

Photo Courtesy Mr. Frank Lemon

The Court House Gang of the Early Teens

At this period in the county seat history, the most popular backgrounds in which to take pictures were the court house and the Hotel Hull porches. This one, on the former, represents a milestone and a period in the progress and growth of the locality.

From left to right: Attorney (former West Virginia Attorney General A. A. "Cousin Abe" Lilly; long-time court clerk Jackson Smith and his son and assistant, Aubrey O. Smith; Miss Matty Beaty, part-time clerk's assistant; Miss Bessie Hoover, stenographer; Joe W. Maynor; Miss Mable Williams, stenographer; Capt. James H. Lemon; Criminal Judge John Anderson (1921-1922); Crocket Mankin; Criminal Judge T. J. McGinnis.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 417)

in this in all your affayres to guide you, Wee take leaue to rest.

Yours Honnours humble
seruants, in all things to
bee Commanded, (sic),

Isaac uickar
Christopher wheaton
Isaac Prince
Tobyas Greene
Samuel Prince
Israel Vickree
Joseph Prince
John prince
George uickare
Jonathan Vickere

Elder John Prince died at Hull, August, 16 1676. Several of his sons were seamen, among whom were Isaac, my ancestor, who was a shipmaster; Job, a shipmaster was lost at sea, in the English Channel; and Thomas, likewise a shipmaster, died in Barbadoes. This fondness for the sea remained in the Prince family for several generations, and down to my grandfather, Isaac Prince, who for several years was the purser of a Philadelphia ship engaged in the West Indian trade.

Samuel Prince, one of the sons of Elder John Prince was born in 1649, and died in 1728. He married the daughter of Gov. Thomas Hickley. His son, Thomas, who was born in 1687, and who was ordained into the ministry October, 1, 1718, became one of the great preachers of new England in his day. He was for many years minister of Old South Church, Boston. He was a man of great learning, and eminent historian and one of the distinguished men of the colony.

My first ancestor of the Hull line who came to this country was Peter Thomas Hull who was born in Germany in 1716. He married in Germany but his wife died before he left there, leaving no children. He arrived at Philadelphia on the ship "Frances Ann," May 30, 1741, and soon thereafter located at Lancaster, Pa. While living there he attended the old Trinity Lutheran Church, and at a certain service announcement was made of his approaching marriage to Susanna Margaret Diffenbaugh. This marriage was celebrated in 1750.

In 1752, he removed to the Valley of Virginia,

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1914



The Incomparable MacTaggarts

This is a fascinating picture almost overlooked in the final stages of preparing for publication, and a study in interesting personalities. (Also see page 221).

Standing at rear: Mr. William MacTaggart, with son, Paul, a cadet at Greenbrier Military School. The ladies: Margaret (McLean), Mrs. MacTaggart, Bertha, and Isabelle (Morton). Paul and Bertha died in their early prime; Paul, at 35, and Bertha, 25 years of age. Margaret, who lives on stanhope Court operates the McLean Addition, while Isabelle is with the Wilkes Insurance Agency, of Beckley.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 418)

having purchased land in that part of Augusta County which later became Rockingham county. He lived there until 1765, when he purchased about 2700 acres of land situated in the far-famed crab bottom, then in Augusta, later Pendelton, but now in Highland county. By way of parenthesis, I might say that the Crab bottom bluegrass is probably the finest in America. At any rate it produces the finest cattle I have ever seen—cattle that have made Highland county famous.

Peter Thomas Hull removed to his Crab bottom estate in 1765, and lived there until his death in 1776. His neighbors were Micheal Arbogast, Peter Zickafoose, the Yeagers and the Berners. There are many of his descendants living in Highland, Pocahontas, Pendleton and Randolph counties.

Peter Hull, the eldest son of Peter Thomas Hull, was a very prominent man. He lived in Crab bottom on land devised him by his father. Upon the formation of Pendleton county in 1788, he was chosen sheriff, and later represented the county four terms in the Virginia Legislature.

The last will and testament of Peter Thomas Hull, originally written wholly in the German language, is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Augusta county, Staunton, Virginia, a copy of which follows:

WILL OF PETER THOMAS HOHL. Written the 28th day of November, 1775. Recorded in the Clerks Office of the Circuit Court of Augusta County, Virginia in Will Book No. 5, Page 407.

In the name of God, Amen:

The twenty-eighth day of November, one thousand seven hundred, and seventy-five.

I, Peter Hohl, of Augusta County and Colony of Virginia, being sick in body but sound of mind and Memory, thanks be to Almighty God for the same, do make and declare this my last will and Testament, in manner and form following, first to my dearly beloved wife Susannah Margaret, I give and bequeath the third part of the estate, after all my just debts are paid and my Eldest son Peter shall according to my will and desire after my decease give unto his Mother the third part or share of the increase of Grain to the land produces and shall bring the same into the Barn and Thresh it for her. I likewise bequeath further unto my wife to have choice of two milk cows and the Pennsylvania Mare also a horse for her to ride and to work, which horse is to remain

(Continued on page 420)

1914

Beckley Institute

James A. Thompson teacher

Too scrambled to unscramble.



Photo Courtesy J. Q. Hutchinson

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 419)

upon the plantation and not to be disposed of, likewise the choice of two sheep; the division of my land shall be the following manner:

(1st) the land be surveyed from the lower end on the line up to the Dry Run. (2nd) from the Dry Run up to the corner tree. (3rd) from the corner tree on up to the Middle Corner tree on the upper land. (4th) from the Middle Corner Tree on up to the upper Corner Tree. (5th) The three of my eldest daughters shall be made equal. I bequeath unto them after my decease the sum of Twenty Pounds Current money each, and my youngest daughters shall also receive, each of them the sum of Twenty pounds Current Monay, as soon as they shall attain their age.

(6th) I also desire that the three different pieces or parcels of land, viz., the first at the upper tract, the second in the (Vanderpool) Gap, third on Jackson's River, besides an entering, shall be sold at Public vendue, and put to the estate. I empower hereby my Eldest son Peter to sell and dispose of the same as my Executor to this my last will and Testament and desire that Susannah Margaret, my wife and my son Peter shall educate my younger Children, in a Christian-like manner, as long as they behave dutiful; otherwise they shall have power to bind them out with this proviso to pay them interest on their money from the day they are bound out.

Witness present — His — Bernard Lantz — Peter — X — Hohl — (L. S.) — Leonard Simon — Mark — Peter Flesher

Certify hereby the above is an Exact Copy Translated from the German Tongue into English this Nineteenth day of March, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

John William Lee

At a Court held for Augusta County, March 19, 1776.

The last will and Testament of Peter Hohl, deceased, wrote in the German Tongue with this Translation in English annexed, which was proved

(Continued on page 422)



At A Favorite Picture Taking Site–Occasion: Unknown

Some well-known Beckleyans. Back row: L. A. Mauck, local coal dealer; Phillip Clay, Burnette Curtis, and Grover Hunt, popular barber. Middle: Most Light, Paul Dyer, unidentified. Front: George Williams, J. C. White, Ed Snyder. Bottom: Janese Stover (now Mrs. Janese Wikle), daughter of Quincy and Maggie (Williams) Stover.

1915



Photo Courtesy Mrs. R. D. Watts

Motoring, Perhaps at its Most Pleasurable Period.

Parking, for instance, either side of the street is all right. Here is shown Dr. John Earl McCreery in his handsome new Overland Automobile. He will spin with his sister, Miss Molly McCreery; niece, young Elizabeth Johnson; and friends, the Misses Blanche Smith and Ad Williams. The "job" is an Overland, license No. 3666, price about $1050.00, no tax, (except plates, two, 1915-1916, probably $5.00 per year); no driver's ticket necessary. The photo was taken in front of the palacial residence of Sen. John W. McCreery (now the site of the Appalachian Power Co., offices on S. Kanawha St. The senator has been recognized sitting in a swing on the porch with his nurse, Mrs. Steiff.

No. 5759 — $ 1.67

State of West Virginia

License to Maintain an Automobile.

This is to certify that the undersigned, in pursuance of the authority vested in him by law, has this day granted to G. C. Hedrick of Beckley, West Virginia, a license to maintain and operate an automobile, beginning the 1 day of May, 1914, and ending the 30th day of June, 1914, and has assessed and collected a license tax of One & 67/100 dollars.

Given under my hand at the city of Charleston, this the 11th day of May 1914.

J. H. Darnall, Auditor, State of West Virginia

Facsimile Courtesy Oppie Lee Hedrick

NOTE:—THIS LICENSE IS CO-EXTENSIVE WITH THE STATE. (Over)

This beautifully scribed demonstration of Spencerianism, together with a couple of metal (front and back) tags to dangle from your gas buggy, was the State's license to maintain an automobile in 1914, specifically. On the reverse side was repeated at length "Section 44 Chapter 82 Acts of 1907, as Amended by Acts of the Legislature of 1911." This was the law of automobiles which Mr. G. C. Hedrick and everyone else owning such, was supposed to carry with them over mud and rock as far as the car might be able to go.



Elizabeth Johnson's Birthday at McCreery's Residence
Scene of Many Such Occasions

Guests for this occasion, about 1917 or 1918, were: Second row, left to right: Juanita Maples (Claud Martin), Marie Bair (Nash Campbell), Margaret MacTaggart (D. W. McLean), Eleanor Payne (L. L. Scherer), Genevieve Bailey (Bob Crumb) daughter of Lawrence Bailey, formerly of Beckley and Huntington.
First row, left to right: Louise Maple (Everet Keyser), Katherine Johnson (Dr. Edward Wood), Henrietta Porter, daughter of O. P. Porter, formerly of Beckley; Elizabeth Johnson, the honoree (Dr. Andy Amick), Bertha MacTaggart, deceased.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 420)

to be a true one by the Oath of John William Lee, and the will proved by the oath of the Witnesseth thereto, is ordered to be recorded and on the Motion of Peter Hohl, the Executor, therein named, who made oath according to Law Certificate is Granted them for Obtaining a Probate thereof in due form, he having with his Securities entered into and acknowledged their bond according to law.

There was a Rev. Joseph Hull who came from England to America in 1635, and settled in Boston. He has many descendants scattered throughout the country, and I have encountered some difficulties in picking out the members of our German Hull family from those of this English Hull family.

Beckley, West Virginia, September 6th, 1931.

I. C. PRINCE

(BECKLEY CENTENNIAL EDITION
THE SUNDAY REGISTER, JUNE 19, 1938)

Straight Shooting Jack Anderson Made History In West and In Beckley

Sixty-seven years ago there came to America from Durham, England, a youth who was to have a colorful career in many parts of the United States and exercise a great influence on Raleigh county and Beckley.

He was the late John (Jack) Anderson, who became mayor of Beckley, assessor of Raleigh county, Beckley postmaster, and Town district magistrate.

More than this, he directed the surveying of 47,000 acres of Raleigh county coal land, starting in 1890, for Logan M. Bullitt, of the prominent Philadelphia family of that name, who persuaded him to leave the superintendency of a coal mine in Montana to do it.

Saved Bullitt's Life

Bullitt not only had a high regard for Anderson's general ability, but owed his own life to the intervention of the Englishman in a strike situation in Montana.

Anderson came to America with his father and the other members of the family. The father, Archibald Anderson, a geologist, settled at St. Marys, Pa., then went to Arlington, Ky., and finally to Iowa, when son John was about 17 or 18 years of age.

Of a restless, roving disposition, young Anderson left the Iowa home about this time, and journeying deep into the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, obtained a job escorting caravans of travelers across the plains where there was still danger of Indian attacks.

He became an expert with pistols and rifles; at the time of his death four years ago he had a large collection of firearms of all the smaller kinds.

This and similar work he did until, when about 25

(Continued on page 427)

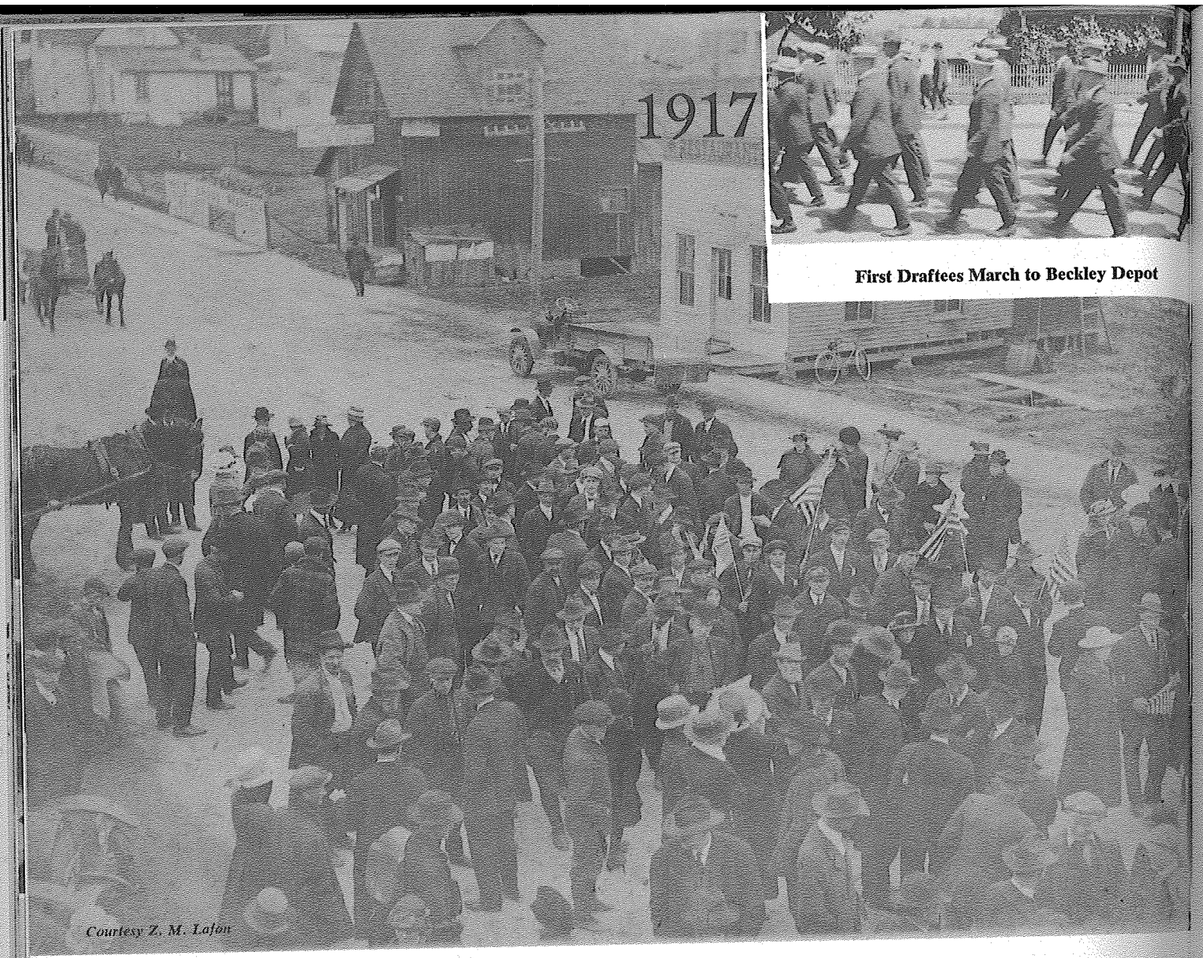


Beckley's World War I American Red Cross Workers–1918

"Never underestimate the power of a woman"—And that includes, especially, these ladies who gave unstintingly of their time, effort and money in the winning of World War I.
From left to right: Katherine Brubeck (Malone), Pansey Hawley (Sampson), Winnie Cook (Freeman), Packie Anderson (Wolf), Mildred Bibb (Fishback), Mrs. Frank Foot, Bess Anderson (Bonner), Esther Yaple (Seward), Lora Maples (Mellen), Mary Laing (Powell), Irma Yaple (Brash), Hallie Harper (Phipps), Mrs. Cristabelle Sabine (Hoople) Mead, Beulah Smith, Imogene Coleman (Davenport), Josephine Harshbarger, Jinks Hoskins, Inez Calfee (rear), Mary Fife (McCoy), Mary Davis (Stuart), Lena Lemon (Thompson), Lucy Ragland (Bowers), Coral Calfee (Murdock), Thelma Hawley (Lemon).

As is usually the case when a group photograph is scheduled, a number of members of the workers was not present. The names of officers, if any, could not be learned. Only a few of these are not still living here; but, like the soldiers themselves who fought the war, they are all remembered with high honors and deep appreciation for offering so much at such a critical period of "making the world safe for democracy."

Mrs. T. C. Moorefield is the present executive secretary of the county chapter, with officers in the Bair Building, and lives at the Watts Apartment, Beckley.



Courtesy Z. M. Lafon

First Draftees March to Beckley Depot

Farewell Demonstration in Honor of 129 Departing Soldier Boys

RALEIGH REGISTER (September 27, 1917)

Largest Crowd in City's History Assembled to See Them Off and Bid Them Godspeed. 40 per cent increment goes to camp, 22 short

ARRIVE AT CAMP

Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va., September 24—Arrived 10 O'clock. All happy. Wonderful place.

Francis L. Conway

Until they reached the camp the boys were under the command of Francis L. Conway, who was appointed to the post by the local board. Before he was certified for service, Mr. Conway, occupied a position in the Beckley National Bank.

When the call came he resigned his position and had been since assisting the draft board with its work.

In handling the command, Otey Y. Warren was appointed to act as his aid.

As the roll was called by Commander Conway each man boarded the train and took his seat.

James H. Brunk, the first man on the list, appeared to be the midget of the bunch; M. C. Posey, the tallest. He appeared to stand head and shoulders above most of his companions. One by one as their names rang out, they trooped through the narrow isle formed by the solid crowd of friends and well-wishers that crowded about the train. Finally, when all was ready, the train moved out, and a great farewell shout went up from the cheering thousands.

Ten men thus stand in the shadow of trial by court martial.

Fifteen were granted emergency exemption. (All of the following indicated by an asterik, had acceptable and legitimate reasons for being deferred or dropped from the draft. For instance: Dr. Fred Stansbury had already enlisted in the medical corps and went back to college.)

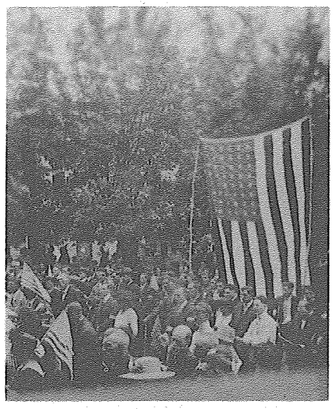
The alternates not listed below, were: Porter B. Cox, Harvey Pittman, and Joe Henry Lilly.

The list, together with draft numbers, is shown opposite. (There is a slight discrepancy in the totals, probably caused by much changing of names and numbers in last minute arrangements.):

FIRST WHITE DRAFTEES

873 Adkins, Edward Miles, Pluto
130 Adkins, Singleton, Sullivan
360 Akers, Charles Clayton, Beckley
347 *Aliff, Wilda Wash, Beckley
276 Allen, Grover Hendrix, Mabscott
463 Amick, Austin, Runa
1081 Armstrong, Alonzo, Grandview
549 Barate, Lewis, Glen White
948 Beckett, Ira C., Fitzpatrick
685 Bell, Moyer, Fireco
1103 Bernard, Henry, Hotcoal
1066 Berry, John, Eccles
1323 Bibb, Carlyn A., Beckley
240 *Birchfield, William, Lego
246 Blevins, Earl, Martins Ferry, O.
478 Bond, Acquilles, Esau
877 Bragg, William E., Sandstone
683 Brammer, Charley E., Oxley
184 *Brown, Tracy, Royal
13 Brunk, James R., Eccles
709 Bryant, Jerrymi Clowney, Shady Springs
714 Callahan, Calvin Henry, Affinity
312 Campbell, Walter John, Beckley
1079 Canaday, Isaac D., Lester
570 Carper, Elmer J., Grandview
751 Cawley, Wm. Everett, Sprague
673 Chietti, Antonio, Glen White
177 Clay, Charles Wayman, Beckley
786 Cole, Lacy, Winding Gulf
957 Collins, Leonard D., Cranberry
61 Conway, Francis L., Beckley
176 Cook, Joseph, Dry Creek
300 Cook, Newman, Oxley
1037 Cottle, Jesse, Willis Branch
301 Cozort, Jack, Lester
848 *Crawford, Gooch, Glen Morgan
459 Cuckler, R. E., Sophia
878 *Culler, Ernest, Ararat
356 Daniel, Lewis J., Surveyor
*Darby, Austin, Beckley
80 Davis, John W., Beckley
945 Davis, William, Eccles
971 Deweese, Joseph H., Maynor
1105 Dudley, Grover C., Beckley
661 Dunbar, James R., Clear Creek
728 Dupree, James, Pemberton
724 *Estep, Ernest, Portsmouth, O.
212 Evans, David J., Eccles
406 Fink, Carl, Pemberton
344 *Fitzpatrick, Martin M., Dillon
297 Foley, Roy L., Mountview
862 Foose, James Dawson, Terry
960 Godbey, John Luther, Sprague
260 Griffith, Joseph A., Ghent
280 Haley, John, Surveyor
902 Hall, Harmon, Killarney
431 Hamilton, Robert, Rockwood, Tenn.
591 Harless, Elmer Ellsworth, Dorothy
1326 Harper, Kyle D., Beckley
883 Harvey, Charles H., Cranberry
469 Hill, Forest Emmons, Glen White
1027 Hilton, Clint, Stotesbury
343 Hoke, Miles Kester, Ronceverte
44 Huff, Harry Howard, Beckley
861 Huffman, Lester C., Beckley
744 *Hunter, Hubert R., Pine Knob
537 Jarrell, Dennie, Pine Knob
706 Lacy, Foster, Winding Gulf
197 Lemon, Walter L. Daniels
470 Lester, James, Basin
371 Lilly, Henry J., Winding Gulf
1018 Lilly, Richard Pearl, Beckley
1065 Lohman, Charles, Cranberry
462 Lowry, Howard, Sylvia
1010 Lunsford, Charles B., Slab Fork
199 Mann, Fred, Raleigh
332 Marsh, Andrew Lee, Tams
1024 Martin, Frank Lester, Sullivan
989 McDonald, Clay T., Stanaford
41 McGhee, Lusan, Winding Gulf
271 McWhorter, Willie, Winding Gulf
903 Messersmith, Arthur H., Eccles
167 Messmer, Robert B., Eccles
753 Miller, Elmer Parse, Mabscott
255 Miller, Rosser Howard, Minden
359 Mitchem, James Arthur, Besoco
288 Morton, James Ralph, Wright
412 *Morgan, John Young, Glen White
427 Morton, William P., Bluefield
838 Moyer, Walter, Winding Gulf
539 Noble, Bruce McK., Beckley
232 Oneal, Everett, Surveyor
816 Parker, Fred, Mabscott
220 Pearson, Ervin G., Eccles
1100 Perry, Albert Henry, Dorothy
742 Perry, Ballard, Winding Gulf
820 Perry, Noah, Artie
560 Peters, Nelson, Colcord
227 Pettry, Burl, Jr., Dry Creek
749 Pierce, Charley, Beckley
146 Posey, N. C., Hematite, Va.
651 Price, C. M., Glen Morgan
228 Redden, Azel, Table Rock
346 Reed, Corbett, Basin
785 Rhodes, James C., Dorothy
741 Richmond, John H., Hinton
324 Richmond, Webster, Sandstone
886 Robertson, Leonard P., McAlpin
573 Rogers, Earl V., Prince
863 Rorrer, Walter Lee, Dameron
399 Saymansky, John, Wickham
250 Seaman, Leonard, Glen White
615 Shrewsbury, Howard, Epperly
374 Shumate, Samuel H., Stover
122 *Simon, Homer, Marfork
278 Sluss, Leonard, Stotesbury
91 Sluss, Richard, Stotesbury
458 Smart, John Abe, McAlpin
214 Smith, Emery J., Grandview
585 Smith, Joseph Omar, Abraham
693 Snyder, Joe, Lester
342 *Stansbury, Fred, Marshes
690 Stewart, John Dow, Mabscott
313 Stiver, Charles W., Carbon
211 *Stover, Enoch, Maynor
546 Stover, Frank V., Marshes
736 Stover, Loney, Clear Creek
618 Stricklin, Willie, Oswald
330 Strong, Alfred, Glen Morgan
963 *Stroud, Clarence E., Beckley
1108 Thompson, Charley A., Glen White
1063 Thompson, Lewis, Lego
670 Thompson, William Aden, Beckley
430 Thurman, Hilton G., Beckley
425 Toney, Dorsey Lee, Prosperity
846 Trail, William J. Union
806 Samuel Trump, Bolt
390 Trussler, Call Hill, Lillybrook
198 *Turner, James Herbert, Maynor
619 Turner, Harrison, Maynor
323 Walters, Floyd Estill, Sullivan
688 *Ward, George, Jr., Jarrolds Valley
594 Warren, Otey Yancey, Beckley
978 White, Bruce Howard, Colcord
760 White, Clarence E., Ronceverte
523 Wilcher, H. C., Eccles
420 Wilkerson, Levi, Oswald
759 Williams, Homer, Eccles
275 Williams, Raymond, Prosperity
609 Williams, Robert Lee, Maynor
663 Williams, Walter, Cirtsville
645 Yoodrum, E. C., Pemberton
320 Young, Alfred C., Rutledge
321 Young, Willie, Winding Gulf

The final Speech making and flag waving on court house lawn before the draftees departed on the "almost suicidal mission!"





Top examples of the Beckley dough-boy in World War I; well trained, with well-scrubbed uniforms. "Bill" and Beacher Dunn, sons of Jas. A. Dunn; Jimmy Thompson; "Jeff" Jeffries.

Local "Wounded in Action" in World War I With Germany

Wounded in action:
Acord, James W., Marshes
Adams, Nah D., Beckley
Akers, Charles C., Beckley
Armstrong, Alonzo, Grandview
Berry, John B., Beckley
Boblett, Henry W., Slab Fork
Bowman, Harry A., Sprague
Bradford, Cecil, Dry Creek
Bragg, Clark J., Slab Fork
Bronson, Robert, Riley
Bryant, Jerrymi C., Shady Spring
Burnett, Lannon, Winding Gulf
Burnside, John S., Masseyville
Buskavage, Frank, Glen White
Cardwell, Percy, Eccles
Carson, Thomas W., Dillon
Caseese, Joe, Beckley
Caul, Peter, Cranberry
Church, Joseph A., Winding Gulf
Clark, Cephus, Winding Gulf
Cobbs, John, Stanaford
Cobbs, Walter, Stanaford
Conway, Henry A., Beckley
Cottle, Harvey, Dorothy

Carl Cook



Cozort, Jack, Lester
Craddock, William R., Curtsville
Dickens, Haven G., Maynor
Dinkler, August, Beckley
Decelie, Ralph, Dorothy
Dickens, William H., Arnett
Dunbar, Ileff S., Clear Creek
George, Frank, Beckley
Goode, Emmitt, Riley
Graham, William W., Stotesbury
Greenlee, Arthur Bland, Glen White
Gregory, Albert, Beckley
Hamilton, Robert, Winding Gulf
Hamrick, Okey V., Blue Jay
Haney, Thomas Smith, Grandview
Harless, Elmer E., Dorothy
Hawks, Oral M., Glen White
Hill, Forest E., Glen White
Holt, Henry L., Stotesbury
Honaker, Frank E., Sylvia
Horton, Millard, Lester
Johnson, Emmett W., Table Rock
Keaton, Frank, Oxley
Kyle, Eben L., Stover
Laverty, Jabey Crockett, Zada
Legg, Lairdy B., Mabscott
Lester, Everett S., Sand Lick
Lester, Loyd R., Marshes
Little, Leonard W., Sophia
McKinney, Giles K., Lego
McMillon, Azel D., Dameron
Marshall, Albert, Lanark
Martin, Jesse B., Eccles
Maynori, Benjamin F., Maynor
Maynor, Wilbert J., Maynor
Meadows, Hamer, Wright
Meadows, Joe, Lego
Meakin, Douglas H., Riley
Miller, Warner H., Delbert
Perry, Frank, Dorothy
Pettry, Sylvester H., Dry Creek
Richmond, Charley E., Pear
Richmond, Claude, New
Rogers, John E., Wickham

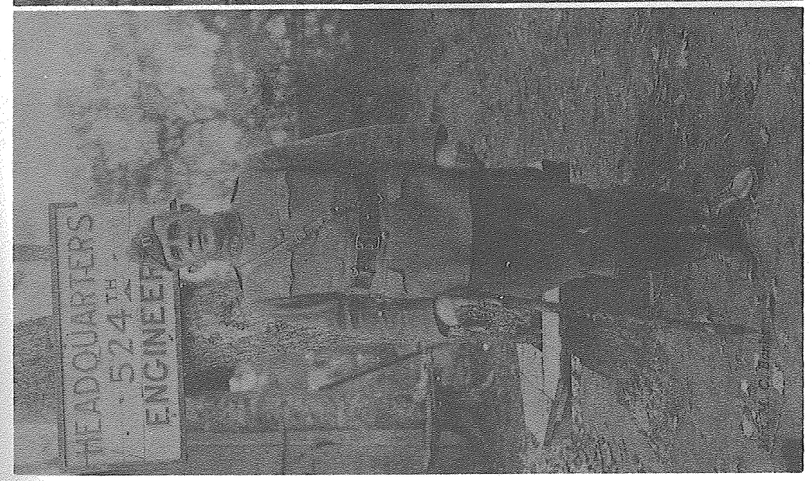
Rorrer, John F., Dameron
Rowe, Lewis M., Crab Orchard
Scarborough, Alfred R., Montcoal
Shrewsbury, Jack C., Sophia
Signorelli, Ignazio, Winding Gulf
Smith, Edgar Richard, Beckley
Snider, Alfred, Beaver
Stover, Ira S., Clear Creek
Stover, Robert R., Clear Creek
Thompson, Charlie A., Glen White
Thompson, William A., Beckley
Todd, Jacey J., Pear
Tolley, Charles P., Epperly
Trail, William J., Winding Gulf
Trump, Edgar L., Bolt
Trusler, Cal H., Lillybrook
Vistaz, Nick, Eccles
Walker, Ethel H., Hot Coal
Warden, Elmer, Beckley
Williams, Curtis W., Prosperity
Williams, Homer D., Maynor
Williams, Walter
Wiseman, Charles
Wriston, Ira Franklin
Young, Jesse J.

"Chuck" Baker





"Teelie" Kaiser



Two, representing many, World War I personalities still living in the hearts of Beckleyans, for services rendered. Dr. M. C. Banks and Dr. W. C. Mays, both captains in these pictures; leaving the army as majors.

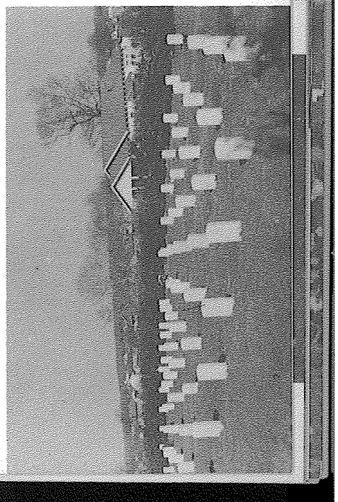
IN FLANDERS FIELDS

—John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 422)

years of age, he went north into the North Dakota coal fields, seeking work in coal mines.

He had in the meantime been married, May 19, 1881, to Miss Jane Williams, also of English parentage, shortly after her parents had moved from the Michigan peninsula, as it was then called, to Iowa.

In North Dakota he and his companion were unable to get work at the mines immediately.

Could Still Shoot

However, Anderson could still shoot; for six months he hunted, selling his game in the mining towns, and was successful enough to send back to Iowa for his wife, whom he had been unable to take with him.

Mrs. Anderson, a resident of Beckley avenue, (the mother of Mrs. E. L. Ellison) recalls:

"I lived in fear and trembling when we went to North Dakota, expecting every minute to be scalped by the Indians."

Moreover, she was "frozen out" that first winter when the temperature went down to 40 degrees below zero and "the frost came through the walls so that they glistened."

She went "south," to Iowa, "where the temperature was only 20 degrees below zero."

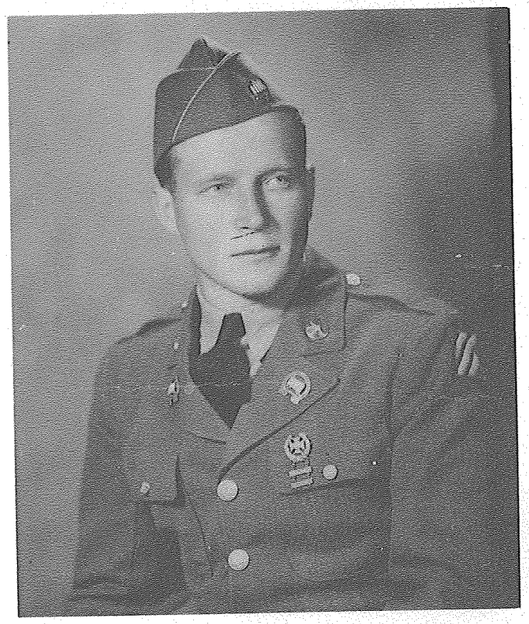
Before the next winter, however, Anderson had secured a house sufficient that his family could withstand the rigorous climate.

Meanwhile Anderson was rising in the mining business, with which he had at last secured work.

A shaft was being sunk for Northern Pacific Coal company, his employer. One day an official of the company, thinking that the work was not progressing satisfactorily, asked Anderson what he thought of the method being followed.

(Continued on page 430)

THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



Before (1942)



After (today)

Beckley's Own and Only Congressional Medal of Honor Winner
Stanley Bender

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in awarding the MEDAL of HONOR to

STAFF SERGEANT STANLEY BENDER
CO. E, 7th INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. On 17 August 1944, near La Londe, France, Staff Sergeant Bender climbed on top of a knocked out tank, in the face of withering machine gun fire which had halted the advance of his company, in an effort to locate the source of this fire. Although bullets ricochetted off the turret at his feet Staff Sergeant Bender nevertheless remained standing bolt upright in full view of the enemy for over two minutes. Locating the enemy machine guns on a knoll 200 yards away he ordered two squads to cover him and led his men down an irrigation ditch, running a gauntlet of intense machine gun fire which completely blanketed 50 yards of his advance and wounded four of his men. While the Germans hurled hand grenades at the ditch Staff Sergeant Bender stood his ground until his squad caught up with him; then advanced along in a wide, flanking approach, to the rear of the knoll. He walked deliberately a distance of 40 yards, without cover, in full view of the Germans and under a hail of both enemy and friendly fire, to the first machine gun and knocked it out with a single short burst. Then he made his way through the strongpoint, despite bursting hand grenades, toward the second machine gun 25 yards distance whose two man crew swung the machine gun around and fired two bursts at him, but Staff Sergeant Bender walked calmly through the fire and, reaching the edge of the emplacement, despatched the crew. Signalling his men to rush the rifle pits he then walked 35 yards further to kill an enemy rifleman and returned to lead his squad in the destruction of the eight remaining Germans in the strongpoint. His audacity so inspired the remainder of the assault company that the men charged out of their positions, shouting and yelling, to overpower the enemy roadblock and sweep into town, knocking out two anti-tank guns, killing 37 Germans and capturing 26 others. Staff Sergeant Bender had sparked and led the assault company in an attack which overwhelmed the enemy, destroying a roadblock, taking a town, seizing intact three bridges over the Maravenne River and capturing commanding terrain which dominated the area."

Franklin Roosevelt

Four Famous (Plus One Infamous) Oaths

Florence Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly:

To pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

I will obstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standards of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my profession.

With loyalty will I endeaver to aid the Physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

ATTORNEY'S OATH

(Taken before whatever Court they wish to practice)

Here is the oath to which we refer:

"In the presence of Almighty God, I do solemnly swear:

"I will support the Constitution of the United States.

"I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers.

"I will not counsel or maintain any suit of proceeding which shall appear to me to be unjust, nor any defense except such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law of the land.

"I will employ for the purpose of maintaining the cause confined to me such means only as are consistent with truth and honor, and will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law.

"I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my client, and will accept no compensation in connection with his business except from him or with his knowledge and approval.

"I will abstain from all offensive personalities, and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged.

"I will never reject from any consideration personal to myself the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay any man's cause for lucre or malice."

The Oath Of Hippocrates

I SWEAR BY APOLLO, THE PHYSICIAN AND ASCULAPIUS AND HEALTH AND ALL-HEAL AND ALL THE GODS AND GODDESSES THAT, ACCORDING TO MY ABILITY AND JUDGMENT. I WILL KEEP THIS OATH AND STIPULATION:

ORECKON him who taught me this art equally deer to me as my parents, to share my substance with him and relieve his necessities if required: to regard his offspring as on the same footing with my own brothers, and to teach them this art if they should wish to learn it without fee or stipulation, and that by precept, lecture and every other node of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to none others.

I WILL FOLLOW that method of neatment which, according to my ability and judgment. I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such consel, furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion.

WITH PURITY AND WITH HOLINESS I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone, but will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary art of mischief and corruption; and further from the seduction of females or males, bond or free.

WHATEVER in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it. I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not be spoken abroad I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

WHILE I CONTINUE to keep this oath unviolated may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men at all times but should trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

The Boy Scout Oath:

"On my honor I will do my best:

"To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law.

"To help other people at all times.

"To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The Scout Law has 12 points: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

The Infamous "Test Oath"

In the 1865 West Virginia Legislature at Wheeling, the then Capital, an amendment to the State Constitution was proposed. In January of 1866, the act was passed. It provided that no one should be allowed to vote at the next succeeding election, except those who would take a prescribed, but LOADED, oath. This was known as the "Test Oath."

From Shirley Donnelly's colume YESTERDAY AND TODAY in the Beckley Post-Herald, we copy some of the wording of the amendment:

"No person who since the first day of June, 1861, has given or shall give voluntary aid or assistance to the rebellion against the United States, shall be a citizen of this state, or be allowed to vote at any election held therein, unless he has volunteered in the military or naval service of the United States and has been or shall be honorably discharged therefrom."

The adoption of the proposed Amendment prescribing the "Test Oath" was held on Thursday, May 24, 1866. With the majority of the people, Mr. Donnelly goes on, of the state residing in the northern part and filled with war-time rancor and bitterness, it seemed evident that this was a loaded-dice election. The vote was 22,224 for the Amendment and 15,032 against it.

In the southern part of the state few bothered to go to the polls, foreseeing the futility of effecting the results. In Mercer county for example the voting population was little less than 1,000 men. Only 75 voted. Of that number there were 61 for retification.

But, the iniquity did not stop with disenfranchisement of those who could not, or would not, take the "Test Oath." To rub it in, the State Legislature passed other acts such as the one which prevented attorneys from practicing law in the courts of the new state of West Virginia. Others could not teach school. Men could not sit on juries. They could not prosecute suits in the courts of the state unless they would "sell their souls" by taking this terrible "Test Oath."

And so, that is just another chapter in the UNPOPULAR early history of West Virginia, which may be overlooked for the sake of amenities, but it should not be forgotten. The war is gone and statehood has been here 100 years, but the bitterness spawned by the "Test Oath" outlives them both.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 427)

Wins a New Job

Anderson told him he disagreed with the procedure, and told him why. He was given an immediate opportunity to prove his point; the shaft was sunk, satisfactorily, and he became general superintendent of the company, a big concern with properties in North Dakota, Montana, and the Washington territory.

He later was transferred to Bozeman, Montana, and it was there he saved Logan M. Bullitt's life. The latter was one of the principal owners of the company.

A strike occurred.

Bullitt went out from Philadelphia to see about it.

Anderson met him at the depot with a two-horse rig. Although the village was swarming with hostile strikers, Anderson got Bullitt into the carriage and started away from the depot.

They looked up to see two lines of strikers, one on either side of the road, their guns drawn. Obviously, they had come to kill Bullitt.

The moment they came within danger range of the hostile men, Anderson, handed the reins to Bullitt, leaped over the dashboard, and walked out the carriage tongue to a point between the horses' shoulders.

He drew two guns and addressed the men:

Shoot, but if you miss me the first time, two or three of you will go down with me."

Anderson's reputation for marksmanship was such that none of the men wished to be the first to "draw," and Anderson and Bullitt passed between the lines.

He Knew Westerners

Anderson didn't look back at them.

"They'll shoot you in the back, Jack," exclaimed Bullitt.

"No," said Anderson, "they won't. That's not the western way."

They didn't.

For six or eight years Bullitt wrote Anderson at intervals urging him to come to West Virginia and survey properties the Philadelphian had secured here.

At last Anderson consented, and in 1890 alighted from the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad at Prince.

A youngster saw him, stepped up to him, and said:

"Hello, Jack."

"How'd you know me?" exclaimed the astonished newcomer.

"I saw your picture in the paper—you're the crack shot of the West," replied the boy.

A friend of Anderson, more to exasperate him than anything else, had sent a picture of him to a nationally-circulated periodical, with an elaborate—although not unjustifiable—account of his prowess with firearms. It was this the boy had seen.

For the next nine years Anderson was busy supervising the mapping of land, estimating the extent of coal deposits, the extent and amount of timber growing on Bullitt's properties.

Still Has Map

(Mrs. E. L. Ellison, his daughter, still has a map, about five by seven feet, on linen, of the 47,000 acres surveyed.)

During this time, however, he went to Cuba for the Sigua Iron company, another of Bullitt's interests, to ascertain the justification for continuing operations started there. He, Mrs. Anderson, W. R. Campbell, the late husband of Mrs. Betty Beckley Campbell, and Speed Prince—a party of ten altogether—spent a winter in Cuba.

Incidentally, upon Anderson's recommendation, subsequently checked by other engineers, the Cuba project was dropped.

Upon the completion of the survey work in Raleigh county, Anderson joined the late C. C. Rose in operation of the Anderson and Rose Furniture company, which also did an undertaking business, and attended to his own interests in various coal companies.

He remained in Beckley until his death, being mayor, postmaster, county assessor, and magistrate at various times.

He is still remembered as a modest, good-humored, tolerant man who was liked by everybody with whom he came in contact.

He was survived by only two children, Mrs. Ellison and Miss Elizabeth Anderson, who, with his widow, reside today on Beckley avenue.



John Price Beckley, son of John Beckley and brother of Mrs. Betty Beckley Campbell

The following letter was found and copied, from among the effects of General Alfred Beckley, in the care of Col. Stuart Alfred Beckley, great-grandson, who died recently and had made a career of the Army. Other material regarding Col. Beckley, who was another West Point graduate, elsewhere in this book. Mrs. Maria Beckley of Frankfort, Kentucky, was a daughter of James Prince of Philadelphia, and the mother of the general. The original from which

(Continued on page 439)

"Grandma" Martha Jarrell Davis (1820-1913) was the wife of Lucian Bonepart Davis father of ex-Sheriff John F. Davis, the father of the present Lucian H. Davis, Woodlawn Ave.



C. C. Tucker

The only known actual photograph of this historical pioneer, and an inside view of her famous home, "The Davis Cottages" which used to face Main Street at where the Foster Hardware, Mrs. Newland's Millinery Shop and Jan Campbell Music Co., holds forth.

Without cropping (except a little blank ceiling), everything that was on the negative is shown: The rag, perhaps home-made, carpet, long-legged side-table holding a shawl-covered object, the split-cane chair and the high-back rocking chair, reminiscent of "Whistler's Mother," together with the strong-characted face scanning perhaps her favorite tome, and a counterpaned bed to the right. It is not a clear picture, but very rare.

(See others on pages VII, 18, 79, 202 and 290; also Index)

Since much has been said and written regarding these long-gone, but never-to-be forgotten cottages which housed the family of one exceedingly staunch pioneer and the yankee headquarters of Hayes and McKinley during the War Between the States, only a sketchy resume, together with all of the other photographs submitted, are herewith presented.

The building are believed to have been built by Daniel Shumate, a county commissioner and the father of W. T. "Uncle Billy" Shumate, in the early 1850s. The lots consisted of Nos. 20 & 24 (80 feet deep) of the original Beckley Plat (see page 2). About half of these were covered by the cottages and today the other half may be found underlying The Club, Virgil's News Stand, The Atlas Building and the Raleigh County Bank.

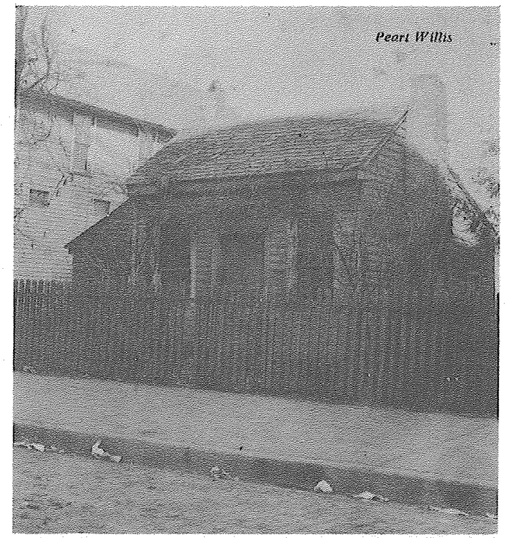
On Dec. 3, 1855 Mr. Shumate sold half of Lot 24 to Lucian B. Davis, (who has just removed from Owlsburg to Beckley), as indicated in Deed Book A, page 381. In Deed Book D, page 414, the property was deeded by Mr. Davis to his elder daughter, Virginia. Virginia went west, died, and left the estate to her mother, Mrs. Martha Davis. Lot 16 also came into the maneuvering in Deed Book A, page 381, and this faced what is now Prince St.

During the first winter of the war Col. Rutherford B. Hayes with young William McKinley, 18 or 19 years old, and under the command of either a Col. Scammon or Col. Rosamond (the records have not been checked closely on this), fortified the 23rd Regiment at about where the Charles Hodel home now stands on Maxwell Hill. From here they lobbed a few cannon balls onto the hotel (now Beckley Hotel) yard. The balls were reported to have been loaded and one retrieved and thrown out, exploding in mid-air. No General was here in the Spring of 1862.

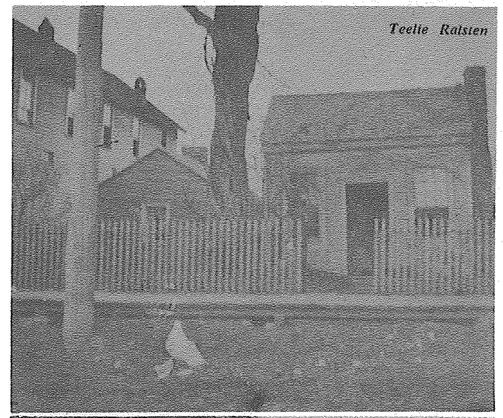
It was a hit and run campaign with more of a nuisance value than anything else, to cheer up Yankee border-warfare neutrals and scattered sympathizers, and pester the then Col. Beckley's Cotton Hill segment of General Robert E. Lee's 35th regiment, and the local loyal secessionists.

Shortly, Hays brought his Union troops down to camp at Wildwood, then commandeered and occupied the Davis Cottages. For how long, no one seems to know, but it seems reasonable to believe that they spent most of the winter there.

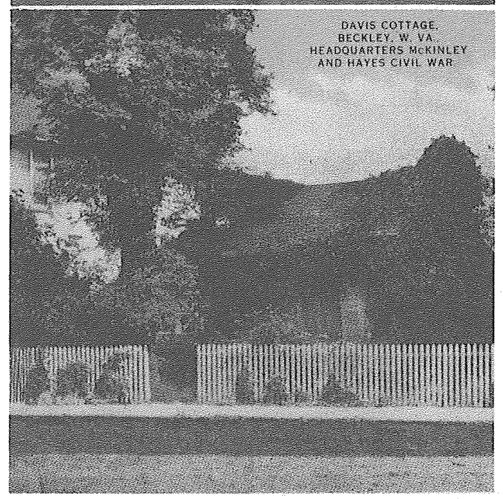
The cottages were razed in 1919.



Pearl Willis



Teelie Ralsten





Earl's Reproduction

Halleck M. Scott



Pioneer-Leader T. K. (named for the 1776-famous Polish-American General Thaddeus Kosciusko*) Scott, with wife, "Aunt Ginny" McGinnis Scott, and respectively, Clyde, Halleck McGinnis Scott (both lawyers), and Tom, who died in young manhood. * Gen. Kosciusko was lauded as the "Hero of Two Worlds"; he built the Hudson River defenses and fortifications at West Point.

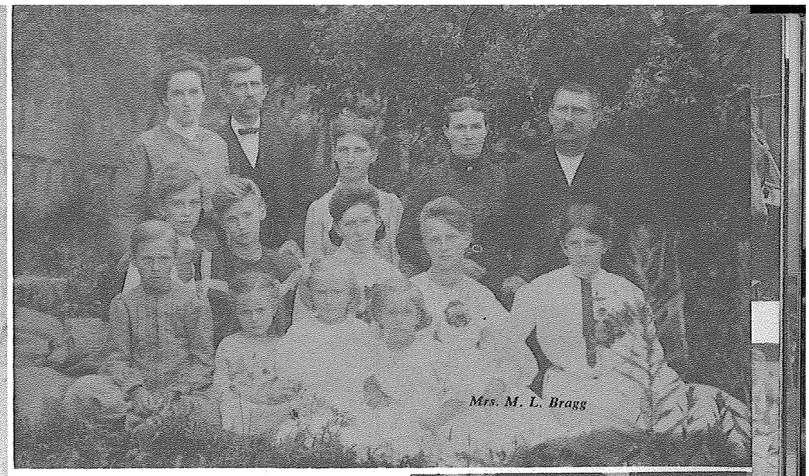


Dan Covey

"Aunt Tillie" Scott, wife of Moses E. Scott and mother of Beaver's merchant Robert Scott.



Dan Covey



Mrs. M. L. Bragg

An important and fascinating picture of a part of the Douglass Scott clan.

Rear: Mrs. and Dr. L. A. Martin, Eula Scott Bragg, Mrs. & Mr. Douglass Scott. Front: Madge Scott (Mrs. W. A. Tissue), Ethel Martin, Ida Scott Carper, Virginia Benson (a friend), Brook Scott Covey, Leah Martin Blankenship, Ruby Martin (Mrs. Brooks Adair), Eunice Scott Harwood and Maud Scott Gatherum.

Right: Doting father Hal with daughter, Hal Lynn in a perky mood.



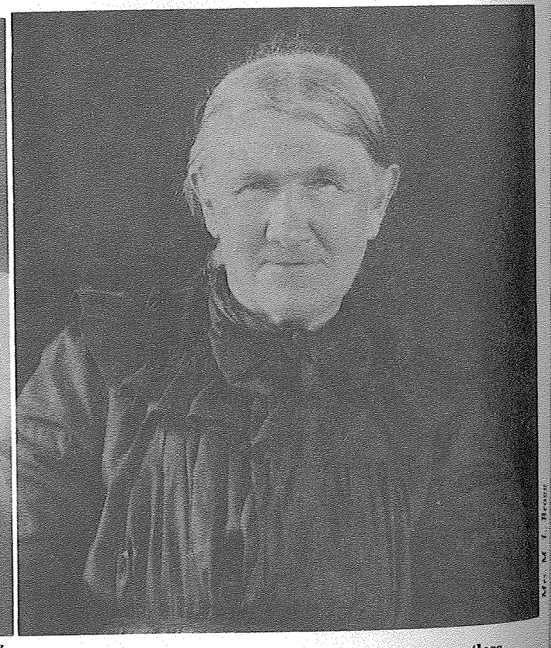
Halleck M. Scott



Mrs. M..L. Bragg

The Five Scott Sisters

Rear: Brook Scott Cover, Eula Scott Bragg, Eunice Scott and Harwood. Front: ..Ida Scott Carper and Madge Scott Tissue.



The mother and progenitor of and almost countless progeny, Angeline Hull (Robert) Scott (1826-1906). They were the parents of: James, Moses, Andrew, Marriah, Chester, Thaddeus K., Alice, Douglass, Sallie and Emily. She was born in Monroe County, Va.

1 Moses Scott B 17??-D 1862 & Mary Sydenstricker Scott

James Scott and Rachel Curry Scott

1 Isabel Scott
B -D
M Joseph Hanna

2 Alexander Scott
B -D
M Ann Reed

3 Nancy Scott
B -D
M Thompson McClure

4 Mary Scott
B -D
Washington McClure

5 Jane Scott
B -D
M Henderson Black

6 James Scott
B -D
M Rachel Curry

7 William Scott
B -D
M Sallie Gwinn

8 Robert Scott
B -D
Angeline Hull

9 Hiram Scott
B -D
M Alice Varner

Robert Scott and Angeline Hull Scott

1 James Scott
B 1845-D 1921
M Laura Charlton

2 Moses E. Scott
B 1846-D
M Matilda Watts

3 Andrew J. Scott
B 1849-D
M Mollie Brooks

4 Marriah Scott
B 1852-D
M James Pack

5 Chester Scott
B 1854-D
M Hattie Curtis

6 Thaddeus K. Scott
B 1856-D 1922
M Virginia McGinnis

7 Alice Scott
B 1858-D 1927
M Chester Williams

8 Douglas Scott
B 1861-D
M Lucy Hunt

9 Sallie Scott
B 1866-D 1928
M Horace Beaty

10 Emily Scott
B 1869-D 1900
M Lee Williams

James Scott and Rachel Curry Scott

1 Oliver Scott
B -D
M Virginia Pack(1)
M Rebecca Garten(2)

2 Mary Scott
B -D
M Perry Carper

3 Isabel Scott
B -D Charleston
M Charles Charlton

4 Samuel Scott
B 1845-D 1931
M Mary Jane Pack(1)
M Selesia B. Davis(2)

5 Hiram Scott
B -D Kansas
M

6 Charles Scott
B -D Table Rock
M

7 Nathan Scott
B -D Table Rock
M Kittie Calfee

8 Virginia Scott
B -D
M Warner Spencer

9 Lee Scott
B -D 1930
M Virginia Prince

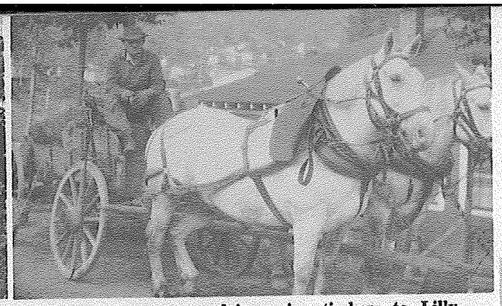
10 Albert Scott
B -D
M

11 Clementine Scott
B -D
M

Some understanding of the Scott family may be gleened from the above, far-from-adequate chart. It was hoped that a greater "tree" might be produced here, but time, space and money were not available to cover the years that such a survey and research would entail.



Marvin Argenbright, ROTC on his general's horse. Camp Knox.

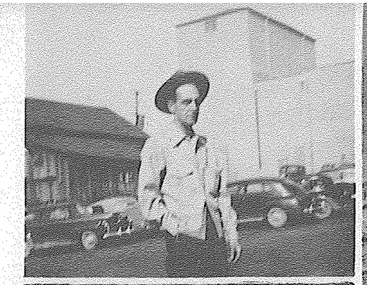


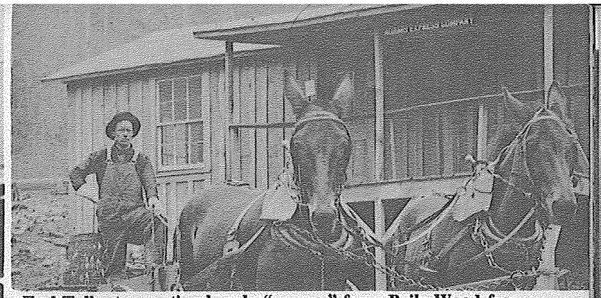
Felix Gunnoe supplying mine timbers to Lillybrook Coal Co.

The HORSY-BUGGY Set

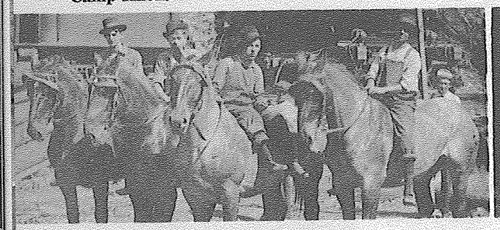
At this period of Beckley's history the horse was a beast of burden, a most necessary function. On right is Dow Snuffer, who, with his sister, Lova, furnished much of the city parking lot property.

Here he represents a quiet symbol, standing between the old era of his ancient livery stable and the encroachment of modernization in fine buildings and horseless carriages, where progress will not be denied.





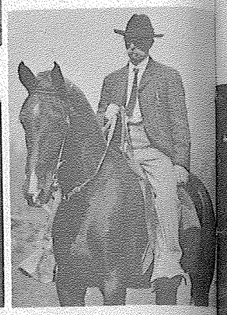
Earl Tolbert operating hourly "express" from Baily-Wood from Mullens. Note sign.



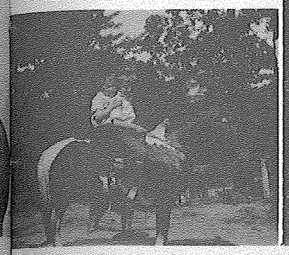
Walter Underwood (middle) when horses were an adjunct to train.



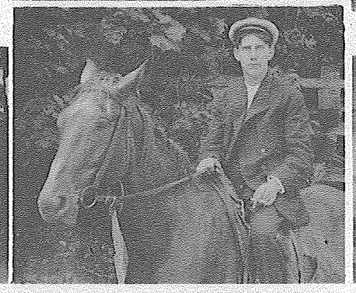
Sunday shirking by H. Bibb, O. Rose H. Warren, R. Wilfong & John Rose.



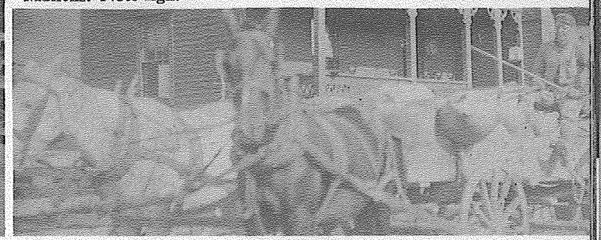
Clarkson Phipps, Enoch's father.



John & Warren Hodel; paint poney.



Ingram Richmond, son of Harvey Richmond.



1900 to haul merchandise you had a hoss. Geo. Williams and store at Prosperity.



Not like a truck, they had to be watered, fed, bedded, daily.



The gentleman's name was lost but he's been called a Mr. Milam.



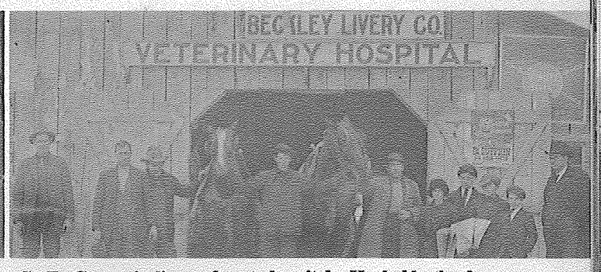
C. L. Beckner, Merle Brash's father.



Vivian Warren & paint poney.



Hazel Couch (Dancing School) Rod Couch (dece'd).



G. F. Gunnoe's livery & vet. hospital. He holds the horses; wonderful loafing place.



John W. Cook does his evening chores with his "bread 'n butter."



No motor ever pulled a sleigh as a horse did; work or play.



Joan, Betty, "Sammy" Wilkes.



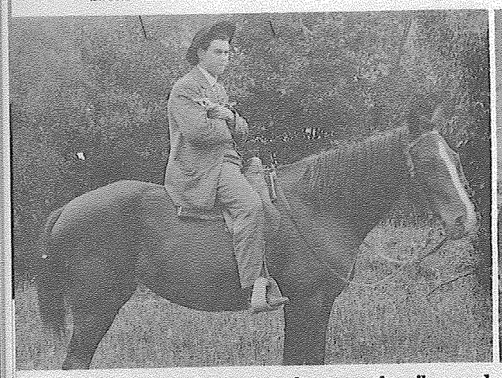
Glady Warwick & Shetland poney-cart.



David Corkrean, g-son of Ira Hurt.



The distaff side of the E. H. Phipps family: Mrs. R. F. Allen and Mrs. E. H. Phipps.



Fred O'Neal, when every he-man rode a 'hoss and carried gun.



Ray Burmeister, Raleigh Coal Exec. & John M. Crouse (Clay's Pa).



Early "Convertible" Mary Ewart.



The day of divided skirts: Cada White.



Bob Harless & Quincy Stover on a Burro junket.



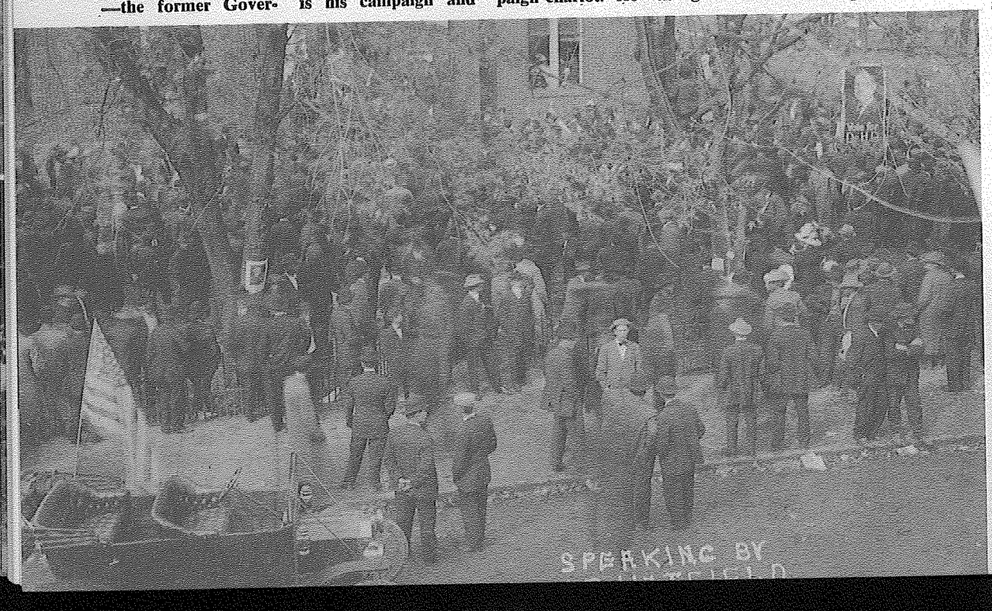
A striking picture of a striking rider: Charley Prince and his handsome gelding.



Both photos courtesy Judge W. A. Riffe

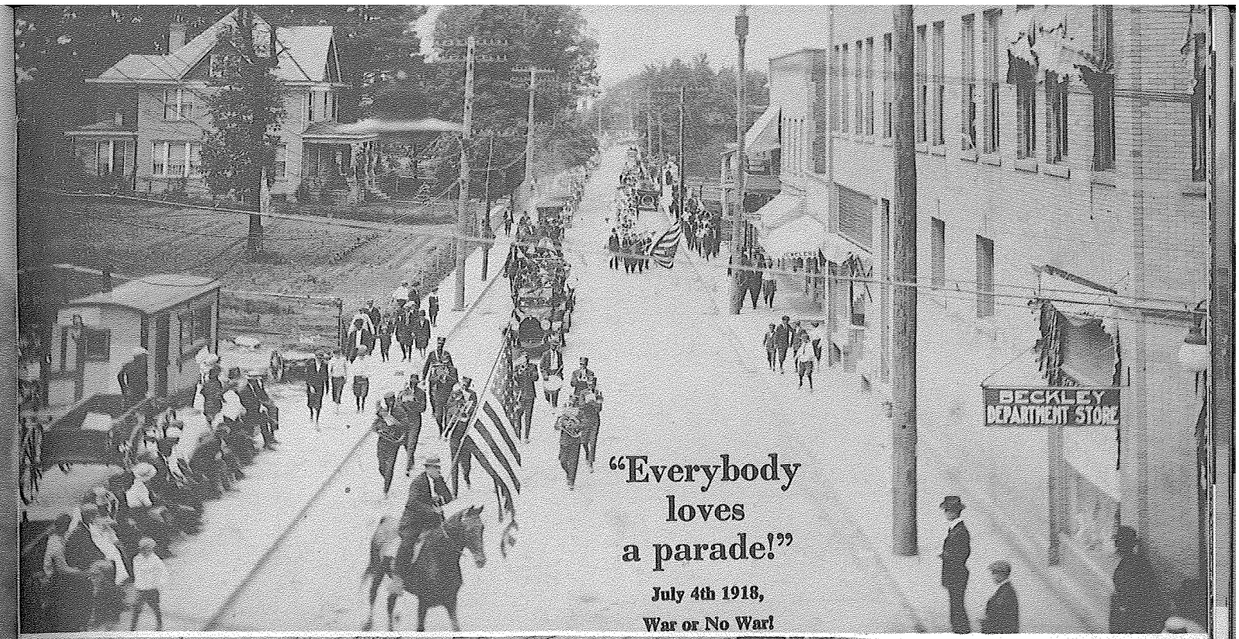
Hatfields Minus McCoys

Below, West Virginia is proud of its outstanding Hatfield —the former Governor H. D. Hatfield, who spoke and visited here frequently. This is his campaign and the brass-studded T-model Ford "convertible" is his campaign chariot. He was an able, distinguished and effective governor, continuing in good-health and high honor.



They came good and bad; they prowled far and wide; they knew Beckley-Raleigh, and Beckley-Raleigh knew them—but well!

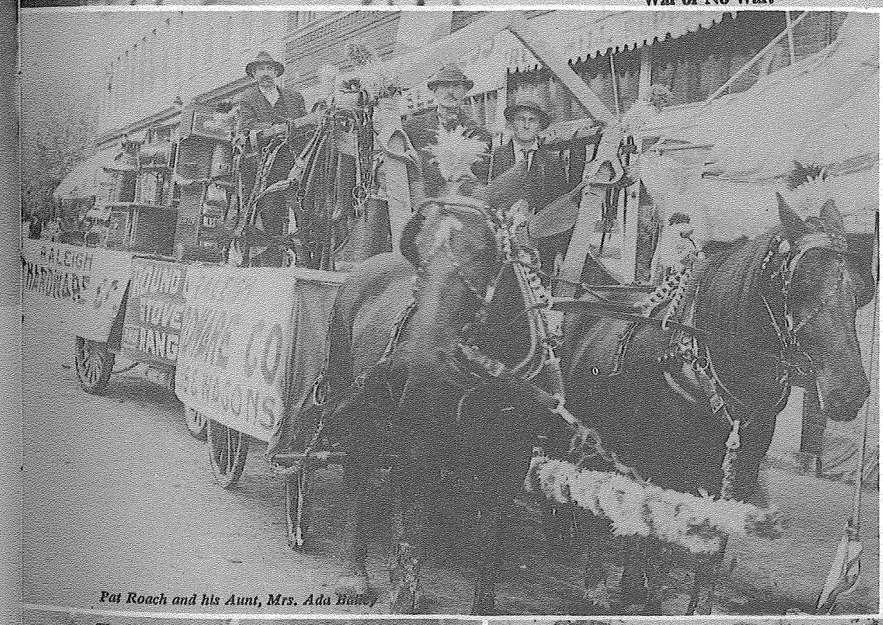
Left: An also pugnacious neighbor (unidentified); Elias (and there were several Elias'; the governor's father bore this name), Troy, girl (unidentified), Joe, "Capt" (Anderson; see also page 127); another belligerent neighbor. Sitting: Willis (who killed Dr. Thornhill at Mullens); the "Devil Anse" himself, his wife (to the rear) and Tennison. Their McCoy scalps were numerous. And, there is plenty of fact, fable and fiction on the subject in any library, in probably any state. The Rev. Shirley Donnelly is an authority on the clan and has written in his column "Yesterday and Today," various coverages of the subject.



"Everybody loves a parade!"

July 4th 1918, War or No War!

Merl Brash

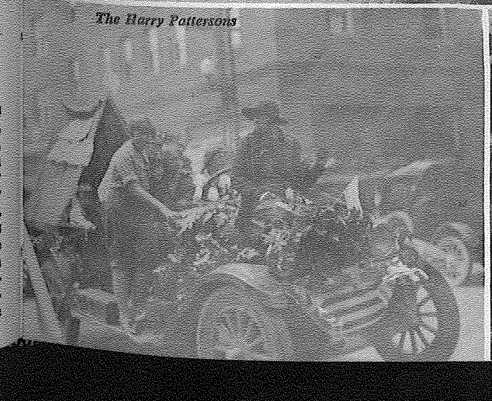


Pat Roach and his Aunt, Mrs. Ada Bailey

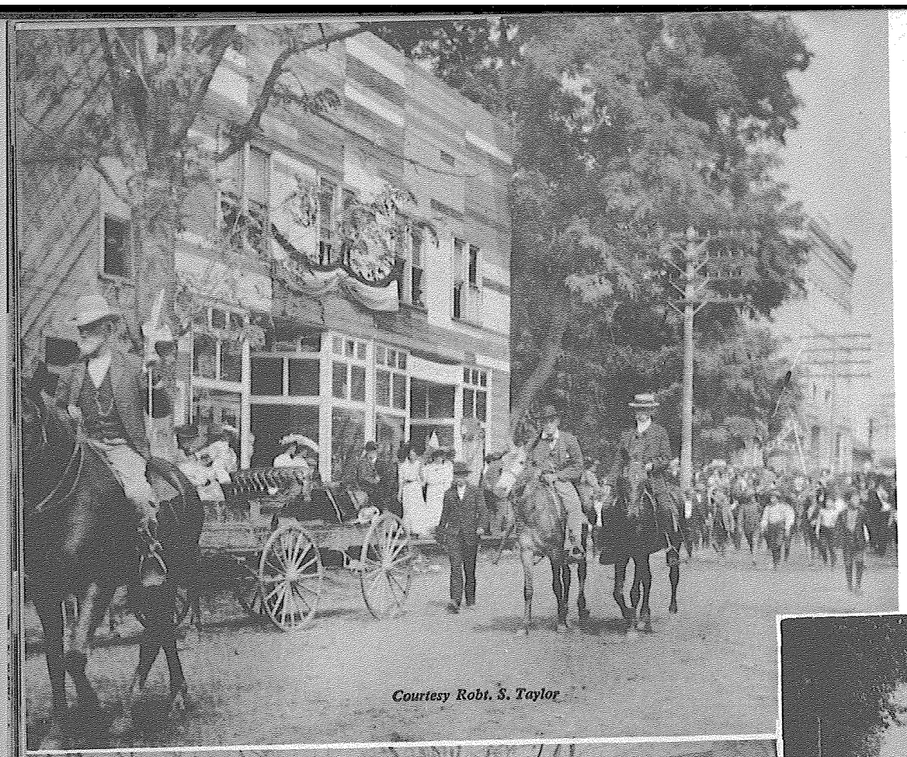
Above: Currie L. Beckner, parade-marshall and flag-bearer for the annual Independence Day celebration. Left: George H. Moss' Raleigh Hardware Company entry, bearing cook-stoves, harness (and left, harness-maker Gene Coffman), saddles, etc., in a tendem-wagon float display. Middle man looks a bit like John Peteet. Bottom left: Unbeknownst, working hard at it! Bottom right: Behind wheel of the flower-dove bedecked, kerosene burning lamps, is poised Lee Harshbarger. With him, John Holliday; standing Jim Dunn, owner of the convertible gas-buggy float, fluttering doves, live roses, slick tires and mud-chains.

Pat Roach & Mrs. Zela Early

The Harry Pattersons



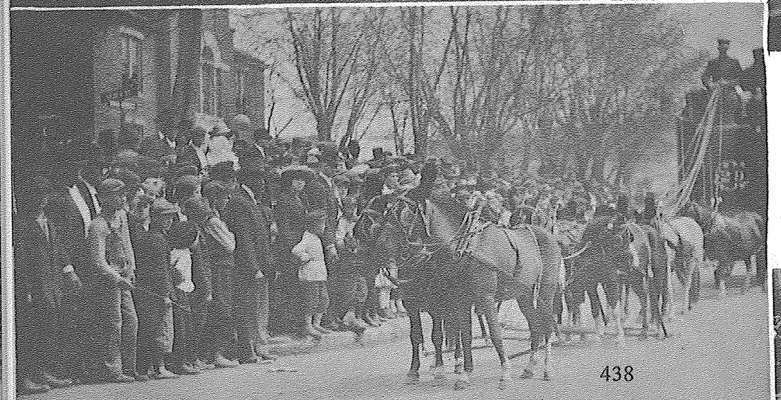




Courtesy Robt. S. Taylor



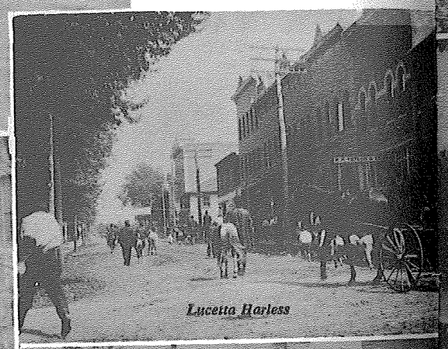
Courtesy Margaret Williams



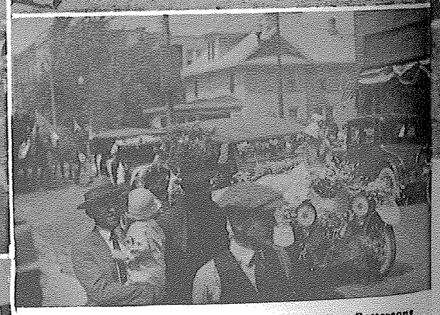
Courtesy Janese Wikle

Left and below: The early-Beckley variety of parade. Left: Capt. James H. Lemon leads in the Confederate Reunion parade of 1905. On mule (middle) is James Gunnoe; Bob Wills on horse next. Frank Harper store, later McCarthy & Reynolds. Gunnoe lost right leg at Battle of Cedar Creek in Juby Early's campaign of 1864.

Below: A more modern dog and pony out-stretched parade. In the distance is Joe Smith's Raleigh Register and beyond, the Great Eastern Bargain House.



Lucetta Harless

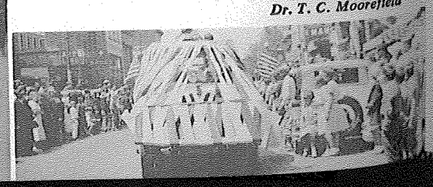


The Harry Pattersons

Upper: Floats passing G. C. Hedrick home on Neville. A Raleigh Hardware location on right.

Left and below: A circus attraction, elephant and howdah, with head-sitting trainer, passing Court House. A six-poney span pulling wild animal cage.

Dr. T. C. Moorefield



Memories That Must Be Made to Last

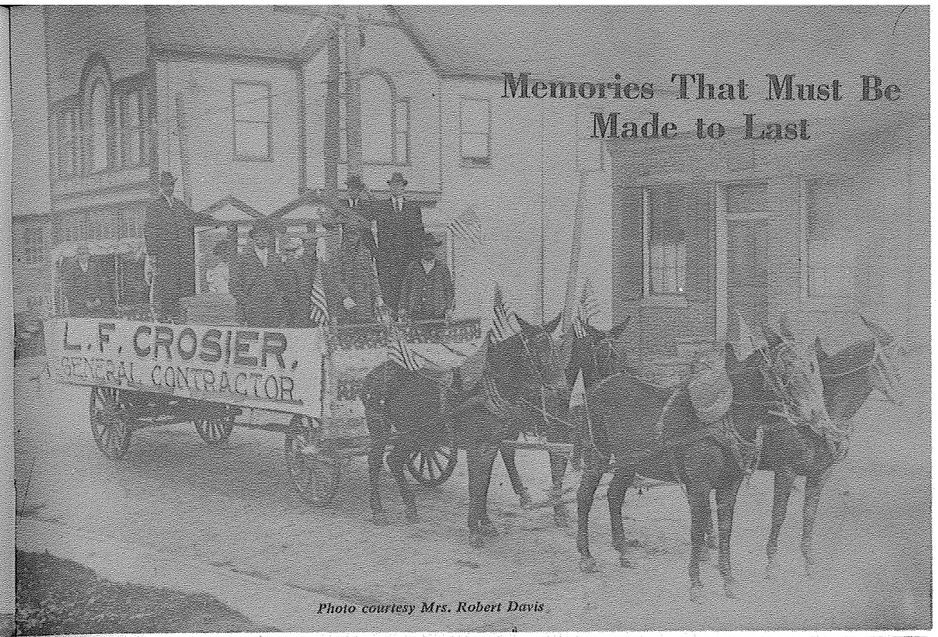


Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert Davis



1919

Every conveyances to which a horse could be hitched, must enter the 4th of July Parade. And, here, decorated and undecorated, all of Beckley participated. Top: With the old E. M. Payne store and Sen. McCreery's office as a background, Leif Crosier, building contractor extraordinary, enters his mule and Studebaker. From left: Himself, Luther Thompson, Homer Mason (white coat), M. T. Vipperman (another builder of note), Cleshy Kessinger, Jess Crosier (son), Tonelli; Charles P. Griffith and a Mr. Mays. To the far left is the first John S. Hull store room; Bub Prince's store was where Payne's is shown (see page XIX).

Lower picture, from left: Gertie (Beasley) McKean, son Clay, daughter Mae, and husband (standing) Sam. They'll probably follow parade in a more dignified mood, no frills, foibles.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 430)

this was copied was signed by the great Henry Clay (1777-1852), U. S. Statesman and orator.

Postmark: Washn City Aug 23

Mrs. Maria Beckley, Frankfort (K)
Via Marietta

Washington 23d. August 1817

Dear Madam

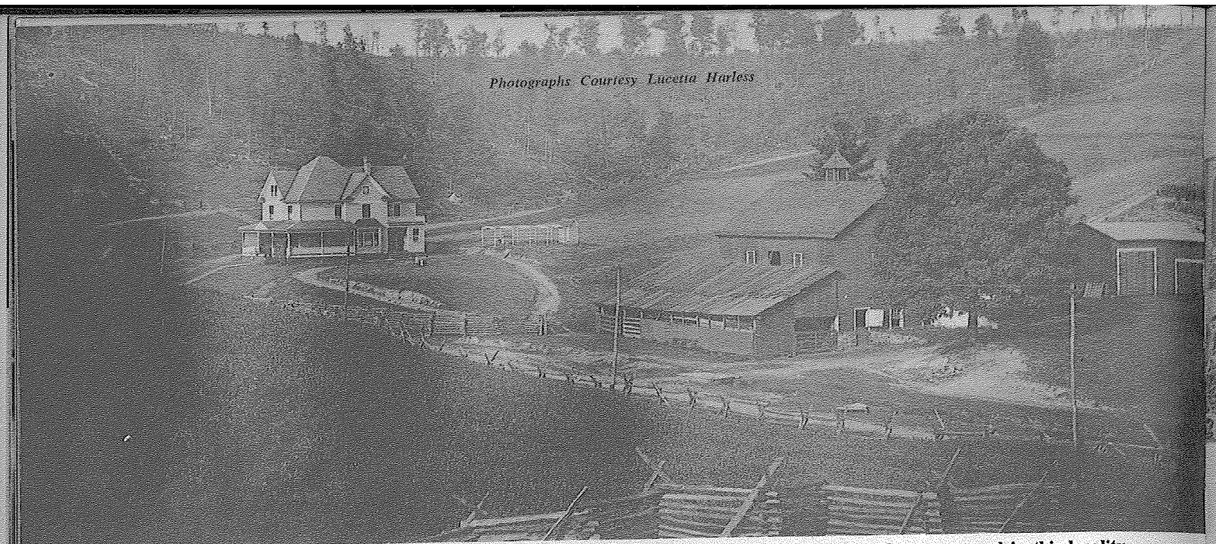
Immediately on the receipt of your favor of the 9th inst I proceeded to the proper offices to make inquiries concerning your lot. I found that Saml H. Smith Esq. had anticipated the pleasure which I should have derived, by complying with your request, in the payment of the arrears of taxes. Nothing was due on it, and the Collector informed me that Mr. Smith had entered himself agent for Mr. Beckleys heirs, and would be applied to as taxes accrue.

I then went to the lot itself to examine its situation, and to ascertain, if I could, the probable value. It is exceedingly difficult here now, as it was I presume when you resided in the city, to fix the value of city property. There is no common standard to compare it to, and circumstances, often accidental, regulate every thing. Mr. Monroe, the post master, whose opinion is entitled to much more weight than my own, thinks it worth from three to four hundred dollars. No improvements have been made in the immediate vicinity of your lot since you were here. Mr. Brent has however built a very good house not very far from it. The Avenue between the Presidents house and the Capitol is the part of the city which is improving most, and probably your lot may be advantageously affected by a sale which Con-

(Continued on page 457)

A Smattering Image of Beckley's Military Parades.

(All pictures on this page: Dr. T. C. Moorefield)



Photographs Courtesy Lucetta Harless

This, the immaculate home of the John A. Ewarts, at the bottom of Ewart Ave., has never been surpassed in this locality, for sheer beauty, spectacular setting and homey attractiveness. Note the rose arbor shading the path to "the first evidence of civilization" the family privy; a coy approach to modesty.



John A. Ewart



Lucetta, his wife



John Kay 1855-'37



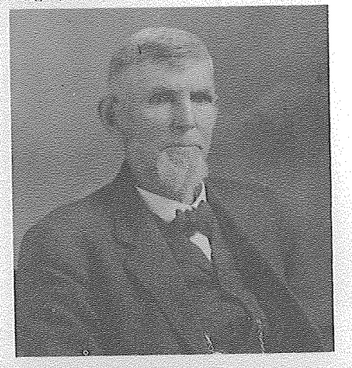
E. P. Ewart



West Pointer
Robert Ewart

John Alexander Ewart

The handsome homestead near Beckley of John Alexander Ewart, farmer, cattleman, landowner, lessor of large coal properties, and public spirited writer for many newspapers and other diversified agricultural periodicals. Mr. Ewart was acclaimed "in the front rank among advanced thinkers on agricultural subjects" by "Makers of America." He contributed a lifetime of articles and editorials on his favorite topic, to such journals as West Virginia Farm Review, Farm and Home, and a constant flow to the Raleigh Register and Beckley Messenger, as well as numerous others. His great forte was the promotion of legislation for the benefit of farmers organizations and individuals; an exponent of modern ideas on greater education to farmers, their daughters and sons, especially through the State College of Agriculture.



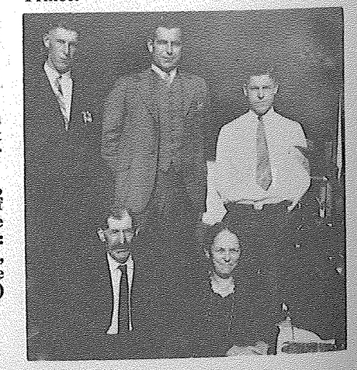
Mr. Ewart had strong principles on Christian Faith but never became affliated with any religious sect. He was an ardent member of the Knights of Pythias, with high rank (Past Chancellor), and of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a prohibitionist, for female suffrage and uniform laws to control marriage and divorce.

He was born in Springfield, O., Aug. 8, 1840, the son of Campbell and Rosa McClelland Ewart. In April, 1870, he married Lucetta Jane Hann. They had three daughters and two sons: Elsie H., (Mrs. John Kay), Joseph Clarence, Sarah Della (Mrs. John M. Andrews), Ernest L. P., and Mary Virginia (Mrs. Luther Bee Phipps).

Today, Mr. Ewart's progeny is large, distinguished and scattered. Some of the members of his family nearest to the old home place, at the moment, are: the eldest daughter of their daughter, Elsie, Sarah Lucetta Kay (now the wife of Dr. William F. Harless, Madison) and Robert H. C. Kay, attorney-at-law, in Charleston. There is enough material available and interesting background on the Ewart family to fill many books.

Mr. Ewart's royalties received from the New River Company is reported to have run well into seven figures.

Mr. & Mrs. (Elsie H. Ewart) John Kay, were married in 1893, and these are 3 of their children: Walter A. Kay, attorney Robert H. C. Kay (Charleston), and John Alexander. Mr. John Kay operated Raleigh County's first coal mine, at Royal, across the river from Prince.



Five-mile circle from Trap Hill Post Office.



Courtesy W. A. Riffe

The huge three-floor General Store of Mont Mankin, Trap Hill, W. Va.
(Mr. Mankin stands to right of door in shirtsleeves, arms akimbo)

This article is from the distinguished pen of Eugene ("Gene") L. Scott, long-time managing editor of the Post-Herald, who passed on last year, in the prime of his life, "But," as many have said, "without losing the common touch with his friends and neighbors." The piece appeared in his From Day To Day column January 12, 1955, and often has been referred to as "The Distinguished 5-Mile Circle."

Some years ago, at a meeting of the Beckley Kiwanis Club, someone made a disparaging remark about the town of Lester. Affecting anger and hurt pride, J. Q. Hutchinson arose to challenge the remark, "on behalf of Dr. C. L. Callaway sitting there, myself, and quite a few others who had their origin in and around Lester." Mr. Hutchinson then proceeded to enumerate a few of the successful men who emerged from Hoo-Hoo Hollow, as the valley extending out from Lester is sometimes called.

Someone enlarged upon this list, and in going through old records at his office a few days ago, Mr. Hutchinson came across a typed document containing the names of a great many successful persons who had their origin or once lived within a five-mile radius of Trap Hill High School at Surveyor.

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Would you believe, for instance, that this area of which we speak produced no less than 21 medical doctors? Many of them are now dead, but they distinguished themselves while they lived. In short, there were and are few finer medical men to be found than James Turner, Ward Mankin, C. P. Callaway, Arthur B. Callaway, Sidney J. Daniel, George P. Daniel, D. C. Daniel, Doff D. Daniel, Ross P. Daniel, Robert D. Clark, W. C. Covey, Robert W. Chambers, Harry Chambers, Owen Davis, Posey G. Hurst, D. W. Snuffer, Fred Stansbury, W. S. Steele, William I. Trail, May Turner Reich, and Owen Wall.

That small area also produced no less than 15 dentists—and most of them now lie in the cemeteries. The list included Dr. Matthew Allen Ellison, the first Raleigh Countian to become a dentist; I. W. Hutchinson, the first native of the County to take a regular college dental course; C. E. Hutchinson, W. W. Watts, C. L. Callaway, Shirley M. Callaway, Lacy Cottle, Peter B. Davis, Ward Kidd, William T. Riffe, R. W. Riffe, Robert Shumate, S. S. Sutphin, G. E. Sutphin, and Wash Trail.

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The area was also productive of fine legal minds, whose talents have been exhibited all about us. Two became judges—W. A. Riffe and Clay S. Crouse. John Quincy Hutchinson was prosecuting attorney and a member of the State Senate for four years. T. J. Honaker, one-time Herald editor, was secretary of the State Board of Public Works for several years. Kyle D. Harper was a member of the House of Delegates from Raleigh and Beckley police judge. Herbert Stansbury is a one-time mayor of Beckley, also police judge. Then there are Grover C. Trail, W. S. Clay, and H. Kenley Shumate, all distinguished members of the bar.

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The number of educators this little area produced is legion.

Among the more distinguished have been James Bryson one-time superintendent of Raleigh County Schools, and his two sons, D. W. Bryson, now Raleigh County superintendent, and George W. Bryson, who holds the same office in McDowell County; B. B. Chambers, former Raleigh County superintendent of schools and now an assistant; O. F. Cook, former county superintendent now in the real estate business; Lee Harper, one-time superintendent of schools in Summers County; W. P. Hawley, former superintendent of schools in Mercer County and a member of the State Senate and House of Delegates for a number of years; Dr. Hulbert Kidd, who has distinguished himself at Valparaiso University; A. J. Hutchinson, one-time superintendent of Raleigh County schools; A. J. Manning, former county superintendent and a member of the House of Delegates from Raleigh; Dr. John Roscoe Turner, former president of West Virginia University; John D. Farmer, former principal of Mullens High School; Wirt Turner, a leading educator in the State of Indiana.

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The area produced no less than 11 sheriffs—W. L. Foster, John F. Davis, W. T. Shumate, H. G. Farmer, Ash Mankin, A. J. Harper, J. W. Harper, Henry M. Riffe, William C. Riffe, who was also a member of the Legislature for two terms; and Henry A. Snuffer, also a member of the Legislature.

Fielding Phipps and Joseph Harper, from the same area, served as sheriffs of Fayette County before Raleigh was formed.

Her honored sons who served as members of the Raleigh County Court include W. C. Acord, Thos. J. Callaway, Joseph Chambers, Charles Lively, Ash Mankin, Tolison Shumate, W. H. Shumate, W. P. Shumate, Cyrus Snuffer, B. D. Trail, who was also a member of the Summers County Court one term, and his brother, John L. Trail, who was a member of the Monroe County Court for one term.

Of all these public officials, only two survive—H. G. Farmer and Ash Mankin.

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This region produced other officials also. Among them were James Hutchinson, elected four times as County surveyor; Byron F. Miller, who was assessor of Willowa, Oregon, one term; I. C. Prince, financier of Beckley and three times a member of the House of Delegates; Capt. C. C. Roles, a Confederate soldier and member of the House of Delegates; Daniel Shumate, first clerk of the Raleigh County Court; Joe L. Smith, a Congressman for 16 years; A. C. Sutphin, a member of the House of Delegates two terms; R. G. Trump, former Raleigh County assessor.

The same region also produced some great preachers. Among them were Matthew Ellison, one of the great Baptist preachers of the two Virginias, and his brother, James Eli Ellison, an author whose activities as a preacher and founder of Baptist churches extended through Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana for a great many years; A. L. Hutchinson; Dr. James S. West, who preached the funeral of President Warren G. Harding; Rev. L. E. Peters.

Others who distinguished themselves in one way or another are Col. Benjamin R. Linkous, Confederate soldier; Harry A. Stansbury, for a long time director of athletics at West Virginia University and now managing director of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; French Lucas, cashier of the Beckley National Bank, and many others who have been over-looked.

Tipples! Tipples! Tipples! . . .

plus the homes and environments of those who either once did– or still tip them.

Left and below: West Virginia's second (first, was Monongah, Dec. 6, 1907, killing 361—also America's greatest; U. S. Bureau of Mines) principal mine disaster, at Eccles, W. Va., April 28, 1914, taking 181 lives. The left picture shows the first shocked realization when the neighborhood heard and felt the explosion. Below is what they are actually looking at. This was instants after the initial wave, and shows part of the head frame, boiler house and hoist house.

The top of page below shows this same disaster as rescue work starts, and the gathering throngs.

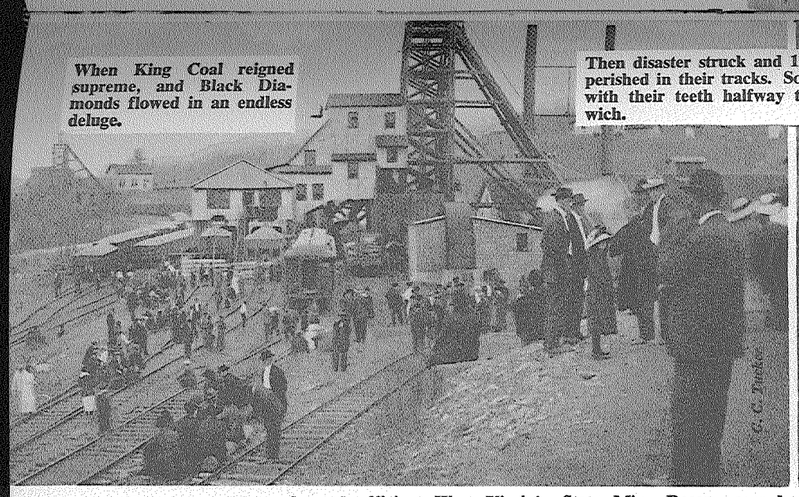




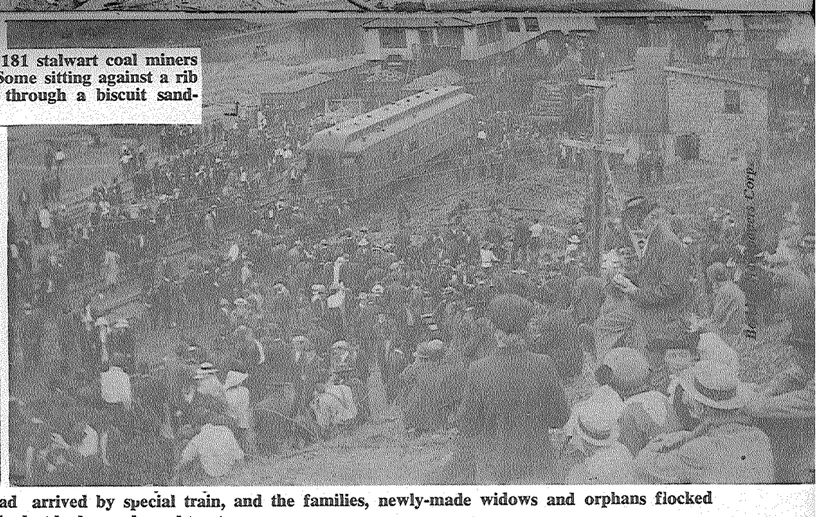
Gone are the days when all the valleys leading to and from "The World's Smokeless Coal Capital" were studded, and some even cluttered, with many shapes and sizes of tipples, commissaries, miners' huts and burning slag piles. But, Beckley and everyone hereabout idolized its "billion dollar coal fields."

But, today, in the new burgeoning era of greater and more efficient coal production—with far less danger to human life and limb in the black molehills—the image changes. And this revolutionary switch has been brought about through the evolvement of modern methods and mechanisms, experience, engineering and ingenuity, with the promise of a coming greater efficiency, with a broader market to match, then any coal field has ever known.

This department shows a bare smattering of some departed and other still working operations—including, at least one, employing the new era—which should be made a matter of composite record.

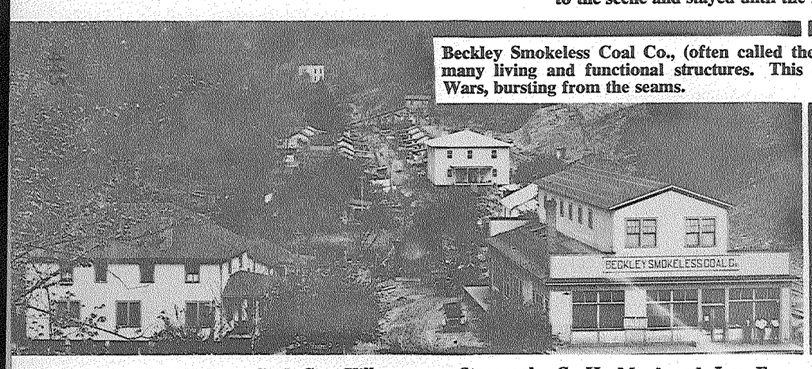


When King Coal reigned supreme, and Black Diamonds flowed in an endless deluge.

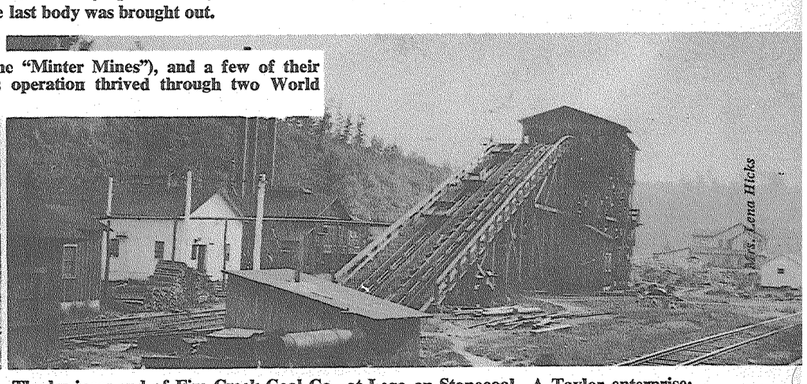


Then disaster struck and 181 stalwart coal miners perished in their tracks. Some sitting against a rib with their teeth halfway through a biscuit sandwich.

The ever ready-ready and efficient West Virginia State Mine Rescue cars had arrived by special train, and the families, newly-made widows and orphans flocked to the scene and stayed until the last body was brought out.

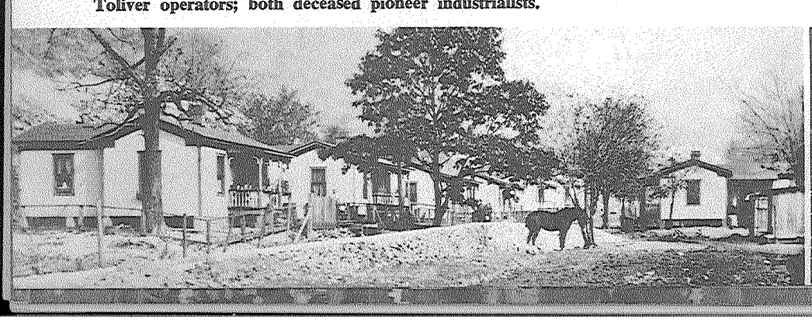


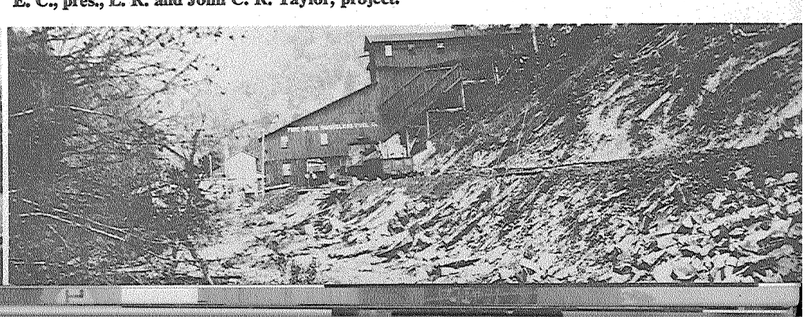
Beckley Smokeless Coal Co., (often called the "Minter Mines"), and a few of their many living and functional structures. This operation thrived through two World Wars, bursting from the seams.



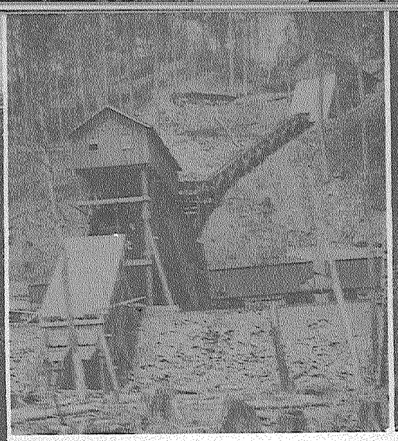
The Mead-Toliver Coal Co., Killarney on Stonecoal. C. H. Mead and Jess E. Toliver operators; both deceased pioneer industrialists.

The business end of Fire Creek Coal Co., at Lego on Stonecoal. A Taylor enterprise: E. C., pres., L. R. and John C. R. Taylor, project.





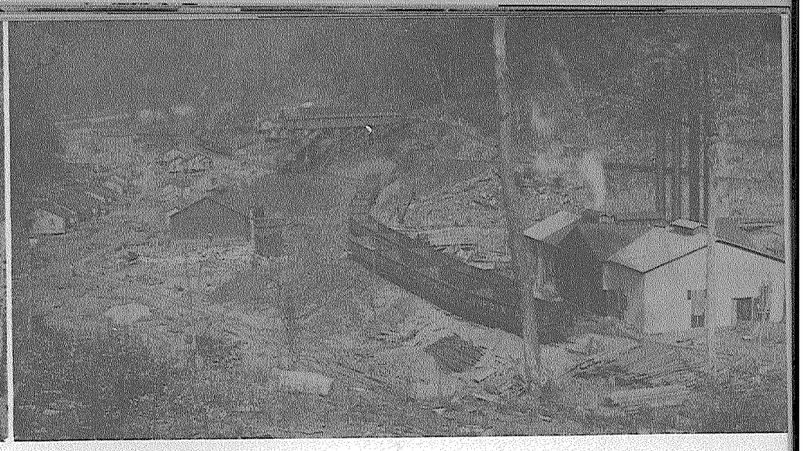




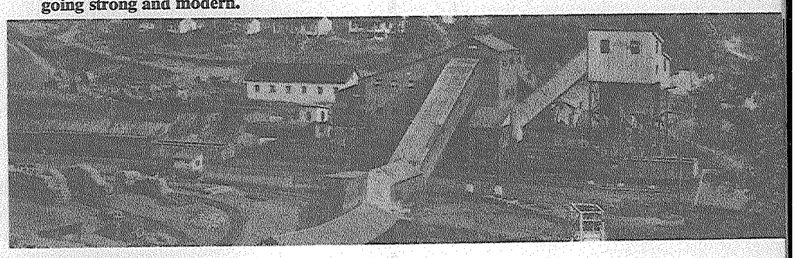
Top. Raleigh Coal & Coke Co., tipple No. 3, serving a double purpose—for wagon (below) and railroad (above).

Left: The E. C. Minter Coal Co., at Besoco on Stonecoal, operated this precipitous incline in its early years mining the Beckley Seam on top of this mountain. These inclines were ingenious gadgets and unbelievably economical. The right hand tracks were for "tandem" coal haulage, on which two monitors shuttled up and down the mountain, one bringing 7 tons of coal down and pulling the empty companion monitor back up to the top again. The two monitors were controlled by an engineer at one end or the other, who merely braked a steel cable huge drum. The monitors passing automatically at the double switch track half way up the slope; here the switches opened and shut allowing this maneuver to practically work itself. Mules brought the coal from inside the mines to the top dump, until electricity was later provided. The single track to the left was for "man trips" and supplies used above. This was worked first by steam then electricity.

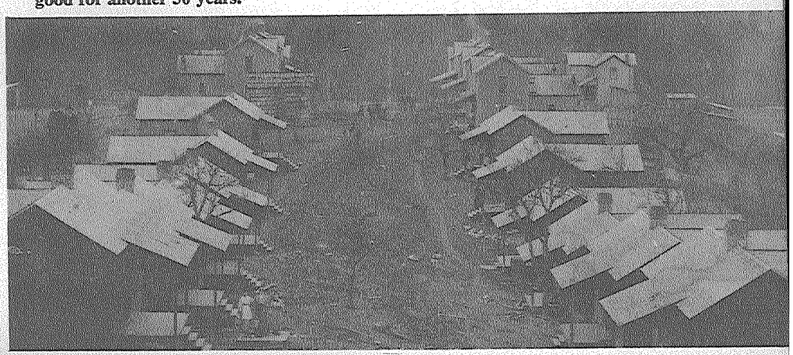
Many of these inclines have been used in this rich field over the good years of coal production, handling millions of tons of the world's finest steam coal.



The huge Slab Fork Coal Co., mines (Capertons interests) opened in 1907 and still going strong and modern.



The equally huge Winding Gulf Coals operation (Major W. P. Tams interest), and good for another 50 years.



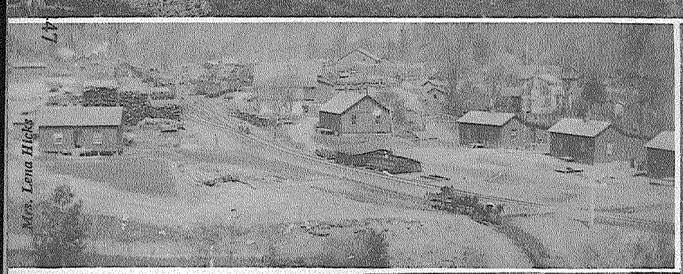
The large Eccles operation (see above) residential section. Note men standing on chimneys and house-tops.





"Casa Loma," the famous, sturdy residence of Raleigh's chief executive-officer; now the offices of the UMWA.

Below: The 1900 Stanaford store of Stonewall Coal Co., practically straddling Piney Creek. This was an early opening with incline across the railroad tracks dropping coal from a top seam.





Top, left: Marjorie Hall, Raleigh, was an outstanding social center, one of the finest of its kind and time. Built in the twenties by the incomparable Ernest Chilson, long-time president of Raleigh Coal & Coke Co., it provided a welcome recreation and entertainment meeting place for the booming camp; Mrs. Marie Stromp, hostess.

Center, above: Early east-end Raleigh crossing; C & O station upper left, with lumber mill, the old Lewis Hull home (to right) and miners' dwellings.

A Few Coal Loadings When King Coal Reigned

Annual Coal Loadings by Member Mines of

the Winding Gulf Operators Association,

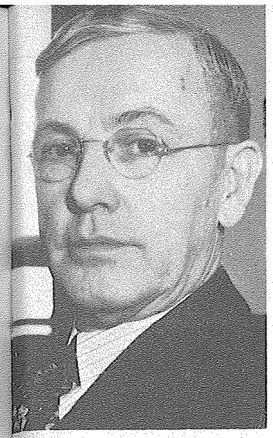
From Their First Year Until 1939, inc.

	Served by	Year opened.	First Year's tonnage.	Total tonnage from opening year until 1939, inc.
1 Slab Fork Coal Co.	Va	1907	8,820	9,278,188
2 Gulf Smokeless Coal Co.	Va-C&O	1909	6,150	20,845,085
3 Koppers Coal Co. Glen White & Stotesbury	Va-C&O	1909	67,890	28,477,233
4 Winding Gulf Collieries, #1-2-4-5	Va-C&O	1909	149	16,842,442
5 Lillybrook Coal Co., #1-2-3-4-5-6	Va-C&O	1909	35,000	16,096,247
6 Low Volatile Coal Co., Bailey-Wood,#1-2	Va	1910	26,720	3,701,354
7 MacAlpin Coal Company	Va-C&O	1910	81,186	9,117,386
8 Pemberton Coal & Coke Company	Va-C&O	1910	13,987	10,954,481
9 Koppers Coal Co., Pemberton #1	Va-C&O	1911	25,756	1,956,562
10 Koppers Coal Co., Pemberton #2	C&O	1911	1,764	1,068,755
11 Comago Smokeless Fuel Co.*	Va-C&O	1914	58,799	6,706,589
12 Mullens Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1914	3,999	1,308,697
13 Gaston Coal Co., Alpoca	Va	1915	3,454	3,138,627
14 Amigo Coal Co.	Va	1915	1,474	2,891,914
15 Buckeye Coal & Coke Co.	Va	1915	6,992	1,825,980
16 Iroquois Coal Mining Co.	Va	1915	30,000	1,127,901
17 Black Eagle Smokeless Coal. Company	Va	1915	16,735	2,020,235
18 Brule Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1915	5,037	1,915,981
19 Flat Top Pocahontas Coal Co.	Va	1916	947	785,751
20 Lillybrook Coal Co., Killarney #1-2	Va-C&O	1916	2,817	5,564,850
21 C. H. Mead Coal Co., #1-2-4	Va-C&O	1916	5,081	13,364,658
22 Douglas Coal Co.	Va	1917	39,101	2,243,094
23 Fire Creek Smokeless Fuel Co.**	Va-C&O	1917	27,127	1,532,853
24 Laurel Smokeless Coal Co.	Va-C&O	1917	4,775	211,331
25 Leckie Fire Creek Coal Co.	Va	1917	89,350	2,990,826
26 J. H. Mandt Coal Co.	Va-C&O	1917	15,000	89,634
27 Piney Creek Coal Co.	Va	1917	6,257	61,265
28 Pocahontas Fuel Co.	Va	1917	51,800	2,051,360
29 Koppers Coal Co., Princewick	Va-C&O	1917	20,310	1,748,060
30 Kohinoor Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1917	57,860	556,544
31 Sterling Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1917	25,161	1,858,853
32 Shockley Creek Coal Co.	Va	1917	5,838	1,099,939
33 Alpha Pocahontas Coal Co., Thermo	Va	1917	68,323	1,242,779
34 Lilly & Hornbrook, Inc.	Va-C&O	1917	7,741	1,212,659
35 Leccony Smokeless Fuel Co., Inc.	Va-C&O	1917	58,520	4,142,843
36 Rhodell Coal Co.	Va-C&O	1918	2,500	913,630
37 Smith Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1918	4,614	664,017
38 Koppers Coal Co., Helen #3-4-5-9	Va-C&O	1919	23,010	12,149,972
39 E. C. Minter Coal Co., #1-2	Va-C&O	1920	992	3,012,638
40 Neal Coal Co.	Va	1920	3,701	86,116
41 Wagon Mines	Va-C&O	1920	8,624	26,753
42 Micajah Pocahontas Coal Co.	Va	1921	1,631	316,628
43 Monticello Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1921	41,614	514,291
44 Raleigh-Wyoming Mining Co.	Va	1922	3,291	11,156,398
45 Wacomah Smokeless Fuel Co., Inc.	Va	1922	5,946	651,673
46 J. A. Wood Coal Co.	Va	1922	3,409	465,598
47 Morrison Coal Co.	Va	1923	7,608	3,419,736
48 Faith Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1923	5,161	1,080,066
49 Coe Pocahontas Coal Co.	Va	1923	3,773	86,879
50 Piney River Fuel Co.	Va	1924	1,239	42,841
51 Malcolm Smokeless Coal Co.	Va	1926	6,064	472,494
52 E. W. Meadows Coal Co.	Va-C&O	1933	500	45,364
53 Crab Orchard Improve. Co.,Eccles #5-6	Va-C&O	1933	685,764	4,896,221
54 Stewart Coal Co.	Va	1934	14,618	22,405
55 Firecreek Fuel Co.	Va	1934	4,149	196,414
56 Porterfield Coal Co.	Va	1936	10,036	65,407
57 Davis Coal Co.	Va	1939	976	976

* (These mines taken over by other companies in the Dist. in year 1929).

**(Taken over by Lillybrook Coal Co. in 1930, and shown as Lillybrook #5.)

Todays, or areas, tonnage figures to compare with these may be found in any local newspaper covering the region in which the reader may be interested.

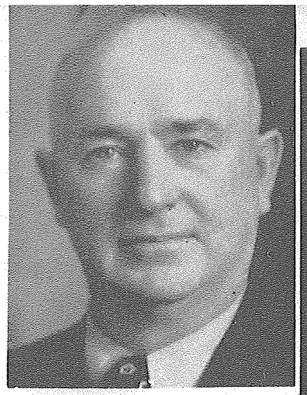


Joe L. Smith
First Mayor
New City of Beckley

The Roaring Twenties

The panoramic photograph of Beckley, by Ribble Studio, was taken during this period, as was another of the Raleigh Mining Institute (RMI) ball park at the top of the 4 following pages.

Mayor Joe L. Smith with his recorder-treasurer and five councilmen are shown, and indicated, on these facing pages. This was the first official family after Beckley had become a full-fledged and chartered city. They served in 1928-1929.

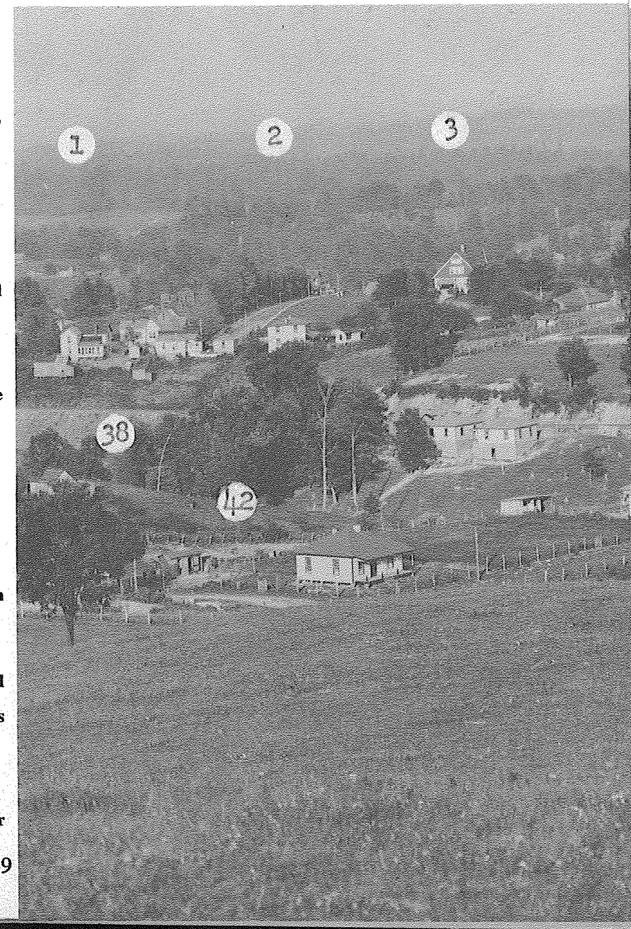


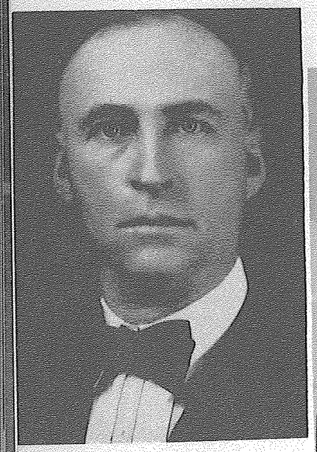
J. T. Hollandsworth
Recorder-Treasurer



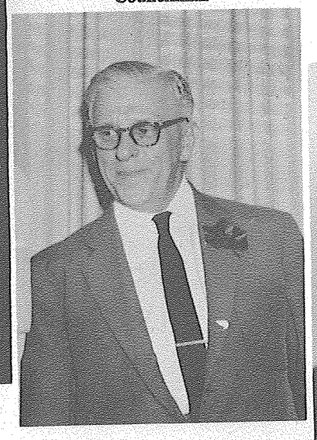
M. J. Meadows
Councilman

1 Milroy White home, S. Kanawha
2 Quesenberry Street
3 E. C. Minter residence
4 Mrs. George (Florence P.) H. Moss home
5 Humevilla and Calfee sites
6 Early East Park and Ball Field
7 K. M. Jarrell
8 Wm. H. File, & Crawford Apt. sites
9 R. D. Watts
10 Early Hull and Prince burial ground, Greenbrier Ct.
11 S. S. (Mrs.) Sutphin
12 Croft Street
13 Wm. MacTaggart (now Post Office) and Mrs. Halcomb Smith
14 Ashton File & Dr. F. L. Banks
15 J. L. Bumgardner
16 Mrs. Thos. H. Wickham and Allen Bldg.
17 Former Bair Bros. (Ford), now C & P Telephone Co.
18 Bair Building
19 Old Southern Methodist Church (below Bair Bldg)
20 (Upper) Beckley Hotel, (lower) Christian Church and WJLS Block
21 Raleigh County Bank
22 Old Raleigh County Court House (see steeple)
23 Old "Jail Houses" (corner Heber & Prince)
24 Beckley Newspapers Corp. (now) printing plants. Above is the old Keyser and Nick Keene homes.
25 Beckley Hardware & Supply Co., and warehouses
26 Block of stores facing old Post Office on Neville St.
27 City Parking Lot (now)
28 Old G. C. Hedrick residence, next to alleyway.
29 John Beckley Campbell building, et al. (below)
29 Raleigh General Hospital (above)
30 D. George former home on Walnut Lane, prominence.
31 Beckley Seminary, later Beckley Institute
32 John H. Hatcher, Lewis Williams, Dr. R. R. Wriston & residences
33 W. H. McGinnis residence
34 Beckley Hardware & Supply Co., warehouse.
35 Old Beckley City Depot (lower)
36 The Roy Lucas General Tire Plant (former General Store)
37 Betty Beckley Campbell estate of 9 acres; to right is residence.
38 Chesapeake & Ohio Railway tracks.
39 Piney Avenue and R. R. crossing.
40 Hill Street, (below)
41 Res. site of Wm. F. Watts (former B. H. White spot)
42 Valley Drive now, through street from 19-21 to Harper Hill





George W. Bair, Jr.
Councilman



Harry Anderson
Councilman



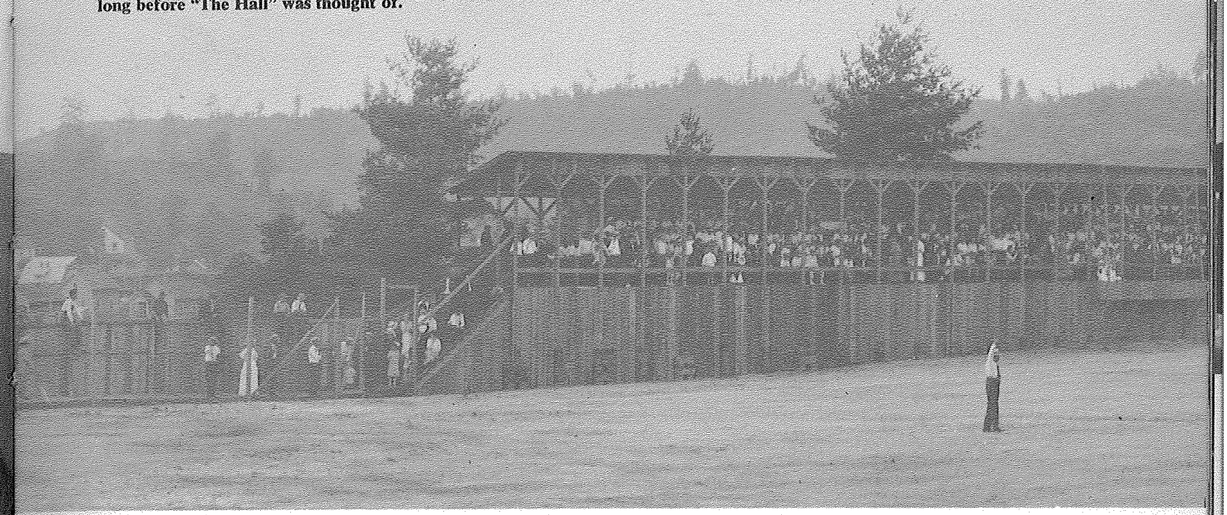
Henry Conway
Councilman



John Beckley Campbell
Councilman

continued next page

An excellent opportunity to name an Early-Early "Hall of Fame" of a few Beckley athletes who became locally famous long before "The Hall" was thought of.

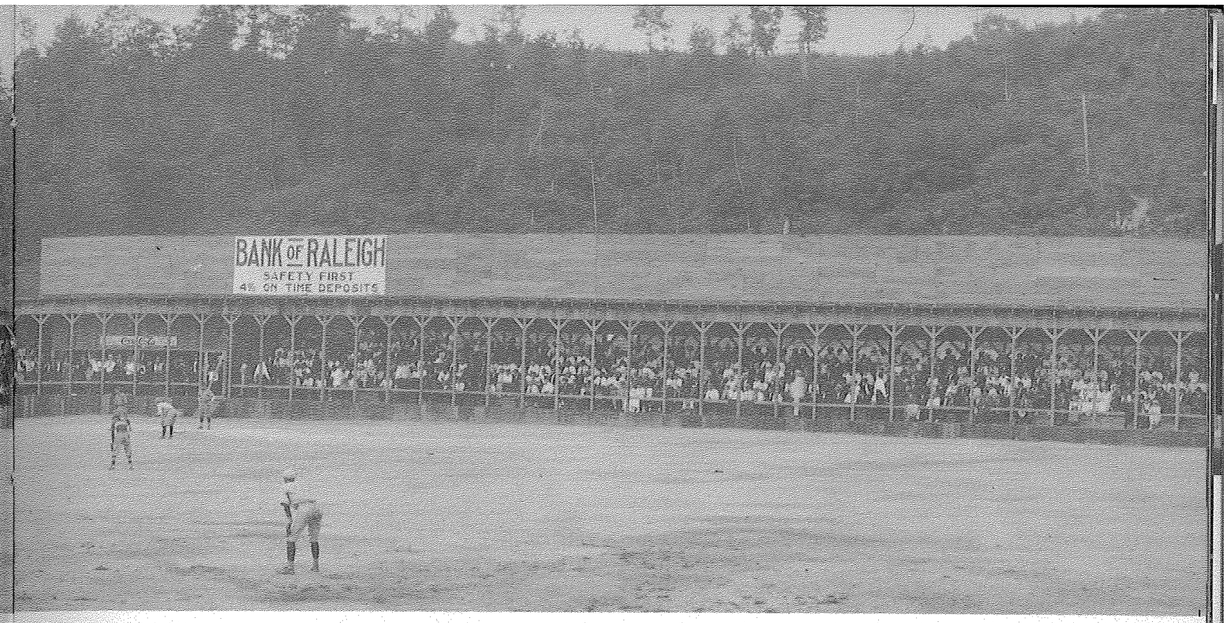


Aubrey O. Smith, Sarg. J. Fred Blake, Milton "Cat" Curtis, Guy Morrison, Grover, Peach and Wash Trail, Lester Early, Parker Wilson, Wosswell Monroe, George Baker, Virgil "Dutch" Snead, Mack Meador, Chich and George Daniels,

continued next page



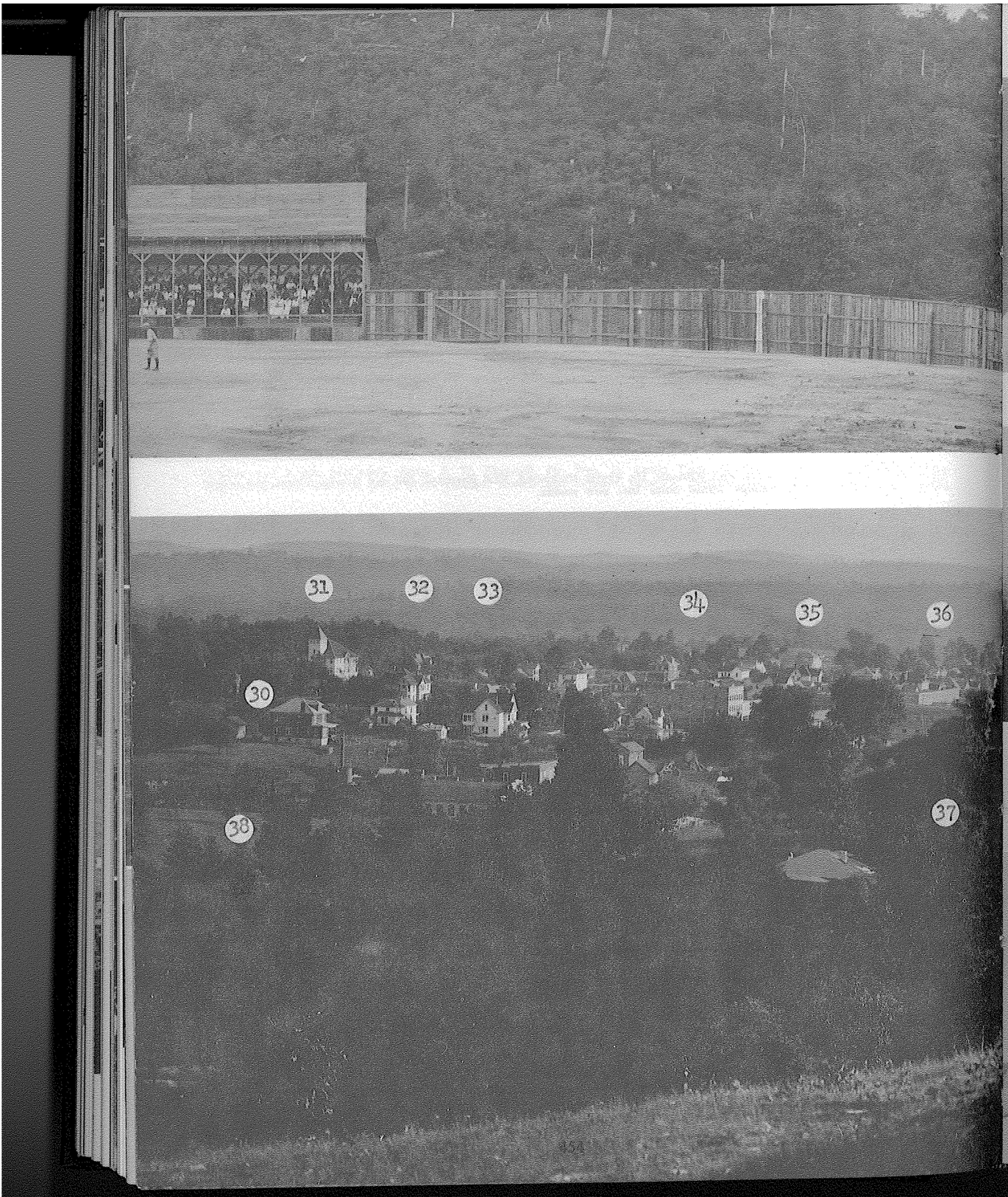
Bradley and Erskin McCreery, Judge J. W. Maxwell, Dr. Wm. D. Lewis, Cam. C. Lewis, George W. Williams, Dr. Winifred Combs, Elmer J. Lilly, Blake Phillips, Homer and Bernard Blizzard, Bernard Curtis, Grover Hunt, Dr. Floyd



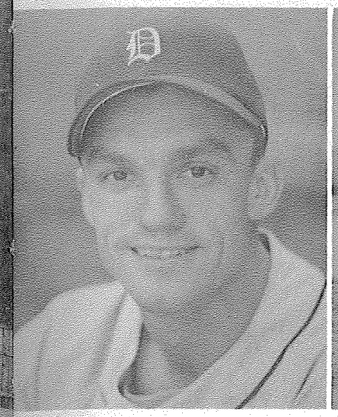
Thompson, Robert (Dr.) Lewis, Dr. Phil Williams, Dr. Ernest Richmond, Paul Earwood, Bill and Beecher Dunn, and many others. The Park: Where Raleigh Motor Sales Inc. now stands.



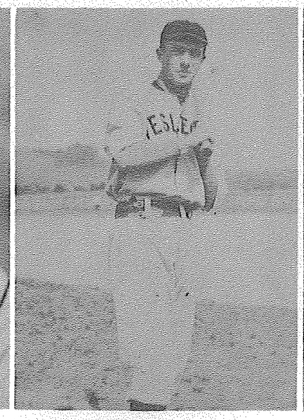




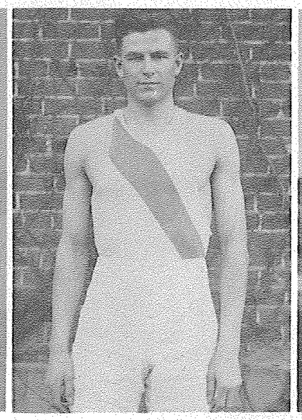
More Present And Past Well-Known Athletes



John J. Gorsica, National-Local baseball Leagues 1915-1950.



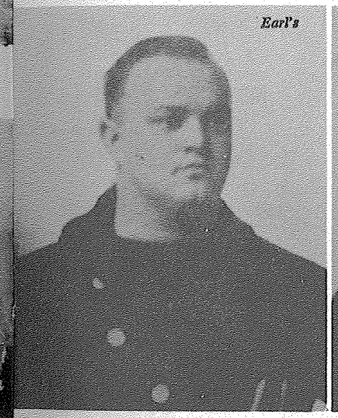
Aubrey O. Smith, see middle of picture on previous ball park page.



Robt. H. Kay, Charleston attorney, W&L trackman.



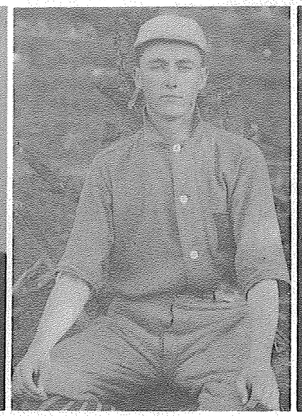
Bill Dunn, played on Beckley, Wesleyan and other east teams.



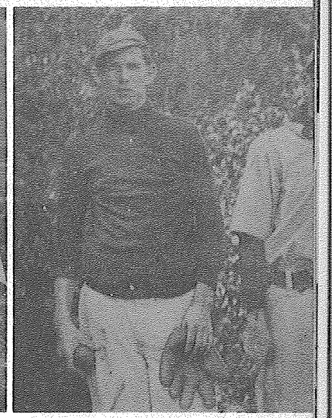
J. H. "Fats" Miller, Jr., W&L football star; died 1923.



Harry Moran, local coalman; W&L & Prof. 5 yrs., Detroit & Pgh.



Ross Houchins, Crow & Beaver, 1912 local teams.



Wash Aliff, old Institute team with others, prev. page.

Spirit of modern Little Leagues: Eddie Highlander, 1955.



Spirit of 1909; "Coventers": H. George, (sitting) V. Rhodes, F. Hawley, Price Hawley, P. Stanley. (Standing) B. Dunn, D. Crozier, W. Aliff, J. Crozier, G. Shumate.



Eddie's brother Willie sons of the R. H. Highlanders, Grove Ave.

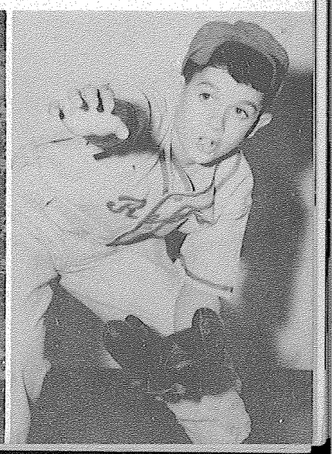
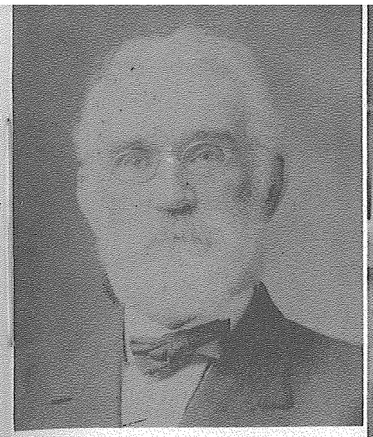




Photo Courtesy Preston Lightner

The Governor's Conference (Dec. 14-16, 1922) at White Sulphur Recesses to Visit Beckley and to Inspect Glen White.

Listed in the Charleston Daily Mail, Sunday, Dec. 10, 1922, were the following governors: Albert C. Ritchie, Maryland, Thomas E. Campbell, Arizona, E. Lee Trinkle, Virginia, John M. Parker, Louisiana, Ben. W. Alcott, Oregon, Samuel R. McKelvie, Nebraska, J. A. O. Preus, Minnesota, Henry J. Allen, Kansas, Cary A. Hardee, Florida, Wilson G. Harvey, S. Carolina, James Hartness, Vermont, Thos. E. Kilby, Alabama, Wm. D. Denney, Delaware, T. W. Hardwick, Georgia, D. W. Davis, Idaho, Warren T. McCray, Indiana, N. E. Kendall, Iowa, Channing H. Cox, Mass., Alexander J. Caresbeck, Mich., Arthur M. Hide, Missouri, Cameron Morrison, N. C., R. A. Nestos, N. Dakota, J. B. A. Robertson, Okla., Wm. C. Sproul, Penna., W. H. Master, S. Dakota, Charles R. Mabey, Utah, Ehpraim E. Morgan, West Virginia, and Robert D. Carey, Wyoming. Also recognized, in addition to host Mr. E. E. White ("Double-E" at front left), are: Robert Roth, chief engineer of the coal company; A. A. Potts, store manager; Mrs. William MacTaggart, Mrs. James Laing, Mrs. Mable Taylor, Mrs. "Chub" (R. D.) Watts; E. B. Wray, chief clerk (looking out right window).



(1839-1921)

1925

This large and well-known family came to Beckley about 1857 from Montgomery County, Virginia, before West Virginia's statehood. "Capt. Jim" as he was fondly called, was a vivacious, soldierly character of many trades and talents, and deeply devoted to one Cause—The Confederacy. The old home place as pictured to the right still stands and is occupied by one of his daughters, Mrs. Silas S. Gore. Shown here in this character study, are:
Front row: Almo (now Mrs. Geo. Moul, Washington; Frank's daughter; Mrs. James H. Lemon; Evelyn (Mrs. Jess Parsons) also Frank's daughter; and Nancy Thompson (Mrs. Walter Summers, Mt. Hope), Lena's daughter.

Back row; up and down: Henry, E. E. Tucker, Lena (Wm. A. Thompson), Nanny (Mrs. E. E. Tucker), Silas S. Gore, Bess (Mrs. S. S. Gore), Wm. A. Thompson), Jennie (Audley Ball), Frank, and Thomas W. Lemon. Missing is Jess Lemon and their father, Capt. James H., who is shown in insert. He died the year before picture was taken.



The Lemons at Home on Oakwood Ave., Beckley

A Testimonial

From the Raleigh Register, 1911: "That man Lemon (of Beckley) the doorkeeper of the house is about the spryest, liveliest old-young man we have ever seen. The way he marches up the isle when there is a communication from the Senate is a caution. Just like going into a battle with the old Rebel yell. He is afraid of neither canister, bullets, words, bills, speeches, Hays of Calhoun, Ice of Marion, Wells of Roane, Wysong of Webster, Mr. Speaker or anyone else."

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 439)

gress has directed of that part of the Avenue, which lies between Tiber and the buildings nearest to it, one condition of which is that the ground is to be forthwith built upon.

The city is quite dull. Whether more or less so than, usual in the summer I am not able to say. The inhabitants appear to be somewhat indemnified, for the want of entertainment of (to) parties themselves, by the accounts with which the papers term, of those which are given to the President during his tours. He is probably now at Detroit, and is expected here about the middle of next month

P. S. Be pleased to make my
respectful compliments to
Mrs. Brown.

I am Madam
very respectfully yr. obt servt
H. Clay

General's Will And Old Letter Tell Graphically Of Beckley's Olden Days And Need Of Farmers
(Beckley Centennial Edition—The Sunday Register, Sunday, June 19, 1938)

Although General Alfred Beckley was the acknowledged peer of his county contemporaries in education and scholarship, although he was, for a busy man, a voluminous writer, few of his writings have been preserved.

His will, written Nov. 11, 1886, and a letter written

(Continued on page 459)



Photo Courtesy Steve E. Pachuta

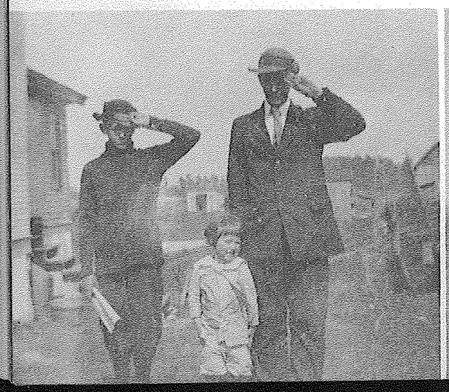
Troup 4, Boy Scout of America of Beckley (Encamped at Talcott 8/12–1928)

From left to right: Warren Williams, Willis Tucker, Weldon W. Wills, Herbert Bragg, Steve E. Pachuta, Clynis D. McKinney, Dwight Casto, Oswald Gwinn, Wilbur Alderman, Herbert Warden, Robert Bright, Leslie Carter, James Bennett, Russell Williams, Nick F. Cody, Walter Blackwell, P. C. Mankin, Posey Conner, Ted George, Jewel Coleman, Clyde Moore, Shelby Kitts, Joe L. Smith, Jr., Shannon Blackwell, and Clifford Moore. Willis Tucker is Scoutmaster and Leslie Carter, his assistant.

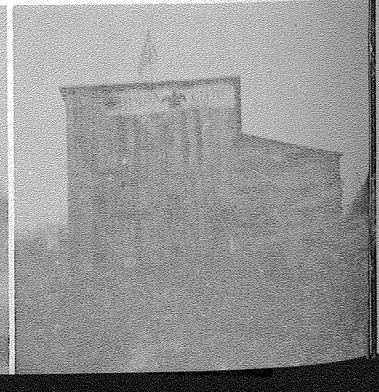
The three pictures below while seeming to appear rather unimportant and crude, bear, as a matter of fact, some deep portent into the beginning of Boy Scouting in Beckley. The year was 1910. This grand movement was begun and founded in England in 1907 by Sir Robert Baden-Powell. It is of record that Daniel Beard and William D. Boyce, with associates, founded the Boy Scouts of America in the year 1910—the same year this little clique of boyhood energy caught the idea as it spread across America like wildfire.

With no other leadership except what they had read and their own fellowship, these several lads began saluting (notice with the left hand, which was regulation at the time), waving banners, flags, marching, prowling the wooded sections and building the first Boy Scout Headquarters for, perhaps, the entire southern end of the state.

In the left hand picture is recognized Cecil Sampson, Mark Radford, Paul MacTaggart, George Warren and Earl L. Sampson, younger brother of Cecil, to whom the credit is due for preserving and submitting this material. Second picture shows Paul MacTaggart and Cecil give the left-handed salute. Child is Cecil's nephew, Harry Trotter. The final right hand picture is of their scouting headquarters (note the official emblem on the banner above and floating American flag).









The Sallie McGinnis Bible Class, Methodist Temple, 1929

(From left to right)
First row: Mrs. Robert Higgins; Miss Thelma Brown; Mrs. Sallie McGinnis; Mrs. Keith.
Second row: Mrs. Barella; Mrs. Myrtla Arnett (Rothrock); Mrs. Blankenship; Mrs. Wade Hull; Mrs. Mary J. Starr; Mrs. Andrew Bailey; Mrs. T. J. McGinnis; Mrs. R. E. Turner.
Third row: Mrs. Ruby French Tinsley; Mrs. Jake Lares; Mrs. W. B. Fisher; Mrs. M. O. Bright; Miss Annie Platt; Mrs. E. C. Hern; Miss Zone Sherrad; Mrs. Frank Hamlin; Mrs. Russie Gore Williams; Mrs. E. F. Cooper; Mrs. O. O. Harrald.
Fourth row: Mrs. H. J. Thorne; Mrs. W. R. Snead; Mrs. C. L. Phipps; Mrs. Tobin Stover; Mrs. Jess Blake; Mrs. John Davis; Miss Fannie Reed; Mrs. J. A. Brubeck; Mrs. Fannie Wheatley.
Fifth row: E. F. Cooper (teacher); Rev. Charles A. Slaughter (pastor); Mrs. Charles A. Slaughter; Mrs. Thelma Wetzel; Mrs. Rosetta Flint; Mrs. Erie Williams; Eugene G. Larrick; Henry Keyser.

BECKLEY'S EARLIEST HISTORY—(Continued from page 457)

93 years ago when he was postmaster at Fayetteville, are exceptions.

Both reveal the dignified manner of expression which characterized the founder of Beckley.

What followed the somewhat strange letter, which hints at a possible bequest, is not revealed.

The letter, then the will, follow:

Fayetteville, Fayette C. H., Va.
January 7, 1845.

General Henry A. S. Dearborn, Boston Mass.

My Dear Sir:

You will much oblige me with much attention to a matter which may be of some interest to me and I feel sure that my hereditary claim to the friendship of your family will always be duly honored by yourself.

My lamented mother's maiden name was Prince, and her father was Capt. James Prince of New York, but from Boston to which we suppose his father emigrated from England sometime in early part of 18th century. The late U. S. Marshal Prince of your state was a cousin of my mother. My only surviving Uncle Mr. Issac Prince resides in Phila. He noticed the advertisement which I enclose to you,—

(The advertisement referred to is on the face of the letter, and is as follows:)

"James Prince (deceased) heir at law wanted.

"Any person who can establish their claim to be Heir at Law of JAMES PRINCE, formerly of Oxford, afterwards of London, Cooper and who died at Hoxton in 1774, will hear of something greatly to his or her advantage, by addressing a letter to J. WATERLOW, 24 BIRCHIN LANE, LONDON. James Prince's brothers were named Edward, Joseph, and John.

"Edward Prince formerly carried on the business of a Cooper in London, and is supposed to have emigrated to America about the year 1736, at which period he had four children named Mary, James, Edward, and Joseph.

"Any person giving information which may lead to the discovery of the descendants of the said Edward Prince, will be rewarded for their trouble.

"Persons reading this advertisement, and acquainted with any one of the name of Prince, are requested to draw their attention to it."

(Continued on page 499)

1930 - 1931

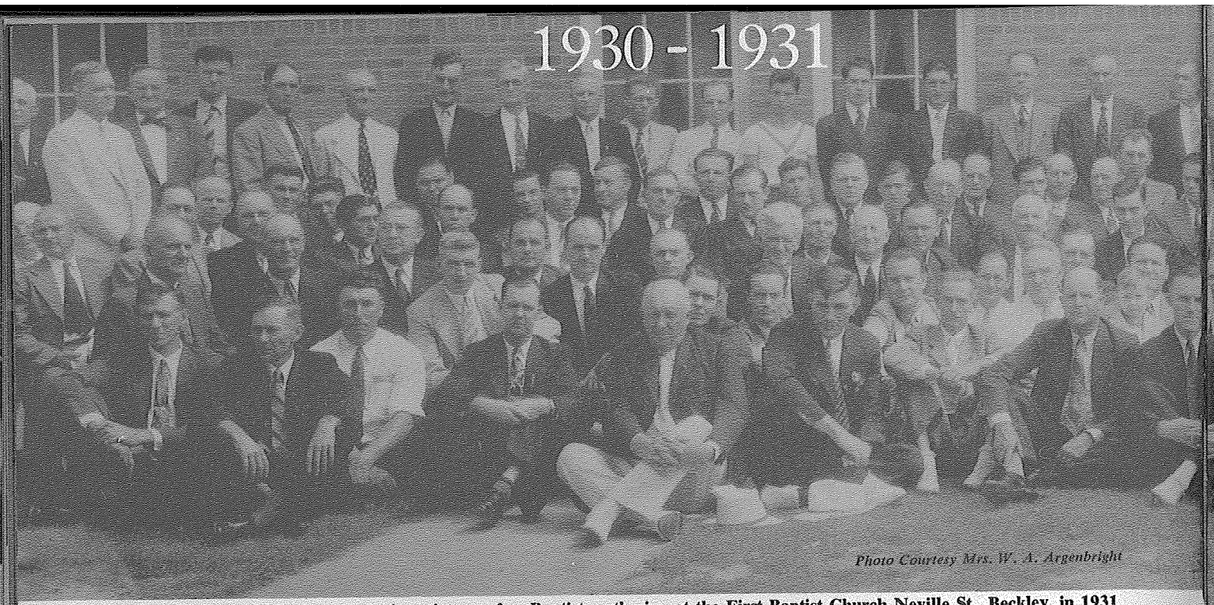


Photo Courtesy Mrs. W. A. Argenbright

The decision to run this interesting picture of a Baptist gathering at the First Baptist Church Neville St., Beckley, in 1931 or 1932, was a close one. Too many of the faces were unidentified; yet a large number of well-known Beckley people, so many of whom have passed on, seemed so clear and sharp that it was felt that it should be preserved in these pages—even for those unidentified who might recognize themselves.

Clearly shown are—with no attempt made for orderliness: W. C. Agee, Lee Foster, Dewey Meador, Silas Gore, R. E.

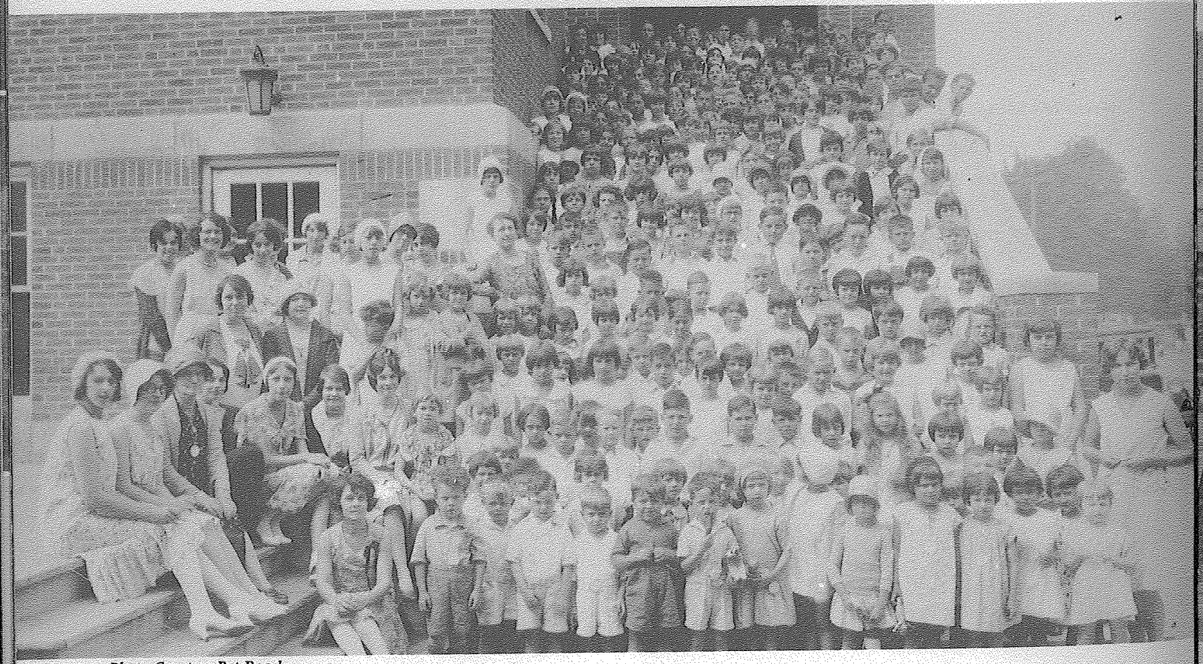
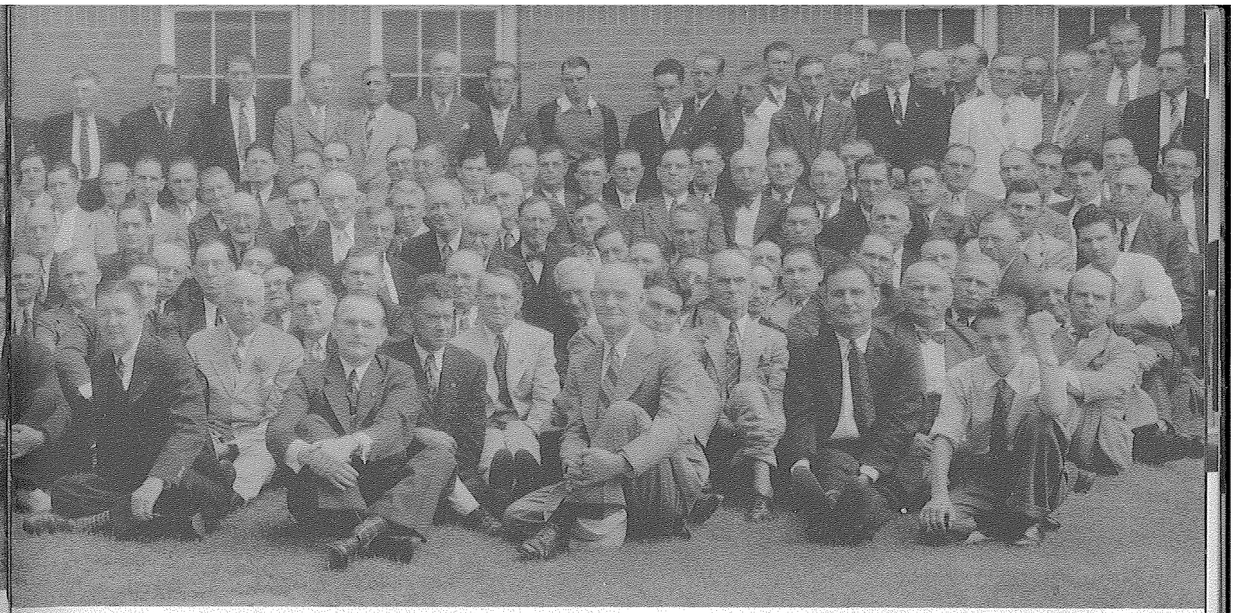


Photo Courtesy Pat Roach

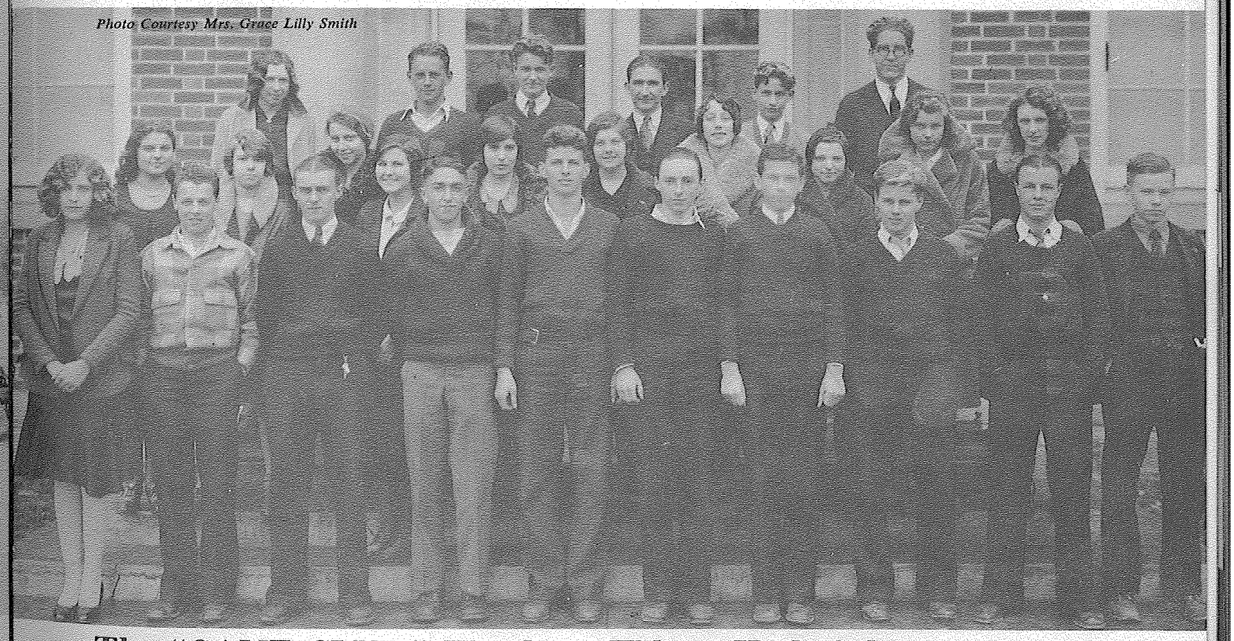
The First Baptist Church Sunday School, Mrs. W. A. Argenbright, Supt.

Defying complete identification, the above conglomeration of youngsters and teachers will have to be presented as is, with the hopes that enough interest may be found among those shown to justify its inclusion.



Turner, Wm. Smith, James Thompson, Dr. A. S. Abshire, James Lowe, Dr. W. C. Covey, Omer Mason, Bob Rardin, W. R. Vannoy, Henry Lemon, Henry E. Phipps, Robert Taylor, Charles C. Farmer, Ira Holliday, A. Z. Lilly, J. Q. Hutchinson, Woody Thurmond, Bert Gunnoe, Calvin Harvey, Lester Hash, Mason French, Brooks Adair, W. A. Argenbright, John Eye, Bob Neil, Ash Mankin, Earl B. Mann, Dr. Pete Lilly, John Dillinger, Clint Bailey, Tom Bazzarie, Everette N. Smith, Dr. Mitchell, Garner Williams, Bill Chrisley, John Cook, Aleck Cook, Ira Whitlock and an easy 100 more whose faces look as familiar if the picture were taken yesterday.

Photo Courtesy Mrs. Grace Lilly Smith



The "GAME CLUB," Woodrow Wilson High School, 1930-1931

Front row: Nellie Dearing (James), Charles Garvin (Judge, Circuit Court Fayette County), Charles Callaway, Emanuel Amato, William Smith, J. Hugh Miller (M. D., in Florida), Howard St. Clair (West Pointer), John T. Evans, Jr., Orford Thompson, Gordon Smith.

Second row: Geneviev Perry (Bernard Martin), Dixie June Radford, Mary Lakey, Thelma Lilly (Mike Misco), Hazel Ellison (Horwath), Lelia Newsome, Norma Bennette, Ester Daniels, Audril Stanley, Nellie Lewis (Larrimore).

Rear row: Doris Farr, Wilbur Alderman, Norvel Rose, Bob Lively, Bayliss Campbell, Delbert Nary.



A Beckley Newspapers Photo

The First Christian Church Choir

1937

Front row: Virgil Miller; Mrs. Carrie Owen; Mrs. Z. W. Lafon; Mrs. Carrol Hutchison; Mrs. Alderson Blankenship; Mrs. L. E. Shrewsbury; Mrs. Annice Bailey; Mrs. Sam Thomson; Mrs. G. C. Hurt; Mrs. Eleanor Brooks; Mrs. Etheline Brackenrich; Miss Celia Elkins; Mrs. Oley Mills.

Second row: Rev. Ritchie Ware; Mrs. Lee Porter; Mrs. Oscar Williams; Miss Ethel Martin; Mrs. Ida Cook Carper; Mrs. Daniel Covey; Mrs. Brooks Adair; Mrs. Katharine Avis Moors; Mrs. Will File; Mrs. Earl Sneed; Mrs. Jeanette Bruder; Mrs. Frank Pettit.

Third row: Hubert Lilly; Dennis Lilly; Ney Caldwell; G. C. Hurt; Jackson Smith; J. A. Sharp; Clarence Doss; M. C. Fleshman; Douglas Meakin.

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Intermediate Department, Methodist Temple 1938

Mrs. George Bright, Superintendent; Teachers, Mr. E. D. Armstrong, Mr. William Wade, Miss Nannie Ellen Gadd.

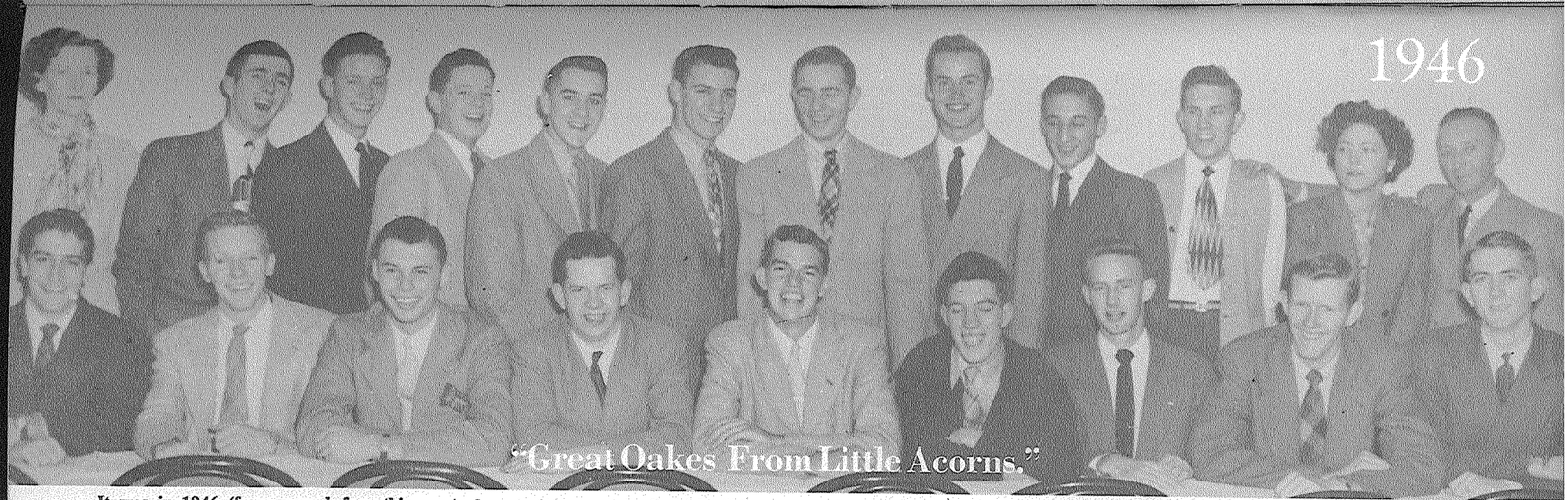
First row, left to right: Billy Johnson, Jim Moore, Buster Thompson, David Davis, Jim Lilly, Bill Moore, Marian Small, Meredith Williams, Bob Coburn, Harold Riffe, Jr., Carl Drewry, Jesse Helm, Sam Paris, Mrs. George Bright.

Second row, left to right: Miss Nancy Ellen Gadd, Jeanette Ballengee, Virginia Minter, Mary Parks, Catherine Armstrong, Catherine Cantley, Frances Cantley, Mary Lilly, Lucile Meador, ———, Lou Ann Canterbury, Kitty Wright.

Third row: Mr. N. S. Lilly, George Harrald, Dorothy Harrald, Joyce James, Patty Larrick, Margaret Moye, June Peters, Dorcas Wheeler, Alma Wetzel, ———, Anna Lee Trent, Margaret Wetzel, Tommy Ballengee, Janet Koch.

Fourth row: Sam Jackson, E. D. Armstrong, Jr., Sam Tiller, George Smith, Eustus Taylor, George Foresman, Bobby Dickerson, Joan Yoak, Mary Hedrick, Virginia Lee Earhart, Anna Mae Foresman, Eva Lou Emmons, Lillian Bays, Pattie Childress.

Fifth row: Mr. E. D. Armstrong, Mr. William Wade, Harry Lee Daniels, Gene Larrick.



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It was in 1946 (four years before this Country Club picture was taken), that the above jubilant group of youngsters began finding each other and organizing themselves into what they dubbed "The Sicamo Boys." It all began on a lark at summer Camp Beckwith, as Margaret and the late "Cotton" McLean explained, without fanfare or formal fuss, and quickly became a closely knit gang which only wedding bells could break up. At this particular time the bells only threaten to ring.

Many yarns are told of and about their gatherings and high jinks. Over the years their favorite rendezvous was the McLean home on Stanhope Court, where a welcome mat always waited, night or day. One morning, Mrs. McLean (Margaret) says she awoke to find fourteen of them snoring in her attic. She never dared to set table for less than 10—even with pork and beans.

And, yet, it was not all high jinks. Many hours and days they spent with pick, shovel and ax, putting together the newly founded McLean Addition off Harper Road. So it was a fitting climax and tribute when Margaret and Cotton McLean named all the streets in their huge land development from the cheerful helpers: Sigmund, Phillips, Perdue, Daniel, Witherspoon, Roberts (there was already a Wood street in Beckley), Lovell and Davis Streets. The only drawback—not enough streets.

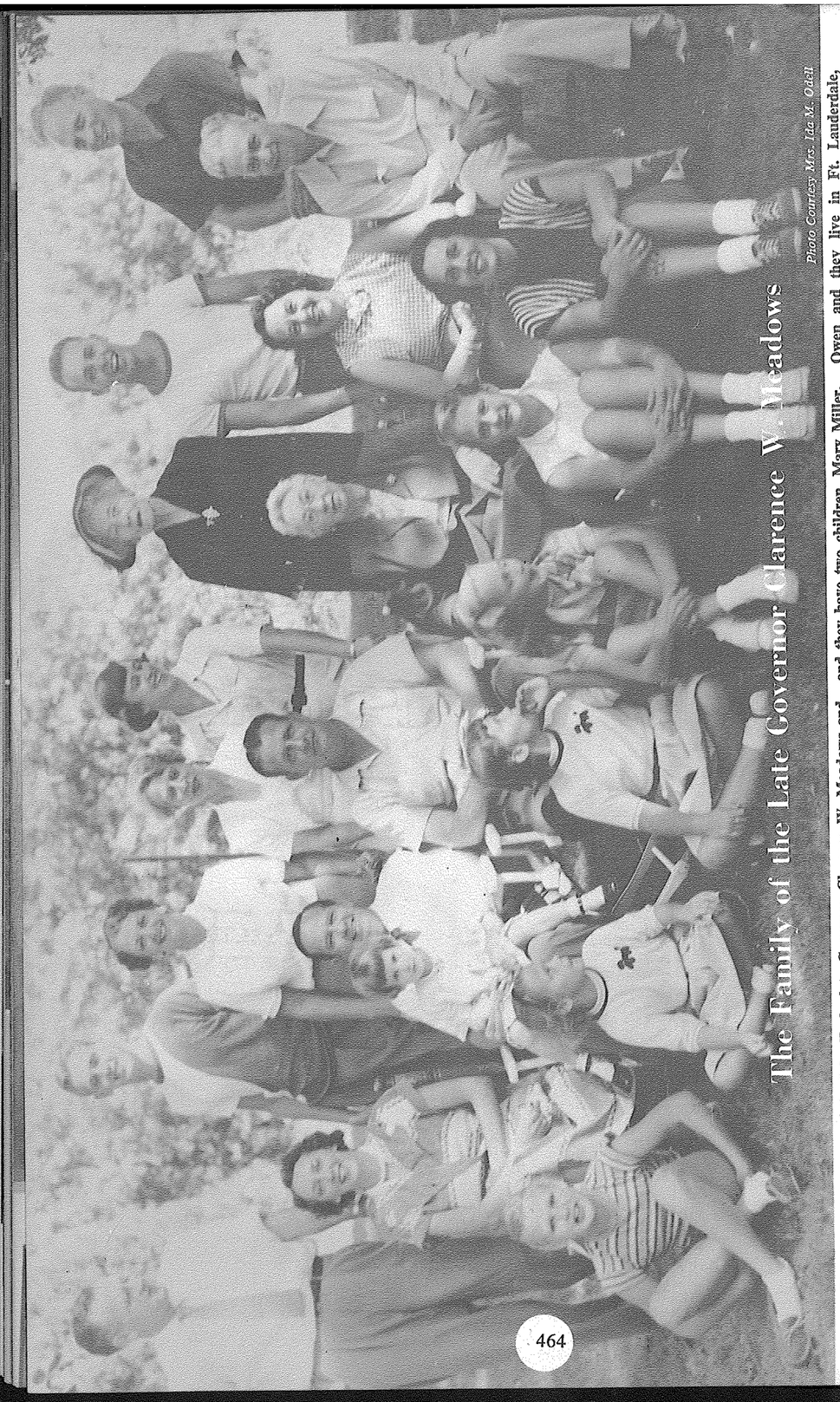
Standing: Mrs. D. W. McLean, Tom Phillips, Jim Witherspoon, Dick Daniel, Bill Sigmund, Dick Davis, Maurice Tabor, Joe Scott, Harry Lovell, Bob Woods, Nancy Wickham (a neighborly co-sponsor), and D. W. (Cotton) McLean. Sitting: Meredith Trent, Robert McLean, Pat Nickell, J. C. Collins, Bob Perdue, Talmadge Jarrell, John Witherspoon, Bill McLean, and Howard Phillips. In 1946 none of these boys were married.

Photo Courtesy George L. Ballard

"After The Ball Is Over."

Washington's birthday, 1946, caught this unsuspecting sextet at a first Military Ball at the Black Knight Country Club for an evening among reserve officers. From left to right: George L. & Nannie Ballard, Major G. B. & Blossom Lynch (new arrivals in Beckley), and Judge Harry L. & Eugenia McCreery. Candid, unposed shots are famously best—for just that reason.





The Family of the Late Governor Clarence W. Meadows

Photo Courtesy Mrs. Ida M. Odell

Picnicking at the home of the John Earl Lillys, Harper Road, is this striking assemblage.

Standing: Paul Hutchinson and son, Paul, Jr.; Nancy (Clarence) Meadows; Elizabeth (Howard) Meadows; Ida Jane (Jack Gallagher); Mrs. Maggie (Williams) Fink; John Earl Lilly, Jr., and John Earl Lilly.

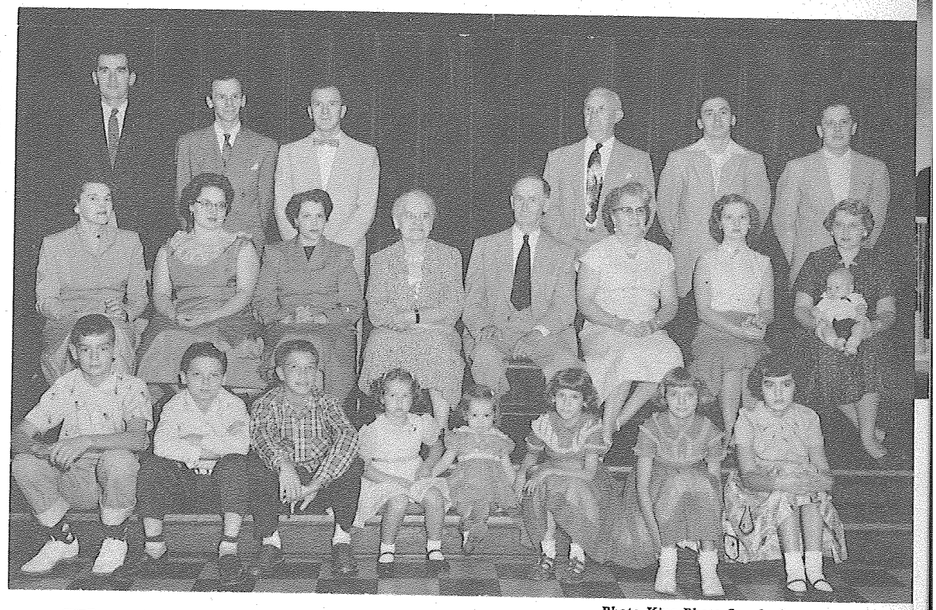
Sitting: Ruth (Odell) Hutchinson; the late Governor Clarence W. Meadows and young daughter, Lynn; Howard P. (Friday) Meadows; Mrs. Ida Meadows Odell; Mary Meadows (John Earl) Lilly; Ross Meadows.

Bottom: Julia Hutchinson; Nancy Meadows; Susan Meadows; Mary Martha Hutchinson; Helen (Clarence's daughter) Meadows (married Bob Long, Michigan); Barbara Lilly (married Sam William Corley, and they have two children, Mary Miller, 2, and John William, 1; they live in Princeton).

Lieut. John Earl Lilly, Jr., is an instructor at the Submarine Base at New London, Connecticut. He married Gail Weiler of Wheeling; they have two children, Lisa, 2½, and Jeffrey, 1. Helen Meadows, daughter of the governor, married Robert Owen and they live in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and they have two daughters, Nancy, 3, and Susan, 1.

Ida Jane, daughter of Howard (Friday) Meadows, married John H. Gallagher; they have a daughter, Nancy, 2, and son John, 2½.

Paul Hutchinson Jr., is associated with the Central National Bank of Richmond.



Front row: Bobby (Paul's son), Danny (Elmer's son), Curtis (Kyle's son), Connie Jo (Kyle's daughter), Diane (Ross' daughter), Carol Sue (Elmer's daughter), Patty (Elmer's daughter), Martha Noel (Paul's daughter).
Middle row: Mrs. (Claire) Paul Phipps, Mrs. (Gerry) Elmer Phipps, Mrs. (Freda) Kyle Phipps, Mrs. Howard Phipps, Mr. Howard Phipps, Mrs. (Edith) Joe Bartgis, Mrs. (Patty) Charles Lamb (Edith's daughter-in-law, deceased), Mrs. (Phyllis) Ross Phipps and (baby) Darrell Phipps.
Back row: Paul Phipps, Elmer Phipps (lives in Altoona, Pennsylvania), Kyle Phipps, Joe L. Bartgis, Charles Lamb (Edith's grandson), Ross Phipps.

The Howard Phipps Family

Photo King Photo Supply Co.

The Ada & Harry A. Stansbury Family April 21, 1957



Left to Right

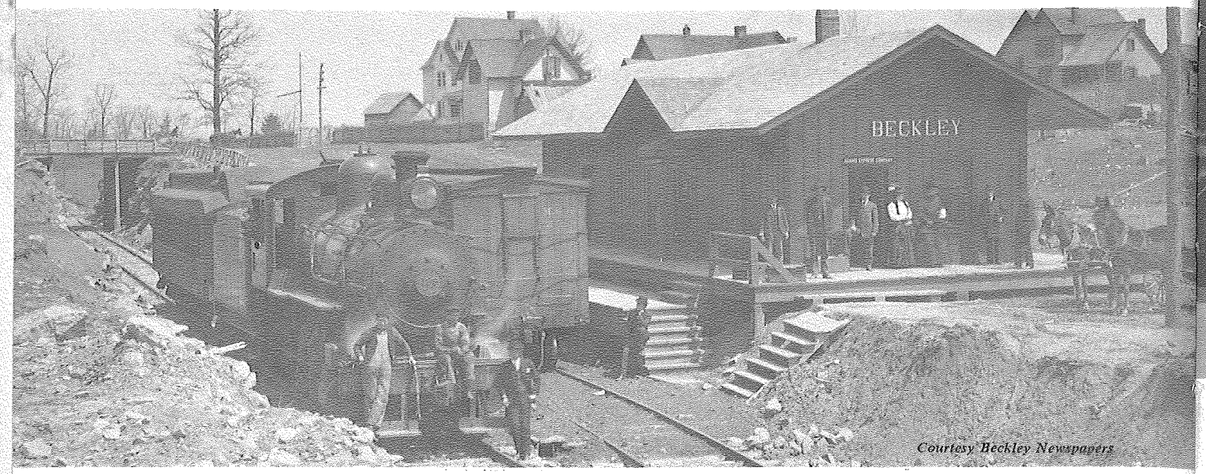
First Row: Carol Ann, John Gaither, Jane Lynn, Harry Adams II, Robert Andrew, Richard George II, Mark Callaway and Edward Charles II.

Second Row: Elizabeth Hawes, Susan Lee, Patricia Anne (Stansbury) Moritz, Mary Elizabeth (Stansbury) Morton, Ada (George) Stansbury, June Lee (Plues) Stansbury, Gladys (Frazier) Stansbury with Mary Martha, and Elizabeth Ann (Weaver) Stansbury with William Taylor.

Third Row: Timothy George, Hawes (Brown) Stansbury with Barbara Winston, Kathy Stansbury, Anne Rolene, David Holmes II, Charles Stansbury, Paul Wailes and Frank Hurxthal.

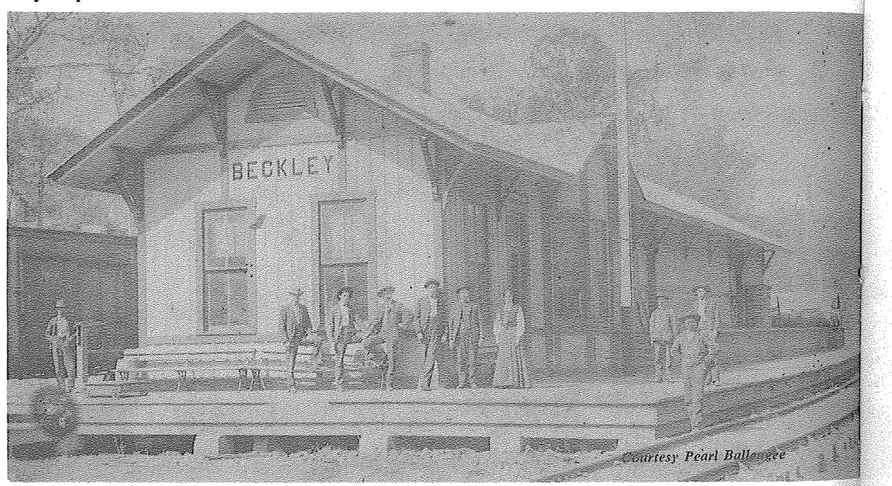
Fourth Row: Harry Adams, Jr., Paul Morton, Samuel Lewis, Roland Eugene Moritz, Harry Adams, Richard George with Robert Edward, Robert James with John William, and Edward Charles.

Presented for Posterity to Ponder



Courtesy Beckley Newspapers

Some C&O "BECKLEY" Depots—One at Beckley, One at Mabscott and one at Raleigh; All, as a matter of fact, have been "Jumping Off" stops for Beckley Proper.



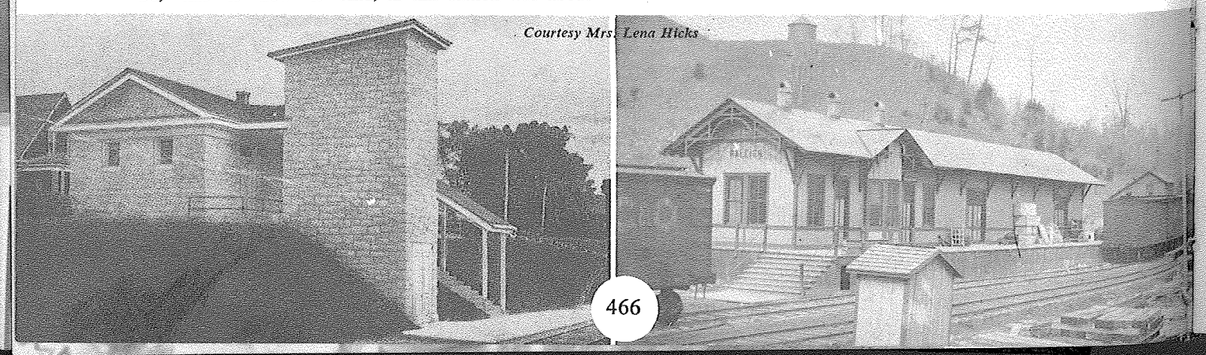
Courtesy Pearl Bullington

At the turn of the century, and for almost half of another one, the business of hauling passengers was frantic and teeming. Even during the first of those virgin vernal years when Beckley had less than five hundred inhabitants, 4 or 5 old wooden coaches and one or more heavily loaded baggage-mail cars were required TWICE a day—up and back from Prince to Lester—to transport the swarm of bee-hive activity, together with bag-baggage and "likker." By 1905 the traffic was literally hanging out the windows.

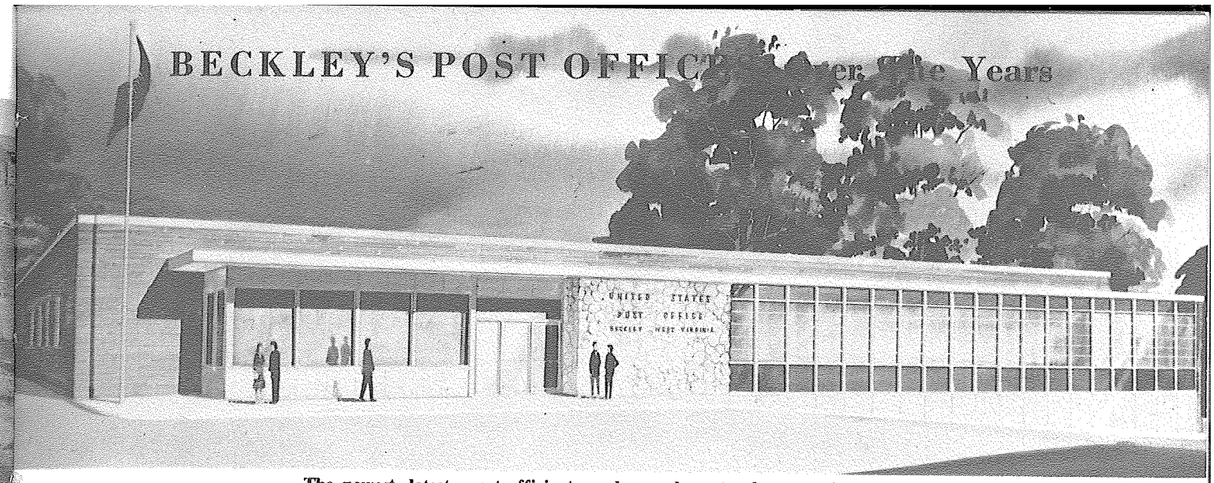
The top photograph shows when Beckley finally got a city depot. But the traffic had dwindled to one combination passenger-baggage-mail and smoking car. The next one shows Mabscott location as Beckley. In this photo is recognized Mr. and Mrs. Seymore Meadows (center).

So, this is how it evolved. First, when the railhead reached Raleigh (lower right picture), the cars loaded to the gills, disgorged their hords to take off in all directions. It was just a short jaunt to Beckley (3 miles), no need to bother about a conveyance. And, in this station was about the only telephone in Raleigh County. If a person in Beckley wished to converse with a distant point they walked to Raleigh and used the C&O phone—the only one to be had.

Barely a few years before railroad stations in this neighborhood became white elephants, the company built this handsome, all stone structure, with every modern convenience —including an elevator. The one across the tracks became, and still is, a freight and express depot.



Courtesy Mrs. Lena Hicks



The newest, latest, most efficient, modern and spectacular; occupied 1961

POST OFFICE HISTORY AND GENERAL ALFRED BECKLEY, FIRST POSTMASTER

BECKLEY, Fayette County, Virginia, came into being April 4th, 1838, by an Act of the Virginia Assembly. It was planned and founded by General Alfred Beckley, and "so named . . . after his honored father, John (James Beckley . . " (sic). John James Beckley was one of the patentees of the famous Moore and Beckley Grant; the first Librarian of Congress, and one of the outstanding founders of this Nation.

A year later, July 25, 1839, Alfred Beckley was appointed to be first postmaster of the little village he called his "paper town."

In the years that followed, there were 24 other appointments:

Thomas F. Gleeson	1844	John S. Hull	1885	M. J. Meadows	1916
Edwin Prince	1850	Ash M. Prince	1889	I. E. McKinney*	1920
R. Cassady	1855	T. K. Scott	1889	George Mellen	1921
Edwin Prince	1859	Wm. T. Shumate	1893	A. M. McKinney	1926
Wm. G. Beckley	1860	George W. Cook	1897	E. L. Ellison	1932
Edwin Prince	1866	John Anderson	1901	J. T. Hollandsworth, Jr.	1936
Edley C. Maxwell	1882	T. J. Honaker	1905	I. E. Rorrer*	1951
Ash M. Prince	1883	T. K. Scott	1907	A. Fray Lilly	1953

* acting postmasters

Still Serving: A Fray Lilly

Although the town was continuously known as "Beckley," it lost that official identity when on November 11, 1851 (after only 12 years), it was changed to "Raleigh Court House." This name prevailed for 42 years, when it became just plain "Raleigh." Then, finally, on February 28, 1896, it was restored to its original "Beckley," but—as "RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA."

In the meantime, on May 26, 1888, General Alfred Beckley had died. He never knew that his beloved "paper town" would ever again bear the name of his honored father.



Alfred Beckley
1st Postmaster

Picture Mrs. A. C. Sutphin

From its beginning, the Beckley Post Office seemed destined to travel back and forth across the community—taking advantage of odd spaces in various stores, empty storerooms and even residences as convenience dictated.

Alfred Beckley, first appointee, established the original setup in a log structure—built for the purpose and later turned into slaves' quarters.

This was at the rear of his "Wildwood" residence, as an adjunct to his—the first—trading post in the new region.

Here, according to his own handwritten records, the combination arrangement thrived until 1844, when he abandoned both store and postal service.

BECKLEY was born April 4, 1838, by an Act of the Virginia Assembly, a year before General Beckley's appointment as first postmaster.

At that time, it was in a part of Fayette County, Va. Although the town was continuously known as Beckley, it lost that official identity when on Nov. 11, 1851 (after only 12 years), it was changed to "Raleigh County Court House." This name prevailed for 42 years, when it became just

(Continued on next page)



Edwin Prince
2nd, 4th & 6th
Postmaster

Picture Baylor Brothers