taught wherever an empty house could be procured. Also to the south east near what is now Valley Heights, there were one or more schools being taught, one of these schools was being taught by a lady by the name of Betsy Ann Brooks.

One school was taught in the year 1857 in the basement of the old log house on the farm now owned by W. P. Aliff. This school was taught by David Graham, the writer's father.

In the old log church in the years 1858-59 and 60, there were three

schools, taught by Mr. Anderson Wheeler. Wheeler while limited in his educational facilities was a good teacher.

The schools in those days were known as subscription schools. (see description under Griffith Creek Schools.)

In those primeval days order was the first consideration, and filling the minds of the scholars with useful knowledge was a second consideration. The close of this last named school brought us up to the outbreak of the Civil War, when all schools or hope of schools for the long period of four years had to be abandoned.

When the black smoke of battle had drifted away and the white winged dove of peace again spread her sails over the land and the minds of the people of our community became centered on peace instead of war, then we soon learned to forget the difference that separated us during those never-to-be-forgotten four years and all again joined hands and hearts in the upbuilding of our wrecked community. One of the first steps in this direction was the establishing of a school in the fall of 1865. This was a subscription school, taught by David Graham in an upstairs room of the old home of Joseph Graham, the settler, then occupied by his widow and two bachelor sons, John and James. The old log church was in a state of bad repair and could not then be used for school purposes. This brought us up to the present free system of schools of our state, a system of education then entirely new and untried by our people.

While the new state of West Virginia was established in 1863 and as every one knows was stricken off the old mother state of Virginia, but for the reason that the whole country was then in a state of war, the southern counties of the new state were controlled by the old state until the declaration of peace while the northern counties were operated as part of the new state from its organization. Thus the process of the southern counties relinquishing their ties from the mother state, and adopting themselves to the new order of things, under the laws of a new state was slow and tedious, and it was not till the fall of 1866 that school officers were elected to try out the new system of education.

The first Board of Education of Wolf Creek district was composed of John Miller, W. Dempsey and David Graham, the two last named belonging to our community, and as there were no local funds on hand and the time of the year for laying levies was past there was little hope of starting schools that year. Under the school law, it was, however, discovered that by certain compliances therewith the state furnished a certain fund to help defray the school expenses, consequently a hasty application was made and sufficient funds guaranteed to justify a short term of school. Why other schools were not established at the same time in the same way we do not recall, but probably from the fact that teachers and vacant houses were scarce and the season too far spent. We give the circumstances of the first school as we remember them and they may be subject to some correction, but at any rate we know that this school was about one year in advance of any other free school within our knowledge.

The second free school in our community was taught the following year by J. W. Graham in an old log house, the former home of Peter Eades. The second free school building erected in this community was built in 1868 on Griffith Creek at a cost of \$444. and is still standing in a fair state of preservation, though not now used for school purposes. The first teacher was Professor J. G. Dunsmore, who has since made his name famous by establishing and maintaining Dunsmore Business and Commercial College in Staunton, Virginia.

The first school as well as several subsequent schools taught in this house were attended by people living two and one half to three miles on either side. The children of Clayton neighborhood attended the school for about sixteen years, when in 1884 a school building was erected on the opposite side of the Creek from the post office. After a period of about ten years the location was changed and another house built on the hill on the site of the present school building. This single room school has grown now to a three room graded school, not with any consolidation with other schools but from the natural increase of the population of our school district. We have had many very earnest and influential teachers in these schools, among who we might mention O. C. Carter, Joseph Zickafoose, S.E. Sims, Mr. Sayrem E. M. Nelson, and others as well as our present trio of teachers, consisting of Professor Geo. Hill, Principal, Glenna Lacy and Evelyn Utterback, assistants, who are second to none in the district, all being energetic, and having the work assigned them well in hand, laboring not for the dollars and cents alone but for the good of all, the school and the upbuilding of our community in general. All these are native teachers and graduates of high school.

From: HISTORY OF CLAYTON COMMUNITY by C. H. Graham

Teachers of the Clayton Schools

The first school of the Kirby Mountain section of Clayton was taught in a log house on the Thomas Canterbury farm. It was located several yards above the present home. William Dempsey taught the first term, David Graham, Bessie Dunbar and Rass Simms taught the last term in 1895.

Other teachers of the Clayton School were:

Robert Barker	Thomas Berkley (Bush School)
Delta Farren	Charlie Graham
James Farren	Luther Graham
Emma Huffman	Charlie Woodrum
Charles Hedrick (2 terms 1905-7)	George Hill, Sr. assisted by Luther Graham
Joe Zickafoose	? Hambrick
Emma Ingles	Linda Lilly

Ote Carter was the first to teach in the building now used as the Community Building. He taught for two terms. Others were:

Homer Ballengee 1899-1900	Ash Lively
Sue Hedrick	Maggie Burns

Grace Hedrick
Nellie Nelson

Ada Burdette Graham (1912-13)

Teachers after 1914-15:

Charles E. Mann
Daisy Hanger Ballengee
Otis Sayre
John R. Ball
Genette Hedrick
Winnie Blake
Z. H. Calvin Ballard
Woodsie Thomson (2 terms)
Della Scott Callahan
Burl Fink
William Vass
Glenna Lacy Harris (6 terms)
Charles M. Nelson (2 terms)
George W. Hill
Evelyn Utterback Ballengee (4 terms)
Paul Harris
Jessie Snead Harris
Oma Lacy Boyd (13 terms)

Ross H. Henderson
Brookie H. Henderson
Carrie Honaker Graham (2 terms)
Gladys Dodd Coiner
Ray Sydenstricker
Lester Fink
Clara Hill (2 terms)
Beryl Ballengee Jones (3 terms)
Marvin Lacy (3 terms)
McDowell Harris (3 terms)
Florence Flint (3 terms)
Hallie Meadows (2 terms)
George Utterback (2 terms)
Bessie Mann
Lena Kessler Pittino
Mary Jane Honaker Lilly (4 terms)
Lelia Baker (3 terms)
Dale Jones

Mrs. Thompson closed the last term for Mrs. Baker. The school was permanently closed in 1963.

The School and Sunday School on Keeney's Knob

In the late 1800's Charlie Graham furnished the lumber and D. G. Ballengee hauled it up the mountain and a school house was built near the house of Hamrick's that is now known as the Ball house. This school was attended for quite a number of years and there was quite a good sized enrollment. Dr. Earl Berkley, Hobart Ballengee, George Ballengee, Jr., Kyle Ballengee, Maud Broyles, and many others attended this school. Two of the teachers were John Ball and George Ballard, and there were others whose names have been forgotten.

A Sunday school was organized at the Keeney's Knob school house, April 26, 1900. M. M. Ballengee acted as moderator and Owen Thomas was elected superintendent and T. B. Hambrick as assistant supt. and G. T. Ballengee as secretary and treasurer. Nora Ballengee (Knapp) was the teacher of class number one and the ones enrolled were as follows:

Teacher-

Nora Ballengee (Knapp)
T. B. Hambrick
J. M. Rookstool
Brice Jeffries
George Ballengee
Owen Thomas

Belle Ballengee
John Roach
T. B. Berkley
Rosa Berkley
E. Berkley
O. G. Foster

Edd Hambrick
Cora Hambrick
Maggie Berkley
Philip Stanton
Frank Ballengee
David Kayles

Jackson Meadows
T. J. Knapp
A. J. Kincaid

Nora Hambrick
Pearl Berkley

Albert Knapp
Emma Knapp

Class no. 2
Belle Ballengee, teacher
May Stanton
Pearl Stanton
Kyle Ballengee
Dewey Ballengee
Mark Bowden

Class no. 3
Lilly Ballengee (Berkley) teacher
Charlie Ballengee
Annie Ballengee
Ida Hambrick (Cox)
Lafe Hambrick

This record of the S. S. was kept by G. T. Ballengee. All the activities have ceased on Keeney's Mt. and it is no longer inhabited. It is comparable to a ghost town.

County's First Ph. D Holder

This is a record of one Earl Berkley who got his elementary education at the Hambrick, one room school, on Keeney's Mountain.

Dr. Earl Berkley, who a year ago returned to his native state, after concluding an outstanding career as a textile industry research scientist, is now operating a 1700 acre cattle ranch in Greenbrier and Summers counties.

Berkley, who left this area in the spring of 1927 graduated from Alderson High School and Junior College, earned his Bachelors degree at W. Va. University where he collaborated with Dr. Earl Core, now head of the Biology Dept. there, in publishing a manual on the states grasses and did his graduate work at Washington University in St. Louis.

Here he began studies on the growth of cotton that led to a career that made him a world's authority on cotton. However, it was a scholarship in wood technology that was the basis of his doctorate, this dissertation opened the field of textile technology to him.

Berkley, who said he had been on every continent except Australia, told Kawanians that this is easily one of the most beautiful spots in the world. This area of West Virginia, he said, is one of the great grass growing areas in the world with more and richer blue grass than Ky. grasses, he said, it is probably one of the greatest assets the state has and with the rolling terrain largely unsuitable for commercial row crops. The area is well suited to grazing livestock.

A second great asset he mentioned is timber profitable on those sections too steep for grass or grazing purposes.

Recreation is a natural side line for ranching he said with the governor offering loans to establish recreation facilities to persons with established ranching enterprises.

Berkley's father was a pioneer school teacher and settler of Keeney's Knob, Summers county. He moved into this area by horse and wagon.

Taken mostly from the Hinton Daily, April 16, 1968

Personalities of Keeney's Knob School

Since a record of Earl Berkley, who attended the Hambrick school has been given, we would like to mention others who have achieved exceptional success who attended this school. Maud Ballengee Broyles who became a school teacher and is still active in the business world.

Lula Ball became a successful teacher.

Dewey Ballengee became very successful in the business world. He was supervisor of the delivery department of the Valley Belle Milk Co. in Charleston for many years, until his recent retirement. It was at his suggestion that the Valley Belle plant in Beckley was established and to prove the wisdom of the suggestion, it sold a million dollars of milk the first year.

Hobart Ballengee became a school teacher but left the teaching profession and went into the business world. He retired from the Appalachian Electric Company in 1961 after 38 years of service. He is a very successful businessman of Charleston.

There are others, Roy Berkley, Hillard Ball and others but lack of knowledge of their careers prevents us from saying more. Kyle Ballengee also attended this school.

Oris Berkley who became a teacher ranked high as a teacher in Kanawha Co. and was so esteemed he was asked by the Board of Education to be a supervisor of schools.

Another teacher in addition to John Ball and George Ballard (of which we have recently learned) of the little school on Keeney's Mt. was Florence Smith, the sister of Dr. Smith the druggist in Alderson. She was 18 years of age and she boarded at Thornton Hambricks. She died 2 years ago at the home of Dr. Smith in Alderson at the age of 87 years. She probably taught the Hambrick school in the year of 1899. She also taught school at the Flint School on Griffith Creek, and the first children of T. P. Housby went to school to her.

WAYS OF LIFE

Springs

Springs play an important part in the settlement of most communities. This was especially true of the early settlers of the Clayton Community where almost all settled near good springs of water, many of which have continued to flow until this day.

It was necessary to build near springs because wells were dug by hand with crude tools, often many feet deep, thus to settle by a spring was a great advantage.

The first settler in our community, Martin McGuire, a squatter who perhaps settled in this area to hunt in the dense forest, built a log cabin on an ever-flowing stream at the head of a hollow on what was later the Charlie Graham place, now Mrs. Kyle Ballengee's. This spring never lost its flow during the great drought of the thirties, and was a watering place for the cattle during that dry period.

There are two permanent springs on this farm in which large gum logs were inserted, and for this reason they were called gum springs. Each of these springs have an interesting history. The spring under the famous hickory tree was once used to run a stave mill which was situated near the spring. The family who lived in a house where Mrs. Leota Harris's house now stands got water from this spring. The other spring furnished water for the David Graham family and was located near his home which was a two story log house nearby. One day David Graham's daughter, Sidney fell in this spring and came very near drowning, but after rolling her on a barrel, she revived and lived to old age. At the Graham reunion in Clayton in 1977 her son gave a donation in her memory. Mrs. Kyle Ballengee now pumps the water from the spring into her house.

In sight of the hickory gum spring is another which was used for many years by residents of a sawmill shanty, one of which was George E. Ballengee. The land formerly belonged to M. M. Ballengee but now belongs to George Utterback. One time some eighty years ago Kyle and Dewey Ballengee were playing near the spring and Dewey fell in. Kyle, being the oldest, ran toward the house screaming "Dewey fell in the spring." His father pulled him out just in time to save his life. George Utterback recently put an electric pump into this spring after he had built a log cabin near where the sawmill was located.

Back of the hill where Leo Utterback now lives there are three or four springs, one of which M. M. Ballengee likely got his water when he lived behind the hill.

One half mile up the road from the cottage and spring of George Utterback is the Utterback place to which we moved from Fayette in 1905 and found there a two story log house and a spring bubbling up out of the center of a square rock which had been cut out of a sandstone by the former tenant, John Harvey Ballengee. This spring is as productive as ever

and is used now for watering cattle. We, the Utterbacks, got our from there for all uses and the writer often washed clothes there warm weather.

A short distance from this farm on the right of the road is the farm belonging to the G. T. Ballengee heirs. There is a permanent spring up the creek from their house which was piped into the house soon after it was built.

The first permanent settler, Joseph Graham, settled near a spring in a log house. It was just below where the old Post Office now stands.

There is a fine spring up the hollow from the old J. H. Harris farm, now Arley Richmond's. Martin Wheeler who lived on top of the hill above the spring pulled water with a rope and pulley, thus avoiding having to carry water up this steep hill. However, the empty buckets had to be placed to catch the water.

When Rebecca Graham and Andy Honaker were married the neighbors built them a log cabin near a spring on further up the hollow from where the Richmonds now live. Later John Mann had the house moved down near the road and had a well drilled.

On the right as one goes in there is a spring between the old Andy Honaker house, now Lilly Smith's, and the road. There was a deer lick nearby and once Joe Graham, Lanty's son, being a very quiet man, killed a deer there with a knife.

Ira Woods spring is perhaps the one remembered by most, if still living, for it was from this spring some eighty years or more that water was carried for the school. Each pupil vied for the chance to carry water and thus be freed of the drudgery of school. Often there were fights and other interesting occurrences took place here. Two pupils usually went for water and sometimes three. Ira Wood later cemented this spring and piped it into his house. It has never run dry and quantities of water are continually used from it.

The A. L. Ballengee place, formerly the Sheppard place joining the George Utterback farm, has a spring near the creek behind the woodhouse. Mrs. A. L. Ballengee often did her washing there.

There was a spring in a hollow a short distance from J. B. Fink's and three or four on the Edgar Fink farm. One was behind the house which was built for temporary use until they built a better home. There was also one near his blacksmith shop and the Still spring where the road leaves the blacktop to go to Roy Walthall's. Edgar Fink named it the Still spring because a still used in the making of moonshine whiskey was found there during Prohibition.

There were two springs on the Joe Fink farm, one just across a little

stream below the house and another behind the woodhouse which the present owners have piped into the house and it affords plenty of water.

There were two springs on the hill opposite Elmer Grahams house, but they are no longer there.

The Walthall place had two springs near their house which are still in use at the present time.

A short distance north from the Walthall farm was a special cold spring bubbling out of a solid rock which had been cut out. Over this was built a milk house which was a prize in those days for it kept milk and butter so cool and perfect. This spring belonged to Delia Duncan and was called the Delia Duncan spring.

On Mrs. Gonzalez' farm now known as the Aliff place, there are two springs, one just above the house and one behind the old log house built in pioneer times and in which one of our first schools were taught, an early subscription school. The Aliffs got water from this spring while they lived there after the house burned.

The Joe Graham spring is just under the brink of the road not far above the John Mann place, now the Richmond place. Joe Graham lived below the road from John Mann's in a log house and used water from this spring for many years. It is no longer in use.

The Old Windmill

When we think of a windmill we may think of wind power in the middle west or even of Don Quixote, but in this case the windmill is of an entirely different sort. The wind did not run the mill. The mill was run by hand and the wind was generated by the mill.

In the early days there were no threshing machines for wheat, oats or buckwheat. My father knew how to make a flail for beating the grain from the straw and the chaff. This flail was made from a hickory pole about 8 feet long. About two feet from one end a place was beaten and twisted to make it flexible. The unthreshed sheaves were spread out on the barn floor and the flailer would beat out the grain. He would swing the pole and the dangling part would come down with a thud. I have seen my father thresh buckwheat in this way. After threshing, the straw would be lifted leaving the grain and chaff. He has told me many times of threshing large crops of wheat in this way.

After the threshing the problem was to separate the grain from the chaff and the windmill was used for the separation. The windmill had a fan similar to those found in a more modern thresh box. There was a hopper on top with a sloped bottom. The hopper had only three sides, the lower side being open. This open side allowed the unseparated grain and chaff to fall on a set of sieves which were rigidly attached to the hopper frame and the whole mechanism was mounted on a pivot so that it could be rotated back and forth through a small angle. Hand power was applied by means of

a crank to the fan shaft, and to this shaft was mounted a shaking arrangement attached to the sieves and the hopper. When the fan was rotated the hopper and sieves shook permitting the grain and the chaff to fall through. The chaff was blown away as the grain fell into a collecting box down below.

The windmill my father possessed once belonged to James Graham who lived on the place now owned by Charlie Blevins. My father used the old mill only to clean buckwheat which was not ready for threshing when the wheat, oats, and barley were. I still remember the clack-clacking noise the mill made when being operated.

The old mill took trips away from home for many folks came in to borrow it for cleaning buckwheat. After long disuse the old mill was removed to a shop now owned by Elliott Smith. Repairs on it were never made and it was finally thrown out. Pieces of its remains can still be seen in the yard outside this shop building. These pieces call back memories.

Buckwheat Cakes

Memories of the old mill are associated with the old fashioned buckwheat cakes. Buckwheat flour mixes may be purchased from grocery stores now but the flavor and the texture of the cakes do not match those of former days when the batter was kept in a jar in the chimney corner. The cakes were skillet size and sausage gravy, hunks of butter and thick cane molasses made a good breakfast for a working man.

The First Threshing Machines

After the days of the flail and the wind mill came the horse powered threshing machine. My memory can only recall one occasion when the machine owned by Thornton Hambrick moved in to thresh a stack of wheat for my father. I don't remember the date but I do remember that the machine was a rather small affair which did not have a straw carrier. I don't remember how many horses went round and round to generate the power. I remember the man standing on the central platform urging the horses on and in my mind I still hear the sound of the transmission cogs. I also remember that something went wrong and many horses and men remained with us for an extended period.

Then came the steam powered thresher with either a six or eight horse power steam engine, and the old horse powers were no more. Threshing times became gala times for neighborhood get-togethers. There was a regular crew of men who went with the machine from place to place. Then there were two other classes from the neighborhood, the helpers, and the oldsters and the youngsters who came for the satisfaction of curiosity, the associations, and the good meals always prepared for the threshers.

I remember the great pile of wood that had to be hauled up for the steam boiler, and there had to be a handy place for the water hauler. There was always a water wagon loaded with barrels. I remember the clanging of the funnel as the wagon was driven along.

Then of course the tractors put the steam power out of business, but now these don't move around since the de-emphasis of the family farm and so few fields of wheat. The small farms are not the self-subsisting institutions they once were.

Cane Molasses

Another occupation has gone out with the years. In former times there were cane patches on almost every little farm. Three products were realized from the cane, the heads made excellent chicken feed, the blades tied into nice bundles were fed to the animals, especially the sheep, and the stalks furnished the juice for making the molasses.

The early cane mills were two roller affairs. These rollers fitted upright into a heavy wood frame. One shaft extended up high enough for the attachment of a heavy balanced beam and a horse was hitched to one end. The horse went round and round as the stalks were fed in between the rollers which pressed out the juice which was caught in a vessel below.

A furnace had to be constructed to hold the evaporating pan. The heat from the furnace served a double purpose, one was evaporation and the other was to bring the green skimmings to the top. When the skimmings started to form attendants stood around with skimmers to dip it off. These skimmers were often made of tin bucket lids punched full of holes and fitted with a long handle. When the green skimmings ceased to form, the brown skimmings came attracting the attention of the youngsters, who enjoyed dipping some off with small wooden paddles. The paddles were licked and put back for more. Samples were dipped out for observation of the proper consistency and when attained, the plug was moved and the syrup flowed into containing jars usually of the stone variety and another run was started.

Later the three roller mills were used and improved evaporators on iron furnaces facilitated the boiling off. These evaporators were sectioned in such a way that the juice could go in at one end and the finished molasses taken out at the other and the process was continuous and there was no loss of time as with the old unsectioned pan. George Ballengee was an expert community molasses maker.

Often the time of boiling extended till late in the evening and young people gathered around to enjoy the procedures and to make merry with one another. Sometimes the paddles used for tasting might be placed down the collars of unsuspecting victims and amusement resulted when some careless individual stepped into the green skimming hole.

The apparatus was not moved to every home but some central point was selected and the cane was hauled in to this point, turns being taken according to schedule. I still remember some of the stories told as the folks stood around the evaporator. Molasses making afforded social contacts not the same as with the threshing machines but in some respects more enjoyable for the procedure did not require the hustle and bustle. People were more at ease and at times there was more talk than work.

Cider Making

Before there were mills to crush the apples and to press the juice from the pumace a lever arrangement was made to operate in an opening in a log, and then there was another arrangement made to press out the juice after the lever had crushed the apples.

My father used to talk about the barrel of cider which was not entirely free from alcohol and he said that the presence of this barrel occasioned extra callers at my grandfather's home.

At our home there is a mill with a grinder and tubs in pretty good repair and when the old orchard is sufficiently productive the old mill is still used. Some of the cider is processed and called apple juice and some allowed to go into vinegar. The cider making process remains the same. The old mill is hand powered.

Floors, Carpets and Clothing

What follows will show why these three things have been associated. I never saw a puncheon floor but my father described puncheon floors to me many times. An old log house stood near the house now occupied by Leonard Persinger and family. When Mark Blake owned this place, I with other kids used to play in this old house. When it was used as a residence I believe by an Eade family and later by my grandfather's family, it had a puncheon floor but when we played in it this floor was gone, there was only earth.

To make these floors straight logs were split in the middle and then hewed. They were placed on the sills side by side and then chopped off so they would fit very closely together. No doubt the rag carpets would cover up many of the splinters.

Rag carpets covered many floors when I was a small boy. We had an old fashioned loom borrowed, as I remember, and Aunt Sally Alderson spent weeks weaving us carpets. I believe that Elmer Graham's grandmother was an expert weaver. We wonder where all the old looms are now. Earlier cloth for clothing was woven in the home.

My father has told me about wearing jean trousers and now there is stored on our home place a flax hackle. I, of course, can't describe the processes required to go from flax to jeans but jeans was made in this country. How the people found time to prepare the fibers, make the cloth and then make the clothes is a puzzle to us but they did it.

When a small boy I have gone to Sunday School with clothes all home made but hat and shoes. I remember the little sailor collar down my back with the ruffles on it. I wore a little straw hat with a ribbon down behind. Boys did not appear as masculine in those days as they do now. Boys wore dresses till they were embarrassed by them but now trousers are perhaps donned too soon about the time they are able to walk.

The Old Fashioned Fire Place

Chimneys were very large and so were the fireplaces. Wood for fuel was no problem then. After a time smaller fire places were built and when the King heaters came in these were closed up. The old fire place at my own home had an extra feature. There was a small hole from the back of the chimney that led to an opening under the place of the fire. A flat rock covered this hole but when the rock was pushed aside a current of air rushed in causing the fire to burn much better. This hole was referred to as the blower.

It was not known in the early days that the fires in the fire places sent out radiant energy that was perhaps therapeutically advantageous to people sitting in front of the fire. We now buy sun lamps at the drug stores for the same purpose but sun lamps were then unknown and there was no electricity anyway. Upon the advent of the King heaters some folks said that the heat was not healthy. Perhaps they were right. The radiation was decreased and the convection and conduction increased and there was not the loss of so much heat up the chimney. We are still short on radiation but we can never go back to the old fire place on account of the low efficiency and the difficulty of securing fuel.

Clearings, Newgrounds and Corn Hoeing

My memory goes back to clearings and log rollings. Clearing was often referred to as hacking. The brush was piled and when dry would be burned leaving the logs and the poles. Then came the log rolling. Invited men of the community would assemble to roll a man's logs and log heaps were made all over the clearing. These had to be fired and kept burning to the last chunk and then the new ground was ready for the jumping coulter plow. Then were shovel plows but the tongue had a shop made iron bar extending down through it. The lower end of this bar was sharpened so it would cut some of the smaller roots but would cause the plow to literally jump the large ones. The ground was made ready for planting corn.

Corn hoeing in a new ground was drudgery never to be forgotten. Sprouts and weeds grew to profusion and if not kept down the little corn plants would be too spindling and turn yellow. I can still hear my father's voice as he would say "come on boys" after a country dinner. The boys knew that darkness would be upon them when they would return for a country supper. The supper might consist of hot corn bread and a large platter of brown beans with a hunk of fat meat in the middle of it. Chores around the home were done after the day's work. The wood box had to be filled and the animals looked after. Industry and discipline we think were emphasized more in those days than they are now.

Fences and the Use of Wood

In my day fences were more important than they were formerly, perhaps. I know that our cows were allowed to run in the wood lands during part

of the summer but my memory does not go back far enough to know first hand about the hogs that were turned out to feast on the mast in the woods, Hogs had to be marked to show ownership according to what my father related. These marks were certain cuts in the ears of the hogs. Then the rightful owners could drive in his own hogs in the fall when the butchering times arrived. Stories were told for how some hogs were stolen by some one who would go out and mark another man's pigs with his own mark and then claim them later on.

I can remember when there were worm fences all over the country. Timber was plentiful and only the best was used for rails. Now an old rail fence attracts attention. In former times a fence to the height of seven rails would be considered a good one. It has not been long since some old walnut rails could be found on the old Jimmie Graham place but chestnut and oak were used predominantly. One advantage of a rail fence was that gates were rendered less important for the fence could be layed down at any convenient place and then layed up again.

There was another type of fence used at times which was called the stake and rider fence. Two stakes were driven in the ground making a cross four or five feet up. Then a rail was laid in the fork with one end on the ground. Then another two stakes were driven and another rail placed and so on. This scheme made a pretty good fence especially on hill sides but laying to down was not so easy.

Wood was used for rails, some cross ties for the railroads were nearly always in the making and chestnut cord wood was hauled out. A tree was cut for ties. One man stood on top of the tree and scored with an ordinary ax. Notches were cut every two feet or so and short slabs were split off. Then another man would come along with a broad axe and hew the ties. A frame was used for lining off the ties to secure the proper thickness. The frame was placed on the log and small hacks in the bark would indicate the line to which the ties were to be hewed off. We have an old broad axe stored at the present time.

Getting out Tanbark was a very wasteful process for the chestnut oaks were cut and stripped of their bark and the tree left to rot where it fell.

Many of the outbuildings around the farm home were covered with boards. Nice oak was easily split and a frow was used to rive the boards from the smaller pieces after the blocks were partially split up. Dwelling houses were usually covered with shingles. These were shorter than boards but rived in the same way. Then there had to be a shaving horse and a drawing knife. The shingles were left thick on one end and came to a feather edge on the other. A few old board roofs are still seen but very few shingle ones. There is no board or shingle timber now.

The Ice House and Refrigeration

The ice house was not made of ice and the idea of Eskimoes need not

bother one's mind at this point. A greeting card I received this Christmas showed a drawing of men cutting squares of ice from a frozen pond and loading them on a sled for hauling to the ice house.

On our way to the Clayton School we passed the home of W. W. Walton and we walked around an old building that was referred to as the ice house. It was not used in my memory. In an ice house cakes of ice were packed in saw dust and kept for long periods of time regardless of the outside temperature.

Refrigeration was a problem for milk and butter. Some folks had spring houses under a hill some place where there was a cold spring. Henry Kirby had an excellent one but now it is gone and the spring is full of earth. Some folks had cool cellars and some had small buildings near a well where water could be pumped into the milk boxes. Many of these places would not pass modern inspections but I still like soft butter for spreading on bread.

Down on the place now owned by Leonard Persinger I well remember the milk house built over part of the creek and I would not now miss its location by many feet. I remember seeing my Pennsylvania Dutch grandmother make trips down over the hill to this milk house when she was preparing a meal.

In these sketches I have used personal references and those coming from the immediate family. It was convenient for me to use the first person in recording them, mostly from memory or from what I remember from descriptions given by my father.

Harry Hill

Medicines and Remedies

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Colds | 1. Onion poultices |
| Flu | 2. Mustard plasters (can be made with ground mustard or pounded seed). Use egg white instead of water to prevent blistering. |
| Pneumonia | 3. Drink a mixture of molasses and soda. |
| Chest colds | 4. Pennyroyal tea |
| | 5. Castor oil |
| | 6. For babies, squeeze the juice from a roasted onion and allow to drink. Adults, eat a roasted onion. |
| | 7. Use a flannel cloth wrapped around the neck. |
| | 8. Asiphidity balls tied around the neck by a string wards off colds and other diseases. |
| | 9. Inhale steam from boiling water to loosen phlegm. |
| Sore throat | 1. Onion poultices |
| | 2. Ginger tea |
| | 3. Puccoon |
| Cough | 1. Mix mullen and mountain tea leaves and pipsis- |

sewa and the inner bark of wild cherry, boil separately, then mix after it is strained. Then put all together, add sugar and make a syrup. Seal in a jar what is left over. (Mrs. Laura Harris)
Mrs. A. L. (Etta) Ballengee had some canned for ten years and it was still good when opened. Dr. Mahood said that this was a good cough syrup.
2. Rock candy dissolved in whiskey.
3. Honey mixed with whiskey.

Flux	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blackberry wine2. Flux weed tea
Arthritis Rheumatism	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1 tsp. vinegar, 1 tsp. honey mixed in a glass of water and drunk 3 times a day.
Eye	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Flax seed removes objects from the eyes.
Boils and carbuncles	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bran poultices or fat meat was used to draw boils and carbuncles to a head.
Burns	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hold the burn to the fire to draw the fire out.2. Cover with linseed oil.3. Aloe (Good for insect bites)
Poison ivy and oak	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A salty meat skin to scratch with. If in the mouth, gargle with buttermilk mixed with salt.
Itch	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply sulphur mixed with lard.2. Bathe in the juice from boiled poke berry roots.
Croup	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pennyroyal tea2. Alum
Measles	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Spicewood tea or sheep tea used to break out measles.
Colic Upset stomach	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Peppermint tea2. Pour boiling water over burnt bread and drink the water.3. The yolk of hard boiled eggs, custard, blackberry juice, baked potatoes.4. Catnip tea used to make infants sleep or rest, also furnished some nourishment.
Stomach ache	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lie on hot stove eyes.
Spring tonic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mother liver wort. Cover in a pitcher with cold water. Keep in a cool pitcher with water and take a drink occasionally.2. Sassafras tea
Worms	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vermifuge

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Aches and sprains | 1. Pain King liniment
2. Yager's liniment |
| Sores | 1. Smear with turpentine |
| Headache
Fever | 1. Calomel |
| Kidney trouble | 1. Pipsissewa tea
2. Sweet anise tea |
| Rusty nail scratches | 1. Set a piece of woolen afire and hold the wound in the smoke. |
| Snake bite
Bee stings | 1. Put chicken liver or chicken on wound before the body heat goes out of the chicken. Use as a poultice.
2. Mud pack
3. Turn open end of turpentine bottle up and place over the wound allowing the turpentine to draw out the poison. |
| Chapped hands
Bed sores | 1. Apply mutton tallow. |

Entertainment

More often than not work and play were combined. Social gatherings centered on apple-peeling, bean stringing, bean hulling, log rolling, quilting, hacking, barn and house raising, molasses making, taffy pulling, corn husking, brush burning and fence building.

Occasionally there was time for croquet and horseshoes. In the winter young people enjoyed sleighing and snowballing. In any season of the year hunting furnished both food and fun.

Singing together, visiting in each others homes on Sunday afternoon, parties for Halloween and other holidays were a part of the community's amusements.

Lights

Light was a precious commodity in the early days, often the open fire-places were the only source of light. Oftimes people went to bed as soon as it was dark to save light. Pine knots were one source of light and it was not uncommon for people to make their own candles. Mrs. D. G. Ballengee, a pioneer settler of this community, made her own candles from beef tallow and bees wax which made a good hard candle and it melted more slowly and lasted longer. Her candle moulds are still in the neighborhood in the Ballengee family. The Kyle Ballengees made some with this mold when first married in 1925 since they lived on Keeney's Mt. far from the store. Elmer Graham's mother had two candle molds and made candles.

In extreme necessity a Betsy Slough was used. It was made by putting a rag in some lard in a container and lighting the rag. Chestnut bark was also used.

Spunk, a soft spongy substance from a hollow tree similar to foam rubber, was used by old hunters to keep fire. A coal was put in the spunk and covered until needed.

People greatly prized the lamps which followed the candles in 1865 which used kerosene as a liquid fuel. Part of the morning's work was to wash the lamp globes, trim the wicks and fill the bowls. Aladdin lamps came into common use when Russell Ballengee sold them in the community in 1940. We had lovely chandelier lamps which burned kerosene. C. H. Graham's mother's oil lamp is in the possession of Kyle and Evelyn Ballengee. It is over a hundred years old. In 1922 some of the neighborhood had carbide lights installed, but their expense limited their use.

Another Account of Threshing, etc.

The first threshing machine was a chaff filer. Spikes were used and wheat and chaff went out together on a sheet. Then it was run through a windmill.

Horse driven machines were driven by 8 or 10 horses. The first one in the neighborhood was owned by a Mr. Underwood and his son, Reuben. It stood on the platform to encourage the horses. The platform was built on four wheels, four or five beams extended from a big coy (or cog) that worked on the end of the threshing machine cylinder shaft. It was found on what is now known as the (Utterback) Carmel Kirby place.

The last grain ever threshed by this horse powered tumble-shaft threshing machine was at Thorton Hambrick's on Kenney's Knob. It was abandoned there and never moved off.

At this threshing both wheat and rye were threshed, and since the rye was 6 or 8 feet long it was necessary for some of the men to cut off the sheaves about half way and run the heads through the machine instead of all the straw. The rye was so tall that a cradle couldn't be used to cut it, instead it was cut with sickles.

Those who helped cook the dinner for this last threshing ever to be done on Kenney's Knob were Mrs. Thornton Hambrick and girls, Ida (Cox), Nora (Meadows), and Cora (Spencer), Mrs. G. T. Ballengee and Mrs. John Harvey Ballengee and girls, Annie and Lilly (Berkley).

At least some of those who helped with the threshing were Mr. Jim Alderson and sons, Bud and Lawrence, Mr. G. T. Ballengee and sons, Kyle and Leeway, Mr. John Harvey Ballengee and sons, Frank and Charlie, Mr. Tom Knapp, Ed and Lage Hambrick. Some of these who worked were mere boys, but all helped. Homer Ballengee was there also.



First cousins at a social gathering.
Front row: Allen Bragg, Sallie Ballengee, Joe Hill, Homer Ballengee.
Second Row: Bessie Burdette, Rose

Altare, Ella Ballengee, Matt Altare,
Elbert Graham, Back row: Davis Ballengee, Lou Altare, Oat Carter, John Ballengee, Hettie Graham.

Mowing

Charlie Graham had the first mowing machine in this neighborhood and D. G. Ballengee had the second. Charlie Graham also had the first hay fork and D. G. Ballengee the second. Horses were used in the mowing machine and the logging. Cattle were used to haul in the hay when it got dry. When the hay was dry C. H. Graham closed his saw mill down and the mill crew helped put the hay up. D. G. Ballengee raised the heaviest yoke of oxen ever raised in this community. Their names were Bright and Sam. They weighed 4200 pounds when sold. They were the last yoke of oxen ever used in this community. Wagons were greased with tar instead of axle grease.

The Steam Engine

This outfit was owned by Jim Alderson and W. E. Wallace. Mr. Wallace after he got up steam could thresh 100 bushels of wheat on $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of coal. Later Kyle Ballengee bought the steam engine from Jim Alderson in 1921 and used it to run a grist mill, saw wood, and plane lumber. In the year 1935 he made shingles which still cover his house. The whistle and inspirator are still in his possession.

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Rondeau Ballengee formerly of this neighborhood: "One of the best remembered incidents of my childhood is the annual event of threshing wheat in the neighborhood before gasoline power spoiled the romance of the event. Jim Alderson and his sons with a sleek team of horses to pull the threshing machine, another pair to pull the water wagon and his yoke of oxen to pull the steam boilers and engine. I have stood in the front yard and watched as the oxen would turn in the front gate, pulling that boiler and it almost makes goose pimples come on my back now just thinking about it. Then after they get everything set to go, it was always my hope that the crew hauling grain to the grainery would not get back in time with the sacks, and they would have to blow the steam whistle to remind the haulers that they were about to run out of sacks at the machine. This did not happen so often at our place since we usually had only wheat to thresh and it was oats that really filled up the sacks."

Frank Boyd owned the first gasoline engine in our communities. W. E. Wallace and W. P. Aliff owned a threshing machine. The greatest amount threshed in one day was 800 bushels per day. At a threshing at J. H. Manns, Paul Harris kept a record. They threshed 2 bushels of ball wheat in two minutes and 20 seconds.

Shoemaking

The leather for the shoes, boots, and harness were made from beeves killed for meat on the farm. There were shoemakers in the community. One of the first settlers was a Robert Withrow, a "shoe cobbler". Martin Wheeler a member of our community for many years was a shoemaker. He had learned from his father who was a shoemaker. Kyle Ballengee has some wooden shoe lasts which were used at that time for making shoes. Martin Wheeler made Elmer Graham a pair of shoes. The boys wore brogans, often laced with



Grandfather Ballengee, Grandchildren and "Bright" and "Sam"



Hog Killing

rawhide or tanned ground hog hides.

Clothing

Most families wove their own cloth from wool and flax in those early days. There is still some pieces of linen in the neighborhood made from the flax they raised, sketched, spun and wove, also some beautiful coverlids. There are still looms in the community. Elmer Graham had his mother's loom until just recently when he gave it to one of his nieces. Mrs. Glenna Lacy Harris still has her Grandmother Burdett's loom. Ella Ballengee now owns the loom that was used in her family.

All clothing after the cloth had been woven by the women of the household was by them cut, patterned, and made into clothes for both male and female members of the family. Some of the clothes for the ladies apparel was secured at the store, but the stores were few and far between and the price exorbitant. During this period there were four stores in Summers County, the one at Talcott was run by J. W. and W. M. Jones. This accomodated the people in this vicinity. The stores had to haul their products a distance of 60 miles.

In the early 1900s most girls had one dress which they changed for, perhaps, a ragged one when they came home from school. Calico, of which most dresses were made, cost 8 to 10 cents a yard.

Salt

All salt was hauled from the Kanawha River and cost nine dollars per barrel. D. G. Ballengee, the former postmaster of this community, made a trip to Charleston once a year to get his salt for the year. He took an ox wagon and it took him nearly a week to make the round trip.

Either during or soon after the Civil War, David Graham took three horses and started to Malden for salt. He suggested that D. G. Ballengee, then very young, who lived with his grandmother, ride Old Kit, the horse, and bring back a horse load of salt for her. The Northern forces had captured a great deal of war material from the Southern army, chiefly wagons and harness. Somewhere enroute or after reaching Malden, David Graham had an opportunity to buy one of these wagons and harness. Therefore he brought back a wagon load of salt instead of two horse loads. However, D. G. Ballengee loaded his horse which was the extra one. He walked and lead the horse until they came to a downhill grade then he rode the wagon, thus resting some.

Foods

The D. G. Ballengees made their own sugar. They owned a sugar orchard at the foot of Keeney's Knob on the Buffalo Trail consisting of a hundred or more sugar trees. Each spring they made enough sugar to do for the following year. Sugar syrup was also made. They made the sugar in large iron pots. The story is told that during the Civil War, Mrs. D. G. Ballengee buried the sugar just in case some soldiers might come through and take it. George T. Ballengee's family made fifty gallons of maple

syrup in the year of 1908 or so. They made troughs of yellow lyn to catch the sugar water. They opened 150 trees that year.

Soap making was a must for there was scarcely any soap. Soap was made outside in large iron kettles of lye and meat scraps. Lye was made in lye kilns from wood ashes.

Chestnuts were picked up in the fall by many to buy school books and winter shoes. There were no overshoes. One family always bought their winter flour with chestnuts. We seldom saw an orange. Perhaps, if we were lucky we got one for Christmas.

Milk was kept cool by having a spring house which was often built over a spring or well to cool the milk which was kept in the troughs in stone jars or crocks. Some just set it on dirt or cement floors.

Fireplaces

The earliest settlers had large fireplaces on which they burned logs. Iron pots were hung over the fire to cook in and iron bakers some of which are still in the community were used for baking bread by putting hot coals on the lid. There is also a Civil War iron pot in the community and a corn sheller which the Grahams brought from Virginia and the slaves shelled corn on it. It is still in the possession of Kyle Ballengee on the old Graham farm.

Beds

People slept on straw ticks, or if lucky they had feather beds. Comforts were made with wool carded and put in the quilt for warmth. Quilts were pieced and quilted often with taste and care. Wool was taken to Charlie Ballengee's mill at Palistine and woven into blankets some of which are still in use.

The Village Blacksmith

The mode of travel by wagon and farm implements and machinery of the early families were constantly in need of repair and sharpening. Most farms had a small shop and grindstone for instant repair, but major work and turning of horseshoes called for the art of knowing the exact white heat that metal should reach for welding together wagon and buggy rims, sharpening tools and turning horse and oxen shoes, etc.

There were such men in our community as Luther Eggleston, Shannon Graham, J. B. (Bun) Fink and N. E. Fink. They not only excelled in blacksmithing, but understood the hewing of timber for making wagon and buggy couplings, shafts, wheels, axles, spokes and sled runners.

Changing times eliminated the need for this skill and blacksmith shops disappeared along with the water wheel and windmill.

Hog Killing

The killing and preparing pork for home use had been given over to meat processing plants today. But yester year found the farmer preparing for such killing in late fall when chilly days were upon us. A chill in the air would cool the meat overnight and the meat could be cut and trimmed for curing.

Immediately after killing, the hog was stuck in the jugular vein for thorough bleeding. The hog was then immersed in the scalding water and placed on a board for scraping and removing of hair from its body. It was kept hot by placing an old sack over it, or redipping it in hot water. When all the hair was removed the hog was hung up and the intestines and organs removed. All this was done outside in a huge kettle over a fire.

Once during a very cold time Mr. Joe Graham killed a wild hog in the mountains and brought it home after dark. He dressed it in the kitchen by heating tea kettles of water. He put a sack on the hog and poured boiling water through the sack bit by bit until he got it dressed. He must have been very fond of pork.



Joe Graham's house

MAIL SERVICE AND POST OFFICES

The Clayton Post Office

In the late 1870's the demand on the postal system in this area prompted the Post Office Department to open a Post Office to service the area. In casting about for a name to distinguish this office from other offices in the state, a proposal was made which immortalized a certain balloonist. (See story page 90.)

The new office was established November 3, 1879, and promptly named "Clayton". The surrounding community forthwith also assumed the name. The Clayton Post Office was located in the home of David G. Ballengee. The home at that time was a large two-story log house facing north, located on the site of the present house. The mail was stored, sorted and distributed in an upstairs room of this log structure for fifteen years until the present house was built in 1892. During the eighty-two years of its existence, the office was never moved from this location, and the postmaster was always a member of D.G. Ballengee's family.

The first postmaster was David G. Ballengee. He received his commission on November 10, 1879, during the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes. "Dave" was thirty-two years old when he became postmaster in Clayton, and he held the office until his death on October, 1939, at the age of 94. At that time he was the oldest postmaster in point of service in the nation and second oldest postmaster in years of life. He lacked only one month of having served sixty consecutive years as postmaster. In later years much of the work of the office was handled by a daughter, Miss Ella Ballengee, who had run the household since the death of her mother in 1917.

Following the death of her father, Miss Ella served as acting postmaster until her brother Homer was appointed in March the following year.

Homer Ballengee was appointed postmaster at Clayton on March 31, 1940, and served for the nineteen years until the close of the office. Homer applied for retirement to be effective December 31, 1958, but was requested by the Post Office Department to serve three months longer to round out a full nineteen years of service.

In the interim three months, the Post Office Department decided to close the Clayton office because of the relatively small amount of business transacted there. Provisions were made by the department for the delivery of mail to Patrons by a Star Route contractor operating a route based at the Alderson Post Office. The patrons are now obliged to obtain stamps, money orders, and other postal papers from the route carrier unless they go to the Alderson, or some other Post Office.

The three month extension of existence came to an end; and at the close of business on March 31, 1959, the Clayton Post Office closed for the long night.

Harold B. Harris



Clayton Post Office, D. G. Ballengee, postmaster

The Santifee Post Office

The Santifee Post Office was established on Griffith Creek in 1889 at the time when the Alderson Brownstone Company was in full swing. Workers had come from different places and settled in homes up and down the valley. They felt that it was necessary to have a post office in the community. It was decided that the Post Office be located in the home of Mrs. Melinda Lacy, grandmother of the Lacy children, Glenna, Oma, Leta, Marvin and Melvin.

This Lacy home was located in the field on the left side of the road after crossing the bridge at the end of the A. F. Dodd field coming up Griffith Creek, now owned by Mrs. Elbert Taylor.

Mrs. Melinda Lacy was appointed Post Mistress. She remained post mistress for approximately eighteen years. A room out from the kitchen was called the post office room. Glenna Harris remembers her Grandmother taking her into this room when she was very young.

This post office was called Santifee, we do not know why or from where it received this name. When Mrs. Lacy no longer wished to have the Post Office, it was moved to the home of T. P. Housby. This home was in the first house, still standing, on the Clayton Road after leaving Griffith Creek, belonging at this time to Carmel and Bonnie Kirby.

The Santifee Post Office remained in this home until it was discontinued sometime in the early 1920's. Mr. Housby had been manager of the Alderson Brownstone Co. He came with his family from England in the early 1890's.

At the time the Santifee Post Office was established, it was also necessary to erect a two story boarding house for the men who did not have families. A commissary was run by Jane Graham, a general store that no doubt did very well, also a small grocery was owned and managed by Tom Reynolds who later owned a clothing store in Alderson. His wife had a millinery shop in the back of the store. A few still living remember buying our Easter bonnets from her or sometimes she would make over our old ones, and make them look new.





Santiffee Post Office, 1902. Home of
Mrs. Melinda Lacy, post mistress. Lydia
Lacy with doll, Mrs. Melinda Lacy and
Miss Jennie Lacy



David G. Ballengee

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Mills

At one time Mr. John McGraw had two corn mills on Griffith Creek, one below the falls opposite the Harris home. Some distance above on a small prong of Griffith Creek it is said that Mr. McGraw ground corn in winter for meal. This meal was stored in home-made tubs for summer use. It was kept on a nice cold mill loft.

Mr. T. P. Housby, known as Captain Housby, had a corn mill and corn crusher on his place in the Brown Stone Valley. It was a grist mill with a stone burr and a steam engine.

Grayson Housby, son of T. P. Housby, living in Alderson, remembers firing the boiler with wood to make the steam.

Glenna Harris remembers her father C. M. Lacy taking corn to this mill on horseback to be ground into meal for bread or to be crushed corn for the animals to eat.

In the Earl Berkley's article on the early history of Alderson and places around, he writes the following story. He remembers his first trip to the mill alone when he was too short to right a sack of grain should it have become unbalanced. He rode one horse and led another, both of which were loaded with sacks of grain bound to packsaddles. This trip was from Keeney's Knob to the Housby place.

The Alderson Brownstone Company

The Alderson Brownstone Company was first conceived by Dr. William L. Barksdale and Judge W. G. Hudgin, both of Alderson. These men purchased land on Griffith Creek in Summers County that had an outcropping of apparently fine quality brownstone rock that took a high polish. Dr. Barksdale and Mr. Hudgin along with other capitalists organized the Alderson Brownstone Company which had as its president Mr. J. O. Crump of Richmond, Dr. Barksdale and Mr. Hudgin, principle directors.

In January 1888 the company opened up a quarry at the place now owned by Mrs. Arnold Harris and went on up the mountain to the place now owned by Perry Utterback,

At first the crew, employed to get out the stone, numbered about thirty men. The cut stone was loaded on eight horse wagons and transported to the mouth of the Creek, ferried across the river and loaded on the C. & O. for shipment.

It is said that in December 1888 Mr. Hudgin sold out, but a month later bought back his interest for a thousand dollars more than he sold it for.

As the demand for the stone grew, the Company installed a special steam powered cutting mill and other new equipment (June 1889). At the same

time twelve especially trained Italian stone cutters were added to the crew, which now numbered more than eighty men. In 1890 a more efficient system of transport was needed so a narrow gauge railway or tram-road was built up Griffith Creek from the river to the top of the mountain. The motive power was still eight-horses and mules were used mostly to pull the cars up grade, but the loaded cars reached the river mostly by gravity. The C. & O. built a special siding and dock on the other side of the river.

This stone was shipped to cities in many differnt states. The Masonic Temple in Richmond, Virginia, was built of this stone and many other buildings in that city had the brownstone front. Some of the brownstone was shipped to England where it was used in some of the fine buildings of that country.

In the summer of 1890 the crew numbered in excess of two hundred men, but after the next few years the best stone was gone, the demand dropped off and the crew was curtailed. Eventually the company ceased operations completely in 1904.

The company's first manager was a Mr. McQueene. He was followed by Captain Thomas Housby, an Englishman. His two sons, Robert and Grayson, were building contractors in Alderson for several years.

The many tools used in working the hard stone required a full time blacksmith to keep them sharpened. This job was filled by J. S. Graham, father of Elmer Graham of Clayton who resides in the same home of his father. The blacksmith shop was not far from the house.

References; History of Communities, C. H. Graham
Paper clippings, Lester Lively

The Glenray Lumber Company

The Commonwealth Lumber Company and its successor the Glenray Lumber Company was the largest lumber operation ever to locate near Alderson.

The company organized in 1906. They purchased a large tract of land, about 5,400 acres in all, known as the Lapkam lands on Keeney's Knob.

The mill was to be placed one and one-half miles west of Alderson, so a little village was built to accommodate some of the workers and their families. This village was named Glenray. The name was taken from Glen Gillespie and Ray Southworth, sons of two company officials.

In order to get to the timber land, a logging railroad would have to be built from Glenray to the top of the mountain. The company bought the old Brownstone hauling tramway and the right of way up Griffith Creek from the Alderson Brownstone Company. (See page 60, Brownstone Company)

Work on the railroad was soon in full swing with a large force of men grading and laying steel under the supervision of grade foreman Frank



The Glenray Lumber Company

Knapp and track foreman Elic Smalls. A railroad bridge was built across the Greenbrier River with side lanes for pedestrians. This bridge remained until it was washed down the river in the great flood of March 1918.

The track followed the Brownstone Railroad track as far as it went, from this point, the Company condemned land for a railroad through the property of Mrs. Anna Burdette, Bostick, Eads Alderson and Lacy. Glenna Lacy Harris has in her possession the contract for her Grandmother, Mrs. Anna Burdette and also her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Lacy written the 13th of February 1909.

The railroad went by one side of the Lacy home for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile then as it made a curve, a trestle had to be built across the creek. (Each morning the trains stopped on this trestle and water was put into the boiler, preparing for the trip up the mountain.)

Morning after morning the Lacy family watched the trains and their cars as they came by on one side of their home, make this curve and go by on the other side of the house as they disappeared on their trip to the logging camp. Some days three locomotives or trains made this trip.

In the afternoon the train would come down the mountain from the camp with cars piled high with logs, make this same curve around the Lacy home on down Griffith Creek, cross the bridge, over Greenbrier River, near Neely's store and into Glenray where the logs were sawed into lumber.

This Glenray Lumber Company provided work for many men of this area. Some worked at the mill, some were engineers, firemen, etc. on the trains, some in the lumber camps, some drove the horses that pulled in the logs, others repaired the tracks from time to time. Aldersons, Boyds, Taylors, Lewises, Bryants, Knapps, Smalles and perhaps many other names of whom we cannot recall. A number of Italians came to help with the hard work. Many of them had families in Italy.

Rev. G. C. Beery, the Methodist minister at Alderson, arranged to hold a religious service for the men in the lumber camp. From the writings of T. W. Dixon Jr., about two hundred and fifty people attended the service. A special train of three cars pulled by Shay #2 carried the people to the mountain. It took about two hours to make the trip. Glenna and Oma Lacy remember this ride with their family and friends. The lumbermen and the visiting people enjoyed the service and the fine music.

The Lacy girls also remember one of these trains taking their Grandmother, Anna Burdette to her half brother, John Harvey Ballengee's home on the mountain, when his wife Belle Ballengee died. The train stopped for her in the field above their home.

Another incident they remember was a train making very fast speed around



The Glenray Lumber Company and yard

this curve of their home with a man who had been seriously injured. He died before getting to Glenray. He left a wife and six children in Italy.

One afternoon Mrs. Lacy sent Glenna and Oma to Glenray store, a distance of approximately three to four miles, to buy groceries. Below the Griffith Creek Church the girls left the county road and were walking down the railroad track. Hearing a train they got off the track until the train would go by. To their surprise, the engineer stopped the train and asked them if they wanted to ride. They eagerly accepted as this saved them a long walk. This happened near the home where Glenna Lacy Harris now lives.

Incidentally the Harris house was built on the old railroad track. The rail-road bed where the railroad had been and the trains went over day after day goes to her front door and can still be seen.

Accidents happened from time to time, sometimes cars of logs would get loose from the locomotive, and would run wild for quite a distance before derailing. No one was ever hurt when the cars would get away. It was amazing how the cars would stick to the rails as they went around turns and curves.

Fires would break out in the woods from time to time and the crew would have to stop work and fight fire. Log loaders would break down. A forty foot high and one hundred twenty foot long trestle burned near the Don Thomas farm at the foot of the mountain. Had it not been for Mr. Thomas flagging a log train it probably would have gone down in the ravine.

A bad accident occurred on April 14 when the crown sheet of Climax No. 1 collapsed while in operation. Mr. Briggs, Elbert Taylor and Engineer Harley Taylor were going up the mountain in the locomotive when the accident happened. Fire, steam and boiling water started spewing out. The men were badly hurt with burns and scalds about the face, hands, neck and feet. Train no 3, was not far away, so Elbert Taylor summoned it to take the men to Glenray where Dr. Fawcett and Dr. Mahood were waiting and treated the men. They all recovered.

The families of our area, regretted to see the last load of logs come down Griffith Creek and into Glenray February 7, 1915. Glenray Lumber Company was closing. The work had furnished a livelihood for many families of the community for several years.

From: The Rise and Fall of Alderson by T. W. Dixon Jr.
From memory by Glenna Harris

EARLY MODERN CONVENIENCES

Telephones

The first telephone in our section was connected from Alderson to Lowell. Previous to this there had been a line from Greenville to Lowell with a phone at each end. Lots of cattle were owned by the Baldwin Ballards and others in the Greenville area thus the phone made it possible to call Hinton for cattle cars.

The first telephone line in Clayton was built by Charlie Graham, a private line built for his own convenience between him and Burman Graham who was operating a saw mill for him near the old Spice Lick Schhoolhouse on Tempa Mountain. The line extended from the C. H. Graham home, thus the first telephone in Clayton was where Kyle Ballengee now lives and the year was approximately 1899.

The first telephone from Alderson to Clayton was in the spring of 1900. The following were the first subscribers; T. P. Housby, Shannon Graham, D. G. Ballengee, Clay Graham, O. C. Carter for his mother, Mary Honaker. These would-be stockholders met in an upstairs room of the home of Charlie Graham where Kyle Ballengee now lives. It was occupied at that time by J. H. Harris's family. They probably met in the latter part of January or February. Those present were T. P. Housby, Shannon Graham, D. G. Ballengee and J. H. Harris. Miner and Davis Ballengee were present, too. Davis was elected secretary. They ordered three of the press button telephones and three crank kind some of which are still in use in the community as private phones. All were wet battery phones.

The phone line from Clayton to Alderson first went directly into Tom Reynold's store. It was more or less a private line. At the time the phone was put in from Clayton to Alderson each stockholder paid ten dollars to buy the wire. From then on they paid one dollar a year to keep up the line.

In 1901 the phone line was connected here at the Charlie Graham farm with the George Ballengee farm on Keeney's Mountain. D. G. Ballengee, G. T. Ballengee, Miner Ballengee and perhaps others built the line to the top of the mountain. Miner was the lines man. He topped the trees, nailed on the insulators, Etc.

In the spring of 1901 more people connected onto the line and as the years went by they connected up with Alderson Central for a while but the charge of the telephone company was seventy-two dollars a year for all the phones. The phones were soon disconnected from Central because the people could not pay the seventy-two dollars. However the phones were continued without Central.

The call bells were calls running into a switchboard on a certain line. They had a certain ring, and their purpose was to divide the community into sections so there would not be too many on one line. There was a call bell at C. T. Housby's on Griffith Creek, one at the Clayton Post

Office and one at George T. Ballengee's on Keeney's Knob. The one at G. T. Ballengee's connected the Elk Knob line with the Green Sulphur line, and the Clayton line. Each section kept up their own lines.

People kept dropping out, because they were unable to keep the line up, and the phone system ceased to exist.

In the year 1938, through the efforts of the Country Life Club, we were able to get Bell dial telephones in our communities which we now have.

A Private Line

Mr. Jack Foster lived on the opposite side of Keeney's Mountain between Lick Creek and Laurel Creek. Near the year 1911 M. M. Ballengee and his son Rondeau, who was quite young, and N. E. Fink put up a private line from Clayton to Mr. Foster's, who was his in-law. The line extended a distance of six miles across Keeney's steep and rugged mountain. When they finally reached their destination it was late in the evening and the wire had gotten twisted. They finally straightened it out and hooked it on a barb wire fence near the house, thence on to the house. There it remained permanently. A switchboard was installed at Mr. Foster's and thus this private line connected with the Green Sulphur Mutual which accommodated Green Sulphur and all Lick Creek. Dr. Gooch of Green Sulphur furnished the wire from there to Mr. Foster's home and the interested people built the line. Afterwards a switchboard was put in at G. T. Ballengee's on Keeney's Mt. and they were connected with Elk Knob and Green Sulphur and Clayton lines.

It is interesting to note that the telephone made its debut in Clayton as a private line in 1899. The telephone made its debut in Hinton in 1897 when a line about 200 yards long was put between the office of the county clerk, J. M. Ayres, and the office of prosecuting attorney, James H. Miller. In 1900 a telephone was built from Hinton to Lowell, Red Sulphur and Peterstown. In 1900 a line was built from Clayton to Alderson.

Grace Bowden had a call bell at her house which connected up Kirby Mountain. It was a profitless, thankless task, so she gave it up.

Telephone Rings of the Clayton Community in 1930

J. H. Harris _._' _._'.

Mrs. T. C. Graham _._' _._'.

D. G. Ballengee _._'.

L. I. Morgan _._'.

W. E. Wallace _._' _._'.

J. B. Fink _____.
J. A. Mann _____.
A. L. Ballengee _____.
Tom Canterbury _____.
Vanas Morgan _____.
Ray Hamm _____.
Bessey Canterbury _____.
Joe Fink _____.
Tom Blake _____.
K. L. Ballengee _____.
G. T. Ballengee _____.

Electricity

Electric lights came to the neighborhood on April 1, 1948. It was brought to the community as a result of a meeting of citizens at the school house. The Virginia Electric Power Company agreed to extend a line after receiving a request for electrical service.



THE WARS

Men from Griffith Creek and Clayton served in our country's wars, but unfortunately we have little information on the Civil War, a partial list of men of World War I, hopefully a complete list of those in W. W. II, some in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. On a few of those named we have newspaper clippings or personal information which has been included below.

The Civil War

Near the close of the Civil War, David Graham, Ulysses Graham, his oldest son and David G. Ballengee were stationed near Charleston. Since the war was so nearly over they started working on an oil well. While working there peace was declared and they left the next day for home.

They stayed all night in Charleston and while there both Ulysses Graham and D. G. Ballengee bought a new pair of boots. "Dave" also bought his sister Mary Jane material for a new dress. They hung the new boots over their shoulders and started by foot on the long journey home. The following are the group which left Charleston together:

1. Patrick Hines -- wagon master
2. D. G. Ballengee -- (drove a team from March 31, 1864 to March 31, 1865.) Henry Hunt employed him on Cotton Hill.
3. David Graham
4. Ulysses Graham
6. John Effie (Eary)
7. Tom Smithson
8. John Dempsey
9. William Dempsey
10. George Zack Flack

Places they stayed are as follows:

- 1st night on Two Mile Creek
- 2nd night above Charleston
- 3rd night Candleton
- 4th night Gauley
- 5th night Henry Millers farm
- 6th night Eli Gwinn (on Lick Creek)

They only paid for one nights lodging and that was \$1.50

When they reached the top of Keeny's Mountain the group separated and the Grahams and D. G. Ballengee came on down the old mountain road, (Buffalo Trail) to home. The others who lived in the Alderson and Muddy Creek section went on down the Hog Ridge Road and ate dinner at Henry Stills at the head of Griffith Creek Road thence on to their separate homes.

Jerry (Jeremiah) Flint, although an older man, was also called on to serve in the Civil War and is was while he was gone that his team of horses was stolen, and they were forced to hitch up a steer to haul in wood. Delpha

Flint, later D. G. Ballengee's wife, and her half brother Thomas Flint had to chop the wood although they were quite young.

Charlie Graham commented on what a difficult time he and his younger brother, Jim (a different James from the one mentioned as being in the army) had especially during the winter months while their father David Graham and older brother (Ulysses) were in the war. But the good clothes their mother made them kept them warm thus enabling them to do the outside work.

The soldiers arrived home May 2, 1865.

World War I

The following men from Griffith Creek served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Herman Bostick was the first to leave for the army, May 3, 1917, and the last to return home, Sept. 28, 1919.

Others were: Heaston Knapp
Tommy Knapp
Alta Boyd
Homer Boyd
Doll Staton
Jesse Honaker (died in camp before going across)
Cosby Boyd (Was on the ocean going across when the Armistice was signed. The ship turned around and came back.)

Frank Boyd (Navy)
Charles Honaker (Navy)
Ira Houchins
Ray Kirby
Bert Kirby

World War II

Army:

Atlee Bowyer	Charles Wenger
Garnett Burdette	Joe Wenger
Luke Wenger	Bill Kirby
Clinton Rogers	Elmo Kirby
Clyde Rogers	Glenn Boyd
Melvin Lacy	Woodsen Drumheller
Bernard Boyd	Emmett Lewis Taylor
Hershal Parker	Russell Eggleston, Jr.
Paul Thomas	Bill Thompson
Lee Thomas	Eldridge Eggleston
Kenneth Thomas	Ernest Eggleston
Frank Snyder	Marshall Carter
Jack Snyder	Richard Boyd
Charles Thompson	Scott Boyd
David Thompson	Vernon Eggleston
Leland Snyder	Ermin Kirby
(killed in the Battle of	the Bulge, buried in Luxembourg)
Bill Taylor	Emory Staton
Lewis Wenger	Homer Lewis Boyd
William Campbell	

Navy: Simon Snyder
Hugh Harris
Leo Harrah
Lynn Wenger
Alvin Taylor
Shelby Neely

James Dodd
Arthur Dodd, Jr.
Charles Kincaid
Davis Boyd
Harold Utterback

Air Corp: Bobby Bowyer
Olvin Eggleston

Marines: Douglas Kirby (killed on Iwo Jima)

Merchant Marines: James Rogers

Korean War

Army: Lee Brooks
Tommy Boyd

Vietnam War

Marines: Gary Thompson

Kyle Woods, son of W. R. and Katie Woods, was born September 10, 1890. He and a brother, Ethel P. left home together to enlist in the Navy while another brother, Cleo, was home on furlough from the army. Kyle and Ethel P. enlisted on December 10, 1917. E. P. asked to go in as a fireman. Kyle in general enlistment for whatever place he might be placed. They were in training together in Norfolk, Virginia when Kyle contracted spinal meningitis and died February 11, 1918. His body was returned and funeral service was conducted in Old Greenbrier Baptist Church, Alderson, W. Va. Interment was made in Clayton Baptist Church Cemetery. Although death came, not from bullets or torpedos, he gave his life for his country, nevertheless.

Ethel P. trained as a fireman and served in the engine room of a battleship through World War I. In WWII, he again entered the service and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. Once the ship he was on came so near to total destruction from an aerial bomb from a German plane, that the ship rolled over on its side and nearly capsized. Another time he was blown off ship deck and into the water but was rescued. After World War II, was over and President Johnson in the White House, Johnson personally gave E. P. a presidential citation for his service, and particularly for information he was able to turn in relating to enemy fortifications in a certain foreign country.

The brother Cleo, who was home on furlough when his two brothers, Kyle and Ethel P., left for service in the Navy, served his country in the Infantry through World War I. He has since become a notable writer under the pen name: Clee Woods.

Theodore W. Smith, son of Allen L. and Mattie Jane Nelson Smith, was born at Gauley Bridge, W. Va., March 30, 1894. During the World War I conflict, he performed honorable service in the U.S.A. Navy from May 2, 1918 until November 29, 1919 on board the following ships and stations: U.S.S. PARKER, U.S.S. CAP FINISTERRE. Commanding Officer G. W. S. He received an Honorable Discharge. Married Lillie M. Miller, daughter of Hugh P. and Virginia (Jenny) Graham. 4 children: Virginia, Roy, Leonard, and Edsil. Theodore died in the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Beckley, W. Va. January 2, 1961.

Everett L. Roach, son of Cary W. and Cordelia Agnes Fink Roach, entered military service at Charleston, W. Va., on July 7, 1916, and was assigned to Co. D, 150th Infantry. For a time he was stationed at an army camp in Texas and later was transferred to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he trained troops for overseas duty during World War II. Later, Sergeant Roach was sent overseas and was ready for front line duty when armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. He received a gold Service Medal. After three years military service, he was discharged at Camp Meade, Maryland on June 10, 1919. He ranked Second Lieutenant on October 20, 1928 in Infantry Reserves. He married Emma Sawyer. They became parents of one son and four daughters.

Claude Quinn, a son of William and Emily Frances Turner Quinn, served in France, on the front line, during World War I. He received training at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was a machine gunner in the 89th Division.

Adolphus H. Station was the son of Allen Caperton and Bina Alderson Station. Trained for army service at Camp Lee, Va. Sent overseas for front line duty and was a Private in the 35th Infantry. He was discharged at Camp Lee, Va., on May 5, 1919. / Married Reba Ayres. They were parents of one child, a son Emmett.

Harvey Talbert. (No information on his military service other than he served during World War I.) He married Mae Wallace and they were the parents of two sons; Harold and James.

John Wallace, son of William E. and Hallie Davis Wallace, was on duty during World War I. (No information on his service) He married Nora Thompson and they were parents of three sons; Calvin, Gene, and William.

Walter H. Dotson, son of J. W. and Minnie Williams Dotson, served his country during World War I. He received training at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was assigned to 1st Cavalry and served in France fourteen months. Rank: Private. / Married Mary Stanley. Parents of two sons and one daughter.

Carlos Allen was one of a group of men who left for Camp Lee, Va. on May 25, 1918 to receive training for duty during World War I. He was in the army branch of service. / Married Forrest Meadows. They were parents of 6 children. / Carlos' parents were John F. and Elizabeth Meadows Allen.

Garland E. Bowden, son of Edward Standard and Grace Smith Bowden, of Clayton, W. Va., was born March 7, 1898. He died September 28, 1918 in the Union Base Hospital, Hampton Roads, Virginia, during the influenza epidemic of 1918. His death occurred shortly after he had joined the U. S. Navy, Co. 24. His body was returned to his home at Clayton, W. Va. His body was interred in Clayton Baptist Church Cemetery.

Andrew Rhodes, a brother of Esther Rhodes Honaker, was a military man during World War I.

Corbett Miller, son of Hugh P. and Virginia V. Graham Miller, answered his call to military duty during World War I. He received army training at Camp Lee, Virginia and was on his way overseas when armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. He was returned to the U.S. and later discharged. / He married Maudie Dotson.

The following is a narration by Kyle L. Ballengee, son of George T. and Belle Mann Ballengee, regarding his experiences during World War I service:

I left home on May 25, 1918 - the day after my Grandmother, Delphia Jane Ballengee, died. My first destination was the Summers County Courthouse, Hinton, W. Va. I joined other men who were there for the same reason that I had come. We lined up in the courthouse lot. The total line-up was 16 men. Those whom I knew were: Homer Boyd, Ira Neal, Adolphus "Doll" Staton, Carlos Allen, Clarence Mann, Claude Quinn, and George Farley.

We left Hinton at 10:00 o'clock, headed for Camp Lee, Virginia. There were different stops along the way and by the time we got to Camp Lee, there were 136 men in our group. When we got off the train, we had to walk two or three miles to Camp Lee headquarters. Everyone was very thirsty by the time we arrived at the barracks about 3:00 o'clock. Setting around the barracks were galvanized buckets full of water ready to be used in case of fire. One of the fellows drank of the water and became very ill.

Immediately, we were quarantined for two weeks and during that time were given physical examinations twice each week - also given immunization shots for typhoid fever, smallpox, measles, etc.

At the same time, we were waiting for our uniforms and shoes to be issued. The shoes I had been wearing had made corns on all my toes. I wrote home

to my Dad for a pair of shoes and he sent me a pair of tennis shoes, thinking the softer shoes would solve my problem, but they added to my misery by causing my feet to burn terribly in the hot sand.

One evening, George Farley asked to borrow my tennis shoes to step out to see a friend on the street; but, instead of talking to a friend, he disappeared and was found at a bus station, trying to slip away to Hinton to see his baby. Officers brought him back to camp, tried him, and kept him in the lock-up for the night. He promised not to do that again. The next day he brought back my tennis shoes. That was my experience with corns and tennis shoes.

We received emergency training, under lieutenants instead of sergeants, for replacements in the 89th Division.

After training, we left Camp Lee in July 1918. From Camp Lee, we hiked six miles to Old City Point on the James River - then down the James River to Newport News, Va. There we were loaded onto an Italian cattle ship and headed for Brest, France. On our way across the ocean, there were three ships in the convoy.

On the way over, we had various experiences. A man, who died enroute, was buried at sea. Another time, a man who was sitting on the deck bannister went to sleep and fell into the ocean. His body was never recovered.

When about half way across the ocean, I lost my knife. One of the fellows found it and took it to a lieutenant who called a meeting of the men and asked if anyone had lost anything. I described my knife and he returned it to me.

We were eleven days and nights going across. Many of us were sea-sick. I was sick eight out of the eleven days. Clarence Mann was sick all the time. I found him in the ship's hold below deck, very sick. When I found him, he was in bad condition. He had lost weight until he didn't look natural. There was a big box of onions on the ship. Some of the men "slipped" onions to eat to help overcome the sea-sickness. One night while we were on deck eating onions, a violent storm came up. The twenty five foot waves poured over the deck. We rushed down-stairs tumbling, sliding, falling, in the hurried scramble to get out of the water. The ships crew went about closing port-holes and doors to make the ship as safe as possible.

We landed at Brest, France. When we left there, we went up a hill three miles from Brest Harbor to an area which was called Rest Camp-near Napoleon's Prison. We were there three days and, during that period, we went back to Brest each day to dig a ditch in the harbor for cables. We hiked six miles and dug ditches the rest of the day. Some rest! A number of the men complained of not getting enough to eat. The officers sent me on a detail with a "bunch" of men to get food on the inside of Napoleon's Prison walls. After that we had more to eat.

From Rest Camp, we were sent by train to Shelt Se Shear, France. The

train was made up of cattle transport cars - about 40 men to each car. The first night there was not room for all of us to lie down, so a line was formed around the wall - then another line was formed by sitting between the legs of the ones against the wall. We were six days and nights going. We traveled slowly. While on this journey, track walkers went ahead to examine the track and to see if the road were clear - thus, we had to wait until it was declared safe to move on. Also, on this train were hospital supplies for the front line. While at Brest, we had loaded six of the cars with these supplies the day before we started.

At Shelt Se Shear, we had two weeks training on the Vicker machine gun. Claude Quinn and I were in a pup-tent together. There we studied our lessons on the machine guns. 126 of us took the examination on what we had learned from our studies. 100 of us passed. The ones who passes were sent to the front line near Romaine, France and placed in the 89th Division.

It was near the first of September when we joined the Division. I became ill with bronchial pneumonia and was in the hospital all during September. After I recovered from the pneumonia, but still in the hospital, I contracted mumps. I was then transferred to a quarantine mumps hospital about six miles outside Paris. There I stayed twenty-one more days. Then I was sent back to the front line, just prior to the November drive. I was placed in the Machine Co, 353 Inf. 89th Division as a runner to carry messages between the officers of the front line and the officers a mile behind the line. I carried messages before and during the Drive. We were right up on the front line during the Meuse-Argonne Woods campaign.

It was while in the Meuse-Argonne Woods one night that I barely missed being buried alive. While underground in a German dug-out, a shell exploded near-by and blew an ambulance stretcher over the entrance to the dug-out and heaped dirt against it. With difficulty, I made my way out.

We had been under shell-fire about fifteen days when armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. We received orders, carried by another runner, to report to Lainerville and Stene, France.

Since the beginning of the November Drive, we had had very little to eat because the troops were moving faster than the kitchen. Some of the boys were half starved so, on that memorable evening of November 11, 1918 when we reached Lainerville, we began looking for food. I found a wooden box half full of pressed peaches and dates which I divided with the boys. We had set up a stove in our quarters. That same evening we found where the American officers had killed a French goat. They had left the neck and head. I sliced off some of the meat and had a feast. One of the boys said, "Where did you get that?" and I said "Down in the stable." Then I took him to the stable and sliced off some for him. I then fried it for him.

We stayed in Lainerville one night. Then we crossed the Meuse River in Stene. The bridge and canal dam had been blown up. We crossed on planks. When we reached our lodging place, my squad and I were quartered upstairs.

Officers were downstairs.

We were in Stene for two weeks. One day I went down to the railroad and found where a car-load of flour and baking powder had been blown up. I took some back to quarters and made pancakes for us all. The officers downstairs called up to know what was going on up there. Someone called down, "Ballengee is making fritters." The said, "What about making us some?" So I made fritters for the officers.

We left Stene, France the latter part of November on a 250 mile hike into Germany. We carried a 75 pound pack on our backs. Our goal was fifteen miles per day. We hiked an hour and rested fifteen minutes until we reached Germany. When we left France, we crossed Luxembourg and Belgium and then into Prume, Germany. We arrived in Prum near Christmas time and spent most of the winter there. / Pvt. Kyle L. Ballengee was discharged May 29, 1919. / Married Evelyn Utterback. Parents of one child, a daughter, Emma Belle. Kyle became a farmer. Evelyn was an elementary school teacher - likewise the daughter.

Hobart C. Ballengee, another son of George T. and Belle Mann Ballengee, was inducted into the army branch of military service on August 27, 1918, at Hinton, W. Va. He entered Purdue University the next day at West Lafayette, Indiana where he took a course in Engineering as a student army trainee. After finishing the course, he was sent to Camp Shelby, Miss., at Hattiesburg. There was placed in the 144th Engineers Special Unit. While he was at Camp Shelby, the war came to an end and Armistice signed on November 11, 1918. From Camp Shelby, Hobart was sent to Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio where he was discharged on December 21, 1918. Later he married Stacie Robertson. They were parents of one child - a daughter, Janice.

World War II

Cpl. Carmel Kirby, a son of Clyde Elmer and Bessie Frances Canterbury Kirby, was inducted into army service at Huntington, West Virginia on November 9, 1942. He received training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Cockcomb, California, and Ft. Dix, N.J. He served in Africa and Italy; Battles Rooe and Arno Go33Wo45. Received Good Conduct medal, also European, African, Middle Eastern Theatre medals. While under fire getting off back of truck on front line, other men getting off accidentally jumped on Cpl. Kirby and he received a broken ankle which left him with a stiff ankle. Later he was discharged from Conv. Hospital, Camp Pickett, Va.

From Miller David Fink, son of Norban Edgar and Emma Susan Ballengee Fink, a personal testimony.

When I embarked on my army career it was September 12, 1941. I left from Montgomery, West Virginia, on a Greyhound bus for Huntington where I was sworn in. From Huntington I left with the other dough boys for Fort Thomas, Kentucky. There I stayed for a few days. By then things were getting serious. We left Fort Thomas by train for Camp Wallace, Texas.

Here I went through extensive training until December 7, 1941. I was in Houston with C. T. Wilson, from Gauley Bridge on December 7, 1941, walking toward the train station to buy our tickets so we could go home for Christmas when we got our leave. On our way to the station a man ran out of the telegraph office with a telegram in his hand. He asked us if we had heard the news.

I said, "What is this?" He read the telegram where the Jap's had struck Pearl Harbor. This I could not believe, until everything let out including the churches, and announcements came over the radio for all service personnel report back to duty at once. "The civilians, as well as the service convoys, will pick you up and take you back to camp." We cleaned guns of all sizes all that night. Gathered up gasmasks, rifles and loaded them up for transportation for the west coast. By four o'clock a.m. December 8, 1941, we had everything out of camp. The troops left as fast as the troop trains could be made up. We traveled under black out to the west coast. We spent December 24th evening and December 25th on Angel Island. December 26th we left for the Pacific. All the troops on Angel Island got food poisoning from turkey meat. This, needless to say, was a mess. We left in a convoy of 42 ships, for we knew not where. We encountered a few sub activities. While out to sea, we tried to get in the Philippines but were turned back.

We came into Hawaii ports January 7, 1942. Most of the boys I left Montgomery with were left as replacement men on the island of Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands.

I was sent to headquarters of Seacoast Command, Fort DeRussi, Hawaii, under General Burghan. I had routine duty for some time. Until one day I was sent to Fort Ryger at the foot of Diamond Head, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands. Here I was put in signal operation, where I was section chief. There we trained personnel for operations, so we could form new outfits for the advancing war.

I was never in what was classed as hostile territory. We policed the area.

I was sent back to the States April 28, 1945. I had a 20 day leave. This is when I married Daisy Mae Dressler from Hinton. We honeymooned in Florida. After I was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas. Here I helped train new

recruits until discharged October 11, 1945. Sgt. Miller D. Fink.

While in service I was in AA, Seacoast Command, 155th 55th.

This was a small service to my country and loved ones.

Miller D. Fink

Staff Sergeant Kenneth Hamm, son of Ray W. and Rose Wallace Hamm, entered military service August 2, 1942 and was assigned overseas duty in April 1943. He was stationed in England for a time. He was a member of the 29th Infantry Division D-Day June 6, 1944 and served with it continuously until the capture of St. Lo, France on July 18, 1944. On December 5, 1944, he was slightly wounded in action in Germany and received the Silver Star for gallantry in action, by Major General Charles H. Gerhardt, division commander. He became a platoon leader for Co.K, 116th Infantry. The action in which he had won the award occurred on the morning of Dec. 5, 1944 near Julich, Germany in an assault on Husenfeldt Gut. The citation states, in part, "His platoon suffered numerous casualties by machine gun, artillery, and anti-personnel mines thickly sown in the approaches to the Gut. Sgt. Hamm, himself was wounded, but refused to be evacuated. Upon reaching the objective, he found only a handful of men left in his platoon, and the platoon leader and sergeant missing in action. Sgt. Hamm assumed command at this point, and reorganized under intense enemy fire, then continued on the mission of capturing the Gut. He, not wishing to expose his men to the great dangers involved, entered a building alone to make a reconnaissance. At this point, Sgt. Hamm was wounded a second time, necessitating evacuation to the Bn. Aid Station.

Three Summers County boys who have fought for Uncle Sam in the European theatre, the Pacific and on the high seas, are the Williams brothers of Clayton, Zelphia, Eugene and Carl are grandsons of J. H. Harris and nephews of Georgia Smith of Clayton.

Eugene was the first of three brothers to answer his country's call, entering the service March 25, 1942. During three and a half years spent with the army he saw combat service in France, Belgium and Germany in the battles and campaigns of Normandy, the Rhineland, Ardenne and Central Europe, as well as the Middle African and Mid-Eastern sectors.

He was awarded the bronze star, the purple heart, good conduct medals, combat infantry badge, and wears the European, African, Middle Eastern service ribbons with bronze arrowhead and four major battle stars.

As a member of the 101st airborne division Sergeant Williams served as squad leader and directed 12 men in infantry combat in France, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded Jan 4, 1945. His unit participated in action at Bastogne and received the Presidential citation, the presentation being made by General Eisenhower. He was honorably discharged Sept. 23, 1945.

Pfc. Zephia A. Williams entered the service July 27, 1942 and served with the 95th division as member of B. Battery, 360th field artillery battilion in northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He wears the American theater ribbon, the good conduct ribbon and the victory medal and has three battle stars. Pfc. Williams was honorable discharged at Camp Atterbury Indiana on Nov. 19, 1945.

Seaman First Class Carl Williams entered the service in 1943. After boot training at Great Lakes, Ill., served in the Pacific theater for 18 months, nine months of that time were spent on Leyte Island.

From the Hinton Daily News

Luther F. Stanley answered his country's call to military service in July 1944. He was in Infantry - 4th Division. He was in Europe during the Normandy invasion and was killed in action August 7, 1944.

John Delbert Canterberry, son of Wilfred B. and Eva Gladys Wallace Canterberry, born October 31, 1921, was inducted into the U. S. Army at Fort Thomas, Ky., on July 8, 1942 during the World War II conflict. He advanced to Mess Sergeant of Co. L, 422nd Infantry. He departed for overseas duty October 21, 1944 arriving in Scotland. He fought in battles in Southern France, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Was cited and decorated with Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Ribbon, American Theater Service Ribbon, and European, African, Middle Eastern Service Ribbon. He was captured and held prisoner of war by the German Government from December 1944 till April 1945. During this period of being a prisoner, he suffered a severe back injury. He also suffered malnutrition. He arrived back in the United States May 15, 1945 and was honorably discharged at Fort Meade, Md., November 24, 1945. He served in inactive Reserves till recalled for active duty November 2, 1950 and assigned to Food Service School at Fort Knox, Ky., as an instructor in food preparation. Discharged from Fort Knox August 14, 1951.

John Delbert married the former Ethel Pauline Spangler on March 12, 1948 in Whitesville, W. Va. Two children: John Dee and Susan Ann.

James Hambrick was inducted into active military service May, 30, 1949, Hinton, Summers County. Transferred to Ft. Knox, Kentucky for basic training and extended Infantry training. Transferred to 19th Infantry regiment 24th. Division in Korea. He was wounded in action near Sangpom-Ni on February 14, 1951 and sent to Tokyo Army Hospital in Japan.

James received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal. James was transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia and discharged August 23, 1951.

James married Sonya Reed of Alderson, W. Va. and they have four children, Donald, Cathy, Brad, and Kenneth.

John Clifford Wickline, born December 12, 1921 to John Preston and Annie Faye Quinn Wickline, entered army service at Huntington, W. Va. on June 26, 1942. Received training at Camp McCoy, Wis., and placed in Co B, 258th Quartermaster Battalion. Served in Southern Philippines. His duty was that of Longshoreman. Rank: Cpl. T 5th grade. Received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was discharged Nov. 21, 1945. Later, during the Korean conflict, he re-enlisted and was at Atterberry, Indiana but did not go overseas.

Eugene Claude, also son of John . and Annie Quinn Wickline, answered the call to serve his country during World War II. He received training at Fort Thomas, Ky., in the infantry. He entered service March 30, 1943. Pvt. 1st Class, headquarters battery, 433rd Field Artillery. Served in Southern Pacific area. He received the American Theater Ribbon and Asian-Pacific Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal and the Victory Medal. Was discharged January 24, 1946. He then joined the army Reserves and was called up during the Korean conflict but did not have to go overseas.

Virginia M. Smith, daughter of Theodore W. and Lillie M. Miller Smith, signified her allegiance to her country by entering the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps on August 5, 1943 - during the World War II conflict. She received basic training at Daytona Beach, Florida, with the 4th Co., Reception and Staging Bn. Later S/Sgt. Smith was stationed at Camp Croft, S. C. She served as Clerk; General. Decorations; American Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; World War II Victory Medal; WAAC Service Ribbon. Date and place of separation: December 24, 1945 at Fort Dix, N. J. Reason for separation: Demobilization. She served 2 years, 4 months, 19 days. T/3 Smith was a former Guard at the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, W. Va., where her father had been employed. / Virginia married Francis Pollock. No children.

Theodore W. and Lillie Miller Smith's son, Leonard R., entered military service in August 1945. Trained at Camp Croft, S. C., then to Camp Kilmer, N.J. In February 1946, he left the States for overseas duty and was stationed in Paris, France with the Military Police. After returning to U.S.A. Cpl. Smith was sent to Fort Richardson, Alaska on a 2 year tour of duty. Returning home for a 30 day leave, he then went to Ft. Meade, Md. for reassignment. Sgt. Smith honorably discharged.

Leonard married Ann Bradshaw. Parents of 4 sons - 1 daughter.

Hubert H., son of Ethel P. and Grace L. Ballengee Woods, entered U. S. Army service on June 23, 1941, at Fort Monmouth, N.J. His duty was that of Special Vehicle Operator. He was stationed in Hawaii and survived the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Later he was in the

Southern Philippine campaign. Decorations and citations he received were: Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Service Ribbon, Private First Class. Served with 817th Army Air Force Base Unit. Honorably discharged at Separation Center, Fort George G. Meade, Md., September 2, 1945. / Married Bonnie Richmond. They became parents of three daughters: Katie, Dreama, and Sharon.

Hugh Arnett Miller, son of Leonard Preston and Muriel Florence Canterberry Miller, was inducted into the army March 30, 1943 at Fort Thomas, Ky. He was trained at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific campaign during World War II in battles of the Northern Solomons and Southern Philippines. S/Sgt Miller was with Co A 164th Inf. Americal. He was decorated with the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon W/2 Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon W/1 Bronze Star, good Conduct Ribbon, and the Victory Medal. He was discharged at Camp Atterbury, Ind., December 5, 1945 after two years and eight months service. / He married Thelma Persinger. Parents of 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Arthur Honaker, son of George and Esther Rhodes Honaker, was inducted into the U.S. Navy in April 1942. He served in the South Pacific. Served 32 months. World War II.

Hamer Honaker, also a son of George and Esther R. Honaker, was inducted into the Air Force March 23, 1944 during World War II.

Roscoe Wheeler, son of Martin and Josie Graham Wheeler, was in military service during World War II. / He married Bertha Stanley.

Leonard, son of Martin A. and Grace Allen Persinger, was inducted into the U. S. Army October 14, 1943. He served in the Rhineland - Central European campaign during World War II. Honorably discharged.

Raymond, another son of M. A. and Grace A. Persinger, answered his country's call to military service during World War II.

Roy G. Bowden, son of E. S. and Grace S. Bowden, was called to service in the U. S. Army during World War II. He received training at Fort Mc-

Clellen, Ala., Fort Dupont, Del., and Fort Devans, Mass. He helped train replacement troops for overseas duty. He served from June 26, 1942 until March 13, 1943. His early discharge was due to a need on the farm at home. / He married Elizabeth Wallace. They became parents of three daughters.

Henry L. Smith, son of Elijah Lee (Bruce) and Eliza Jane Smith, was inducted into the army branch of military service during the World War II campaign. He received training at a camp in Maine and then Fort Dix, N. J. He was placed in the 68th Antiaircraft Division and was serving in the European Theater where he was killed in action on October 26, 1943. His body was returned to the U. S. and his body was interred in the Clayton Baptist Church Cemetery.

Daniel, also a son of Elijah L. and Eliza J. Smith, served during World War II conflict. He entered service on October 14, 1944 and was in the Navy branch of service. He was a technician and served in the South Pacific area. No battles. / He married Mattie Wilson. Two sons and one daughter.

Another son of Elija L. and Eliza J. Smith, Noah Jackson (Jack) was inducted into the army on January 2, 1951. He was trained at Fort Hood, Texas then was sent to Germany where he was stationed at Mainz with the Occupational troops. He was discharged in 1953.

Cecil D., son of Elijah Lee and step-son of Eliza J. Smith entered military service on December 9, 1939. He was an army engineer and served in Germany with U. S. Headquarters Battalion.

Tilden Dotson, son of J. W. and Minnie W. Dotson, served during World War II with the 913th A. F. Bomber Group in the Pacific area of the campaign. He received training at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. He served thirty-three and one-half months. / Married Frances Coiner. Parents of one son, Wayne.

William "Billy" E. Dotson, son of Walter and Mary S. Dotson, entered military service on June 8, 1943. He was in the Infantry and was in action during the Normandy-Ardenne-Rhineland invasion of World War II. He was wounded in action.

Benny Ayres enlisted in the army in December 1940 and received his training at Fort Frances E. Warren, Wyoming. In March 1942, he left for a tour of duty with the 3rd Division 4th Infantry in the Aleutian Islands. From there, he was transferred to England in June 1943 where he served with General George S. Patton's third army. He also saw service in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. In November 1945, he returned to the U.S.A. aboard the Queen Elizabeth and received his discharge from Fort Knox, Ky. December 16, 1945. In addition to the Good Conduct Medal, he was authorized to wear the E. T. O., Pacific, American Theater Ribbon, and the Infantry Badge. / He married Christine Thompson. Parents of 6 children.

Quentin Ballengee, son of A. Lee and Mary Etta Ballengee Ballengee, entered military service on May 13, 1942. During World War II, he served with the Army Corps of Engineers in the European Theater, Central Europe-Normandy-Northern France-Ardenne-Rhineland. Honorably discharged with more than three years service.

Three brothers - Denver, Mayo, and Kennard Ballengee were in military service during World War II, Sons of Rev. Monor M. and Donna Foster Ballengee.

First of the brothers to answer their country's call was Mayo who entered service in January 1941. After training, he was assigned to duty with the U.S. Armed Forces - Panama Canal Zone. Sgt. Ballengee was discharged after more than three years service.

Denver F. entered service March 29, 1942. He was stationed at Brooks Field, Texas, with A.A.F. Base Unit - serving with Quartermasters office. Rank: Corporeal.

Kennard C. entered service October 15, 1943. He was with the Army Corps of Engineers, Duty; Electric welder. He was in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

Chester K. Ballengee, son of Homer C. and Daisy Haner Ballengee, enlisted as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps May 29, 1942. He completed pilot training at Turner Field Ga., and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant August 30, 1943. After further training, as a pilot in heavy bombers, we was assigned as first pilot of a B-24 air crew.

Early in 1944 his crew was sent to Italy for combat duty. He reported the trip overseas as being an interesting one with stops in Trinidad; Brazil, South America; Dakar, West Africa; Marrakech and Tunis in North Africa and on to Southern Italy.

While in Italy with the 15th Air Force, he flew 38 missions against enemy targets in Southern Europe. The targets involved the Plonti oil fields in Roumania, factories in Southern Germany and Austria, and transporta-

tion facilities in Northern Italy and Southern France. Lt. Ballengee's crew was very fortunate. Although they counted dozens of holes in their airplane caused by enemy anti-aircraft fire, only two men were injured and their injuries were minor. On one mission, the German gunners got the range and flack poured into the Liberator, one piece hitting the super-charger, a bare inch from a point that would have sent ragged metal cutting through the craft. A wing tank was holed, and the bomb bay began to fill with gas. The doors were opened but enough gas remained that a spark would have blown the plane to bits. A jagged piece ripped through the pilot's window striking Lt. Ballengee a terrific blow against his chest, but his flack suit saved his life just as the same type suit had a moment before, saved the life of the nose turret gunner. Flak also riddled the rudder and almost severed an aileron cable but did not stop the Liberator and finally Pilot Ballengee landed his ship and crew safely at home base.

After returning to the U.S.A., from Italy, Ballengee married Martha Hargrove of Eatonton, Georgia. The newly-weds traveled by train to his next assignment at Santa Monica, California. After a short stay there, they returned east with a short duty tour at Liberal, Kansas - then on to Smyrna Tenn., where Lt. Ballengee was an instructor pilot in heavy bombers until the end of World War II.

In 1946 he was sent to Alaska on a three months tour of duty. He returned home as a reserve officer on inactive status. David Clayton, the first child of Chester and Martha, was born in 1947.

Early in 1948, Lt. Ballengee was recalled to active duty and assigned to the Strategic Air Command of the United States Air Force. During the next fifteen years, he flew heavy bombers including four engine B-29's and B-50's as well as six engine jet B-47's and eight engine jet B-52's.

During this period, he served in several states and made several trips overseas to England, Germany, North Africa, Okinawa, Japan and Hawaii. His duties included Aircrew Commander, Squadron Operations Officer, Wing Training Officer, and Commander of B-52 Squadron. He also attended the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. Daughter Elizabeth born in 1951 and son Joseph in 1952.

In 1953, Ballengee, now a Lt. Col., was assigned to the Pentagon, Washington D.C., as a staff officer. While there he was promoted to full Colonel. The last year of his four year tour was spent as an AF Duty Officer where he monitored AF activities world-wide and reported unusual events to AF and Civilian leaders in the Defense Department.

Following the Pentagon tour, he was sent as Deputy Commander of a small air station in Southern Italy - not far from his WWII base. His wife and two younger children accompanied him there, the older son being in college in Georgia.

After two years in Italy, he was assigned as Inspection General of the AF Security Service. This job took him to several of the 48 states, also

Alaska and Hawaii as well as twelve foreign countries.

During 30 years of duty with the United States Air Force, Colonel C. K. Ballengee traveled in 41 countries and 46 of the 50 United States of America. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean 38 times and the Pacific 17 times. On one trip he traveled completely around the world. On this trip, he departed San Antonio, Texas, and after stops in Germany, England, Spain, Saudia Arabia, Pakistan, India, Thailand, South Vietnam, The Philippines, Guam, and Hawaii, returned to San Antonio. Colonel Ballengee retired January 31, 1973. During his years of dedicated service to his country, he received a number of citations and medals. / After retirement from military service, Col. (Ret) Ballengee and Martha became owners and settled on her farm home in Eatonton, Georgia.

Glen Blevins, son of Charlie and Bessie Mae Surface Blevins, was inducted into military service on January 15, 1946. He was with the A. A. F. / Married Colleen Lyle. Parents of 2 children, 1 son and 1 daughter.

Norman, another son of Charlie and Bessie Mae Surface Blevins, entered U.S. Army service in August 1952. He took his basic training at Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Fort Sill, Okla. It was during the time of the Korean War. He was prepared to go overseas but was not sent. He was discharged in August 1954. / Married Rosita Mathews. Parents of a daughter, Susan. His occupation: farmer and timberman.

Korean War

Giles Aliff, youngest son of William P. and Lula Pearl Aliff, joined the United States Air Force in 1951. He was in service during the Korean War. Retired after 20 years service. Married Patricia Meritt of England. Parents of 3 sons, 2 daughters.

Viet Nam

On August 4th, 1969 Robert Morrison Persinger, son of Garland and Clara Smith Persinger, and husband of Eva Jane Canterberry Persinger, was inducted into the army at Beckley, W. Va. His local board was in Hinton, W. Va. After being sworn in, he was sent to Fort Polk, La., where he had eight weeks of basic training. He had volunteered after being drafted because he wanted to be a helicopter pilot.

After basic training in October of 1969, he came home on leave and then left for Fort Walters, Texas. There he started his seven months training in the primary helicopter course. He studied hard and learned to fly the small aircraft and became an E-5. Also there, the boys were weeded out. Their superiors harassed them so, but this was because they were soon to become officers themselves. Robert was discouraged many times and felt like quitting and letting them place him somewhere else, but he didn't. He finished the course and learned to fly.

In May 1970, he left for Fort Rucker, Ala., where he would finish his

course. There was lots of studying and flying. This time it was the big aircraft. The helicopter he flew was called a "Huey". They were, more or less, being trained for Viet Nam - staying out in the field for a week at a time and landing the aircraft in very tight places. This was a very hard course too, but he knew that he really wanted to fly.

On September 22, 1970, Robert graduated in the auditorium there at Ft. Rucker. He then received his wings and bars. Now he was a Warrant Officer. He had already received his orders to go to Viet Nam.

On October 17, 1970 he left for Viet Nam. He was stationed at Vinh Long and his unit was the 175th Avn. Co. Assault Helicopter. In a short while, he received a promotion and became a WO-1 and commander of his aircraft.

I knew it must have been really bad there for his letters were short and I could read between the lines. He flew almost constantly on missions, taking in supplies or ammunition or picking up the wounded. He sent me pictures of himself, and he always looked so tired.

On April 1, 1971 we received word that he had been critically wounded. His unit had been called upon to insert ground forces deep into enemy territory. It was a hotly contested area of An Xuyen Province.

Robert flew his aircraft in to land his troops and there he and his gunner were wounded and his aircraft badly damaged. He was flown to a hospital right away, but all the telegrams never gave us much hope. I received a letter from him, very short and scribbled as he was so weak. He always thought of every one else and not of himself.

On April 22, 1971, Robert died of his wounds. He was twenty-two years old. His body was returned to the United States for burial on May 1, 1971 in Clayton Baptist Church Cemetery. He had a military funeral.

After his death, I received the medals he was awarded. Prior to his death, he had received the Good Conduct Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Army Aviator Badge, and the Expert Badge with automatic rifle bar. After his death, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary actions above and beyond the call of duty; the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force; the Air Medal for being a good pilot; the Purple Heart for wounds received in action; the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam awarded him, posthumously, the Military Merit Medal.

Robert was a good soldier and a very good man. If he were here there would be more details to tell. He gave his life for his country and we all loved him.

(Signed)
His wife, Eva Jane Persinger

Footnote: Robert had been looking forward to the birth of his child. On

May 17, 1971, just three and one-half weeks after his death, his wife gave birth to a baby girl, Roberta Jane - the name he had chosen if it were a girl.

Roger L. Persinger, son of Garland and Clara Smith Persinger, entered the U. S. Army on November 6, 1968., at Beckley, W. Va. He then completed eight weeks of basic training at Fort Dix, N. J., where he qualified Expert with both the M-14 and M-16 rifles. He then went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for eight weeks of advanced individual training as a combat engineer.

In April 1969 he was assigned to the 84th Bn. Co. A of Construction Engineers at Qui Nhon, Viet Nam as a member of the asphalt paving section. At this time was promoted to PFC. After about two months, his company moved to Tuy Hoa. He was a truck driver for the first three months and made many trips from Qui Nhon to Tuy Hoa, moving the companies equipment and supplies over the one hundred mile stretch of Highway 1. He was promoted to Specialist 4th Class and soon after became acting sergeant and put in charge of paving operations on a 25 mile stretch of Highway 1 near Tuy Hoa. After the necessary requirement of 15 months in Viet Nam, he took a week of R and R Leave in Hawaii, where he was met by his wife, Vena.

Upon completion of the 25 miles of paved highway, he received the Army Commendation Medal and letters from the battalion and company commanders for the accomplishments made on the highway. Other recognitions were; Safe Driving Award, Viet Nam Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

Upon nearing the completion of one year in Viet Nam, he obtained an extension of two months duty so that he could be discharged upon returning to the United States.

He took a seven day leave in Bangkok Thailand and upon returning to Viet Nam was assigned to pave an airstip at Tuy Hoa. After completing this, his tour of duty ended and he returned to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where he was discharged on June 11, 1970. / Roger and Vena Coiner Persinger have 1 child - a son.

Haven Leonard, younger son of L. P. and Muriel C. Miller, entered the U. S. Air Force at Sampson AFB, N. Y., on May 24, 1955. He trained at Sheppard AF Base, Texas. Served in Viet Nam - N/A Whole War. Rank: Master Sergeant. TAC and Mac and PACAF. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, Viet Nam Campaign Medal and National Defense Medal. After 20 years service, he retired from AF at Elmendorf AF Base, Alaska / Married Frances Beverly Harris. Two sons; Haven Ray and Gary Dean.

Peace Time

Dale Edgar Fink, son of Norban Edgar and Emma Susan Ballengee Fink, on

September 6, 1950 joined the U. S. Air National Guard and received training at Godman AF Base, Fort Knox, Ky. Shortly, he was sent overseas and stationed in England with the Defense Posture under NATO forces in Europe. After the three year tour of duty, he returned to the U. S. for a period of time. He married Norma Elizabeth Emmons, Three daughters. On a second tour of duty to England, he was joined by his family. After 20 years of service with the Air Force, S/sgt. Fink received an honorable discharge at Eglin AFB, Florida where he is still employed.

Ira L. Wood, son of Dell and Anna Hill Wood was inducted into active military service at Hinton W. Va., January 12, 1954. Was sent to Ft. Jackson, S. C., then to Ft. Gordon, Ga., for basic training. After basic training, transferred to Technical School as a cryptographer at Ft. Gordon, Ga. March 1954 transferred to 313th Signal Battalion, Ft. George Meade, Md. After a few weeks was transferred to Headquarters of the 2nd Army Command, as cryptographer, where he completed his two years of active duty. On January 11, 1955, received the National Defense and Good Conduct Medals. January 11, 1956 was released from active military service and transferred to Army Reserves to complete 8 years service as Specialist 5th Class. / Married Emma Belle Ballengee. Parents of 3 sons; Don, Dell and Ira Lee.

James and Billy Hamrick were in military service - no information.

If any military service man's name, of the Clayton Community, has been omitted from these writings, it was unintentional. Much research has been done.

Katherine A. Harris (Mrs. Elmer)

Peace Time Service

Army:	Plummer Burdette	Larry Eggleston
	Emmel Parker	Freddie Thompson
	Jack Snyder	Clarence Thompson
	Jesse Mann	Loyd Tinsher
	Tommy Boyd	Jesse Tinsher
	Jimmy Ray Carter	Frank Tinsher
	Freddie Wenger	Harold Tinsher
	Lee Brooks	Ronald Brooks
Navy:	Eddie Richmond	
Marines:	Ronald Thompson	
Air Corps:	Ronald Meador	Donald Taylor
	Clinton Mitchem	Elbert E. Taylor III
	Ronald Taylor	

PLACE NAMES

How Clayton Got Its Name

Like Griffith Creek that was named after its first settler, this story could have been a tragedy, but with luck and good weather, it wasn't.

In the year 1835 when most of the older generation could remember the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and the Wright brothers would not be born for another fifty years, Richard Clayton left Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 8 in a balloon and landed nine and a half hours later on Keeney Mountain.

Although Clayton may not have known it, and even today his trip is not mentioned in official records, he had set a new world distance record for balloonists, and probably a new record for duration of flight. His record was broken the following year by three English balloonists who flew from London to Weilburg, Germany, but it was in no way as perilous as Clayton's flight.

But on that chilly April morning at 2 a.m. there was the urgent problem of where was the nearest human habitation? When there was enough light, he climbed a promontory, now called Stinson Knob, a part of the Keeney Ridge. He could see in the distance a silver thread that we know as the Greenbrier River, but the dense forest concealed the few settlements that were along it. However in the valley directly below a gray finger of smoke came up through the trees. He quickly hurried down towards the smoke. An hour later, he came upon a clearing and a log cabin. When two men, Samuel and James Gill answered his knock, he tried to explain his presence. If the Gill brothers were suspicious, their mistrust is not hard to understand. Clayton's speech (he was recently from England) and and clothing were odd. Furthermore, he claimed to have traveled through the air from Cincinnati in a little more than nine hours.

One story had it that the Gill brothers escorted Clayton to the home of Joseph Graham at rifle point, another that they merely directed him. They apparently went along with him, for they later returned with Clayton and two of Graham's sons to look for the "Star of the West" on top of Keeney's Mountain.

Joseph Graham had heard of ballooning, and believed Clayton's story. He sent his sons to help find the balloon, which fouled in the treetops. A few hours later the Gills, James and John Graham, and Clayton, returned with the deflated gas bag. The "Star of the West" was undamaged except for minor rips in her silk.

Then, after a good dinner, Clayton told his benefactors of his strange voyage. On the previous day, after advertising his flight, Clayton had taken off from an amphitheater on Court Street, between Race and Elm, to the plaudits of a large crowd (he had charged 50 cents admission). As a stunt, he dropped a small dog in a parachute, then floated up the Ohio

Valley and the Kanawha Valley, passing over Charleston and Malden. He could see lights near Charleston, and explained that they were from the coal-burning salt furnaces at Malden or Kanawha Salines, at that time the metropolis of the Kanawha Valley, with an annual salt production of about three million tons. Clayton's "Star of the West", untrue to her name, kept floating east, over the New River gorge and the present site of Fayetteville, winding up in a treetop on the high ridge called Keeney's Mountain, overlooking the Greenbrier River.

The following day was "muster day", a military drill required by law twice a year, and John and James Graham rode to Union to participate, at the same time spreading throughout Monroe County the tale of the balloon-man from Cincinnati. When Richard Clayton started back to Cincinnati the next morning, a Sunday, it appeared that most of the residents of the county were in the Joseph Graham backyard.

Clayton tore small pieces of silk from the "Star of the West" and passed them out to the crowd. The main body of the balloon, however, was still intact, stored in the back of Hiriam Graham's wagon.

It was a long trip back to Cincinnati. Hiriam Graham drove Clayton over Sewell Mountain and the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, past Hawks Nest and on to Malden, where Clayton hitched a ride on one of the many salt boats which plied the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. It took Clayton about six days to bump and rattle to Malden, and three weeks to float back to the Queen City.

More than 40 years later, in November 1879, it was decided that a post office would be located on the Joseph Graham homestead, where the balloonist from Cincinnati had been made welcome. At the request of local citizens, the post office was named Clayton, in memory of the man from the sky.

Excerpts from: Sunday Gazette Mail-State Magazine, June 23, 1963 "Name from the Sky" by William C. Blizzard. Information given him by Homer C. Ballengee



Keeney's Mountain, Tempa, etc.

Keeney's Mountain over which the Indians passed in their last raid into the Muddy Creek country is still known by that name and was named for one of the first settlers within the territory of the county, by the name of David Keeney who settled near the foot of the Greenbrier county side in 1787. He was killed by the Indians. (James Miller's History, p. 352)

Tempa was named for Frances Tempa Williams, the mother of "Bif Ruff" Williams and the grandmother of Nettie Williams Lewis. The Tempa Post Office was at the Hayes Stover place later owned by Carl Grimmett and now owned by Earl Berkley.

Griffith Creek was named after Thomas Griffith who settled on land where the creek enters the Greenbrier River. The site is now the Velva Kincaid place. Griffith was killed in 1780 in the last Indian raid in West Virginia.

Hungart's Creek was named for the first settler on Hungart's Creek whose identity like those of many older pioneers has been lost.

Clay Hill or Swamp Ridge was so called because there is a swamp on each side. The name Clay came from Clay Graham who lived near.

Shades of Death started from where the old Joseph Graham grist mill stood below the Clayton church and extended to the Mary Bowden house on the east branch of Hungart's Creek. It was so called because it was a dense forest where one never saw the light of day.

The Bear Hole - a hole in Hungart's Creek which formed a pond about 20 feet deep, just below the former baptising hole for Clayton Church. It was at the head of the Shades of Death woods.

Cobbler's Knob. About one mile southeast of the Graham homestead on the farm owned by Mr. H. D. Gum and now owned by Leonard Persinger, lived one Herbert Withrow who was a shoemaker, or in the vocabulary of that day, "a shoe cobbler." The knob near his old home is to this day known as "Cobbler's Knob".

Fisher Hill. Named for a man who lived near the John Allen place. Fisher killed his daughter and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Mash is the road past Elmer Graham's home, probably derived from "marsh" since the road was notorious for its mud and the land was swampy.

STORIES OF THE PAST

Bountiful Harvest

One time in the year 1908 or 1910 a houseful of company went to visit G. T. Ballengee on Keeney's Mountain. It so happened there was not a bit of meat or grease of any kind with which to prepare dinner. Mrs. Ballengee, somewhat riled, said "You men get right out and kill some game for dinner." No one dared disobey. Omar and Ira Houchins and Mr. Ballengee stayed at the house. She told Omar to go out and kill a chicken for dinner. He and his brother Ira hastened to obey, but due to the chickens hiding in the smart grass, they shot six instead of one. Mrs. Ballengee was greatly incensed and demanded payment which they hastened to give. Meanwhile, Mr. Ballengee built a fire to butcher a hog. When the hunters returned with fifteen squirrels, the fire was hot and a hog was soon ready to eat. There was plenty of meat although there was no refrigerator or freezer.

The Gunless Hunter

Joe Graham, the son of Lanty Graham, was a great hunter. On Keeney's Mountain on the land now owned by Earl Berkley there is a certain rock called the Spy Rock. This rock is about three-fourths of a mile west of the old G. T. Ballengee place on the mountain. It is about twenty-five feet high and overlooks a good cold spring or deer-lick to which the deer at that time came to get water. One day as Mr. Graham was sitting on this rock watching the deer lick, he saw a deer approaching the spring. A wild cat which was in a tree just above the spring suddenly leaped down and landed on the deer's back. The frightened deer leaped down the side of the mountain and went under a fallen chestnut with such speed that the wild cat's head struck the chestnut tree and was killed. The deer ran on a little farther and died from the injury inflicted by the wild cat. Mr. Graham brought both home to show his family, and needless to say, ate the deer.

Mr. Graham had another unusual experience which happened at a deer lick on Lilly Smith's farm a short distance from the culvert now crossing the road below the church. Uncle Joe, as everyone called him, was hidden at this little lick so close that he was able to grab the deer by the hind leg while it was getting water and hold on until he managed to kill it.

The Coons That Weren't

In the earlier part of our community history women did a greater part of their hunting at night with their dogs. On one clear, warm spring night Mrs. Jack Foster, mother of Mrs. M. M. Ballengee, heard the dogs barking fiercely. In those days most dogs would run small game, but as soon as they smelled a bear or panther they ran for a hiding place, under a bed, table or any spot of concealment. But Mrs. Foster's dogs were trained to track panther and bear and would either attack or tree the

game that they discovered.

Mrs. Foster and her daughter, later to be Mrs. Ballengee, went to see what the dogs had treed, but they didn't bring a gun because they thought it was just a coon. When they got to the tree they couldn't see the coon so they waited for daylight to come and made themselves comfortable in the leaves. When it was light enough they looked up into the tree and saw two of the biggest panthers they had ever seen. Although terrified, they were determined to get them. While Mrs. Foster went to the ridge and shouted for the men to come and bring their mountain rifles, her daughter stayed with the dogs.

Soon the men came and shot the panthers out of the tree. They agreed that they were the biggest and strangest coons they had ever killed.



THE HILL FAMILY AND CLAYTON COMMUNITY

We shall start with the Granmother Emmaline who lived with a daughter, Aunt Susan Altare. She is buried in the Altare plot in the cemetery at the Old Riverview Church near Lowell. Her husband was Frank Hill but Emmaline was herself a Hill. Some say she was no relation to Frank but others say she was a distant cousin. Frank went to the army when the American Civil War was going on and it is said that he took typhoid fever and started going for home but he became very ill and never arrived at home. He died at the home of a friend or a relative somewhere in Greenbrier County and the location of his grave is unknown.

At least one person in the Clayton Community still remembers Emmaline, Homer Ballengee has told of her coming to visit his mother. She often visited her son John Hill and from John's home she made trips over the country to visit other people. She walked and used a long staff for a cane.

John moved to the old Eads place but where he lived before this move is not known now but the impression is that his home was near what was later known as Valley Heights. The old Eads place is now owned by Leonard Persinger. John's son Joseph R. Hill, later bought the place and sold it later to Mark Blake. The old Eads log house was left standing for a time after the Blakes came to live there. We youngsters used to play in the old house in the dirt. It had long ago lost its puncheon floor. The Hills had lived in it till a new house was built. This new house has been added to and changed but part of it is still used by the Persingers.

John Hill, the son of Frank and Emmaline, married Ann Comer who was Pennsylvania Dutch. The Pennsylvania Dutch were really German and her family had moved into West Virginia from Pennsylvania. I, Harry Hill, a grandson still remember my grandmother very well, as a little short woman with very black hair. She had a rather low snappy voice and I can see her yet running down over the hill to her little milk house which was built in the Buffalo Branch. It was branch and not creek in those days. When she came to see us she always brought something if nothing more than a biscuit with apple butter or jelly. We called her Grammy.

John and Ann had six sons, Tolliver, George, Joseph, John, Lee and Clifford. Tolliver spent some of his early manhood in Indiana, and after he married Annabelle Holcomb he made his home there again for a while. He returned and owned a place in the Clayton country. He moved to Pence Spring and later Lon Shepherd lived on the Clayton place.

George married Etta Josephine Kirby the daughter of Andrew W. Kirby. George's farm was originally a part of the Jimmie Graham farm. The land was all in woods when he bought it. He and his brother Tolliver soon cleared some fields and he started to cultivate his new ground fields. He and Tolliver built a log barn which is still standing and used. It is now about eighty years old. George always called this his "old stable". He moved a "shanty" from some saw mill in which he and his family lived

till a new house was built. Three sons, Harry, Joe and George were born before the new house was built.

A. H. Walthall who lived on the old Herndon Ballengee place built the house assisted by Lonnie Ballengee and the Hill family. Mark Blake assisted in the construction also.

John's son Joe left the old home and was employed by the C. and O. Railway. He spent most of his life on the C. and O. run from Clifton Forge to Gladstone, Virginia. John became a telegraph operator and spent the most of his life as agent on the Burlington at Ladd, Illinois. Joe is buried at Clifton Forge, Virginia. Cliff married Bessie Still of Griffith Creek and they lived for a while on the old home place. His son Herbert was born before he left the old place. Later Cliff went to the coal fields.

Lee died about the time he was grown and he is buried with his parents John and Ann in the Pence Cemetery near the spring. John was the first to be buried there, then Lee then Ann.

The George Hill family became school teachers when they started out on their own. Harry taught one school at Tempa, but after graduating from Concord and serving in the army in World War I he went to West Virginia University and after graduation, was instructor there before going to Texas Technological College at Lubbock, Texas. He retired from Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Pennsylvania, and now resides at the old home place. He married Grace Baker whose early home was in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Joe taught one school at Ramp and later taught manual training at Thomas, West Virginia, and then at Beckley. He was employed for a time by the Pulp and Paper Mill at Covington, Virginia, but retired from the Navy Yard at Portsmouth, Virginia. He now lives on the old home place with Harry and Grace.

George taught schools at Clayton, at Thayer, at Buck before going to the Rayon Plant in Covington, Virginia. He spent much time at home but finally went to Los Alamos, New Mexico where the first atomic bomb was prepared. He married Alto Woods the daughter of Bob Woods. He now resides at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Clara never married and spent the most of her life with or near her parents. She taught at Clayton, the Kirby School, at Griffith Creek and at Grassy Meadows. She was teaching in White Sulphur Springs before she died. She is buried with her parents in the cemetery near Alderson.

Harry Hill

I was born August 21, 1895 at Clayton, West Virginia. My parents were George W. Hill and Etta J. (Kirby) Hill. After attending the Clayton one-room country school, I took an examination at Talcott, West Virginia in 1912, and received my elementary school diploma. I then enrolled in what was then Concord State Normal School and remained for two terms. I

then took the state uniform teachers examination and received a number 2 certificate. In 1913-14 I taught the Tempa School, and then went back to Concord. I received the normal school diploma with the normal school certificate in 1917.

My plans for teaching more in elementary schools could not be carried out for I had to go to the army in which I served for 21 months 1917-19. I was Private first Class in the Medical Detachment of the 315th Field Artillery, 80th Division, which trained at Camp Lee, Virginia. We went to France in the Spring, and I was in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. I was gassed and had to spend six weeks in a base hospital. I was awarded the Purple Heart and a Silver Star Citation.

After the armistice and my hospitalization, I was assigned for a while to Company B, 322nd Infantry of the 81st Division. This Division had many men almost illiterate, and battalion schools were started to fit these men for better writing and reading. I was selected to be one of the teachers. I did not teach very long until I was sent in a school detachment to the University of Grenoble, France, for one semester. I returned to the United States in a casualty company and was discharged at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

I came home and plowed a field for sowing wheat but I decided to pursue my education further and entered West Virginia University at Morgantown. I was awarded the A.B. degree in 1922. I majored in Physics and taught classes in Physics during my senior year. I was rated as a student assistant but my duties compared very well with those of a full time assistant or even an instructor. I remained at W.V.U. for the master of science degree, the M.S. which I received in 1924. I taught classes and laboratories as I studied for the degree. I went from graduate assistant to the rank of instructor as ratings were made in those days.

I started the academic year of 1925-26 at W.V.U. but went to Texas Technological College, January 1926. Texas Tech. was then a very new school having opened for the first time, October 1925. I began my teaching there so near the beginning I was always classed as one of the Pioneers. At first I had the title of Adjunct Professor which was soon changed to Assistant Professor. I was promoted to Associate Professor in 1928. In 1932 I decided to go to the University of Chicago to finish study toward the doctorate. I had already attended several summer quarters in study there as did many other college teachers over the country. At that time summer quarters were especially designed to accomodate teachers. Outstanding professors offered courses.

On June 11, 1932, Grace E. Baker and I were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was then teaching in Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, Florida. This college is now Florida State University, I believe. She was a graduate of W.V.U. in the class of 1921. She holds a master's degree from Iowa State and she has done some study toward the doctorate at the University of Chicago. She has taught in many high schools, in Texas Tech, Iowa State, and in Florida State.

I went back to Texas Tech in 1934 because of the urgency. I had completed the formal study at the University of Chicago but I had to complete writing the thesis and to take the final oral examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Ph.D. I finished the thesis while I was teaching and went back to the University in the summer of 1935 to review for and to take the examination. I was then awarded the degree.

My thesis dissertation was a problem in spectroscopy, entitled Hyperfine Structure in Silver. Full time teaching schedules did not permit much time for doing reserach but my colleagues and I would do a problem once in a while. Once at Texas Tech we studied the electrical conditions produced by West Texas sand storms. Utility companies were interested.

In 1942 I was offered and accepted a position in Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Pennsylvania. I accepted a decrease in rank but I was pleased to be nearer my aging parents and my wife was near her old home in Morgantown, W. Va. My rank was soon restored and later I received another promotion as Professor of Physics. I was elected Secretary of the Faculty in 1957 and served in that capacity till my retirement in 1964.

During the period of World War II the enrollemnt of students in Washington and Jefferson College became so low that class and laboratory work did not require all our time. My colleague and I worked for many months on research problems assigned to us by the Armstrong Cork Company. These were concerned with heat and electricity for the most part. The company representative came to us and said, "The Company has lost its laboratory men and you have lost your student, so why not get together?" Our reports were made to the Company but we published some papers with the Company's permission of course.

During our stay in Washington, Pennsylvania, we were members of the Second Presbyterian Church with later became the Church of the Covenant after merging with the Third Presbyterian Church of the same city. I served as an active elder for several years.

I never taught many summer schools. When I was at Texas Tech I was either going to summer schools or returning to W. Va. to be with my parents. When I came to W. and J. I was with the aging parents all I could be.

After a traffic accident in August 1959 my wife Grace was hospitalized for about six months. She is still lame because of a serious break of the right femur bone. I was only in the hospital for about a month. She was in the Hinton Hospital for about a month and then she was moved by ambulance to Washington, Pa.

We remained in Washington, Pa. till my retirement in 1964 when I was made Professor of Physics Emeritus. Now we are back in the Clayton Community at my old home.

In 1967 at the commencement of Concord College I was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. It was the fiftieth anniversary of my class

which graduated in 1917. At the Alumni Banquet which preceded the commencement I was made a Golden Alumnus, an honor given by the Concord Alumni Association.

After retirement I gave up some memberships in learned societies but when teaching I belonged to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the AAAS; The American Physical Society, the APS; the Optical Society of America, OPS; the American Association of Physics Teachers, the AAPT. I was president of the Western Pennsylvania Section of the AAPT for a year 1947-48. I was for a time a member of the American Association of University Professors, The AAUP. I was listed in the American Men of Science, and during my active association with Washington and Jefferson College I was listed in Who's Who in the East.

Some folks say, take it easy. I have never really had an easy job, so why should I have one now?



Harry Hill

CLAYTON-GRIFFITH CREEK COUNTRY LIFE PROGRAM

Country Life was organized by Clayton School Parent Teachers Association, Oma Boyd teacher, in March 1953 for the purpose of securing greater cooperation between the school and the community. The P.T.A. realizing the need of a program that would coordinate the resources of the Community, called a meeting together to discuss the possibilities of organizing a Country Life Program.

People were interested; so a general meeting was called. The County Extension workers were invited to assist in organizing the Program. Mr. George Utterback was elected general chairman, and Mrs. Oma Boyd, temporary secretary.

Mr. Homer Ballengee moved that the General Chairman appoint committee chairmen and members for the different divisions, namely, Agriculture, Religion, Education, Home Improvement, Health and Miscellaneous.

A general program of work was inaugurated with short range and long range objectives. The objectives were submitted to the Summers County Extension Agent, Mr. Art Laugh, who was instrumental in having them printed into booklets.

The first objective realized by the Country Life Program was a much needed well for Clayton School.

Country Life met each month with good attendance. Committees worked on objectives, citizens took an active part that had never seemed to have an interest in community affairs. Dinner meetings were held for the purpose of raising money to carry on needed projects.

In 1953 the Program reorganized and Griffith Creek Community became a part of the Program. The name was changed to Clayton-Griffith Creek Country Life Program.

Country Life was sponsored by the Beckley Area Rural Development Council in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension of West Virginia University and the Appalachian Electric Power Company.

Yearly reports were written by each committee. The chairman wrote a general report, a scrapbook was kept, then judges came from the sponsoring agents to judge the projects completed and the achievements made in the communities.

Other Country Life Programs were in this competition, therefore it always gave Clayton-Griffith Creek a happy feeling to hear they had won. A number of blue, and red ribbons, certificates and cash awards were won over the years. The prize money was used to promote needed projects.

From 1952 to 1962 the Program met in the Clayton School Building. The School and Country Life worked together, however some conflicts did arise. Naturally, freedom to carry on many activities was prohibited.



Country Life Home Coming, July 4, 1954



Country Life Home Coming, 1955



Country Life Home Coming, 1955

In 1963 the Board of Education sold the Building and grounds at public auction. (The children were transported to other schools,) Country Life had saved enough money to buy the Building and surrounding ground.

Though saddened by losing the School that so many years had been a part of the Community, it was good to own the building and it has been used for many activities throughout the years.

The Building is kept repaired, painted and clean. Many hours have been spent working at this Community Center. The lawn is kept mowed, fences and gates in good condition.

A history within itself could be written on Country Life, however we will briefly list some of the objectives and improvements that have been made in Clayton and Griffith Creek Communities.

1. Committee members participated in different training conferences on Country Life at Beckley.
2. Improvement and repair of Community Building.
3. Road improvement was secured in communities by contacting State Road Commission.
4. Telephone Company was prevailed upon to extend telephones to Clayton Community. This achievement was realized in 1956.
5. Each family was asked to preserve local history.
6. Home Demonstration Club was organized in 1966. It is still active.
7. Participated in West Virginia Centennial 1963. Won second place in parade at Hinton.
8. Roads to Churches and cemeteries have been improved from time to time.
9. Community and church signs have been erected.

Improvements by Committees

Agriculture

1. More scientific methods of farming were encouraged.
2. A number of farm ponds were built that have cleaner and better drinking water.
3. Cattle production was improved.
4. Sponsored youth conservation.
5. Garden schools were held from time to time, last one January 1978.
6. More adequate fences and gates were built on farms.
7. Better forestry management was encouraged.
8. Soil was tested and recommendations followed for use of lime and fertilizer.
9. More winter cover crops were used.
10. More small fruits were grown for home use.
11. Improved pasture by mowing and treating.

Education

1. Maintained the standard of first class for Clayton and Griffith Creek Schools until they were discontinued, Griffith Creek 1961, Clayton 1962.
2. Encouraged more and better reading. Magazines and book exchange for young people and adults.
3. Newspapers placed in each home.

4. Promoted 4-H Club. Many boys and girls have received blue, red and white ribbons for their projects in County and also State Fair.
5. Recognition each year of high school graduates toward higher education.
6. Encouraged visitation and tours of state parks, historical places or other places of interest.
7. Continued participation in P.T.A.
8. Assisted schools in Conservation Week.

Religion

1. Encouraged Churches to beautify church lawns by mowing, cleaning grounds and securing more parking space.
2. Country Life has tried to promote high moral standards in all divisions and activities.
3. Meetings begin with devotions and close with prayer.
4. Two cemeteries have been greatly improved by spraying and removing honey suckle, briars, brush and other debris. Graves were leveled, grass seed sown where necessary and a caretaker keeps cemeteries mowed. Cemetery fences and gates have been kept in good condition. Markers for all graves continues to be an objective.
5. Encouraged attendance at Church educational and leadership training meetings.
6. Country Life has sponsored Easter Sunrise Services since 1967.
7. Church buildings improved, painted and kept in good repair.

Home Improvement

1. Running water and bathrooms have been installed in 95% of homes.
2. Driveways and parking facilities have been improved.
3. Out-door lights installed at most all homes.
4. Each family takes pride in keeping lawns and premises mowed, clean and free of debris.
5. Exterior and interior of homes have been improved by covering with siding or paint, panelling, etc.
6. Interior decoration has been studied in Home Demonstration.
7. Farm signs installed at most homes, and mail boxes, painted, attractive and in good condition.
8. Programs and pictures have been presented featuring "Safety in the Homes".

Health

1. Members of Country Life participated in Health Drives - Red Cross, polio, cancer, crippled children, etc.
2. Worked for correction of physical defects among children of community.
3. Cooperated with health clinics and health nurses.
4. Awareness of need of more sanitation in homes and schools.
5. Encouraged members to have yearly check-ups.
6. Health programs held from time to time at Country Life or Home Demonstration.
7. First-aid classes taught by competent instructor CPR classes taught in March 1978. Program on First-aid September 1978.
8. Each home urged to have First-aid kit.

9. Lessons on proper food and nutrition have been taught in Home demonstration from time to time.
10. Encouraged home grown gardens and home prepared food.

Recreation

1. An outdoor fireplace was constructed in recreation center of Community ground.
2. Home comings and reunions are held at Community Building each year.
3. Halloween Harvest Festival and pie supper each October at Community Building.
4. Song fests and group singing have been enjoyed from time to time. Some were sponsored by 4-H club.
5. Study of Arts and Crafts in cooperation with Home Demonstration Club.
6. All look forward to the December meeting when the three organizations, Country Life, Home Demonstration and 4-H meet together for an evening of fellowship, entertainment, refreshments or dinners with decorations and everything carried out in the Christmas motif.

Notes

The following pages may be used to add items of personal history of the past and the future.