

SEVENTH
Annual • Program

OF THE
PLEASANTS COUNTY
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



TOGETHER WITH

SCRAPS *of* HISTORY

Relating to the Early Settlement of Pleasants County



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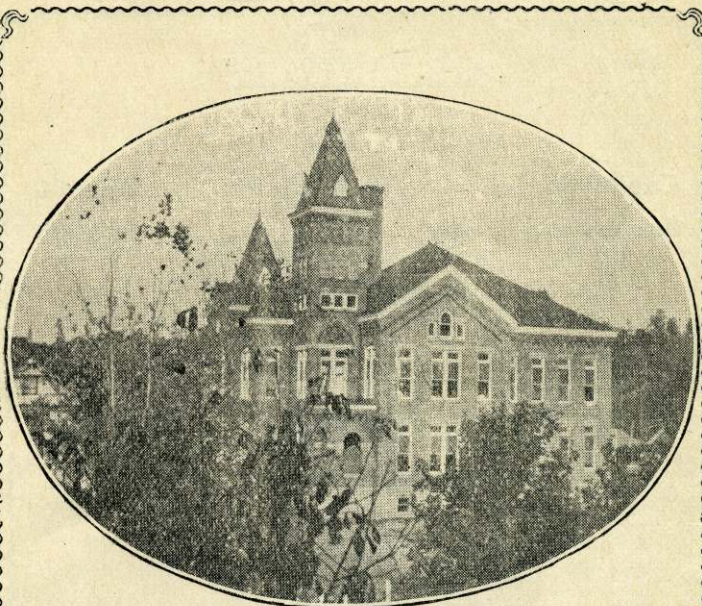
For Men:

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Wooltex Suits, Skirts and Coats.
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ST. MARYS, W. VA.



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JEFFERSON DISTRICT D. E. MATHENY
GRANT DISTRICT O. E. JOHNSON
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ESTABLISHED 1899

Capital Stock \$50,000
Surplus and Profits \$12,600

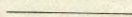


The First National Bank
Of St. Marys, W. Va.



WILL LOAN YOU MONEY.

WILL COLLECT YOUR NOTES.



Pay You 4 per cent Interest

on Time Deposits, if left 6 months or longer.



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account with us.**

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P R E F A C E

LAST year this Association published a program in pamphlet form containing information thought to be of interest to the majority of the citizens of the county as well as to the teachers. This was so well received that the committee decided to publish this volume, which contains besides other matter, scraps of history relating to early settlements in Pleasants county. For most of this information we are indebted to a number of the old pioneers, who still survive, and to R. L. Pemberton, editor of the Oracle. We hope that this article, though meager as it is, may cause the teachers and pupils to make a closer study of local history, believing as we do, that the study of this subject should begin with the pupil's immediate vicinity.

In sending out this program we wish to extend a cordial invitation to all who are interested in the rising generation to attend our meetings. This Association exists for the benefit of the pupils, and we believe we have a right to expect the co-operation of every school patron in the county in making it successful.

The teachers of the county cannot afford to miss the sessions of this association. Your presence counts for something in the eyes of the people. Your mingling with the teachers and those who attend will do you good, and will keep the teachers and patrons in closer touch. Therefore, let us labor unitedly in our effort to make this year one long to be remembered for its educational progress.

THE
Pleasants County Bank

Capital	\$ 50,000
Surplus	18,000
Deposits	365,000
Loans	320,000

A. S. Grimm, President E. A. Sayre, Cashier
R. H. Browse, Vice-Pres. J. A. Schauwecker, Ass't

Facilities for doing business equal to those of
larger cities.

THE MEN BEHIND THE BUSINESS:

NEWTON OGDIN	JOHN SCHAUWECKER
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GEO. T. GALE	A. S. GRIMM
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Save 10 cents a day. In a year you will have
saved \$36 50.

Save \$1 a day. In 10 years you will have \$3650.
This sum will buy you a good home.

The reason why some people do not have homes
is because they do not SAVE.

Save It in the Bank

Program February 16, 1907

BELMONT

Song by the Association.

- 1—Value of a Graded Course of study in the public schools.
- 2—Value of daily preparation by the teacher.
- 3—What the teacher should know outside of the text book.
- 4—Just and unjust criticism in the public schools.
- 5—Do the public schools prepare children for good citizenship?
- 6—Teaching; Antiquated and Modern methods.
- 7—Class Recitation—Notation and Numeration.
- 8—Social factors in successful school work.

Question for Debate—Resolved, That Grant District should establish a High School.

Query Box.

W. E. REED

DEALER IN

HARDWARE

Tinware, Stoves, Ranges, Steel and Tin Roofing,
Spouting, Lead, Oils, Paints, Brushes, Refrigerators,
Water Coolers, Filters, Gas Fixtures, Mantels,
Wood and Iron Pumps, Sewer Pipe, etc.

TEXT BOOKS OF ALL KINDS AND SCHOOL
SUPPLIES.

Queensware, Chinaware, Japalac, Chi-namel.

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes!

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, FOR
MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN

Try a Pair!

Crow's Shoe Store

NEAR DEPOT

Program April 6, 1907

ST. MARYS

- 1—Teaching as a profession.
- 2—Value of stories, myths and legends in the public school.
- 3—Study of human nature as applied to school work.
- 4—Essay—The Ideal Pupil.
- 5—The problem of securing competent teachers.
- 6—Educational advantages of Uniform Examinations.
- 7—Recent School Legislation.
- 8—Interest-sustaining devices.
- 9—What should the public schools do for the boys on the farm?
- 10—Extent and character of composition in school work.
- 11—Jesus as a teacher.

C. A. WERNECKE

Jeweler and Optician
Fine Watch Repairing

ST. MARYS, W. VA.

Hello! Do you know that

DANA RIGGS

keeps a full line of

Up-to-date Millinery?

Call and see her at the old Kelsall Stand when in town.

St. Marys Manufacturing Company

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

FEED and FLOUR

O. C. SWEENEY & JONES BROS., Proprietors.

Program September 28, 1907

WALNUT HILL

- 1—Use and abuse of text books.
- 2—Hygiene applied.
- 3—Personality of the teacher.
- 4—Relative cultural value of Mathematics and Literature.
- 5—Paper on Capitalization and Punctuation.
- 6—Broken promises.
- 7—Value of a definite aim.
- 8—Recitation in Literature.
- 9—The Teacher as a citizen.

Question for debate—Resolved, That the city boy has more educational advantages than the country boy has.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Superintendent A. W. Locke
Superintendent-elect A. L. Baker

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

President-elect, Oran C. Ogdin; Commissioners, John Schauwecker and A. M. Ruttencutter; Secretary, D. W. Dillon.

GRANT DISTRICT

President-elect, Henry Graham; Commissioners, Henry Russell and John Ralston; Secretary, Hays Naish.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT

President-elect, J. A. Griffith; Commissioners, A. J. Hudkins and Henry Hawkins; Secretary, Evarena McVay.

UNION DISTRICT

President-elect, Henry Howell; Commissioners, W. R. Gardner and A. B. Flesher; Secretary, I. H. Mott.

M'KIM DISTRICT

President-elect, B. F. Brammer; Commissioners, W. H. Shingleton and A. R. Hardy; Secretary, Marion Hart.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT

President-elect, J. J. Simonton; Commissioners, W. F. McKnight and E. R. Williamson; Secretary, W. E. Clovis.

Program November 30, 1907

ST. MARYS

- 1—Importance of principles of orthography.
- 2—Resources of West Virginia.
- 3—Rational economy.
- 4—Plain, old-fashioned Grammar.
- 5—Reading—Which is first, understanding or expression?
- 6—What is the greatest difficulty of the teacher?
- 7—Queer customs of other lands.
- 8—Question for Debate—Resolved, That, Moral Development should receive more attention than Mental Advancement.
- 9—Election of Officers.

GRADUATES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1906

Mary Heddleston.....	Willow
Nellie Bradford.....	Willow
Fanny Westbrook.....	Willow
Anna Bell.....	Willow
Charles Bills.....	Borland
Lulu Adkins.....	Eureka
Lena Joy.....	Eureka
Grace McTaggart.....	Eureka

SALARIES OF TEACHERS

	No. 3	No. 2	No. 1
McKim District.....	\$30	\$35	\$45
Grant District.....	25	40	45
Jefferson District.....	25	40	50
Lafayette District.....	30	38	45
Union District.....	25	37.50	45
Washington District.....	25	35	45

Our Teachers

AND THE SCHOOLS THEY TEACH

UNION DISTRICT

Grape Island	Anna Imlay
Delong	A. A. Schauwecker
Raven Rock	C. B. Mowery
River View	Edna White
Mount Carmel	Sylvia White
Walnut Hill	Mary Gardner
Brown Hill	C. W. Underwood
Point Lookout	I. H. Mott
Pleasant Ridge	L. C. Fleming
Arvilla	E. E. Morgan
Wasp	J. E. Cross
Locust Knobb	Blanche Buzza
Oakwood	J. J. Jenkins
Sugar Valley	Harry Clovis

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT

Adlai	W. S. McKnight
Dry Knob	Homer Simonton
Valley Mills	Alonzo Lamp
Hebron	Coleman Simonton
Oak Grove	Creed Morris
Shawnee	Hattie Morris
Federal	B. L. Locke

GRANT DISTRICT

Belmont, Principal	A. L. Baker
Belmont, Primary	Laura Page
Eureka	Evarena McVay
St. Johns	Okey Johnson
Mount Olive	G. C. McTaggart
Calf Creek	H. A. Matheny
Oak Grove	Isle Sleights

JEFFERSON DISTRICT

Schultz	Stephen Mathers
Sharp's Run	Maggie Calvert
Spice Run	D. E. Matheny
Schultz Fork	A. E. Marple
Pleasants	Dennis Wheaton
Star	Fannie Westbrook
Henry Camp	Zora Hannen
Ruckman	Coleman Staats
Horseneck	Hurshel Wheaton
Borland	Nettie Westbrook
Rush Run	Annie Bell

M'KIM DISTRICT

Cloverdale	Loy Allison
Poynette	Ellis Whaley
Wiley	Jas. Jordan
Nine Mile	Robert Lloyd
Jonestown	J. H. Fleming
Jackson Hall	Florence Fisher
Union Mills	Frank Starr
Willow Island	C. M. Bailey
Oak Hill	
Center Valley	Laura Mossburg

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

St. Marys, Principal	H. R. Bonner
St. Marys	F. B. Locke
St. Marys	R. B. H. Riggs
St. Marys	Effie Gorrell
St. Marys	Dollie Stanley
St. Marys	Violet Houseman
St. Marys	Laura Zink
St. Marys	Margerie Pemberton
St. Marys	Ella Klinzing
Green's Run	Ida Locke
Broad Run	C. E. Flower
Mount Dewey	Mamie Johnson
Long Run	Cordelia Westbrook
Cedar Point	Grace Crumm
Schauwecker	Lila Samberson



Early History of the County

INTRODUCTORY

WE are sometimes led to think of our little county with its area of 150 square miles as being entirely isolated from all events that go to make history, but this is not true. Pleasants county is a part of the Ohio Valley, and as such, its history forms a part of the history of the nation.

Perhaps the first white man to see any part of our county was the famous French explorer, LaSalle, as he drifted down the Ohio River in the autumn of 1669, on that ever memorable voyage upon which France based her claims to the Ohio Valley, and which led to a bloody war between two of the most powerful European countries.

The Ohio Company received a grant of land in the Ohio Valley in 1749. Pleasants county formed a part of this grant, and was explored by Christopher Gist of North Carolina in 1751.

This section was included in the "District of West Augusta" from 1738 to 1776. In the latter year the district was divided into Ohio and Monongalia counties, Middle Island Creek forming the boundary between the two counties. In 1784 Monongalia county was divided, and the northwestern portion was called Harrison, Pleasants county being included in the same.

In 1814 a part of Ohio county was formed into a new county, called Tyler. On the formation of Ritchie county in 1843, a part of the region now composing Pleasants county was within its jurisdiction.

In 1851 that part of Wood county lying north of Bull Creek, and that part of Tyler lying south of Sheets' Run and Thomas' Run, now called Ben's Run, together with a western portion of Ritchie county were united and formed into a new county called Pleasants county.

Thomas Browse, who was the father of Robert Henry Browse, and who was at that time County Surveyor of Tyler county, surveyed the present boundary line between Pleasants and Tyler counties. He was also appointed the first surveyor of Pleasants county.

Pleasants county was named for James Pleasants, a governor of Virginia. This county was the hunting ground of the Mingo Indians, and relics left by this tribe can be found on almost any farm in the county. Many thrilling stories are often related concerning the conflicts between the Indians and the early white settlers. The following story which we shall relate, is one of the most atrocious crimes recorded in the history of our little Mountain State. "In August 1789, five Indians on their way to the settlements on the Monongahela met with two men on Middle Island creek and murdered them aking. Their horses, they continued the route until they came to the house of William Johnson, took Mrs. and her children prisoners, plundered the house, killed part of the stock, and taking with them one of Johnson's horses returned toward the Ohio river. At the time the Indians had arrived at the house Johnson had gone to a lick not far off, and, upon his return, seeing what had been done, and searching until he had found the trail of the savages and their prisoners, he ran to a nearby settlement for assistance. A company of men repaired

with him immediately to where he had discovered the trail, and keeping it about a mile, found four of the children lying dead in the woods. The savages had tomahawked and scalped them, and, placing their heads close together, turned their bodies and feet straight out so as to represent a cross. The fate of Mrs. Johnson is unknown."

Many stories are often related to us by the older citizens of the county concerning the struggles which their fathers often had with the wild animals of the forest. The bear and the panther and the wildcats were to be feared by all. The forest abounded in game, and the early settlers depended upon it for a part of their support. Deer, rabbit, squirrel, bear, raccoon, opossum and wood chuck were hunted by the pioneers, and formed his chief article of food.



EARLY SETTLEMENTS ALONG M'KIM CREEK

JUST who was the first settler along McKim Creek is a matter of doubt, as most of the old pioneers have passed away, and left nothing from which to gain authentic history.

Among the most prominent pioneers were the following: Isaac Riggs, Jacob Varner, Sr., Joseph Hart, Elias Stout, Charles Seckman, Daniel Bailey, Wm. Hart, Ralph Wilson, John Lamp, Wm. Haines, Job Locke, Polly Lamp, Joseph Lamp, Simeon Gorrell, Abraham Lamp, Hugh Morgan, Alexander Campbell, Smiley Maxwell, Samuel Cochran, George Watson, Scott Maxwell and John Bolton.

At Hebron, sometimes known as "Giter," lived Moses Williamson, John McGregor, John Williamson and the Shingleton family, who had just come from Harrison county. How long most of these settlers had been living there is not known. At that time there was no established public road up the creek, and a great deal of the land was cleared. Perhaps one of the first settlers along the creek was Ralph Wilson, who came from Virginia in 1820, and lived for a while near what is now St. Marys. He stayed there a short time, and then removed to a farm on McKim creek eight miles from St. Marys. At the time of Mr. Wilson's arrival from Virginia there was but a single house on the present site of St. Marys.

Wm. Hart was also among the pioneer settlers, having come from Baltimore county, Maryland, in 1828, and settled in Wetzel county. In a few years he and his brother, James, removed to McKim Creek and purchased 500 acres of land, which constituted one of the best farms of the locality. At that time there were but few neighbors, but plenty of wild beasts and Indians. Mr. Hart remembered well the attack by the British on Baltimore in the war of 1812, although but seven years of age at that time. It will be remembered that it was on this occasion that Francis Scott Key wrote one of our famous national songs, "The Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Hart was a shoemaker by trade, and was of great service to the early settlers in supplying them with shoes. Previous to this time they had lived Indian fashion, wearing moccasins.

Job Locke, another of the pioneers, came to that section in 1840. His grandfather emigrated from Sweden at an early date and settled in New Jersey. A part of the family later removed to Green county, Pennsylvania, and in 1840 Job Locke came to McKim Creek, his brother, Thomas, having come a few years previous to him and settled near Dobbins' Mill, in what is now Tyler county.

Moses Williamson was a very prominent man of his time. He was born in Fort Henry, and came to what is now Hebron at a very early date. He was a prominent surveyor and justice of the peace, also one of the County Superintendents of this county.

Amos Gorrell owned one of the first stores ever established on the upper waters of McKim Creek. He came from Tyler county in 1852, and continued in business until 1856, when he disposed of his store to L. C. Shingleton, who was identified with the business interest of Hebron until the time of his death.

By far the greatest industrial enterprise ever entered into along McKim Creek was that of Simpson Jones and Ralph Haines at what is now Crisp. They began business about 1876, and it is said that at one time they had a hundred teams working for them. They owned a store, blacksmith shop, grist mill, sawmill, cooper shop, hotel, and also a boat yard at the mouth of McKim creek. They handled timber, tanbark etc. They manufactured barrels and barges. In a short time eight or ten houses were erected, the settlement taking the name of "Jonestown," and it looked as though a thriving village would soon be established. Although this business soon passed into the hands of a man named Armstrong, it had a very important influence in bringing about the settlement of this section.



EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN UNION DISTRICT

WHO the first settler was in what is now Union District is a matter of doubt. Among the early pioneers were Joseph Fort, Thomas Gorrell, John Adams and John J. Williamson. They came to the banks of Middle Island Creek prior to the year 1820.

In 1818 Joseph Fort built the first house in the district, and to his daughter, Elizabeth, belongs the distinction of being the first white child born in the district.

These settlers were soon followed by others. Prominent among those were Christopher Wagner, who moved from Pennsylvania to the banks of Sugar Creek in 1820. In the year 1827, John Gorrell, Henry Flesher and William Smith arrived and took up large tracts of land in the vicinity of the earlier settlement. The banks of Middle Island creek were soon dotted with homes of the early pioneers. Thomas Birkhimer had located a very large tract of land opposite the mouth of Sugar Creek, while farther up the creek lived J. W. Williamson, prominent in the early politics of Tyler and Pleasants counties, having served successively as surveyor, justice of the peace, President of the County Court, and amid the throes of the Civil war represented his county in the State Legislature, was a member of the first and second Wheeling conventions, and has the distinction of being one of the signers of our first State Constitution.

Prior to 1828, William Bailey had arrived from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, and took up a claim on 400 acres of land on the bank of Middle Island Creek in the southern part of the district about three miles from the present site of St. Marys.

To Christopher Wagner belongs the distinction of erecting the first sawmill. This was on Sugar Creek in 1828, and a few years later a grist mill was erected on the present site of Sylvan Mills, by John and Reuben McCoy and a thriving business was carried on with the settlements farther up the creek. Here supplies brought in keelboats from Marietta were unloaded and the products the settlers might have to give in return were taken on the return trip. The grist mill was destroyed by fire, but was soon replaced by a substantial building which stands today a landmark of pioneer life.

Although the lands along Middle Island Creek were receiving their share of emigrants, there were few if any as yet, along the waters of the Ohio. The reason for that was the rich lands along the Ohio had early attracted attention and titles had been secured for the greater part of this land, yet the persons who had secured these titles did not care to brave the rigors of frontier life, so remained east of the Allegheny Mountains, and it was a number of years after settlements had been made on Middle Island Creek before emigrants began to arrive on the banks of the Ohio.

Prominent among the early pioneers of this section were Elijah Steed, Joseph Thompson, William Donelson, Basil Riggs, Edmund Riggs and a family named Thomas, whose name is perpetuated in Thomas' Run, better know as Ben's Run. Soon after this, Nicholas and Thomas Browse together with William L. Peterson of Wheeling, acquired an immense tract of land, approximately speaking, nearly 10,000 acres. This not only included a large portion of Union, but McKim district as well.

Realizing the necessity of an education the settlers in their way provided places where at least the rudiments of an education could be obtained. The first school in the county was held in an old-fashioned log building of pioneer type on Beech Run, an affluent of Sugar Creek. Another school of the olden times, but of a more private nature was the Academy of Good Intent, which was located near the present residence of R. H. Browse. An Irishman named Weir was secured as instructor, and it was here that some of the county's most prominent men received their early instructions.

As well as evincing an educational spirit our forefathers were very pious. The first church organization effected was that of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first sermon delivered in the county was in 1828, at

the home of Henry Flesher on Beech Run, by Rev. Pardon Cook. Churches soon sprang up, chief of which were the Bethesda Chapel, Point Lookout and Mt. Nebo.

For a number of years Union district could not boast of a single village, not until Raven Rock was laid out by R. H. Browse and A. S. Vance. This of course was brought about by the organization of the Vance Lumber Company, which was doing a thriving business in the vicinity. The village could soon boast of a score or more houses. The first erected was the residence of A. S. Vance, followed by the Beaver & Barker store, the Eskey blacksmith shop and Coffield's wagon shop.

The appropriate name of Raven Rock was given the village from the fact that in early days the ravens reared their young on a rock on the hill above it. The settlement was begun in 1878, and depended largely on the success of the Vance Lumber Company, yet when this enterprise died out, the construction of the Ohio River Railroad and oil development of recent years have served to keep up an interest in the place and it stands today proud to class itself as one if not the largest village of Pleasants county.



HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES OF GRANT DISTRICT

FROM what information we have been able to obtain, through the kindness of pioneer residents entirely reliable, it seems that the first permanent settlement in this portion of the Ohio Valley, was made in the last years of the eighteenth century.

The land lying between Calf Creek and French Creek known as the "Henderson Farm," was entered in 1783, by a Mr. Hendersen of Dumfries, Virginia, where he owned estates and a number of slaves. Two of the sons, J. G. and Alexander Henderson, came to this section settling first on a large tract of land on Reedy Creek, a tributary of the Little Kanawha River, about 1798, and they began improvements along the Ohio river soon after. In the year 1806, they brought a hundred slaves, who cleared what is known as the "Cow Creek Bottom" in one year. The slaves lived in a village back of what is now Eureka, near a spring still known as the "Nigger Spring," close by the residence of Mr. Irwin.

The survey for what is known as the Henderson farm began at a walnut tree near the bank of the river, near what is known as the Green Lane. This tree was marked by the surveyor, Colonel William Crawford. It fell in 1874. A sugar tree marked as a witness is still standing, and marks the original corner of the two Henderson surveys of one thousand acres each. Both of

these were considerably reduced by overlaps of older surveys made by Colonel Cresap and others. A strip of timber two hundred feet wide was left across the bottom at the junction of the two surveys, and is still referred to as the Green Lane.

The broken ground near the present residence of J. E. Cochran was originally covered by a heavy growth of large sugar trees, and was used as a camp grove many years after the remainder of the bottom was in cultivation.

In 1829 Samuel Hammett, a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, purchased 150 acres immediately below the Green Lane, J. G. Henderson's share, and 100 acres from Thomas Bramel, who had bought that part of the upper survey not covered by the Cresap interference.

About the year 1838, Wm. McTaggart, a native of Scotland, a Highland shepherd and a good farmer, took charge of the property which he managed successfully, producing large quantities of grain, fruit and live stock, especially merino sheep. He is on record for handling profitably a flock of over a thousand of these for many years, during which time he never lost a sheep by dogs.

The first large orchards in this vicinity, both apple and peach, were also located upon this farm. The peaches were brought from Portugal, by one of the Henderson brothers, a sea-faring man, who is also credited with bringing the tortoise shell or tri-colored cats to this country on his return from one of his many voyages.

There being no facilities for marketing the fruit and surplus grain, a commodious stillhouse and mill were erected on the premises, and if the reports handed down from that early day are to be relied upon, the transportation problem was readily solved, for customers were attracted in sufficient numbers to carry most of the product away as fast as produced.

About 1851, the Henderson family decided to sell their farm by auction. The lower or western half, containing 325 acres, including all the improvements, was bought by Mr. Hale for \$12,000, but as he for some reason failed to pay the amount, it was sold for the same sum to Henry Sheets, who occupied it for several years and who left it at his death to his three sons and their descendants. William McTaggart purchased the other half, or 325 acres, paying about \$10,000 for it. After building a dwelling house and making other improvements, he sold it in 1856 to the late Friend Cochran, whose descendants still retain it.

The Triplett family is also entitled to a place in the ranks of the early pioneers, their original progenitor, Robert Triplett, having been appointed County Surveyor of Wood county in 1801, and did service in that capacity until his death in 1841, then passed the vocation on to his descendants, even unto the third and fourth generations.

The principal villages and postoffices of this district are Willow, Salama, Eureka and Belmont. The first postoffice in the neighborhood was established on the McTaggart farm by Wm. McTaggart in 1851, called Willow Island by him, with John Feeney as postmaster. After numerous changes of location, it is now established on the Irwin farm, and has since been shortened to Willow.

Alexander Henderson is said to have lived at the mouth of Cow Creek as early as 1795. In 1824 he built the brick house at Salama, owned and occupied by Mr. Ingraham at present, and moved into it, thus becoming the first settler of this place. The postoffice was established and named by the late W. H. Sheets, who secured the name by taking the first two letters from the names of his wife and two daughters, Sarah, Laura and Maria.

The first building in Eureka was the old M. E. Church which was built in 1847 or 1848. The first residence was built on the location of the old church in 1882, and is now owned by John Bull.

James G. Henderson is believed to have been the first settler of Belmont, and his first residence was near what is now the home of Albert Cooper. He resided here until 1843, when he built a larger house where the residence of Wm. Kester now stands.

A man named Dyer, who had purchased a part of the Henderson estate, came to this section at a period not later than 1820, and lived in a cabin at what is now the poor farm. He lived here until 1835, in which year Clawson Parker, who purchased it from Dyer, rented the land to Adam Kester, who lived there until 1845, when Robert T. Parker, having married, moved to his estate, his father having given him a tract of 150 acres. They lived here a number of years and then Mr. Parker built the house in which his widow now lives with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reed. This was perhaps the third house in Belmont. From this time on other settlements were made and they called the place, at first, Parkerville. Later the land as far up as Main street passed into the hands of R. H. Browse, and he and F. M. Triplett laid out the town in 1890, after which the name was changed to Belmont. The growth of Belmont dates from the beginning of the oil development, of which the late George Boss was the main promoter.

One of the first residents of the section between Belmont and St. Marys was James Wood, who lived in the brick house now owned by Jonathan Cline. He was living there in 1835 and was then an old man. The house and farm indicated a previous residence of 15 or 20 years. The estate was worked by a number of slaves.

Other early settlers of the lower part of the county were Mr. Stump, G. A. Sharp, Wm. and Hugh West, David Ralston, Spencer Sharp, 1804, and Solomon Harness, 1810.



WASHINGTON DISTRICT AND ST. MARYS

THIS is a comparatively new country, yet a great portion of its early history is already lost. It is only a little more than a century since the first cabin was built within the present limits of Pleasants county, yet it seems impossible to ascertain who built that cabin, where it was built and when it was built. It is high time that a permanent record be made and that what is now known of the county's early affairs be compiled.

There is an unsubstantiated statement that a man named Tygart lived on Middle Island about the year 1765. This may be true, but he was probably a trapper or hunter, abiding on the island only for a season, and cannot be regarded as a settler.

The first settlement of which we have any authentic record was that made near the mouth of Middle Island creek in the year 1790 by Isaac and Jacob LaRue, two Frenchmen. They had obtained a grant of a large

tract of land, reaching from the Ohio to the head of Willow Island run. About the year 1810 Jacob set up what was probably the first saw mill in the county, on Broad Run, near the present residence of L. W. LaRue. An upright saw was used, and the capacity is said to have been from 1500 to 2000 feet a day.

In 1806 Thomas Reynolds bought 40 acres on the lower part of Middle Island and erected a cabin. His son, Daniel, who was born in 1801, became one of the leaders in the organization of Pleasants county, and married Sarah, a daughter of Isaac LaRue. Their descendants have been prominent in the affairs of the county and the town of St. Marys.

The descendants of Basil Riggs have also borne a leading part in our local annals. He came from Maryland in 1797, residing first at Grandview, in Ohio, afterwards settling on the small run above Raven Rock which bears his name. It was there that Edmond Riggs was born in the year 1804, and there, too, Basil Riggs set up the first grist mill erected in this section. It was run by water power, and could grind fifty bushels of corn in one day. Basil Riggs was a deputy sheriff of Ohio county from 1799 to 1813. At that time all that section of Pleasants lying north of the mouth of Middle Island creek and embracing all the waters of the creek belonged to Ohio county.

After reaching manhood, Edmond Riggs settled on Middle Island, and afterwards, in 1832, removed to the house below St. Marys, in which he lived until his death, in 1885. That is the same house now occupied by John Ed. Smith, who married one of his daughters. There is a famous old spring across the road from the house, furnishing an unfailing supply of cool, sweet water, which may have had something to do with his choosing that location. But the place had its drawbacks, one of which was the terror caused to the women of the house-

hold by the wolves and bears of the hollows, making a trip to the spring sometimes to be dreaded even at that late day.

From the compilation of Capt. F. R. Angus we learn that the first school in the district was taught in 1808 by Miss Nancy Dailey, in a little log building, 12 by 16 feet in size, which was located near the mouth of Middle Island creek. There were only ten or twelve pupils. In 1840 a school was taught by Miss Elizabeth Hall, now Mrs. Wm. McGregor, of Bonds creek.

Another school was held on the Gallaher property, near the spring at the foot of the hill. A mound of rocks marks the place where stood the building which answered for school and church, and near by are the graves of several of the early settlers.

In 1834 came Alexander H. Creel, the founder of St. Marys. He was a Virginian, coming from the east of the Alleghanies. The story is told that as he was traveling up the river in a steamboat, the Virgin Mary appeared to him in his sleep and foretold that the land on the Virginia side of the river, which the boat was then passing, would be the site of a great city in the future. As the vision disappeared, Mr. Creel awoke and made his way to the deck. By the light of the moon, he could make out the lower part of Middle Island, and then and there he determined to profit by the vision. Continuing his way to Wheeling, he took the first opportunity of returning, and purchased all the land between Middle Island creek and the farm of Edmond Riggs.

Whatever Mr. Creel's ultimate intentions were, it is certain that he did nothing immediately towards establishing a city on the land he had bought. Indeed, it may be that he had some doubt as to the exact location of the site selected by the vision, for in 1837 he sold the tract to H. L. Pickens, and went to the mouth of

Green's run, a mile down stream, and there he established a village, calling it Vaucluse, after the home of Petrarch's Laura, in southern France.

That was long before the building of railroads across the mountains, and all transportation between the East and the Ohio Valley was done with teams. Great thoroughfares had been constructed connecting the valley with the large towns of the interior. The first was what is still known as "The Old State Road," constructed in 1790. It led from Alexandria to Marietta, and is said to have been originally surveyed by General Rufus Putnam for the purpose of conveying military stores to Fort Harmer. It followed an old Indian trail along the dividing ridge between this county and Ritchie, then down Cow Creek to Schultz, where it crossed the ridge called Ginger Hill and down Rawson's run to Bull creek, and thence to Williamstown on the ridge between Worthington creek and Carpenter's run. Very little regard was shown for grades, and in consequence it was practically abandoned after the construction of the Northwestern Pike and the Staunton Pike, both of which led to Parkersburg.

Largely through the influence of Mr. Creel, a road was constructed from Vaucluse to intersect the Northwestern Pike at the point now marked by the postoffice of Pike, in Ritchie county. This road was a little more than ten miles long, and followed the windings of the ridge between the waters of French creek on the south and Middle Island and McKim creeks on the north, being for the most part what is now known as the Ellenboro Pike. The money for its construction was obtained partly from the State and partly from private subscription, the citizens of Newport, which was then a thriving village, contributing largely towards it in the expectation that it would bring a large trade to that place, as it would be the most direct route from Clarksburg to the

Ohio. The trade did come over the road, but not to Newport. Vaucluse was made its terminus, and there the merchandise for the West was laden on flat-boats and keel-boats to be taken down the river, while the wagons returned to Clarksburg and the East with the pelts and produce brought up the river in the boats. Vaucluse became a central point for the distribution of goods on both sides of the river, and the effect of its enterprise was seriously felt at Parkersburg, which had hitherto enjoyed almost a monopoly of the trade.

Several merchants came up from Parkersburg and established wholesale houses at Vaucluse, and every steamer on the river stopped there to get its supply of wood for fuel. For several years William Carroll, afterwards postmaster at St. Marys, was engaged in the business of furnishing wood there to steamboats.

The site, however, was too contracted for a town, and Mr. Creel evidently decided that his first impulse was the better one; so in 1847 he bought back from H. L. Pickens the land on which St. Marys now stands. The northern part of his original tract had been sold in 1841 to William Bills, who had moved there from Marshall county, and whose descendants still own it; while the farm between the two tracts had been sold to Samuel Pickens, and was later transferred to Silas Gallaher, who also had removed to this place from Marshall county in 1853.

In 1849 Alexander H. Creel caused a plat to be made of the proposed town of St. Marys. The surveyor who marked out the streets of the new town was Thomas Browse, father of the Hon. Robt. H. Browse of Spring Run, and who had come from England in the year 1830, settling on the Virginia shore opposite the head of Grape Island. The original shape of the town was a parallelogram, extending from the river or "Thoroughfare" to the foot of the bluff which is now called

College Hill, and from Clay street to a line near where the high bridge crosses the railroad. The streets were named as follows, beginning at the north: Clay, Washington, George, Lafayette and Creel; and beginning with the river the streets running parallel to it were named First, Second and Third. In addition to this, Mr. Creel staked out and gave one acre of land on the hill at the extremity of George street to the future county of Pleasants, on which to erect a court house, and also contributed six hundred dollars towards the building.

When this plat was made there were only two or three houses in the neighborhood. One of them stood near the present site of the Cain House, a little below it and fronting on First street; another was on the hill north of town, about the place where the residence of Dr. E. M. Sellers now stands.

The first house to be built in the new town was that which still stands on the corner of First and Creel streets, now owned by Abraham Ruttencutter. That was built by the Logan Brothers, who came up from Parkersburg, and was used by them as a general store. The next building was that now occupied by C. C. Greene, which was built for a hotel and was known for many years as the Exchange Hotel. These were put up in the years 1850-1, and at the same time work was commenced on the brick hotel, now known as the Cain House. It was the property of Mr. Creel and was known for many years as the Bernard House. The house now used as a hotel and called the Exchange was built by the Logans for a dwelling.

Other houses followed in rapid succession. Most of those built at that time and now standing may be recognized by their peculiar style of architecture, being two stories in height and having two front doors. They are almost all found in that section of the town lying south of George street.

The Commercial Hotel was built in 1851 on the northeast corner of Second and Lafayette streets, by H. H. Rymer, and was first used as a store building, after which William Smith taught school in it. It is worth noting here that the first newspaper published in the county, The Watchword, was printed in the same building in October, 1877, the Rev. F. M. Yates being proprietor and editor, and Robt. L. Pemberton printer. It was used again as a store until 1883, when it was converted into a hotel and so continued until 1901, when, early in the morning of April 22, it was destroyed by fire. Four persons lost their lives in that conflagration. It was the most dreadful calamity that has occurred in the history of the town.

The house now occupied for many years by Mrs. Cassie Reynolds, on the southwest corner of Second and Lafayette streets, was built in 1851, and in it the first court was held and the first votes were cast. The court house was completed in 1854, having been built under contract by George Tharp and John Stewart, at a cost of \$5,300.

But the new town needed a road to connect with the interior. There was, it is true, a very rough road going up though the Gallaher farm and connecting with the Vacluse Pike at the top of the hill, but it was very tortuous and had exceedingly steep grades. Mr. Creel went to work energetically, and soon a new road was constructed, the same that is now in use, winding up the hill back of the court house. This opened up communication with the interior, and the lower part of the county was reached by means of a road that led down the river bank in front of the Bernard or Cain House and on through the Narrows below town to the Cow creek bottoms.

For a time it seemed as if the dream of Alexander H. Creel would be realized, for the population of the village

increased rapidly in the first years, and the business of the stores and ware-houses exceeded all expectations. Old residents say that it was not uncommon to see from ten to twenty heavily loaded wagons of the barge shape, each drawn by four to six horses, coming into town in a single day. Many of them came from Clarksburg, carrying goods to be shipped by flat-boat or steamer to the pioneer settlements farther west.

But the building of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad to Parkersburg gave a serious set-back to St. Marys. That railroad was completed in 1855, and in the following year there was a great diminution of the trade at this place. But St. Marys came very near the chance of being the western terminus of the railroad. The original survey led down Middle Island creek, and from the deck of a steamer Mr. Creel had shown President Latrobe how easy it would be to bridge the Ohio at this point. Parkersburg citizens, however, took the alarm, and subscribed so much money towards the building of the road that the Middle Island route was abandoned. The discovery of oil in Pennsylvania and West Virginia helped St. Marys. In that early day pipe lines were comparatively unknown and tank steamers not dreamed of, so oil was shipped in barrels. Oak timber grew in profusion upon the hills and could easily be floated or hauled to the town, while the river offered facilities for shipping the unfinished product; so the attention of our people was turned to the making of oil barrels. In the year 1876 thirteen shops were kept busy filling orders. Money was plentiful, and prosperity had apparently come to stay. Farmers, clearing their lands, split their oak logs into rough staves, for which they got \$20 a thousand. Coopers made from three to five barrels a day, and were paid from 90 cents to \$1.10 a barrel, while manufacturers sold them for from \$2.40 to \$3.50 each.

Then pipe lines and tank steamers came into use, and the barrel industry went down until in 1889 there were only two shops in the town, and now it has been years since a barrel has been made here. In 1883 the construction of the Ohio River railroad was commenced, and it was finished the next year, the first through train passing over it on June 16, 1884.

The Great Flood reached its highest here on February 8, 1884, being then 56 feet above low water mark. Not a building was lost and the damage done was very slight.

Calcutta was founded in 1891 by John R. and George C. Stanley, who started a store and postoffice there in 1891. They were succeeded by N. J. Williamson & Co., and the latter by Fitzwater & Shingleton.

Away back in ante-bellum days A. H. Creel traded 1200 acres on French creek to Joseph Bills for his river farm near St. Marys. Calcutta is on this land. More than one million dollars' worth of oil has been produced in the vicinity of Calcutta.



ANNALS OF JEFFERSON DISTRICT

THE first settler in the vicinity of Schultz was a man named Sharp, from whom Sharp's Run was named. He had not been there but a short time until Christian Schultz came, convincing Sharp that he had a previous claim upon the property, when Sharp moved to a hill back of Belmont.

Other early settlers were John Cornell (1788-1860) who settled half a mile below Schultz; Wm. Ingram, grandfather of some of the prominent citizens of the district at present, who lived at Henry Camp, and James Ruckman, father of two of the district's present influential residents.

The first free school went into effect in Jefferson district in 1865, and at a meeting of the citizens of the district (then known as township) held on the 22nd of July of the above named year, Fordyce Leonard and John Pugh were appointed School Commissioners, and, after being duly qualified they proceeded to appoint Harrison Cornell for the third commissioner.

The township was divided into six sub-districts, and steps were immediately taken to erect suitable school houses in the several sub-districts. The enumeration taken that year showed that the number of youths between the ages of 6 and 21 years was 124 males and 124 females in the township.

The first free school taught in the district was a six months' term, taught by Joseph Burrows in sub-district No. 2, (Ruckman), and the teacher's salary was \$40 per month. The school began Dec. 18, 1865 and closed sometime in the following July. The entire enrollment was 88, just four times the present enrollment of the Ruckman school.

The first election was held at James Ruckman's at Sled Fork when this belonged to a magisterial district of old Virginia, at which 75 votes were cast.

Religious services were first held in 1851 at Ruckman's on Henry Camp run by Rev. Guthrie.

On the outskirts of the quiet, rustic village of Schultz is a tomb. It lies in neglect and in ruins. Wild briars have over-run the mausoleum. Many pass and repass, not knowing that they are passing the grave of one of the pioneer settlers of West Virginia; that beneath the stones, slumbers one of the greatest scholars of our State, the master of six languages; that within the confines of the vault sleepeth the one for whom the village was named, the Honorable Christian Schultz, A. M., L. L. D.

In order to understand why such a learned man would seek the impenetrable and unbroken forest to spend the evening of his life, it is necessary to study his earlier history. Mr. Schultz was born in the city of New York, Nov. 7, 1771. His ancestors were those thrifty Hollanders that landed in New York when that great city consisted of a few Indian lodges. Being of the highest order of society and wealthy, Christian was educated in the best schools of Europe and America, and became a perfect master of six languages, English, German, French, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He was an author of note, writing several treatises on religion and philosophy. After having won renown in the literary world, he sought political honors, aspiring for the office of Judge in one of the courts of New York. He

was defeated; brooding over the ingratitude of the people, and suffering the humiliating chagrin of defeat, he resolved to become a recluse, and to spend the remainder of his days in the desolate wilderness, where civilized men had not yet ventured. He sold his property, disposed of all his servants, save a single one and set out for the wilds of an unknown clime, where he could brood over his misfortune in solitude. He came to Wheeling and from thence to the place that has ever since borne his name, then in Wood county but now in Pleasants. The first thing was the erection of a house. The tall and stately pines bowed their massive trunks as if inviting him to utilize the material that Nature had built up in them. A band of straggling Indians furnished him with all the muscular power that was necessary; and they speedily built a dwelling. And so thorough was their work that despite the storms of fifty years it stood stanch, until recently, when it was destroyed by fire. He then took up a large tract of land consisting of nearly six thousand acres, and embracing the headwaters of Cow creek, French creek, Douglas Run and Bull creek. It was known as the Schultz range and a range it truly was. Here the wary grizzly rambled at will, o'er it the fleet deer roamed, through its limits the ferocious panther pursued its sanguinary course, beneath its shady canopy, stalked the Indian brave.

Death will ultimately reach all, whether in hovel or palace, obscurity or civilization. The author, statesman and scholar passed through the valley of his soul to the great unknown, May 28, 1830.

It is said that he was an atheist, and wrote many books of scepticism before his death and had them published. After the obsequies were performed, the servant begged the widow to allow him to place the books before the public, but she refused; he insisted, but her decision was final.

"Go" said the lady, "and prepare a blazing fire." This was done. "Now bring me the book," she said. They were laid upon the fire and destroyed, one by one. Thus was scattered to the four winds of Heaven, doctrines that might have led many astray. However, we cannot corroborate the above story. It may be mythical. We have no desire to add a shadow against the relatives, neither do we wish to insult the dead.



SPELLING PRIZE CONTEST

OWING to the fact that our pupils are not giving the attention to spelling that it demands, and in order to eliminate this deficiency, we offer a prize of \$10.00 to the best speller in the public schools in Pleasants county.

This contest is open only to those who are in attendance during the school year of 1906-07.

Each teacher in the county is requested to select by competitive examination (or otherwise as he may think best) five of the best qualified pupils in spelling in his school; and to send them to the district spelling school. The three pupils in each district showing the best qualification will be sent to the county spelling school. The one of the eighteen that shows the best qualification in the county spelling contest will be awarded the prize of \$10.00.



H. R. BONNER

Hazen's text book in spelling will be used in all these contests.

The district spelling schools will be held by us as follows:

Union district, January 26, 1907, at Brown Hill school house.

McKim district, February 2, at Cloverdale school house.

Jefferson district, February 9, at Schultz school house.

Grant district, February 16, at Belmont school house.

Lafayette district, February 23, at Valley Mills school house.

Washington district, March 2, at St. Marys school house.

The county spelling school will be held at St. Marys. March 9, 1907. Each contest will be at 7:30 p. m. Every teacher of the county is kindly requested to see that his school is represented in the district spelling contest. This is the first prize of this kind yet to be offered in this county, and its success will depend to a great extent upon the attention of the teachers in carrying out their part. Each teacher will be written a special letter, stating more fully what he is expected to do.

The County Superintendent has spoken of this contest to the schools which he has visited this winter and nearly all the pupils are acquainted with its nature already, so let every teacher be willing to do his part.

Yours truly,

A. W. LOCKE,
H. R. BONNER.

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