FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA, 1772-1942

A STUDY OF SMALL TOWN LIFE

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By

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I also wish to thank the people in Fincastle who have made available valuable records, diaries, manuscripts, etc., that have contributed to the collecting of the facts herein.

--Ernest Cline Snyder

Fincastle, Virginia
May, 1942
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INTRODUCTION

A knowledge of the characteristics of a town situation should make some contribution to the understanding of small town life. A survey of a particular town should unfold somewhat the way towns function, the way social controls operate, and especially the saga of social change.

The purpose of this study is to present a systematic account of the life of one of the oldest Virginia towns west of the Blue Ridge Mountains; a town established on the frontier by people who had a purpose for coming into the wilderness.

Evidence will be presented to show how environment has influenced the growth and behavior of the population. The town's establishment, development, and decline will be traced along with stories of men and women whose records shine brightly in Fincastle's long history from 1772 to 1942.

Accordingly, and in chronological order, attention will be given to the historical and physical background, the settlement of the community, government, business activities, education, religion, and special-interest groups. Interpretation will be held to a minimum — presentation of much documentary information giving the reader a chance to see the changing scene in Fincastle. A brief summary of the above points and some implications for the present and future will be covered in the final section.

On the next few pages are two poems by one-time Fincastle residents, which we hope will be appetizers for what is to follow. They reveal much about Fincastle's past activities and hopes, and her contacts with the outside world. Fincastle's editor of 1835 analyzed world events in a most interesting way — particularly the political scene in France, which is a striking parallel to the current scene.
FINCASTLE, VA.: A RETROSPECT AND A PROPHECY

By Rev. Edward Barber, in The Fincastle Herald, Nov. 19, 1909

All golden is her past!
Rich relics rare of dear and distant days
Their shadows cast
Upon her now, and fill her lips with praise

In ante-bellum years she reached her prime—
Her brilliant fame spread far—
You should have known her in the good old time,
"Before the War."

Sweet fragrance of the old regime still fills
Our town with Southern grace;
And makes our home, among Virginia's hills
A charming place.

And yet, we must confess
The railroad came just near enough to slay
Our trade; with Troutville six long miles away
We face distress.

The County Court
Meets here, and here forever let it meet!
Fincaule shall remain the county-seat
Of dear Old Botetourt.

Our name is widely known:
Far, far away, and from a warmer zone
Fair tourists come with spirits high and gay—
And come to stay!

This is our lasting wealth:
The mineral water, and the bracing air,
The long romantic drives, with tonics rare,
Imparting health.

Fincaule sleeps upon her seven hills,
With fast-closed eyes!
But she shall feel again life's magic thrills—
She shall awake and rise!

Yes, yes, 'twill not be long:
The iron horse shall neigh upon her streets;
While golden past with golden future meets
In one grand song.

No, reader, 'tis no joke!
The trolley cars shall run along these roads—
Full cars, and all alive with living loads
From Roanoke.

The treasured past is gone;
With memories priceless, sacred, and sublime!
But we proclaim another glorious time;
Soon, soon to dawn!
CARRIER'S ADDRESS TO THE PATRONS OF THE FINECASTLE DEMOCRAT, JAN. 1, 1835

Unused to write by measure, rule, or chart,
I'm quite a novice in the rhyming art,
But as our Devil--(God save us from evil,
I mean not Satan, but the Printer's Devil,)
Will lend some couplets he has ready made,
I can't refuse with such effective aid,
To make my debut with the coming year,
And wish my patrons health and merry cheer.

And next kind friends permit me to review
The leading items I have furnished you,-
Of panic making you have seen enough,
From Clay to Webster down to General Duff-
Old Yankee Feds, and Carolina Nullies,
You've seen unite with fierce Kentucky bullies;
You've seen them stoop to every dirty job,
Even break the Sabbath to harrangue a mob;
Excite the rabble, and play second fiddle
To that old turnscrew, King Nicholas Biddle,
Who look'd the Bank Directors out so funny,
And then laid hands upon the People's money,
While panic Senators with all their might,
Cried, "Well done Mick, you've acted very right-
Look up your books and loans from all inspection,
And we'll raise H-ll to keep you from detection."

Of Coalitions, I have nought to say,
More than you've heard so long, from day to day.
Calhoun and Clay together now unite,
And Green and Webb vile paragraphs indite,
To prove that JACKSON has destroy'd the nation,
And they can save it by amalgamation.-
Their Country's Savior they do daily curse,
And loudly roar about the "sword and purse,"
While Leigh and Webster cry out restitution,
And swear to rally round round the Constitution,
And rouse the people, if the"earth should quake,"
To crush Old Hickory for their Country's sake.
These self-styled patriots- for their Country's weal
Sink all old quarrels in their new-born zeal-
Resolve that JACKSON has in "derogation"
Of law and justice, duped the Yankee nation-
That Nat Van Buren is an "arch magician,"
A great intriguer-a New York tactician,
That if the people do not stop such work,
They'll soon pay tribute to this'son of York;
As he has now some very serious views,
To walk right into General Jackson's shoes,
But mad Tom Benton whom they call tyrannic,
Had sense enough to ridicule their panic,
And in a twinkling silence all their noise,
With his rough jokes about his 'yellow boys.'

You've seen Virginians, too, abuse each other,
And in their wrath disgrace their good old mother,
By stupid acts of foolish legislation
Against the Bank; and for the restoration
Of the Deposites to an institution,
Which they call'd hostile to the Constitution.
You've seen the Whigs prescribe for free opinion,
All who reside in the Old Dominion.
And City mobs now fill our public lobbies,
To brow-beat all who don't support their hobbies,
And cheer the reptile who to self-destruction
Consigns himself, and disobeys instruction.

Of Foreign News, each week you've had a column,
And anecdotes enough to fill a volume.-
In Spain and Portugal, you've lately seen
Tyrannic Kings exchanged for liberal Queens-
In Belgium, Leopold doth always reign,
And the Dutch King still remonstrates in vain;
But France, misguided France, through all disasters,
In Changing rulers, only gets new masters;
She prates of freedom, and most freely bleeds
To dethrone a despot, and so far succeeds;
But learning nothing from her late aspirant,
She promptly elevates another tyrant.
She deserves not freedom—I boldly say it,
Who crowned a Bourbon when she had LAFAYETTE,
The friend of Liberty throughout the world,
Wherever freemen their flag unfurled-
Peace to his ashes, be henceforth given,
His soul in triumph now reigns in Heaven!

John Bull has plenty of roast beef and claret,
And also peace and leisure to enjoy it-
He smokes his pipe, and eats his rich Welsh rabbit,
And laughs at the coarse jests of old Bill Cobbett.
O'Connell has of late been very quiet,
But I presume he'll soon kick up a riot,
And march the Irish off in full communion,
To force the English to repeal the Union.
You all have read from time to time no doubt, What Egypt, Greece, and Turkey are about; How barbarous Russia treats her Polish slaves, And Pruss and Austria just as ill behave; What Storms in South America are brewing, And what our friends the Mexicans are doing.

In learn'd essays upon Agriculture, The farmer has been taught his crops to nurture- The jolly sportsman, too, in various cases, Has seen the issue of our leading races- Our artists likewise, with the best intentions, Have been apprised of all the new inventions, And our merchants surely ought not to grumble, If our COMPOSITOR did sometime stumble On Richmond prices, that were far from new, As the latest prices are not always true.

To you, FAIR PATRONS, I'll not design to puff Of novel extracts, and such flimsy stuff, Although of them, God knows you've had enough, But I will humbly beg your strict attention To some few items I shall briefly mention. To wit—Some beautifully poetical sonnets— The latest fashions of your caps and bonnets; New modes of making pies, and boiling squashes, Of brewing current wine, and cooking hashes; Of pickling cucumbers, and boiling salmon, And making pancakes, and preserving lemon; With a weekly list—enough to fill some pages, Of births, and marriages, and deaths, and ages; And other scraps of such information As will be useful in any station, And which will hereafter, you need not fear, Be duly furnished each succeeding year, In our new journal call'd the DEMOCRAT, Sprung from the ashes of the PATRIOT, And now fighting warmly in the glorious cause Of Union, Liberty, and Equal Laws.

Before I bid my numerous friends adieu; I'll beg attention to my whole review, And then appeal—FAIR READER, first to you, And then kind sir—to you, and you, and you, To say, if I, for all this information, Do not from you deserve a small donation— I see you smile—I know I've nought to fear, And hope to serve you faithfully next year.
I come to you through cold and storm,  
When you are in your houses warm;  
I come—through rain, and ice, and sleet,  
With Master Frost about my feet;  
I come—with news from East and West,  
And North and South—and, by request,  
I throw the paper at your door,  
Or on the ever passive floor,  
Which gives to you for many an hour,  
A mental feast, amidst the shower.  
And now behold! I come again,  
O do not let me go in pain;  
But let me ask in doggerel verse,  
That you will kindly ope your purse,  
And with the shiners bid me cheer,  
To all my friends a blest New Year!
THE HISTORICAL AND PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

Location. Fincastle is located in the Great Valley of Virginia in Botetourt County, at what was once the intersection of two of the most important pioneer trails. The trail from the valley branched at Fincastle. One fork led the stream of immigrants through the Catawba Valley and the other turned south to the Roanoke Valley and was the main road of travel to the southwest and into Tennessee. A road from eastern Virginia and North Carolina crossed the Blue Ridge and intersected the above roads at Fincastle.

The location is both picturesque and healthful. The elevation is about 1300 feet above sea level. In colonial days and for decades thereafter, Fincastle was in the line of passage north and south, east and west. Many of the pioneers and the ancestors of the western states passed through the town in early days.

Today, after 170 years, Fincastle remains the county seat of Botetourt County, and the center of a large surrounding community. Route 220, leading from Roanoke to Clifton Forge and into West Virginia passes through the Fincastle community. Route 114, from Blacksburg and Catawba Valley intersects Route 220 at Fincastle and leads to the Lee Highway (Route 11).

Figure 1 shows relative location of Fincastle in the State of Virginia. Figure 2 shows the Pioneer roads and trails.
Figure 1.—Location of Fincastle in the State of Virginia.
Figure 2. Pioneer Roads and Trails of Fincastle Community, 1740-1770.

(Adapted from Kegley's *Virginia Frontier*, 1938)
Factors leading to its establishment. The location of the town was fixed by a court held the 14th day of February, 1770, at the house of Robert Breckinridge on Buffalo Creek.

"The court taking into consideration the situation of a point in order to fix upon a proper place to recommend to his Excellency the Governor for establishing the Courthouse, are of opinion that the most convenient place for that purpose is eastward of a spring near Miller's Mill.

"On February 15th, the court taking into their further consideration the situation of the county in order to fix upon a proper place for settling their Courthouse do agree upon and accordingly recommend to his Excellency the Governor as the fittest place for that purpose a tract of land of Mr. Israel Christian's, containing eighty-one acres lying at a spring near the road on the southeast side of Miller's Mill, whereupon the said Israel Christian voluntarily gave up to the said court and offered to convey to them and their successors for the use of the county forty acres, part of the above tract, reserving to himself thereout two half-acre lots, one of them to be laid off as he shall direct, the other as the court for the time being shall think fit." 1/


An Act For Establishing The Town of Fincastle, In the County of Botetourt, February, 1772, gives further evidence for its establishment.

I. "Whereas the erecting towns on the frontiers of this colony may be of great benefit to the inhabitants by encouraging many of them to settle together, which will enable them the better to defend their lives and properties on any sudden incursion of the enemy, and it hath been represented to this general assembly, that Israel Christian, of the County of Botetourt, hath given and presented to the justices of the said county court, forty acres of land for buildings, which would be greatly facilitated if the same was by law erected into a town: Be it therefore

1/ Kegley's, Virginia Frontier, 1938; 401 2/ Ibid.
enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Burgesses of this present General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same that the said forty acres of land, so laid out, shall be, and the same is hereby established a town by the name of Fincastle, and that the freeholders and inhabitants of the said town, as soon as their respective lots shall be built on, shall have the same rights, privileges, and immunities that the freeholders and inhabitants of other towns in this colony, not incorporated by charter enjoy." 1/

Origin of its name. "The town of Fincastle was named for George Lord Fincastle—George Murray—son of Lord Dunmore, John Murray, Viscount Fincastle, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. The Earls of Dummore are descended from John, first Marquis of Atholl, through his second son, Charles Murray, first Earl of Dummore, and Viscount Fincastle. "Fin" is a bourn in Perthshire, Scotland, "Fincastle," the site of an ancient fort upon it. Lord Dunmore IV was one of the sixteen representative peers of Scotland to sit in the British Parliament. In 1780 he was appointed by the Earl of Hillsborough, Governor of the Royal Colony of New York until September, 1771, when he came to Williamsburg and entered upon his duties as Governor of the Old Dominion. Of his six children, three sons and three daughters, the eldest son, George, was called "Lord Fincastle." At first the new Governor was very popular and the recipient of many courtesies. Lady Dunmore and her children were much admired and added much to the social life of the capital. Thus, the name Fincastle did not come from the seat of Lord Botetourt in England, as some have supposed. At first the county seat of Botetourt County was called simply Botetourt Courthouse, the name of Fincastle came later when the town was established." 2/

Physical structure of the town. From the Botetourt County Court orders of 1770, we get a picture of the first public buildings and the lots as they were laid off from the 45 acres of land given for the establishment of the town.

April 11, 1770. "Ordered that the Surveyor of this County do lay off two and a half acres of land for the use of the County at such place as he shall be directed by Robert Breckinridge, Israel Christian, John Bowyer and William Fleming and from the place where the aforesaid Justices shall direct the Court House to be built he do lay off ten acres of land for prison bounds. The court doth appoint Israel Christian and Stephen Trigg to agree with a workman to build a log cabin twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide for a Court House, with a clapboard roof and two small sheds, one at each end for jury rooms.

"The Court doth give leave to James McGavock to build a log cabin twenty feet long and sixteen feet wide, with an addition at the end of it the same width and twenty feet long for a prison and the Gaoler's House, the expense of which to be repaid him by the County.

1/ Kegley's Virginia Frontier, 1938: 404  2/ Ibid.
May 8, 1770. Ordered that the Surveyor of Botetourt County lay off ten acres of land immediately for prison bounds where the court now sits. (Figure 3)

May 9, 1770. The court directs two and a half acres of land, part of forty-five given up by Capt. Israel Christian to the County to be laid off by the Surveyor as shall be directed by Robert Breckinridge, Wm. Fleming, Francis Smith, Benjamin Smith and Andrew Woods or any three of them, the aforesaid Gent., point out the place where the court house and prison shall be built to the workman and the same persons to direct the Surveyor to lay off thirty half-acre lots they shall judge most for the benefit of the County out of the aforesaid forty-five acres to be sold for the benefit of the County. (Figure 4)

Ordered that the Sheriff employ workmen to build stocks for this County who are to bring in their charge at the next laying of the levy." 1/ 

From time to time, as the lots were disposed of, the court ordered others to be laid off. The proceeds from their sale were used to defray expenses of building the court house, jail and other public buildings.

Figure 5 shows the physical layout of the town in 1822, lot owners, mill, tannery, court house and churches.

The present corporate limits were established in 1880 and have so remained to this time. They are shown graphically in Figure 6.

1/ Kegley's, Virginia Frontier, 1938: 402-403.
Figure 3.- The Botetourt Prison Bounds at the Town of Fincastle in the Land
Donated to the County by Israel Christian -- 45 Acres on the
East side of Miller's Mill, 1770.
Figure 4.- Physical Plan of the Town of Fincastle, 1770.
THE PEOPLING OF THE COMMUNITY

The first settlers of Botetourt came chiefly from Pennsylvania, in search of economic, religious, and political freedom. Virginia conceived the idea of offering some inducement to people to settle the land west of the mountains, so as to form a barrier against the hostile French and Indians. Dissenting churches were permitted to be erected in the valley. Most of the land in the "Forks of the James" lay outside of Borden's Grant, so the area with the land on the south side of the James and upstream to its sources, together with the great Valley of the Roanoke, formed an inviting field for settlement.

For development of this section the council gave a group of individuals special privileges in the way of permission for them to take up large amounts of land in many different surveys or in single surveys.

"In the year 1736 Benjamin Borden, who had just come to Virginia as an agent for Lord Halifax, met in Williamsburg John Lewis, who prevailed on him to accompany him home. Lewis lived a few miles below Staunton on a creek which bears his name. Borden remained with Lewis nearly all summer, and on his return to Williamsburg took with him a buffalo calf which he had caught and tamed. He presented this calf to Governor Gooch who whereupon authorized Borden to locate conditionally any quantity of land not exceeding 500,000 acres, on any of the waters of the Shenandoah or the James River, west of the Blue Ridge. One of the conditions was that he should settle 100 families in ten years within its limits, and should have 100 acres adjoining each cabin which he should cause to be built, with liberty to purchase any greater quantity adjoining at the rate of fifty pounds ($250) per thousand acres. In 1737 he went to Great Britain, and brought back with him upwards of 100 families of adventurers to settle on his grant.

"An Irish girl named Polly Mulhollin, came to Virginia about this time and was hired to James Bell to pay her passage. After her "Period of servitude" she 'attired herself in the habit of a man, and with hunting shirt and moccasins' went into Borden's grant to acquire land. She built thirty cabins, thus becoming the owner of 3000 acres of land. When Benjamin Borden, the younger, came to make deeds to those who held cabin
rights, he found so many in the name of Mulhollin that he made an investigation and discovered Polly's scheme to the great mirth of the other claimants. She resumed her Christian name and feminine dress, and her descendants are still living within the limits of Borden's grant.  

It was several years before any settlers entered the valley from the east through the gaps of the mountains. However, these special land privileges soon attracted to the valley many people from other sections and countries.

In 1742, when we get the first suggestion of organized community life, there were perhaps no more than fifty settled families in the whole region south of the James River and west of the Blue Ridge. Many of these were in the vicinity of present Fincastle.

The greater part of those who ventured into the wilderness life of this section were Scotch-Irish and Germans, followed later by the English. They brought with them their religious principles, and sectional prepossessions, along with their household goods, livestock, and farming equipment. They were men of industry and enterprise. Hunting was their recreation, not the business of their lives. To convert the wilderness into productive farms and to establish homes, churches and other institutions was their chief object.

Old Timers. The people who settle a region give it a distinctive character which marks it for ages. I shall mention the names and achievements of some of the pioneers in the Fincastle Community.

Israel Christian, gave the land on which the Town of Fincastle is located. He was one of the first Justices, and the first Sheriff of the county.

1/ Fincastle Herald, September 5, 1896.
2/ Miscellaneous references:
Kegley's Virginia Frontier, 1938: 381-492
Fincastle Herald, September 5, 1896
Botetourt Court Order Books, 1770-1790.
Andrew Lewis was an Indian fighter "Hero of Point Pleasant," and builder of "Richfield." He was one of the first Justices of Botetourt County. He was a member of the House of Burgesses, 1772-1775.

Richard Wood, was a large land holder, surveyor, and one of the first Justices of the county.

Robert Breckinridge was a large land owner and one of the first Justices of Botetourt County. He was the father of General James Breckinridge, eminent lawyer, and representative of the Botetourt District in Congress from 1809-1817, after having served many years in the Virginia Legislature.

William Preston was a man of high character and position in his generation. He was one of the first Justices of the county, surveyor, and explorer in Kentucky, and member of the House of Burgesses, 1769-1772. The children of Colonel William Preston were General John Preston of "Greenfield"; General and Governor James Patton Preston of "Smithfield"; General Francis Preston of Abingdon, who married Mill Campbell, niece of Patrick Henry. "Greenfield" is to this day owned by the descendants of William Preston.

Major Nathaniel Burwell was of Cavalier stock. The Burwell's built and lived at Rustic Lodge for more than half a century. His name will still recall to some the story that for a half century the citizens of Fincastle set their watches every morning by the appearance over the crest of "Amen's Hill" of Col. Burwell's hat as he rode in from 'Rustic Lodge' at 11 o'clock precisely each day, and after getting his mail generally dismounted and stopped a while at Godwin's store, or other trysting place for gentlemen, and then rode home to dinner. Was there ever expressed in one interjection by implication, more of wonder, curiosity, eagerness and expectancy, than in Col. Burwell's "A-A-H-H?"
Or is there anybody left who remembers it? Most probably the last linen cambric ruffled shirt that ever appeared in the toilet of an "old Virginia gentleman" was seen worn by Col. Burwell, as his stately figure left the capitol square, the goal of his daily beat in Richmond, the home of his later years.

Colonel Henry Bowyer was clerk of Botetourt County for 54 years. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Madison whose wife was a sister of Patrick Henry.

William A. McDowell, married a daughter of Col. Mathew Harvey. He later moved to Kentucky and one of his descendants married a daughter of Henry Clay from whom is descended Judge Henry Clay McDowell, of the United States Court.

George Skillern was commissioner of the taxes in 1781. He was Sheriff of Botetourt County 1776-1777, and one of the first Justices.

Rev. Adam Smith was one of the first ministers in Fincastle. He was judge of the paper currency in circulation in the county in 1781. He was a public spirited man who filled many offices in civic life.

Thomas Posey, who at one time lived in Fincastle, was a major at the storming of Stoney Point under General Wayne in 1779. He had been an aide to General Lewis in the Point Pleasant expedition. He afterward became a brigadier general. Dr. Archibald Alexander was a private tutor in his family. We find him next living in Kentucky, member of the State Senate; Lieutenant-Governor; and afterward United States Senator from Louisiana and Governor of Indian Territory.

Judith Hancock, daughter of George Hancock of Fincastle, married in 1808 General William Clark of the Lewis-Clark expedition. She was a sister of the Hancock who supposedly was buried standing up near Millston.

Early records show the family names of some of the earliest settlers in the community. They are as follows: Armstrong, Boyd, Breakinridge, Buchanan, Crockett, Caruthers, Campbell, Cloyd, Christian, Craig, Douglas, Evans, Gamble, Givens, Harbison, Harrison, Hughey, Ingles, Leatherdale, Looney, McAfee, McDonald, McFerrin, McGavoc, Miller, Milligan, Mills, Mitchell, Moore, Montgomery, Neeley, Patterson, Patton, Poage, Preston, Robinson, Rolston, Rennick, Rowland, Sloan, Smith, Snodgrass, Stewart, Trigg, Wood, and Zimmerman.

In order to show the change in family names I have listed the owners of lots in the town for the years 1776, 1822, 1880 and 1940. (Table 1).

Of the 27 family names of lot owners in 1776, only four appeared in 1822. These were: Bowyer, Carper, Hamilton, and Kyle. Carper, May and Smith appeared in 1880. Peck and Smith were the sole survivors of the 1776 list to appear in 1940.

Of the 45 family names of lot owners in 1822, only Carper, Gray, and McDowell appeared in 1880. Bosserman, Crush, Carter, Johnston, McDowell, and Peck remained in 1940.

Of the 50 names of owners in 1880, 17 appeared in 1940.

It is evident that many of the families moved on as new counties and territories were opened. For example: of the 16 committeemen who
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hicks</td>
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<td>Carter</td>
<td>Crowder</td>
<td>Carter</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Crush</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Dempsey</td>
<td>Doggett</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKakin</td>
<td>Dunbar</td>
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<td>Dodd</td>
<td>Dodd</td>
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<td>Fellers</td>
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<td>Peak</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Fergusson</td>
<td>Ferguson</td>
<td>Firebaugh</td>
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<td>Posey</td>
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<td>Figgat</td>
<td>Figgat</td>
<td>Figgat</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Glenn</td>
<td>Finch</td>
<td>Finch</td>
<td>Finch</td>
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<td>Robert</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Gaunt</td>
<td>Godwin</td>
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<td>Rutledge</td>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lanius</td>
<td>Lavine</td>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>Hedrick</td>
<td>Hedrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>Housman</td>
<td>Holms</td>
<td>Holms</td>
</tr>
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<td>McConal</td>
<td>McCrea</td>
<td>Jammerson</td>
<td>Housman</td>
<td>Housman</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCrea</td>
<td>McCreasy</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td>Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell</td>
<td>McDowell</td>
<td>Keemery</td>
<td>Kohen</td>
<td>Kohen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nace</td>
<td>Nace</td>
<td>Luster</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Jones</td>
</tr>
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<td>Patterson</td>
<td>Patterson</td>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>Kidd</td>
<td>Kidd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudisill</td>
<td>Rudisill</td>
<td>Mayhew</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snider</td>
<td>Snider</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Lewey</td>
<td>Lewey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>McDowell</td>
<td>Mayhew</td>
<td>McDowell</td>
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<td>Wax</td>
<td>Wax</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
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<td>Welch</td>
<td>Welch</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>Nofsinger</td>
<td>Nofsinger</td>
</tr>
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<td>Wiley</td>
<td>Wiley</td>
<td>Poague</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woltz</td>
<td>Woltz</td>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Painter</td>
<td>Painter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyson</td>
<td>Wyson</td>
<td>Reed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
drew up the Fincastle Resolutions of 1775 in Fincastle County, ten of them had lived in or near the town of Fincastle in previous years.


**Newcomers.** In addition to the most recent lot owners who have been listed, the following persons have been active in the community during the last 40 years. Some are descendants of pioneers in Fincastle, while others are relatively newcomers.

Col. Cary Breckinridge was Superintendent of Botetourt County Schools from 1885 to 1917, a period of 32 years.

E. A. Painter was Superintendent of Botetourt County Schools from 1917 to 1933, a period of 16 years. It was during his term of office that the present buildings at Fincastle, Buchanan, Troutville, and Eagle Rock were constructed.

R. M. Painter is the present Superintendent of Schools.

Benjamin Haden was an outstanding lawyer and was from 1932 until his death in 1940, Judge of the Circuit Court, comprising Botetourt, Craig, Allegheny, and Bath counties.

D. U. Austin was Treasurer of the County for 12 years, prior to his death in 1940. John Austin is now County Treasurer, appointed to fill the unexpired term of his brother.

Mrs. E. A. Painter is Trial Justice. She has the distinction of being the first and only woman in the state to hold this office.
Turner McDowell was Clerk of the Circuit Court for 50 years, prior to his death in 1939. R. D. Stoner was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. McDowell.

C. B. Camper was Editor and Publisher of the Fincastle Herald from 1891-1932. He was Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School for more than 40 years.

C. H. Riley is Editor and Publisher of the Fincastle Herald.

Robert Housman is Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court and has served in that capacity for 31 years.

C. M. Lunaford was an attorney and a leader in the community and Baptist Church for many years.

Judge Simmons was a prominent citizen, lawyer, and served as Judge of the County Court for 24 years.

Dr. W. N. Breckinridge has been a leading citizen for many years. While actively practicing medicine he has found time to serve as Mayor for 30 years, Chairman of the Democratic Party and Coroner.

F. D. Bolton represented Craig and Botetourt counties in the General Assembly 1920-1928. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church for 20 years and Sunday School Superintendent for 7 years.


A. G. Simmons is Postmaster.

Frank Housman is Assistant Postmaster.

A majority of the inhabitants of the town are descendants of the Scotch-Irish and Germans who first settled this community. One of the older residents, when asked to compare the people today with those 50 years ago, said, "You couldn't find better people on earth, then or now."
At the present time there are not more than 60 negroes living in Fincastle, who are for the most part good citizens. A large number of the families own their homes. They take a great deal of pride in their school and church. Each year the Community School league sponsors a music festival and achievement day.

The population of Fincastle reached its peak in 1860 with 896. Since 1860 there has been a gradual loss. This loss has been due to emancipation of the slaves, and the declining influence of the town as a trade and manufacturing center.

The population decline of 173 people between 1900 and 1910 was probably due to the increasing influence of Roanoke City.

From 1890 to 1900 Fincastle attracted hundreds of visitors through the summer months. The hotels and boarding houses were filled to capacity. Some of those who lived here at that time estimate the population of the town as doubled in the busy season.
Table 2. Population of Fincastle, 1850-1940 1/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Gain</th>
<th>Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>856</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>675</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>652</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>479</td>
<td></td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>457</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>442</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ United States Census Reports and Fincastle Democrat, 12-21, 1850.

* Not returned separately in 1870 and 1890.

Table 3. Number and Percent of Children Per Family in Fincastle, 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of children per family</th>
<th>Number and percent of families</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>130</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: School Census, Botetourt County, 1940.
Table 4. Occupations of Heads of Families in Fincastle, July, 1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupations, in Rank Order</th>
<th>Heads of Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemakers (widows)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway workers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odd jobs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck drivers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store owners or managers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal employees</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerks of courts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store clerks</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile mechanics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile dealers and salesmen</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County treasurers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County agricultural workers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant operators</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarding house operator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barber</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jailer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation director</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance agent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank employee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painter</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government. Since the county-seat of Botetourt was established, before the town existed, the function of early government was vested in the Court Justices.

"And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That justices of the said county court of Botetourt, and their successors, or any four of them, shall have power to convey the said several lots to the purchasers thereof in fee simple, and shall apply the money arising from the sales, after paying the expenses in the first place, for and towards defraying the expense of erecting the said public buildings, and afterwards, if there be any surplus, towards lessening the levy of the said county by the poll, and shall also have power, from time to time, to settle and determine all disputes concerning the bounds of the lots in the said town, and to settle and establish such rules and orders for the regular and orderly building of the houses therein, as to them shall seem best and most convenient." 1/

From an act, November 14, 1789, appointing trustees in the town, is the first evidence available indicating that the town had developed enough to enjoy the privileges of an unincorporated town.

"Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, that James Breckenridge, Patrick Lockhart, George Hancock, Henry Bowyer, Robert Harvey, Matthew Harvey, and Philip Speckard, gentlemen, shall be and they are hereby constituted trustees of the said town of Fincastle and vested with the same power and authority as if they had been particularly nominated and appointed in the act establishing the said town." 2/

Fincastle has been the county-seat since 1770. The town was not established until 1772, when it was laid off in lots to be sold. It was not until 1789, by an act of the General Assembly that trustees were appointed to be the governing body.

In the acts of the General Assembly for 1820-21 the trustees were made a body corporate and given certain powers. This act provided for 7 trustees to be selected by a general election and a president of the board to be elected from the seven trustees.

1/ Hening's Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, 1789
2/ Hening's Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, 1789
The residents were to meet at the Court House on the first Monday in May, 1821 and the first Monday in May for every year thereafter and under the superintendency of one or more Justices of Botetourt nominate and select seven fit persons to serve as trustees.

The town is operating under the charter granted by the General Assembly in 1821. The original copy of the charter was destroyed in a fire in the town many years ago.

Excerpts from the acts are as follows:

1. "Be it enacted by General Assembly of Virginia, That the act passed February 12, 1828, entitled an act concerning the town of Fincastle, in County of Botetourt and the act passed February 27, 1858, to amend an act incorporating the town of Fincastle and extending. The limits of same, be amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows."

1. "The territory embraced in the following boundaries—shall constitute and continue to be the town of Fincastle and the Mayor, recorder and common councilmen and their successors in office shall continue to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the Mayor and common council of the town of Fincastle———.

2. "It is hereby made the duty of the Judge of the county court thereof in vocation, to appoint three commissioners and two of whom may act, who shall on the fourth Thursday in May, 1872, hold an election for Mayor, recorder sergeant, and seven common councilmen of said town and all elections held after the first under this act shall take place on the fourth Thursday, in May biennially.

Manner of conducting elections shall be the same as that prescribed by General election laws of the state for election of county officers."

The functions of government exercised by the town have undergone considerable changes. The schools are now controlled and operated by the county. The major health and social welfare functions are assumed by the county and state.

1/ Acts of General Assembly: 1871-72
There are no public institutions owned by the corporation. Electricity is furnished by the Appalachian Electric Power Company. There is no central water or sewage disposal system. Most of the families have their own water supplies, while a few have to depend on the public spring or their neighbors.

For several years prior to 1940 the town government apparently ceased to function. There are no records of council meetings from July 6, 1936 until May 20, 1940. During this time the people stopped paying their town taxes.

Budget, Taxes, Expenditures. There was no election held in 1938, thereby leaving the town without a governing body for the following two years.

The present mayor and council were elected June 11, 1940. They are as follows: Mayor—A. R. Bolton; O. W. Coon, Recorder; C. C. Austin, H. I. Nofsinger, H. E. Caldwell, C. V. Dodd, C. F. Dillon and C. H. Givens, Councilmen.

The State Highway Department maintains practically all of the main streets, due to the fact that these streets, are extensions of roads that lead from the outlying area. As a result of the decreasing functions of government there are no longer any town taxes. The principal source of revenue is from the Virginia A. B. C. Board.

The budget adopted for the year 1936, by the council meeting November 21, 1935, gives some indication of the financial transactions for the town.

The budget was fixed as follows: 1/

---

1/ Recorders Board for Fincastle.
Street Lights 436.00
Winding town clock 18.00
Salary of Recorder for the year 20.00
Commission of Treasurer 150.00
Street work 700.00
Miscellaneous expenses 176.00
Attorney's Fee 100.00
Salary of Mayor 25.00

$1625.00

Licenses 207.00
Bank Tax 200.00
A. B. C. Tax 200.00
General Levy on Real and personal property 1018.00

$1625.00

Ordinances of the Trustees of the Town of Fincastle, passed in 1823 are of interest. They are as follows. 1/

Article 14th. Ordered that those who have rocks or other fixtures for hitching horses on, or in the streets, forthwith remove them, under penalty of one dollar for every 24 hours they remain.

Article 15th. Ordered that a fine of $2 be imposed on the owner or driver of any wagon and team, or other wheeled carriage, who shall suffer the same to stand all night in any of the streets, alleys, or lanes of said town or any part of the Court House lot.

Article 16th. Ordered that the fines hereafter for suffering chimneys to take fire shall be $1 if paid within 24 hours; if not so paid, $3.

Article 18th. Ordered that the sergeant of the town collect from the exhibitors of music or concerts the following tax: Namely, Those who sell tickets at 12½ or 25¢, the sum of $2.;

1/ Fincastle Herald of the Valley, Jan. 18, 1923.
on tickets sold at 27\(\frac{3}{4}\)¢, the sum of $3; on tickets sold at 30¢, the sum of $4.

**Article 20th.** Ordered that a fine not exceeding $10 be imposed on every person who shall kindle fire in any street, lot, lane, or alley unless for necessary mechanical purposes.

**Article 21st.** Ordered that a fine not exceeding 10 dollars be imposed on any individual who shall carry a candle or candles into a stable, or stables, without the security of a lantern.

**Article 22nd.** Ordered that a fine of one dollar be imposed on any person riding on the pavements of said town.

The following General Ordinances were adopted by the Council in 1933:

**Section 14:** The reports of all committees, when required, shall be in writing by the members thereof and any papers referred to as well as written opinions of any attorney, when requested shall be returned and filed with the report. All standing committees report at each regular meeting of the council.

**Section 15:** All bonds, contracts, deeds and other papers shall be executed in the name of the council of the town of Finchastle, by the mayor and ex-officio president of the council and the seal of the corporation shall be affixed by the recorder of the council.

**Section 5:** The council shall be composed of the mayor and

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1/ Recorders Book for Finchastle
six qualified persons and a recorder who shall act as clerk and record the meetings and actions of the council, be elected bi-annually at the times and in the manner prescribed by the laws of Virginia and the charter of the town.

Section 16: The council shall appoint at their meeting after taking office, unless otherwise ordered, one treasurer, from among the members duly elected to the council of the town of Fincastle, one town sargent and such committees for the proper handling of the business of the town.

Section 28: It shall be his duty to receive from the town sargent if the council shall see fit to appoint said town sargent, and if said town sargent is not appointed by the council for the purpose, all moneys collected by the said officer or town sargent on account of taxes and fees and other sources due the town and give the said officer or town sargent a receipt for the same, in which shall be stated on what amount same is received and shall deposit the same to the credit of the treasurer of the town of Fincastle in some convenient bank.

Section 3: No money shall be paid out except upon warrants signed by the recorder and mayor in which warrants shall be specified on what account the money is paid.
Business Activities. During the period from about 1825 to 1900 Finca
tle flourished as a trade and manufacturing center. Hundreds of
people traveling into the west passed through, bought supplies and
attended to legal matters and other business. The plantations near the
town produced large quantities of hemp, tobacco, and grain. The farmers
brought hides, wool and many other farm products which they traded for
leather, cloth, shoes, wagons, saddles, furniture and other necessities
manufactured in Finca.

The heyday of the town, both in economic activity and in popula-
tion was reached in the period just before the Civil War, with a con-
stant decline after the end of the war. In the period from 1825-'60
we find 36 manufacturers in the town (including 5 cabinet makers, 4
boot and shoe factories, and 4 wagon makers) as compared with 20 such
activities in the period from 1860-1900, and only 5 in the period from
1900-1940. At the present time only 3 businesses which might be listed
as manufacturing are in operation, i.e., a printing office, a combina-
tion blacksmith shop and grist mill, and a small plant for manufac-
turing cement blocks. The population, likewise, has shown a steady
decrease from 896 in 1860 to 442 at the last census in 1940.

There are those who maintain that the aristocracy of the town
has suffered a similar decline. Several years ago an old negro was
heard to remark, "De trouble with Finca is dat de tall timber has
died out, and de underbrush has grown up in its place."

Two major reasons might be advanced for the decline of popu-
lation and the economic activity of the town: first, with the
Table 5. Fincastle Economic Agencies and Professions 1772-1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Economic Agencies</th>
<th>Professions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772-1825 (53 years)</td>
<td>Hotel 1</td>
<td>Doctors 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinaries 9</td>
<td>Lawyers 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stores 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825-1850 (25 years)</td>
<td>Mercantile stores 6</td>
<td>Lawyers 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug stores 2</td>
<td>Doctors 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taverns 3</td>
<td>Ministers 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barber shop 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850-1900 (50 years)</td>
<td>Barber shop 1</td>
<td>Lawyers 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug stores 2</td>
<td>Doctors 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dry good stores 4</td>
<td>Druggist 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bank 1</td>
<td>Ministers 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boarding houses 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mineral spring 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grocery store 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1940 (40 years)</td>
<td>General stores 4</td>
<td>Lawyers 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meat markets 2</td>
<td>Doctors 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combined with stores</td>
<td>Ministers 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>garages with auto sales 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumber yard 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feed store 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Filling station with stores 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insurance firm 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bank 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restaurants 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug store 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beauty shop 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barber shop 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tourist homes 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boarding houses 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
Herald of the Valley, 1820-1823
Fincastle Mirror, 1823-1829
Fincastle Herald, 1866-1941
Fincastle Democrat, 1834-1858
Martin, Joseph, Gazetteer History and Counties of Virginia, 1835
series of disastrous fires which have three times nearly destroyed
the town, and second with the coming of good roads and the auto-
mobile and the increasing influence of the city of Roanoke.

The first fire was in 1870 which according to Mr. R. L. Housman,
started in the Western Hotel livery stable, crossed Main Street,
burned the buildings out Roanoke Street, to the Episcopal Church,
crossed the street and burned back on the opposite side to Main Street
and down to Monroe Street (the present Shelby Dillon home). The
next fire in 1871, started in the livery stable at Price's Hotel,
burned down Main Street to Hancock Street, and also included in its
sweep a number of buildings back toward the Big Spring. From the
Fincaastle Herald of August, 1871, we find a report from the Temporary
Fire Relief Committee of Fincaastle.

"Our neighbors of Salem were prompt to respond to the cry of
our suffering people and their contributions were the first to arrive.
The contributions included money and four barrels of flour, total-
ing $409.25.

Ten dollars (10) was reported as the sum paid to boys for re-
moving dead horses from town."

In the diary of Mr. Lewis Housman we find the following refer-
ence to these fires.

"May 6th. 1902. Thirty-two years today since the fire that
destroyed the greater portion of our town, (Fincaastle, Virginia) which
occurred at 9:00 P. M. 6th. of May, 1870. The second fire that
destroyed the east end of the town occurred the 11th. day of Dec.,
1871."

Fires in 1881 and 1888 burned several stores, and office buildings.
The second factor influencing the economic decadence of Fin-
castle is the still steadily increasing influence of the city of
Roanoke, twenty miles distant. With good roads, articles formerly
of necessity manufactured in the town such as clocks, boots and shoes,
chairs, barrels, woolen material, etc., are now more conveniently
purchased at the nearby city. In the early part of the twentieth
century, a trip to Roanoke was an event, the family making prepara-
tion for days ahead, arising at daybreak in order to get there in time
to shop, and returning late in the evening. Today the trip to Roanoke
can be made in 30 minutes. About 25 citizens commute to Roanoke each
day. In contrast to the situation some sixty years ago, the people
of the community purchase practically all of their merchandise, with
the exception of groceries and gasoline, in the nearby city.

It should be noted, too, that with the coming of the automobile
many things manufactured in the town, such as saddles, saddle trees,
wagons, harness, and curry combs were no longer in demand.

With the coming of good roads and automobiles, the type of
agriculture in and near Fincastle changed from grain, hemp, and to-
bacco production to dairying, truck, and fruit farming, since a
market and means of transportation could now be found for these pro-
ducts.

From 1885 until the close of the century Fincastle was popular
as a summer resort, with guests coming from as far as Louisiana and
Texas. On July 20, 1893, the Fincastle Herald notes that "The number
(i.e., boarders) has been increasing each year, the hotel and priva
houses all being filled to their full capacity, and if more rooms
the number of boarders would be larger.

"The Fincastle Ferro-Magnesian Springs are unsurpassed as a
curative for many diseased, and within ten minutes' walk from the
center of the town. Hundreds have tasted of these waters and can
testify as to their healing virtues. There are two sulphur springs
within one mile of the town."

Fincastle is not on the line of a railroad. However, during
the year 1890 the town issued bonds to the amount of $10,000 to be
contributed toward the building of a railroad connecting the Nor-
folk and Western at Cloverdale with the Chesapeake and Ohio at Clifton
Forge and passing through Fincastle. The grading for the road bed
was started but never completed, and only several years ago did the
town finish paying the indebtedness on the bonds. From the Fincastle
Herald we see the high hopes of the people at this time for a rail-
road through the town.

1/ "Through the energy of her own people Fincastle will soon
be on the line of a railroad. During the year 1890 her people put
on foot a scheme to connect their town with the world by rail, and
in the spring of 1891 was begun a short line, under the auspices and
franchises of the Fincastle and Southern Botetourt Development Com-
pany. This line is to and intersecting the Norfolk and Western at
Cloverdale, and is almost entirely graded, and nearly ready for the
rails and ties. However, negotiations are about completed to uti-
lize this short line as a part of a more valuable and extensive
line to be known as the Fincastle, Roanoke and Clifton Forge Rail-
road, which when completed will put Fincastle on a railroad with

1/ Fincastle Herald, September 5, 1895.
Northern and Southern connections."

The Bank of Fincastle was organized December 1, 1875, when the country had not recovered from the effects of the severe panic of 1873.

Owing to the scarcity of money, capital was very small and deposits of any permanency very meager.

In 1875 the deposits were $13,055, in 1889, $62,900, doubling in 1890 when they were $131,900, and decreasing in 1892 to $88,000. The present deposits (1941) are $274,000.

In 1893 there were near the town several stone and marble companies, viz: Patterson's Lime Kilns and Quarries, and the Fincastle Stone and Marble Company's Works, Beckley Marble Works Company, and Virginia Marble Company's Works.

According to the Fincastle Herald, July 20, 1893, "The properties owned by these companies, each contain inexhaustible quantities of valuable lime and building stone, marble of the finest color and quality, suitable for monumental and ornamental work. As soon as the railroad is completed, all of these industries will be operated with increased forces. In addition to the marble quarries, the limestone is of the purest quality and in the greatest abundance, and of great value as fluxing. The building stone and curbing would make these properties pay, provided transportation facilities are once completed."

The railroad that was to have provided the transportation was never completed, and the operation of these industries soon ceased. Today few people in the town even know that the town once had four stone works, of which great things were expected.
The following activities give us some insight into the economic life of the community.

From Kegley's *Virginia Frontier*, 390-391, we see that during the early period many of the prominent people in the town kept Ordinaries.

"The following rates were fixed at an early court:

"For West India Rum, ten shillings per gallon. For Rum made on this continent, two shillings and six pence per gallon. For peach brandy, five shillings per gallon. For Virginia cider per gallon one shilling and three pence, for Bristol Strong Beer per bottle, one shilling and three pence, for a warm diet with small Beer, nine pence, for a cold diet with small Beer, six pence, for lodging in clean sheets, one in a bed, six pence, for lodging in clean sheets, two in a bed, three pence three farthings, for lodging in clean sheets, for more than two in a bed, nothing; for corn per gallon, six pence, for pasturage twenty-four hours, six pence, for stablage with plenty of hay or fodder, one night, seven pence half penny, for oats by the sheaf, three pence for a good large one."

Advertisements and notices that appeared in the newspaper from time to time are as follows:

"Robert Harvey advertised Tenplate stoves for sale at Furnace. The stoves at the Presbyterian Church prior to 1850 were bought from this furnace," from, Herald of Valley, Dec. 28, 1822.

Dec. 28, 1822, Herald of the Valley

A first rate Dearborn Carriage upon still springs. Calculated to carry six and baggage. A negro boy or man of good character would be taken in payment.

Dec. 7, 1822, Herald of Valley

Lost--Subscription paper for purpose of building a meeting house, for the Society of Baptists in the town of Fincastle to which there was subscribed upwards to £400.

Absalom Dempsey.
June 23, 1824, Fincastle Mirror
Entertainment:
The subscriber continues to keep a house of entertainment in the town of Fincastle, near the Court House, at the sign of the Union Hotel.
Ruth Nice

Feb. 11, 1825, The Fincastle Mirror
Hatting Business—Catherine Acton
A Journeyman Shoemaker—W. H. Nelson
Physic Surgery—Dr. S. O. Caruthers
Drugs and Medicines—Dr. Tucker

March 25, 1826, Fincastle Mirror
Cash for Negroes—Robert Tinsley of Pattonsburg will give the highest cash price for negroes, delivered to him at that place.

March 25, 1826, Fincastle Mirror
One Cent Reward
Run away from the subscriber living near Amsterdam on Lynchburg road on Sunday morning, the 20th. of February, Andrew Lewis Hays, an indented apprentice, to the Farming Business, about 17 years of age, dark complexion, freckled face and dark hair, low built. I will give but the above reward and no thanks for the apprehension of said runaway.

March 25, 1826, Fincastle Mirror
Montagues Balm
An Indian remedy for the tooth-ache.

When applied according to the directions given on the bottle it has never failed to afford immediate and permanent relief. It is an Indian remedy, obtained singularly and unexpectedly and may be regarded in the civilized world as the most valuable discovery of the Red Man of the Woods.
A supply of the above Balm will be kept constantly on hand for sale by: Utz and Pettigrew.
May 30, 1843, Fincastle Democrat

Will's Patent Premium Bedsteads

Having obtained the right for manufacturing this valuable, improved Bedstead for the counties of Botetourt, Roanoke, and Montgomery, I now inform the public generally that I am in the full tide of operation in manufacturing them at my shop in Fin-
castle, where samples can be seen and judged of correctly, so that no imposition will be practiced in them. They are framed to-
gether with a right and left screw, the pins so arranged to hold the cord that no joint, crack or hiding place is left for bed bugs, or other insects to conceal themselves.

********

May 30, 1843, Fincastle Democrat

Exchange Hotel

The proprietor feels grateful for the liberal patronage he continues to receive from the enlightened and liberal public, and begs leave to inform them of his unremitted endeavors to please all who make the exchange hotel their home. The price of board is now reduced to $1.75 per day, without any extra charge for fire, lights, etc. Some important changes have recently been made in the office about the house, which he feels assured will meet with the appro-
bation of the public.

He is also prepared to receive a few permanent gentlemen with their families, or single gentlemen, to board on the most liberal terms for the ensuing season. Gentlemen visiting the Exchange Hotel with their horses, are informed that the best care will be taken of them by Mr. James Harden, whose stable is contiguous to the Hotel.

On and after the 1st. of May, the charge to yearly boarders for meals only, will be reduced, in the Gentlemen's Ordinary, to $2.00 per day; Ladies Ordinary, $2.25.

Fredrick Boyden, Proprietor.

********

Oct. 10, 1846, The Fincastle Democrat

Saxooney and Marino Janes

The subscriber has on hand, and is constantly finishing a very superior article of Saxooney and Marino Janes, as well as common and coarse for negroes. Also plain Lindsey's, fine bed Blankets, Flannels, etc. Cash is given for wool.

Benjamin Ammen, Fincastle Factory.
Table 6. MANUFACTURING IN FINCASTLE 1772-1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Type of Manufacture</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772-1825</td>
<td>Manufacturer of boots and shoes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacksmith shop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wool carding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tailor (Henry Scaggs)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hatter</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddle shop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printing shop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825-1860</td>
<td>Flour mill to which is attached a wool carding machine and an oil mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printing office issuing a weekly paper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gun Smith</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheelwrights</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confectionery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddles</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddle-tree maker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clock and watch makers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boot and shoe factories</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tailors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanneries</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabinet makers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair makers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coppersmith and tin plate worker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wagon makers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860-1900</td>
<td>Tomato cannery factory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carriage factory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tannery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brickyard</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spoke and handle company</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barrel manufactory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harness shops</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printing office</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Machine shop and foundry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woolen mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planing mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harrow manufacturing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curry comb manufacturing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 6. MANUFACTURING IN FINCASTLE 1772-1940 (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Type of Manufacture</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-1940</td>
<td>Blacksmith shop combined with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>grist mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printing office</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tomato canner factory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flour mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cement block manufacturing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
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Sources:

Herald of the Valley, 1820-1823
Fincaastle Mirror, 1823-1829
Fincaastle Democrat, 1834-1858
Fincaastle Herald, 1866-1941
Martin, Joseph, Gazetteer History and Counties of Virginia, 1838
Table 7. WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN FINCASTLE, 1820-1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Papers</th>
<th>Dates of Publication</th>
<th>Publishers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herald of the Valley</td>
<td>1820-1823</td>
<td>J. T. Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fincastle Mirror</td>
<td>1823-1829</td>
<td>E. W. Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Patriot</td>
<td>1829-1834</td>
<td>William Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fincastle Democrat</td>
<td>1834-1858</td>
<td>Oliver Callaghan, Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>William E. M. Word, Publishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel</td>
<td>1860-1861</td>
<td>Not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Valley Whig</td>
<td>1845-1861</td>
<td>Green &amp; Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fincastle Express</td>
<td>1862-1864</td>
<td>O. P. Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Herald</td>
<td>1866-1869</td>
<td>M. W. Camper &amp; Mason</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1879-1889</td>
<td>M. W. and Ernest Camper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1889-1891</td>
<td>M. W. Camper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1891-1921</td>
<td>M. W. &amp; C. B. Camper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1921-1932</td>
<td>C. B. Camper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1932-1941</td>
<td>C. H. Rieley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Botetourt Weekly</td>
<td>1879-1880</td>
<td>Benjamin Haden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td></td>
<td>James R. Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Editors and Proprietors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>1815-1918</td>
<td>J. O. Luster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education. It is evident that the early settlers of this community were conscious of the need for educating their children. They made such provisions as conditions would permit. Many of the immigrants had been educated in the schools of England and Scotland, and were able to educate their children in their homes. (Many of the early settlers had secured large tracts of land, but as a rule were poor people). Some of the people were in a position to engage tutors to instruct their children in the home, and would often allow the children of their less fortunate neighbors to attend. In addition to these opportunities special provisions were made by the courts to take care of the orphans.

"Most county courts in the exercise of special supervision of orphans held a special session at least once a year for the purpose of passing upon matters pertaining to the welfare of orphans. These courts generally were very scrupulous in demanding that their orders regarding the education of the orphans be carried out. If an orphan was apprenticed to earn his livelihood, a clause was inserted in his "articles of indenture" to compel his master or mistress to provide instruction in the three R's. If an orphan inherited an estate, provision was made for his pursuit by statute that the cost of the orphan's education was to 'be in proportion to his estate,' or that his education must be according to his quality. It was the duty of the county court to bind orphans who had inherited no property to an apprenticeship, through which they might learn a trade for their support. The same stipulation as to girls and boys existed.

"During the nine years from 1770 to 1779 (the period from Botetourt County's beginning to the time when vestries were dissolved and overseers of the poor were given the supervision of orphans and courts relieved of that duty) Botetourt courts exercised very little supervision over the orphan children of the county. The court order books for this period show that the courts appointed guardians for orphaned children, placing on the guardians no obligations whatsoever for educating them. After the guardian was appointed the court made no further effort to exercise supervision.

"Before 1779 the care of the poor and orphans was a joint obligation of the courts and the church vestries. In 1779 an act was passed by the general assembly of Virginia dissolving the vestries and electing overseers of the poor.
Table 8. Educational Agencies in Fincastle, 1772-1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772-1820</td>
<td>Fincastle Academy (for ladies and gentlemen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825-1850</td>
<td>Fincastle Female Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Botetourt Seminary (Male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850-1900</td>
<td>Fincastle Female Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fincastle Male Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten School (at Hayth's Hotel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fincastle Public Grade School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1940</td>
<td>Fincastle Public Grade and High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negro Grade and High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Botetourt County evidently considered all obligation to the church vestry ended, even to arrears due the head of the parish at that time, for an act was passed 1782 for enabling the court of Botetourt to levy a sufficient sum to pay the arrears due the Reverend Adam Smyth, incumbent of Botetourt parish.

"From this time these overseers of the poor were responsible for the binding out of the poor and orphans and for the collection of money for their support. They continued to exercise this prerogative until the act of 1818, which act created the Board of School Commissioners." 1/

The ministers of the churches of Finca stle played an important part in providing educational opportunities for the children of Fin Castle during that early period before the state concerned itself with the question of education. The following excerpts from Rev. J. M. Holladay 2/ show us the part played by one of the wealthiest churches of the town.

"The Fincastle Presbyterian Church has never attempted to conduct a parochial school, nor to control the schools. She has been foremost, through her sons and daughters, in every effort to give a Christian education to all who would avail themselves of the opportunity. The free schools of the State after the Civil War, have largely absorbed the schools conducted before through individuals or joint stock companies. This church was necessarily the leader in all educational efforts, for the reason that she was the strongest and wealthiest church in all this section, until after the Civil War; then conditions changed. The railroads have never touched Fincastle. Roanoke on the one side and Eagle Rook on the other have taken the commercial business which was once here. Large numbers of the sons and daughters of the church have gone since to swell the membership of other churches in the cities or elsewhere, and to give their service to these. Her people, impoverished by the war, depleted in numbers, and facing new conditions have done what they could since that day when the Confederate flag was furled and the cherished hopes of a brave people were crushed. Like others, the best and truest of her sons had been largely sacrificed on the altars of freedom and principle.

2/ Holladay, Partial History of Fincastle Presbyterian Church, 1902.
"Rev. Robert Logan, pastor of this church from 1800 to 1828, was compelled to teach a classical and promiscuous school a great part of the time he was in the ministry, to obtain a decent support for his family. He taught the classics and mathematics. The sons and daughters of Col. Anderson got their education chiefly in this school, and it was said that his eldest son, John T., as a Latin, Greek and Mathematical scholar, was equal to his brothers educated at college and the West Point Academy.

"While Mr. Cooke was pastor, there was a large school of classics and sciences taught by Rev. Thomas Brown, a Presbyterian minister. He was an Englishman, a fine scholar, and a man of administrative ability. He did good work and built up an attendance of perhaps one hundred scholars, all male, and chiefly boarders from Southwest Virginia and Botetourt. His school building then stood on the hill near where the negro churches are now located, and bounded on the east by the line of the street extended, which passes between the manse and the property once owned by the Glasgow, and now owned by Mrs. Mehaffey. This building had been erected by the Free Masons in connection with the citizens of the town. The Masons used the upper floor, while the lower floor, divided into two rooms, was used for school purposes. After the Masons ceased to use it, when Mr. Brown came, he taught upstairs, while his assistant used the lower floor. This building has been torn down, and the bricks used for paving some of the sidewalks of the town, a most unprecedented and outrageous affair.

"One of Mr. Brown's pupils testifies as follows: 'He was a most excellent teacher and most superb flagellator. His switches were supplied from Catawba by the Thompson boys, and were never under five feet in length. Not less than a half dozen were kept in sight of the schools, and when it became necessary to use them, the victim had no possible way of escape.'

"After Mr. Brown, Rev. John Anderson became the principal of this academy. He was a Presbyterian minister from Ireland, a ripe scholar, a fine teacher, and a man of great ability. He sometimes supplied the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church. Like his predecessor, his discipline was of the first order. It was perhaps through the influence of Mr. Bradshaw, principal of the Anne Smith Academy of Lexington, that Mr. Anderson was put in charge of the Fincastle Academy, which was then in a flourishing state, and controlled by trustees, and in no sense denominational.

"During this period, and when Mr. Paine became pastor of the church, in 1846, the membership of the Presbyterian Church was composed of such men as Col. John T., F. T., and Dr. William Anderson, Judge Edward Johnston, Morgan Utz, Dr. Charles Williams, and many other prominent men, who were foremost in every business enterprise
connected with the growth of the town and county. These men took the lead in matters of education, and succeeded in establishing male and female academies of high grade, in which the best teachers were employed, and large patronage drawn to both from different portions of the state. During Mr. Paine's pastorate both male and female schools were conducted, not as denominational schools, but largely under the influence and leadership of the Presbyterians. At the time when Mr. Paine left, both the male and female schools were on the decline.

"One of the first things Mr. Grasty did when he took charge of the church was to say, 'To build up a church, we must have good schools.' His efforts were seconded by his people and others. He was the inspiration in restoring both male and female schools.

"Mr. Downs, a good teacher and a member of the Methodist church, had had charge of the male school for a number of years. After Mr. Grasty came, the following men taught this school until the Civil War broke out, viz., Mr. John M. Guy of Augusta county; then Mr. William McCorkle, of Rockbridge county; then Mr. William A. McCue, of Augusta county, and Mr. William Wilson, of Rockbridge county—all Presbyterians. After the close of the war, possibly, Mr. McCue taught for a few years.

"The school building south of the Episcopal Church, now used by the trustees of the public free schools for the use of a graded free school, was erected during the pastorate of Mr. Paine by a joint stock company, composed of sixty-three shares. The gentlemen who composed this company were members of the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Methodist churches. The members of the Presbyterian Church owned twenty-eight shares. When Mr. Grasty came to Fincastle he used his influence in getting from the North, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Gould, whom he had known at Yanceyville, N. C., as excellent teachers to take charge of this female academy. They were Presbyterians, and under their leadership a large and successful school was conducted for a number of years. The influence of these two godly people is still felt for good in this place, although they have been gone for more than thirty-six years. They sought to lead their pupils to Christ, as well as to train their minds, and in this effort they were richly blessed. Some of their pupils, who still live in and around Fincastle, always mention their names with tender affection and gratitude.

"Mr. Gould had been preceded by Mr. Paine, Miss Bascome, Miss Brown, Miss Lizzie Baxter, of Lexington, and Misses Rebekah and Kate Glasgow—all Presbyterians. Mr. Paine lived in the old manse, and for several years taught a private school in that building. One year his pupils numbered about fifty.

"There once stood on the corner of the Presbyterian Churchyard, near the town spring, and very close to the carpenter shop (known as
Simpson's shop) a brick school-house. It was torn down after the war. The Sessional Records refer to it in records of date September 21, 1868. It was built, by permission of the Presbyterian Church, for a primary school. The gentlemen interested in this enterprise, besides Presbyterians, were chiefly Episcopalians. This school was first taught by a Baptist lady, Miss Helen Bell, of Buchanan. She was succeeded by Mr. Bonnell, a Presbyterian, and her daughter (Mrs. Word), who taught for a number of years. Mrs. Word became a Methodist.

The rules and regulations of the Methodist Sunday School dated July 4, 1852, present further evidence that the churches gave much attention to the education of the children. The following excerpts give evidence of this:

"The first business of the teachers, in those classes which study the Scriptures, hear their Scholars repeat as much of Scripture as they have committed to memory. They shall then read over some Scripture lesson, with their Scholars, and, after reading, examine the Scholars thoroughly, by questions, upon the lesson read.

"In those classes which do not study the Scriptures, the first exercise shall be spelling, after which the teachers shall hear the children repeat hymns, or verses, which they may have committed to memory. 1/"

There is much evidence that the private schools contributed largely to the educational facilities of the town from 1785 to 1876. In 1876 the remaining private schools became a part of the free school system.

Botetourt Seminary, the first private school in Fincastle was established by an Act of the Legislature in 1785. The preamble to this act points out the reasons for its establishment and gives us names of a few of the outstanding leaders in education in this section at that early date. A part of the preamble is presented here as follows:

"Whereas it is the interest of all wise civilized and free governments to facilitate as much as may be, the difference of useful knowledge among its inhabitants: And whereas to this end sundry

1/ Receiving Book of the Fincastle Sunday School of the Methodist Episcopal Church, July 4th, 1852: 1-2
persons of the county of Botetourt have given considerable donations, for the purpose of endorsing and supporting a seminary of learning at the town of Fincastle in the said county and have represented to this present General Assembly, that their designs would be much accelerated were a law to pass incorporating them into a body politic.

"Be it enacted that from and after the passing of this act, the said seminary shall obtain the name of Botetourt Seminary; and that David Robinson, William Fleming, George Shillern, Patrick Lockhart, Thomas Madison, Thomas Rowland, Thomas Lewis, David May, John Wood, Robert Harvey, William Neely, James Barnett, Henry Bowyer, Samuel Mitchell, George Hancock, Gentlemen, be and they are hereby constituted, a body politic and incorporate, by the name of the president, wardens, and Directors of Botetourt Seminary......................1/

Trent says, "this institution continued to operate with increasing efficiency and prestige until the outbreak of the Civil War, at which time it ceased operations to reopen after the War and run until 1876, when it became a part of the free school system. The work of the school was such as to demand the favorable attention of people throughout the state. The years from 1838 to 1843 appropriations greater than those received by any other academy in the state, a fact which indicates that the school was doing a superior type of work.

"Paralleling the Botetourt Seminary was the Fincastle Female Seminary, established several years prior to 1835, by subscriptions from citizens of the town, the contributors forming a joint stock company. The institution operated continuously until 1876, when it became a part of the free school system of the county. The academy was an outstanding girls' school of the time, receiving, as did the male academy, a large appropriation from state funds for its maintenance." 2/

Evidence of other schools that existed here from 1823 to 1897 indicate the type of school and subjects taught. The following notices of schools appeared in the papers of Fincastle as follows:

"Mr. Diggs has undertaken in this place to teach a geography school. He pledges himself to teach the use of globes and maps, the names and situations of the continents, islands, oceans, prin-

1/ Hening's, Statute at Large, 1785-1786: 201-202.

oipal and chief towns, and the most useful knowledge appertaining to geography and also to draw maps in the space of 30 days. If his scholars do not do that and stand a fair examination, he promises to refund the tuition."


Fincastle Academy. 1/ "The subscribers have opened an Academy for the instruction of young gentlemen and ladies where will be taught English, Latin, and Greek Languages, the Mathematics, Rhetoric, Logic, Moral and Natural Philosophy, English Composition, History, Geography, with the use of globes, Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.

The terms for the Languages or Mathematics are, per annum, $24. For Rhetoric and Logic, Moral Philosophy, English composition, Natural and Universe History or either, $20. For Geography and the use of the globe, $10. For Spelling, Reading, Arithmetic, $12. Young Gentlemen preparing for college will be thoroughly fitted to enter the most respectable."

Enoch Sullivan
Soreal Hamilton
George P. Diggs

Fincastle High School. 2/ "The next session of this school will commence on Monday, the 15th. of September, 1879.

Charles H. Wilson, Principal; Eugene A. Luster, Miss Nettie Spriggs, Assis. Terms: For German, Latin, French, and the higher Mathematics, the usual extra charge of 50¢ per month will be collected for each branch in advance. Music. Miss Nettie Spriggs will have charge of this department and scholars who take lessons in music will be charged $3.00 per month.

All other branches will be taught free, which belong to the free school course, for the entire session of nine months. Those attending the school outside of the Corporation District will be charged $1.00 per month, which must be paid monthly in advance."

E. B. Luster
J. M. Carper
C. T. Anderson, Trustees

1/ The Fincastle Mirror, Oct. 10, 1823.
Education and Boarding: 1/

"I will re-open my school for boys and girls on the 11th. of October, and will teach in addition to the English branches, French, Latin, Music and the Mathematics. I will also take boarders who may desire to attend the public schools, or who may wish to sojourn in this town for health, pleasure or business. Terms: Very accommodating."

Mrs. M. W. Knox
Fincastrle, Va.

In 1905 Fincastrle High School was established by the citizens of the town as a corporation school. The first session of 1905-1906 was held in a four-room brick building which was erected in the summer of 1905. Only two years of high school work were offered. Miss Mary Godwin, the principal, handled all the high school instruction. In 1906-1907, the first session following the high school act, the school had an enrollment of 22 and received an appropriation of $275 from the state. In 1907-1908 it was made a four-year high school. The first class to graduate was in 1911 and consisted of the following girls: Ruth Lunsford, Emily McDowell, Helen Smith, Annie Houseman.

From time to time as the enrollment increased, new provisions were made as to buildings and equipment. In 1924 the first vocational agriculture building in the county was erected at Fincastrle. The main building burned in 1926. The following year another building was erected. This building provided for more than 200 high school students and 400 grade pupils, until it was burned in 1942.

The Negroes have a new building, completed in 1938, in which is offered four years of high school work in addition to the grades.

1/ The Fincastrle Herald, Nov. 4, 1897.
Religion. The first settlers in Botetourt were chiefly Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. They obeyed the Virginia laws in regard to church affairs but at the same time worshipped according to their own faith and doctrine. Before churches were established, they worshipped in houses registered and designated for that purpose.

"In 1754 Robert Montgomery and Patrick Shirley entered a suitable tract of land on Sinking Spring Creek for the use of the congregation, thus showing that the community was interested in its own form of worship and was willing to provide for its religious needs." This became the meeting place for the Presbyterian congregation that later succeeded the Established Church of Fincastle.

The Rev. John Craig was perhaps one of the earliest dissenting ministers to visit this section. In the spring of 1749 on a trip to Roanoke, he baptized several people at Looney's Mill Creek.

"From 1760-1770 there were more regular visits from ministers appointed by the Presbytery and more definite reports about the congregations. In 1762 Rev. Mr. Craig was appointed for one Sabbath at Roanoke and one at Catawba. In 1763 Rev. Mr. Black was recommended for one Sabbath at Roanoke and one at Catawba. In 1766 Rev. Mr. Todd was to administer the sacrament at Roanoke in Augusta County after Rev. Mr. Brown had examined persons for the sacrament and had ordained the leaders. About this time Rev. James Campbell was a supply in the congregation. In 1767 Rev. Mr. Leak was appointed for two months at Forks of James and Roanoke. Rev. Mr. Brown, two at Roanoke and Rev. Mr. Craig six Sabbaths at Craig's Creek. In 1768 Rev. Mr. Craig had six Sabbaths at Craig's Creek and Reed Creek and places interjacent. A report of Mr. Craig's mission to collect funds for the expenses of the Church gives the names of the different congregations, their membership, their officers and the amount subscribed. There were five congregations--Sinking Spring, 75 families, 40 pounds, Representatives, John Mills, Joseph Cloyd, Edward Sharp, Benj. Hawkins, Thos. McFerrin, Robert Finley, Andrew Woods; Craig's Creek, 45 families, 28 pounds, Representatives, James McCune, David

1/ Kegley's, Virginia Frontier, 1938: 167.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772-1825</td>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>Church built about 1773.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>1785 Presbyterians take charge of Episcopal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Lot for building was bought in 1803. Building constructed shortly afterward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825-1860</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Built a new church in 1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Episcopalians built another church in 1837.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>Church built in 1832.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850-1900</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>New church built 1890-1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist (Negro)</td>
<td>Church built during this period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baptist (Negro)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1940</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>No churches have been built during this period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baptist (Negro)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
Holiday, Partial History of the Presbyterian Church, 1902
Bolton, F. D., History of the Baptist Church, 1931
Deed conveying lot for the present Episcopal Church.

"The Craig's Creek Congregation was in the lower part of Craig's Creek and along James River, the forerunner of the Spreading Spring Congregation. Denean was in the neighborhood of Greenfield and Cloverdale. New Antrim was the Roanoke-Peter's Creek Congregation. New Derry (Forks Meeting House) was on the upper branches of the Roanoke, the location of the meeting house not indicated. Bryan McDonald was Reader on the Roanoke from 1765 to 1768 and for his services he was allowed 3,478 tithables at 1s. 8d. He probably used the Presbyterian meeting houses for places of worship." 1/

In 1778 Rev. Edward Crawford was called to the Sinking Spring and Spreading Spring Congregations. While serving in this capacity, he organized the Presbyterian Church at Fincastle.

This congregation used the Episcopal Church that was not in use since the tithes had been eliminated. The church was without support and the majority of the people were Presbyterians.

Mr. William Anderson, with his friends, held charge of the church for worship, and from this beginning the church has been held and occupied to the present day.

The walls of the present building represent the building standing there in 1832.--In 1848 and 1850 the church was remodelled, removing the session house, fitting up the walls of the old with the present front, and constructing the interior anew, with galleries and approved pulpit and sittings, creating a handsome church.

The following list of Ministers, Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Pew renters from 1795 to 1900 give us the names of the leaders in this church: 2/

1/ Holladay's, Partial History of the Presbyterian Church, 1902.
2/ Holladay's, Partial History of the Presbyterian Church, 1902.
Ministers

Rev. Edward Crawford...............................1795-1800
Rev. Robert Logan.................................1800-1828
Rev. John M. Fulton...............................1829-1834
Rev. Jeptha Harrison...............................1835-1837
Rev. Stephen T. Cooke.............................1837-1845
Rev. Henry H. Paine...............................1845-1856
Rev. R. R. Houston...............................1871-1890
Rev. P. C. Clark.................................1891-1897
Rev. J. C. Shive.................................1897-1899
Rev. J. M. Holladay...............................1899-

Ruling Elders

Nicholas Carper.................................1796
James Delzell.................................1800
Col. Wm. Anderson...............................1800
Joseph (or John) Wood............................1810
John Wilson.................................1810
Thomas Wilson.................................1810
James Gordon.................................1820
George McDonald...............................1820
Robert Walker.................................1820
John Allen.................................1825
Francis T. Anderson.............................1836
Judge Edward Johnston..........................1836
Morgan Utz.................................1842
Dr. Charles Williams............................1845
James Hannah.................................1845
Judge R. M. Hudson.............................1851
Martin McFerran...............................1851
James M. Carper...............................1857
Wm. A. Glasgow.................................1858
James M. Spiller...............................1869
Robert Spencer...............................1869
Robert Glasgow...............................1885
John S. McFerran...............................1885
Hampden Spiller...............................1888
John N. Slicer...............................1888
Samuel B. Smith...............................1888
Turner McDowell.................................1900

Deacons

Benj. G. Morgan...............................1861
James M. Grant...............................1861
Wm. McCrery.................................1860
Dr. Samuel N. Capper..........................1860
Charles C. Spears..............................1860
W. A. McCue...............................1867
The churchyard has been used as a cemetery for more than 165 years. It has been a burial place for all denominations, and is now full. Portions of the lot have been buried in twice. The earliest graves are unmarked and some of them were made before the Revolutionary War. The Oldest and unmarked graves hold the ashes of the Hancock's, the Prestons, the Hamiltons, the Lockharts and others. A list of all the marked graves is hereafter given (the date following the name is the date of death).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammen, Naomi</td>
<td>1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammen, Emma J.</td>
<td>1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammen, Benjamin</td>
<td>1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammen, Naomi</td>
<td>1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Margaret</td>
<td>1810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Robert</td>
<td>1825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Col. Wm.</td>
<td>1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Mary</td>
<td>1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Charles Wm.</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, John T.</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Anne</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Sallie A.</td>
<td>1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Maj. J. W.</td>
<td>1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Col. John T.</td>
<td>1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Cassandra M.</td>
<td>1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Caleb</td>
<td>1835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belk, Capt. James</td>
<td>1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Martha E.</td>
<td>1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Mary McNutt</td>
<td>1857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolton, Susan</td>
<td>1892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowyer, Mary S.</td>
<td>1825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brugh, Elizabeth</td>
<td>1845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brugh, Lewis</td>
<td>1856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burwell, Elizabeth</td>
<td>1835</td>
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<td>Burwell, Mary R.</td>
<td>1835</td>
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<td>Caldwell, Alice C.</td>
<td>1875</td>
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<td>Callaghan, Elvira W.</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carper, Charles H.</td>
<td>1891</td>
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<td>Carrington, Gen. Edward</td>
<td>1855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dakin, Jacob</td>
<td>1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewing, D. Price</td>
<td>1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Joseph</td>
<td>1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Jane</td>
<td>1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Lydia</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Margaret</td>
<td>1843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson, David K.</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Robert H.</td>
<td>1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Sarah</td>
<td>1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figgat, W. W.</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figgat, Dr. Wm. F.</td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figgat, James M.</td>
<td>1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figgat, Susan W.</td>
<td>1895</td>
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<td>Flager, Capt. Jacob</td>
<td>1873</td>
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<td>Francis, Charles A.</td>
<td>1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaunt, Joseph F.</td>
<td>1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow, Charles S.</td>
<td>1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow, Wm. A.</td>
<td>1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow, Katie C.</td>
<td>1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow, Lizzie S.</td>
<td>1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles, Martha P.</td>
<td>1808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Hëllday, Partial History of the Presbyterian Church, 1902
Gordon, Margarete A........1819
Grant, Sophia................1855
Grant, Walter................1886
Grasty, Anna J................1861
Gray, Sarah B. M.............1838
Gray, Mary J..................1865
Gray, John.....................1878
Gray, Dr. T. M................1892
Hammit, Mable L..............1882
Hammit, Albert H.............1883
Harvey, Patsey.................1795
Harvey, Col. Mathew W........1823
Harvey, Virginia..............1826
Harvey, Martha...............1823
Harvey, M. Magdalene.........1845
Hayth, Wm. B..................1878
Hazzlewood, Mary.............1880
Hazzlewood, Annie............1881
Hickok, Robert C..............1855
Hickok, Morris...............1873
Hickok, J. R..................1878
Houston, Rachel...............1883
Houston, Evelyn..............1883
Hudson, Judge R. M...........1869
Our Sister, "Kate"............1882
Kollock, Maria.................1814
Kyle, William................1843
Landon, Mary V................1894
Logan, Rev. Robert...........1828
Logan, Margaret...............1830
Look, Samuel..................1852
Mays, Ellen...................1840
Mays, Frances J..............1853
Mays, Mrs. P. H..............1865
Mitchell, Virginia B..........1865
McFerran, Penelope W.........1880
McFerran, Martin..............1886
McPheeters, Rev. S. B. D.D..1870
McPheeters, Mrs. E. C......1872
Neville, George..............1855
Neville, John, Sr..........1866
Nofsinger, Ellen............1893
Nofsinger, William...........1896
Patterson, Samuel............1797
Patterson, Dr. T. M........1828
Patton, William..............1831
Patton, Sarah H..............1852
Patton, Sallie A. P.........1852
Patton, Marcus G.............1859
Patton, John A..............1860
Patton, Mary W..............1877
Peck, Luminia...............1876
Peck, William...............1882
Peck, Sarah A. D............1883
Penn, Mary A................1857
Pitzer, Virginia E. L......1864
Poague, George..............1868
Price, John M................1866
Price, George.................1863
Price, Eliza R.................1890
Robertson, Henry B...........1894
Shanks, Mary C..............1833
Shanks, Grace M.............1833
Shanks, Thomas..............1849
Shirley, Sarah J.............1886
Shue, J. E. C.................1880
Simpkins, Dr. John.......1858
Simpson, S. Fannie.........1861
Simpson, Julia A.............1862
Simpson, Levi...............1869
Skipwith, Peyton............1834
Smith, Charles W..........1846
Smith, Robert P..............1852
Snider, Margaret...........1863
Smith, William..............1837
Steele, Sallie M...........1880
Stoner, Louisa C...........1862
Tabler, Mrs. E. M..........1855
Thomas, Francis.............1835
Thomas, Grace..............1829
Thrasher, Floyd W...........1855
Thrasher, Wm. P.............1860
Thrasher, Mary S...........1889
Timney, Miles..............1826
Timney, Eve.................1821
Turner, Sarah A.............1842
Wade, L. P..................1857
Warren, Millie..............1858
Wax, Henry..................1842
Eax, Catherine..............1858
Welch, Elizabeth A. M.......1854
Williams, Maria L........1863
Williams, Dr. Charles.....1870
Williams, Jane McC........1900
Woltz, Ferdinand.......1877
Woltz, Clarinda A...........1880
Woodson, Nancy S..........1846
Woodson, Thomas S.........1864
Woodville, Sarah S.........1813
Woodville, Mary S..........1836
Woo, Emily M.................1846
Word, Helen E..............1846
Word, Cyril E..............1856
Zimmerman, John........1886
The oldest grave marked by a stone is that of Patsey Harvey, who died in 1795. Only one other stone carries us back into the eighteenth century — Samuel Patterson, 1797. Many unmarked graves antedate these.

That Fincastle residents shared the sentiments of Scott when, in his *Lady Of the Lake*, he wrote, "—And stranger is an honored name," is indicated in the following inscription:

**THIS MARBLE MARKS THE SPOT WHERE WERE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF MRS. MARIA KOLLOCK, THE BELOVED WIFE OF DR. L. KOLLOCK, OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

In attempting a weary and painful journey to the Springs, to alleviate Pulmonary Consumption, She died at Fincastle AUGUST.7, 1814, aged 37

By strangers honored and by strangers mourned.

Robert and Margaret Anderson are the ancestors of some of the most noted people of Virginia. The marble slab, marking their graves, has upon it this inscription:

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARGARET ANDERSON, THE VERY DEAR AND HONORED MOTHER OF WILLIAM ANDERSON, WHO WAS BORN IN 1783, AND DEPARTED THIS LIFE ABOUT MIDNIGHT ON THE 26th DAY OF JULY, 1819.**

For many years she had enjoyed in a good degree the comforts of the religion she professed, and as she drew near her end, her faith increased to a comfortable assurance of her interest in her Savior, so that she had nothing to fear from death.
SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ROBERT ANDERSON,
THE HONORED FATHER OF WILLIAM ANDERSON
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
BETWEEN 8 AND 9 o'clock A. M.
IN THE 86th YEAR OF HIS AGE.

He had been many years a consistent member of
the Presbyterian Church, and appeared much
resigned to this dispensation
of Divine Providence.

The wife of the late Governor Giles finds a resting place
in this cemetery. He has marked her grave with a tombstone which
bears the following inscription:

UNDER THIS STONE
REMOTE FROM ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED HER
LIES THE BODY OF
MARTHA PEYTON GILES,
LATE WIFE OF WILLIAM B. GILES
A SENATOR IN THE CONGRESS OF THE U. S.
SHE WAS BORN OCTOBER, 1777, AND DIED JULY, 1808
IN THE MIDST OF EVERY EARTHLY BLESSING
BELOVED BY RICH AND POOR
SHE DIED!!!

Her mind adorned with every virtue;
Her person in the full bloom of beauty;
The Darling of a Fond Mother;
The Pride of affectionate relations;
The delight of adoring friends.
She Died!!!
She left behind her a husband who adored her
And three lovely children.
Reader!!!
Mourn for them and for their disconsolate Father:
Mourn!!!
For virtue and beauty both lie buried here!!!
Lost to this world forever!!!
In 1770 the Parish of Botetourt was organized and Vestrymen appointed. On November 15, 1771, it was ordered that the trustees of the County Land lay off, and convey to the Vestry of Botetourt Parish, an acre of land for the use of the said Parish at such convenient place as they shall think fit.

Rev. Adam Smyth became Rector of the Botetourt Parish, soon after its organisation. He was parish minister for all Botetourt as it was originally laid off from 1774 to 1776. When Washington and Montgomery counties were organized in 1777 the Parish was divided and in June of that year the Vestry of Botetourt was dissolved by act of assembly.

The first Episcopal Church erected in Fincastle, passed into possession of the Presbyterians soon after the Act of Religious Freedom in 1786.

In 1837 the vestry of Botetourt purchased the lots on which was soon afterwards built the present church. The deed conveying the lot gives us the names of some of the early leaders. A part of the deed is as follows:

"This indenture made this 16th. day of August, 1837, between James H. Harvey and his wife Alice J. of the County of Botetourt of the first part and Edward Watts, James S. Woodville, Thomas Shanks, Thomas N. Burwell, Lere'miah Witton, William Jonshone, William M. Peyton, Jordon Anthony, William H. Perrell, Nathan Burwell, George F. Tayloe, Alex P. Eskridge, Members of the vestry of Protestant Episcopal Church of the County of Botetourt witness that the said James H. Harvey and Alice his wife in consideration of ...........

Methodist. It is not known definitely when the first Methodist Church building was erected. It is known however, that the deed to the lot was recorded July 12, 1793, as follows: "Patrick Lookhart, and Mary, his wife, deed to Edward Mitchell, Samuel Mitchell, John
Helms, Withrow and Joshua Bean, trustees in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America." The Building was probably erected soon after the purchase of the lot.

In 1842 the old church building was torn down and the present building was erected on the same foundation. It is a brick structure and continues in use until the present day. The bell in the church according to the diary of Mr. Lewis Housman, was manufactured in Philadelphia, in 1811, was 19 inches in diameter, 15 inches high and weighs 126 pounds. It is said to have been manufactured by the makers of the Liberty Bell.

In July, 1852 a meeting of the Society of Fincastle Sunday School of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in the lecture room for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School. Officers elected were: J. S. Walron-Superintendent, James M. Figgat-Assistant Superintendent, N. C. Baker-Secretary, Henry W. Camper-Librarian, Charles M. Figgat-Assistant Librarian. Jane Williams was elected head of the Female Department. The following rules and regulations were adopted by which to govern the school:

Organization of the first Sunday School of the Fincastle Methodist Episcopal Church, July 14th. 1852.

Rules and Regulations of the Sabbath School of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Fincastle, Virginia.

"Teachers and scholars, on entering the room shall quietly take their places in their respective classes with as little delay as possible.

"The school shall be invariably opened at the time appointed by the principal Superintendent, by singing from the Sabbath School

1/ Minute Book of Methodist Sunday School, 1852
hymn book, and by prayer by the Superintendent, or some other person whom he may designate; and shall be closed in the same manner.

"The first business of the teachers, in those classes which study the Scriptures, hear their scholars repeat as much of Scripture as they have committed to memory. They shall then read over some Scripture lesson, with their scholars, and, after reading, examine the scholars thoroughly, by questions, upon the lessons read.

"In those classes which do not study the Scriptures the first exercise shall be spelling, after which the teachers shall hear the children repeat hymns, or verses, which they may have committed to memory.

"A portion of time shall be devoted every Sabbath, by each class, to reciting lessons from the catechisms; and every teacher shall see that each scholar, who can, commit the catechism lessons to memory.

"As often as the principal Superintendent shall judge it expedient he shall call the attention of the whole school to general instruction and read such portions of the Scriptures and ask such general questions as he may think best, requiring any class or the whole school to answer together.

"Whenever judged expedient by the principal Superintendent a short address shall be made to the school either by himself or by a visitor or by one of the preachers if present or in place of an address an article shall be read from some moral or religious work.

"Notice shall be given of the change of the whole school from one exercise to another by a bell in the hand of the Superintendent."

The hour set for the opening of the school was at eight and for closing at ten. There being no literature available except the library owned by the school, a chapter of scripture was assigned each Sunday to be studied for the next meeting. A record was kept each Sunday of the number of verses of Scripture recited by the pupils. The smaller children were taught a class in spelling.

The average attendance was about forty and the amount of collection was recorded as such small sums as 19¢, 27¢, and 32¢. There is a constant recurrence in the minutes of the lack of teachers, and poor attendance of those appointed.
The chairs at present used in the pulpit were made in 1846 by Daniel Spangle, a Fincastle Chair Maker. According to some of the older members of the church, the oldest couple present each Sunday was given the privilege of occupying these chairs.

Among Superintendents since the organization of the Sunday School are: J. S. Walrond, Wm. M. Carper, C. B. Camper, N. H. Thomas, and E. E. Mayhew. The following resolutions are from the Fincastle Herald August 24, 1933, upon the retirement of C. B. Camper as superintendent of the Sunday School after more than 40 years of service:

"By unanimous and loving expression of appreciation by the Fincastle Methodist Sunday School of the most faithful and untiring services rendered by Clinton B. Camper, for more than forty years as Superintendent of the said Sunday School, during which time it has been his deep pleasure to witness many members of this school advance from infant to senior classes and from childhood to mature manhood and womanhood, and the greater pleasure and satisfaction of witnessing many, under his leadership enter into active work with the religious denominations of their choice.

And whereas, our Superintendent, owing to failing health, has deemed it necessary and expedient to resign his duties of active service as Superintendent, to which our school, with sincere regret, acknowledge.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the severing of the official duties of our much beloved Superintendent, for many years, of loving untiring and faithful service of devoted and personal religious leadership, we individually and collectively, regretfully bow to the inevitable demand of the march of time and with affection and loving remembrance of that so directed his interest in those under his instruction and leadership, from active service, we can but accede to your request for relief from active leadership, but do by resolution retain you, ex-officio, a life long Superintendent of our school. And may God whom you serve, be kind to you during the remaining days of your life, believing you will be rewarded in the hereafter by a witness of the spirit of your life and teaching by an ingathering of that school in the Great Beyond."

In examining the quarterly conference reports of which there are records as far back as 1882 we find in 1883 in the minutes reference to one of the outstanding church leaders of the day.
"Acknowledgement is made of my faithful assistance and sympathy given the preacher by Brother Cyrus Doggett who notwithstanding the weight of nearly fourscore and ten years still delights to witness for his Lord. He has administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Fincastle and Mt. Pleasant....and has also repeatedly preached."

In the reports we find a constant mention of the poor attendance at prayer meeting which was usually held on Wednesday evening.

The Country Sunday Schools were closed during the cold winter months although the Fincastle school continued with regular meetings.

The authority of the church was apparently used more freely in the latter part of the nineteenth century than is the custom now, as evidenced from the following excerpt from the quarterly reports.

"The discipline will shortly be enforced against some for neglect of religious duties. They must give obedience or get out of the Church. Their whims, notions, and prejudices can be tolerated no longer."

In the next quarterly report we find this notation: "Some worthless branches have been topped off and others have been made to feel the authority of ecclesiastical law with beneficial results."

1/ "The Fincastle Baptist Church was organized on the 6th. day of August, 1831, with the following fifteen members: Absalom C. Dempsey, and his wife, Elizabeth; Joseph Wrightsman; Robert Ledkie; Ann Leckie; Hannah Williams; Catherine Williams; Benjamin Ammon; George Wineman; Elizabeth Malone; Nancy Lavender; Catherine Ritchie; Rachel Williams; Harriet Flaherty; Magdalene Shawalter."

"As soon as an organization was effected, Elder A. C. Dempsey was unanimously chosen pastor. In this position he continued until 1861, covering a period of thirty years.

"From the organization of the church up to the year 1841, it was attached to the Strawberry Association. About the time the formation of the Valley Association was completed at the Natural Bridge Church. The Fincastle Church taking a prominent part in the new organization and becoming a member.

1/ Bolton, F. D., History of Fincastle Baptist Church, 1931.
"At its organization, the church had no house of worship; but held its meetings in private houses. Preparations were begun at once to build a house, and the April meeting of 1832 was held in a neat and comfortable brick building erected by the arduous labors of the few enthusiastic and self-sacrificing members, in connection with the liberality of outside friends. The lot upon which the building stood was given by Mr. John Nevil who was not then connected with any religious denominations, but who afterwards became a warm and active member of the Baptist Church."

"During the most of this time dating from 1831, the church kept up a regular Sabbath School. Brethren Benjamin Ammen, John Fox and James Luster gave it their attention. Bro. Ammen was most persevering, in his labors, and his efforts in this direction only ceased when he was stricken down by death."

"In August, 1834, Bro. Benjamin Ammen was ordained the First Deacon of the Church, by Elders Harris and Johnston."

"Rev. J. P. Corran was pastor from Sept. 1861 to Sept. 1865. Dr. Seely was Pastor from Jan. 13, 1866, to Dec. 1866, Rev. G. Gray from March 1867 to July 26th., 1874 (often supplied later). W. B. Simmons joined this Church by letter from the Mill Creek Church November 10, 1872, he soon became superintendent of our school and later by request, was given the Infant Class, through which many of our present school have passed. He taught this class for many years. Dr. J. M. Pilcher was Pastor from July 6, 1874 to June 27, 1875; Rev. J. M. Wildman from March 5, 1876 to July 10, 1881; Rev. W. Y. Abram from Feb. 12, 1882 to Jan. 13, 1883; Dr. Cornelius Tyree from Nov. 4, 1883 to Nov. 1887.

"Bro. C. M. Lunsford joined this church March 7, 1886 and at once became active in the work and was soon made superintendent of the Sunday School which position he occupied continuously until his death, a period of over thirty-six years. Dr. W. C. Tyree, Dec.-10, 1887, to Jan. 1, 1890. Rev. Percy G. Elsom, June 7, 1890 to Sept. 1896. During this period the present Church Building was constructed and mainly through his unceasing efforts. He went from place to place soliciting contributions and in this way raised, from his personal efforts, over $3,000.00.

The first service in this House June 13, 1896. Rev. Samuel O. Christian was pastor from Dec. 12, 1896 to Feb. 3, 1900. It was during the pastorate of Samuel O. Christian that the Church debt was paid, amounting to $1500 at a church meeting March 6, 1898.

Rev. J. B. Cook was Pastor from Dec. 16, 1900 to Jan. 1, 1904.

Rev. D. A. Glenn from June 4, 1904 to Oct. 12, 1912.

Rev. H. F. Gilbert from Jan. 1, 1916 to May 21, 1926. It was during the pastorate of Rev. H. F. Gilbert that these Sunday School Rooms were built. The idea of Sunday School rooms being added to the church had been talked about by a few of the members for some time. But some concealed the idea that the time to act had come when a representative body of our male members were gathered under the shady branches of a large oak tree at a picnic out beyond Brother Howell’s House in his grove, the matter was brought before these men in the form of a subscription paper to which they pledged freely and they were unanimous for the building of the Sunday School rooms, having raised $5000 in subscriptions from the church and school. On the Sunday following the picnic (Aug. 17, 1919) the Church authorized the Sunday School Rooms to be built and committees were appointed and all arrangements made to go forward with the work. The work of construction went forward satisfactorily until April 4, 1822 when death claimed our beloved co-worker and superintendent who had served us faithfully as superintendent for years. The death of Brother Lunsford was a great shock to all of us but we pulled together and went forward with the work and pushed it to completion.

The Sunday School rooms were completed to a cost of $8,230.62 and were received by the Church Feb. 17, 1823 and the building committee discharged. The rooms were not dedicated until Nov. 18, 1829, on account of a debt on the rooms which was paid in full October 17, 1829.

The Dedicatory Service was very interesting and appropriate. This addition to the church building has been helpful to our school, giving more rooms and better teaching facilities. The school has been growing ever since the construction of these rooms.

Our school has been on the Standard of Excellence since 1825.

Rev. C. Kelly Hobbs became pastor of this church Nov. 1, 1926 to April 1, 1929.

Rev. J. A. T. Marsteller was called by an unanimous vote of this church to become its pastor Nov. 16, 1929. Although Mr. Marsteller had a better position in Pittsburg from a financial standpoint, he accepted the call and is with us today. He has been very active in the work here. May his pastorate be long and successful.

Very few changes have taken place among the different denominations. The church membership and Sunday School enrollment remains about what they were ten years ago. Sunday School rooms and equipment have been added from time to time. All of the churches are practically free from debt. Three of the churches now employ full time pastors. They are: Rev. A. J. Hawes, Baptist; Rev. J. W. Morgan, Presbyterian; and Rev. W. D. Sheets, Methodist.
Special Interests. It has been said by one of the old settlers that "In the good old ante-bellum times the cream of Virginia society dwelt in Fincastle. They made a stranger feel welcome."

Summer's description of a wedding gives an intimate description of some of the customs of these frontier people. 1/

"On the morning of the wedding day the groom and his attendants assembled at the house of his father for the purpose of reaching the home of his bride by noon, which was the usual time for celebrating the nuptials, and which, for certain reasons, must take place before dinner.

"Let the reader imagine an assemblage of people without a store, tailor or mantua-maker within a hundred miles and an assemblage of horses without a blacksmith or saddle within an equal distance. The gentlemen dressed in shoe-packs, mocassins, leather brooches, leggings, linsey hunting shirts, and all home-made. The ladies dressed in linsey petticoats and linsey or linen bed-gowns, coarse shoes, stockings and handkerchiefs and buckskin gloves, if any. If there were any rings, buckles, or buttons or ruffles, they were the relics of older times; family pieces from parents or grandparents.

"The horses were compared with old saddles, old bridles or halters, and pack-saddles with a buffalo blanket thrown over him; a rope or string as often constituted the girth as a piece of leather.

"The march in double file, was often interrupted by the narrowness of our mountain roads, as they were called, for we had no roads, and these difficulties were often increased by the good and sometimes the ill-will of neighbors by felling trees and tying grapevines across the way. Sometimes an amusement was formed by the wayside, and unexpected discharge of several guns took place, so as to cover the wedding party with smoke. If a wrist, elbow or ankle happened to be sprained, it was tied up with a handkerchief and little more said or thought about it.

"The ceremony of the marriage preceded the dinner, which was a substantial backwoods feast of beef, pork, fowl, and sometimes venison, and bear meat, roasted and broiled with the dinner, the greatest hilarity prevailed. The table might be a large slab of timbers, hewn out with a broad-ax, supported by four sticks, set in

1/ Summers, L. P., History of Southwest Virginia, 1903; 44-45.
auger holes; and the furniture some old pewter dishes and plates; the rest wooden bowls and trenchers, and a few pewter spoons much battered about the edges were to be seen at some tables, the rest were made of horn. If knives were scarce, the deficiency was made up with scalpings knives which were carried in sheaths suspended to the belt of the hunting shirt. Every man carried one. After dinner the dancing commenced and usually lasted till the next morning. The figures of the dancers were three and four handed reels, or square sets and jigs. The commencement was always a square form, which was followed by what was called jiggling it off; that is, two of the four would single out for a jig, and were followed by the remaining couple, the jig was often accompanied by what was called cutting out, that is, when either of the parties became tired of the dance, on intermission, the place was supplied by someone else of the company, without any interruption to the dance. In this way the dance was often continued till the musician was heartily tired of his situation. Toward the latter part of the night if any of the company, through weariness, attempted to conceal themselves for the purpose of sleeping, they were hunted up, paraded on the floor, and the fiddler ordered to play, "hang out till tomorrow morning."

"About nine or ten o'clock a deputation of young ladies stole off the bride and put her to bed. In doing this it frequently happened that they had to ascend a ladder, instead of a pair of stairs, leading from the dining and ball room to a loft, the floor of which was made of clap boards lying loose.

"This ascent one might think would put the bride and her attendants to the blush; but the floor of the ladder was commonly behind the door, which was purposely opened for the occasion, and its rounds at the inner ends were well hung with hunting shirts, dresses, and other articles side of the house, the exit of the bride was noticed by few.

"This done a deputation of young men, in like manner stole off the groom and placed him snugly beside his bride. The dance still continued and if seats happened to be scarce, as was often the case, every young man when not in the dance, was obliged to offer his lap as a seat for one of the girls; and the offer was sure to be accepted. In the midst of the hilarity the bride and groom were not forgotten, Pretty late in the night someone would remind the company that the new couple must stand in need of some refreshments. Black Betty, which was the name of the bottle, was called for and sent up the ladder; but sometimes Black Betty did not go alone. I have sometimes seen as much bread, pork, and cabbage sent along as would afford a good meal for half a dozen hungry men. The young couple was compelled to eat and drink more or less of whatever was offered.

"But to return: it often happened that some neighbors or relations, not being asked to the wedding, took offense, and the mode of revenge adopted by them on such occasions was that of cutting off the manes, foretops, and tails of the horses of the wedding."
"On returning from the infare, the order of procession and race for Black Betty was the same as before. The feasting and the dancing often lasted several days, at the end of which the whole company was so exhausted with loss of sleep that many days rest were requisite to fit them to return to their ordinary labors."

In the period from the founding of the town in 1772 until about 1825, the social and educational organizations of the town were intermingled. In this period we find the Fincastle Library Committee, the Fincastle Debating Society, the Fincastle Auxiliary Society for Ameliorating the condition of the Jews, and the Masonic Lodge, an organization which has continued without break until the present time.

In the period from 1825-1850, we find besides the Masonic Lodge, the Fincastle Literary Society and the Fincastle Division 107 of Sons of Temperance. The newspapers of this period gave little or no space to social events besides the mere announcement of organizational meetings. In the Fincastle Mirror of 1826, we find a brief notice of the Methodist Episcopal Church holding a camp meeting here and undoubtedly such meetings lasting perhaps a week and with meals served on the ground held a large social as well as a religious appeal.

Organizations to which references are found in the period from 1850-1900 are the Saint’s Rest Club (Social), the Fincastle Concert Band, the Masonic Lodge, the Fincastle Mechanics Association and the Fincastle Minstrel Concert Company.

In 1886 a reference is found in which the Fincastle Minstrel Concert Company has gone to New Castle to give a performance.

Hayth’s Hotel during this period was the scene of much social activity with its numerous summer guests from a distance, a large
number of whom were from New Orleans. The following reference is from the Fincastle Herald, 1889.

"The usual routine at the Hayth's Hotel is enlivened several nights in the week by dances in which the pretty young ladies sojourning there participate."

In the Fincastle Herald of September 5, 1895 is an article by Mrs. Robert McChesney, entitled, "Society of Fincastle As I Knew It 30 Years Ago," which gives us a picture of the social life in the period at the close of the civil war.

"Some live who will remember the eventful Christmas of 1866 when the thermometer stood below zero. On the coldest evening of the season carriage after carriage could be seen rolling out of town bound for the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Isiac Hinkle where a sumptuous repast was awaiting the party in progress. There were no oil stoves, sealskin saucous or buffalo robes for the bankrupt people of old Virginia. Yet never entered a happier, gayer party and the warm bright wood fire and glowing color on each and every cheek was enough to banish all bad efforts of old winter to destroy their fun."

The following reference is to the social life connected with the Fincastle Fair in the latter part of this period.

"The tournament at the Fair on Friday was quite a success and much enjoyed by a large crowd. There were seven knights. Mr. Leache won the first prize who transferred it to Mr. Harvey, who crowned Miss Fulvia Spiller as queen of Love and Beauty. Mr. James Godwin acted as chief marshall. A handsome ball was given Friday evening in honor of the queen."

Dancing seems to have been a popular social diversion of the period in spite of the disapproval of the church. In Holladay's History of the Presbyterian Church, it is stated that sometimes
church members who had allowed dancing in their homes were waited upon and admonished as to the impropriety of such conduct.

The Saint's Rest Club in Fincastle gave a dance of which the following brief account is given.

March 29, 1894. "Easter Ball was given Friday evening by the Saint's Rest Club. The large ball room presented a brilliant scene of gaiety. The young ladies present were Miss Aliiska Slicer, who wore red silk and creme lace; Miss Lovelia Slicer, lavender cashmere, and Miss Carrie Dobyns, yellow silk. The young men were in evening dress."

The last period from 1900–1940 may be for sake of conveniences divided into two parts. During the first part before the advent of automobiles, radios, and the game of bridge, we find a different type of social life than that of more recent years. In this period, and until the present time, the Masonic Lodge has maintained regular activities. The Business Men's Club and the United Daughter's of Confederacy were two other active organizations, during the early nineteen hundreds, both of which are no longer in existence here. The following is an account of the Christmas holiday season of 1902–1903 from the Fincastle Herald.

"At Montrose, on December 24th, the Misses Mahaffey entertained and the spacious rooms were filled to overflowing. Mirth and merriment reigned supreme and delicious gayeties were uninterrupted.

"About the same group were invited to Godwin Cottage on Christmas night, and to Aspen Hill on the 26th with Miss Emma Cary Breckimridge as hostess.

On December 29th all were bidden to Dr. and Mrs. Simpsons. Most amusing was the scene when packages large and small were distributed to the guests and opened. There were hairpins for the gentlemen, cigars for the ladies, and other gifts equally incongruous.

"At Ridgley on the 30th Mrs. Jas. Godwin entertained the young ladies at luncheon."
"Evening of the 30th. all were bidden to Santillane Lodge where
an observation party was held. Each gentlemen drew a name of a
lady, conversed with her five minutes and then was ordered to another
room to list the items of the ladies dress and adornment that he
had observed.

"January 1st. the rector of St. Marks and Mrs. Conanan held
a New Year's reception at the Rectory.

"January 2nd. Miss Ross invited all to her home. With games and
music the evening was delightfully spent."

The drug store, as is the case in most villages was the social
gathering place. In The Fincastle Herald of 1904 we read:

"The hot weather has in no way dampened the ardor of the so-
ciety people of Fincastle. From nine in the morning until ten at
night, the drug store is the rendezvous for the belles and beaux and
in the afternoon the streets are gay with bright colored dresses
and smiling faces. Mr. Skip Woodson and Will Simmons have added to
the pleasure of the young ladies with new buggies.

"Among the popular debutantes this season are Misses Nan God-
win, Louise Camper, Bess Doggett, and Rose Breckinridge."

In The Fincastle Herald of February, 1905, we get a picture of
winter activities:

"The streets are frozen over with one or two falls of snow
mixed with rain or sleet and with the temperature in the vicinity
of zero."

"Ben Hayden, Ed Luster, Judge Simmons and Colonel Breckinridge
took seats on swift toboggars. Even Dr. Godwin was knocked off his
feet and took a turn accompanied by Mr. Lewis Housman who is old
enough to remember "the cold Saturday of '35."

In The Fincastle Herald of January 8, 1942, the following ap-
peared:

"Now we learn that old Jockey Alley here, an institution of the
town in the days when Court Day each month was the big event in Fin-
castle, is to be perpetuated in art. A Roanoke artist who painted
a sunny landscape in glowing colors of the town from the Alley has
had his painting hung in a display of work by leading artists of
several states, at Butler Art Institute at Youngstown, Ohio, where it was said to be one of the most outstanding paintings in the exhibition.

"It is a pity that some artist in words does not too, save some of the stories and traditions of this once famous Fincastle "Stock Exchange." It is true that only a small fraction of the Alley is shown, and it is used as a viewpoint for the rest of the town from that angle which was chosen for reasons not exactly apparent to the average layman.

"Every old timer must remember Jockey Alley where most of the old nags of the County, good and bad, wound up their careers. So much business was done on the exchange on the first Monday of the month that it is recorded that it was not unusual for the same horse to change owners eight or ten times during a hectic days trading.

"We recall one trader who used to take enough moonshine to make him think he was a showman on a horse of the first degree. He rode as straight as a cavalry officer and put his plug through many a pace for the onlookers, as he rode back and forth through the Alley, showing his nag's gaits and his own superb horsemanship. The horse he was riding at the time was a flea-bitten gray, which in the dim years before had really been a saddler, and for a short spurt could still do several gaits well. There was another display which will be long remembered--this was a harness event at the monthly horse show. An old gentleman, a real character, with a little stimulation, took the Alley with as much surprise as the Japs did Pearl Harbor. With a little mouse-colored mare with one glassy eye, he came down the hill on Roanoke street at full trot turning into the alley at
such speed that only two wheels remained on the ground. He was holding the reins at arms length, and driving with all the style one would see at a harness show at Madison Square Garden. Out through the Alley he went with the speed of a Dan Patch, narrowly missing the crowds of horses and men, around the block and up Main Street where he let the mare walk to catch her breath and then back around the circle again at full speed when he reached Roanoke Street. He made such a hit that he repeated the performance several times, making the corners at such perilous angles that at every one the crowd looked for the old buggy to overturn. He, of course, was soon in the midst of negotiations for an exchange, but he said firmly that the mare suited him exactly and he would not consider an exchange. Late that afternoon he was observed driving home with an old nag which could not walk briskly, let alone show evidence of speed.

"One fellow once boasted that he made seven trades one day, winding up with the same horse he brought to the Alley, but in addition he had $37.00, a watch, a pocket knife, and the promise of a phonograph."

"One poor old plug came to the Exchange feebly and slowly, and as soon as he was hitched to a fence post, he lay down. All efforts to make him arise proved futile, and reports were that he had to be shot and dragged to his final resting place.

"These old members of the Exchange were better sports than the horse traders of today--what few are left. When they got stung they took their medicine and never asked the courts to make
adjustments. One of them was reported to have got such a balky horse, which was so well known that he had to finally sell it to his mother to come out on the deal.

"Yes, Jockey Alley has a history worth recording, and its records should be kept with the other archives of an historic town."

Organizations functioning in the latter part of the period from 1900-1941 were the "Young Men's Club," a social club sponsoring dances at the Western Hotel, the Garden Club, Home Demonstration Club, The Rotary Club, the Monday Evening Bridge Club, and the Saturday Afternoon Bridge Club. Church organizations, which are partly social in nature in that monthly meetings are held in the homes with a social hour included and refreshments usually served, are: the Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service, the Baptist Young Women's Sunday School Class, the Presbyterian Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Baptist Alathea Women's Bible Class.

The meetings of these organizations with occasional dinner parties, bridal showers, and serenading of newly married couples make up the social life of the community.

The Fincastle County Resolutions illustrate the liberty-loving characteristics of these early settlers. On the 20th day of January, 1775, the following resolutions were drawn up by the free-holders of Fincastle County. 1/

"Gentlemen: Had it not been for our remote situation and the Indian War which we were lately engaged in, to chastise those savage and cruel people for many murders and depredations they have com-

1/ The Fincastle Herald, January 11, 1934.
mitted amongst us, now happily terminated under the auspices of our present governor his Excellency, the Right Honorable Earl of Dunmore, we should before this time have made known to you our thankfulness for the very important services you have rendered to your country, in conjunction with the worthy delegates from other provinces. Your noble efforts for reconciling the colonies and the Mother Country, on rational and constitutional principles, and your pacific, steady and uniform conduct in that arduous work, entitles you in the esteem of all British America and will immortalize you in the annals of your country. We heartily concur in your resolutions and shall strictly and invariably adhere thereto."

"We assure you gentlemen, and all our countrymen, that we are people whose hearts overflow with love and duty to our lawful sovereign, George the Third, whose illustrious house we settled at the glorious revolution: that we are willing to risk our lives in several successive reigns have been the guardians of the civil and religious rights and liberties or British subjects, the service of his majesty, for the support of the protestant religion, and the rights and liberties of his subjects, as they have been established by Compact, law and ancient charters. We are heartily grieved at the differences which now exist between the Parent state and the colonies and most ardently wish to see harmony restored on an equitable basis, and by the most lenient measures that can be devised by the heart of man. Many of us and our forefathers left our native land and considering it as a kingdom subjected to inordinate power, and greatly abridged of its liberty; we crossed the Atlantic and explored this, then, uncultivated wilderness, bordering on many nations of savages and surrounded by mountains almost inaccessible to any but those very savages, who have incessantly been committing barbarities and depredations on us since our first seating country. These fatigues and dangers we patiently encountered, supported by the pleasing prospect of enjoying those rights and liberties which had been granted to Virginians, and were denied us in our native country and of transmitting them inviolate to our posterity. But even to these remote regions the hands of unlimited and unconstitutional power hath pursued us, to strip us of that liberty and property with which God, Nature and the rights of Humanity have vested us. We are willing to contribute all in our power to the support of his Majesty's Government, if applied to constitutionally, and when the grants are made by our own Representative but can not think of submitting our liberty or our property to the power of a vanal British parliament, or to the will of a corrupt ministry."

"We by no means desire to shake off our duty, or allegiance to our lawful sovereign, but on the contrary, shall ever glory in being the loyal subjects of a Protestant Prince, descended from such illustrious progenitors so long as we can enjoy the free exercise of our religion as Protestants and our liberties and properties as British Subjects."
"But if no pacific measures shall be proposed or adopted by Great Britian, and our enemies shall attempt to Dragoon us out of these inestimable privileges, which we are entitled to as subjects, and to reduce us to a state of slavery, we declare that we are deliberately and resolutely determined never to surrender them to any power on Earth, but at the expense of our lives."

"These are our real, though unpolished sentiments, are liberty and loyalty and in them we are resolved to live and die."

"We are gentlemen, with the most perfect esteem and regard, your most obedient servants."
SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

SUMMARY

Historical and Physical Background. The town of Fincastle was founded 170 years ago in the Valley of Virginia, where neighborhood settlements had existed for several years. It represents what Cooley calls a "land break" in transportation, for it started at the intersection of two famous pioneer trails. For some 50 years after its settlement there was a constant population flow through Fincastle. Several of America's famous pioneers sojourned here or passed through on their journeys westward. Trade and manufacture boomed.

Settlement of the Community. In search of economic, religious, and political freedom, 50 families, most of them from Pennsylvania, comprised the 1742 population of what is now the region of Botetourt County. Scotch-Irish and German they were -- and among them were the famous family names of: Christian, Lewis, Wood, Breckinridge, Preston, Burwell, Bowyer, McDowell, Smith, Posey, Hancock, Taylor, Hamilton, Armstrong, Wilson, and others. Many of these families have since migrated from Fincastle. For example, a recent comparison of lists of property owners in 1776 and 1940 showed only two names -- Peck and Smith -- surviving. In 1860 the Fincastle population reached its highest point -- 896. The 1940 census listed 442 residents. Approximately 400 of these residents are white, the remainder negroes. The decade 1890-1900 was a prosperous one for summer tourist trade in Fincastle. Today,
chief occupations of heads of families are: labor, homemakers, farmers, odd jobs, store owners, carpenters, filling station operators, restaurant operators, and lawyers.

**Government.** The site of present Fincastle was the county seat of Botetourt County by 1770 — two years before the town was formally established. In 1789 trustees were appointed to act as a town governing body. By 1821 the General Assembly had made the trustees a corporate body and invested them with certain governing powers. In 1938 there was no town election and for the following two years Fincastle operated without a governing body. A 1940 election chose new town officials. Recently, annual town budgets have approximated $1600.

**Business Activities.** Trade and manufacturing flourished in Fincastle from 1825 to 1900. Immediately prior to the Civil War business in Fincastle reached its peak. At that time there were 36 manufacturers located in the town — today there are only three. Decline of population and the increasing influence of Roanoke have combined to contribute to the economic decay of Fincastle. A town bank has deposits totaling $275,000.

**Education.** Chief means of education in the early days of Fincastle featured private tutoring, with children of several families gathering at one home for instruction. Also, Fincastle ministers conducted parochial schools. In 1785 Botetourt Seminary was established. In 1876 all private schools became a part of the free school system, which today consists of a high school serving 200 high school and 400 grade school whites, and a Negro high school, which offers grade school subjects also.
Religion. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who settled Fincastle first worshipped in private homes registered and established for religious purposes. In 1770 the first Presbyterian church was built. Methodists erected a church about 1795, while the Fincastle Baptist Church was not established until 1831. The Presbyterian churchyard has been used as a cemetery for more than 165 years. It has been a burial place for all denominations and portions of the yard have been used for burials twice.

Special-Interest Groups. Special interest organizations in Fincastle have run the gamut from the Fincastle Debating Society of 1775 to the Rotary Club of 1942. From 1825-1850 the Masonic Lodge, Fincastle Literary Society, and the Fincastle Division 107 of the Sons of Temperance held sway. Just how many of these "Sons of Temperance" became enmeshed in the flowing robes of "Black Betty", famous pioneer whiskey bottle, is not known. That "Black Betty" was present on many festive occasions and weddings is a matter of record. The period 1850-1900 found the Fincastle Concert Band and Fincastle Minstrel Concert Company active. The present century has seen Fincastle participate in the special interests common to any American small town during the same period. Ten weekly newspapers plead their cases in Fincastle during the period 1820-1918.

IMPLICATIONS

Fincastle is proud of her cooperative spirit. A recent school fire well illustrated this spirit. Churches and vacant buildings were made available for school use. Many of the "best" citizens scrubbed floors, washed windows, and moved tables, chairs, and furniture. Not a day was lost. School moved on as usual.
The consolidated school system is exerting an influence in bringing the town and its hinterland together. The school as a community center has risen to a place of significance, since it is becoming the focal institution for both young and old in the larger town-country community.

Three factors still contribute greatly to the life of Fincastle. First, government activities providing work for county officials, lawyers, and representatives of such federal agencies as WPA and AAA. Second, the consolidated school which is bringing more people to town and is fostering town-country relationships. Third, good transportation, with roads leading in several directions from the town to its hinterland.

The decline of manufacturing has undoubtedly influenced the levels of living of many Fincastle families. However, electric lights, radios, telephones, and other modern conveniences are found in a large percentage of the homes. The value of lots and buildings has increased from $76,405 in 1867 to $104,100 in 1940.

From 1860 to 1940 there was a great change in the internal and external relationships of the Fincastle community. To this extent the character of Fincastle is not what it used to be. Trade is life blood for a growing town. Fincastle's veins are not full -- where once the rich, red blood of business and manufacture coursed vigorously, today a smaller, weaker stream wends its weary way.

Looking backward objectively from a 1942 vantage point, it seems that Fincastle was in its prime around the era of the War Between the States. Whether another zenith will arise from the present nadir is a matter of conjecture. If it does, the upward trend will undoubtedly be
started by the town leaders — men and women who have as one of their current objectives the continuance of the hospitality and friendliness which has long characterized this small Virginia town.
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