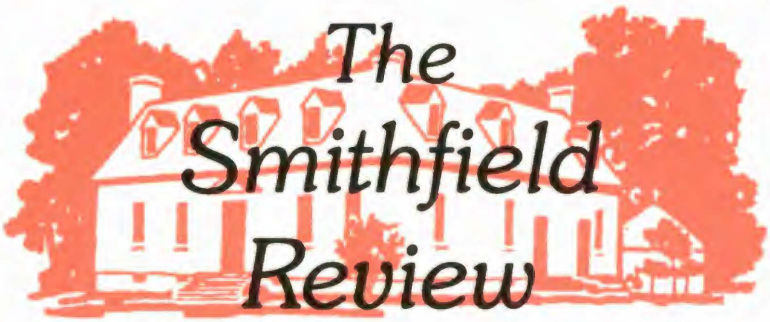


Studies in the history of the region west of the Blue Ridge

Volume III, 1999

A Note from the Editors 1
Thomas Winton Fisher, Confederate Soldier and 19th Century Pilgrim from Wythe County, Virginia: Part 1, *by Darlene Brown Simpson* 5
James Patton Preston's Wayward Son: Letters from the Smithfield-Preston Foundation Collection at Virginia Tech, *by Laura Katz Smith* 29
Bottom Creek: From Community to Conservancy, *by Jim Crawford* 37
William P. Hickman in the New River Valley, 1852–64, *by H. William Gabriel* 53
Book Reviews, *edited by Tom Costa* 83
Index to Volumes I–III, *by Mary C. Holliman and Diana Kittleman* 87

Published by the
Montgomery County Branch
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
in cooperation with the
Department of History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
and in conjunction with Pocahontas Press, Inc.
Blacksburg, Virginia

This publication has been made possible
through the generous contributions of

First National Bank
Christiansburg, Virginia

The National Bank
Blacksburg, Virginia

The Smithfield Preston Foundation

Ann Gardner Gray

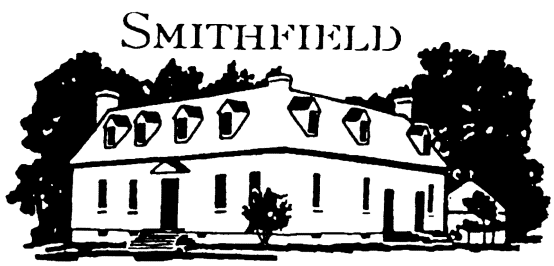
Published in cooperation with the
Department of History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

through funding from the
Johnston–Lucinian
Virginia History Research Endowment

The Smithfield Review

Studies in the history of the region west of the Blue Ridge

Volume III, 1999



Published by the
Montgomery County Branch
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

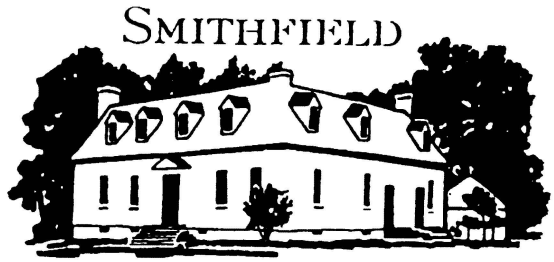
in cooperation with the
Department of History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

and in conjunction with Pocahontas Press, Inc.
Blacksburg, Virginia

The Smithfield Review is published annually, in the spring,
by the Montgomery County Branch of the
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
in cooperation with the Department of History,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
and in conjunction with Pocahontas Press, Inc., Blacksburg, Virginia.

ISSN 1093-9652
© 1999 *The Smithfield Review*
Published in the United States of America.

Subscriptions are $10/year



A Note from the Editors

Old letters frequently are valuable sources of historical facts and often provide revealing verbal snapshots of what life was like in days past. Three articles in this issue of *The Smithfield Review* provide us with fascinating descriptions of three distinct families as each responds to various societal forces of the times. Not only are we permitted to share the innermost thoughts and reactions of several letter writers of long ago, but we become acquainted with some interesting individuals mentioned in the letters. We also are treated to insights concerning both minor and major events of their day — from worries of a former Governor of Virginia about the college antics of his son to the devastating impact of disease and war. The thoughtful reader is invited to compare the human experiences in the 19th century with those of today.

The first article in this issue is the story of Thomas Winton Fisher, a young farmer from Wythe County, Virginia, who was torn from his family to fight in a war that was generated by events and persons well outside the bounds of his experience. Several recent novels tell stories of young citizen warriors whose primary motivation was to survive and return to their families. Yet, with a keen sense of duty, many of them bravely persevered under unbelievable hardship and danger. The story told here needs no fictionalized enhancement. It is a factual account, powerfully told through a sequence of some 33 letters. The nineteenth century author of the letters gave a first-person description of army life, ranging from camp boredom to risky battlefield exploits, but, throughout, he remains acutely aware of tragic events taking place at home during his absence. The letters are presented

by Darlene Simpson, an active Smithfield volunteer and a descendant of Thomas Fisher.

The second article, entitled "The Smithfield Preston Foundation Collection: A Unique Resource for Research of the Preston Family" by Laura Katz Smith, provides further insight into research opportunities at the Virginia Tech Library. Included in the recently acquired collection is a classic sequence of three letters written in 1831 by a former Governor, James Patton Preston of Blacksburg, Virginia. The recipients of Governor Preston's letters were his niece and nephew who lived near Lexington, Virginia. The nephew, James McDowell, was destined to become Governor of Virginia a few years later. The subject of the letters was Governor Preston's son, who was in trouble while a student at Washington College, now Washington & Lee University. Laura Smith, Manuscripts Curator, Special Collections Department of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech, has written for this journal in a previous volume.

"Bottom Creek: From Community to Conservancy," by James Crawford, is a story of the birth and death of a small, isolated mountain community near Roanoke, Virginia — with a rebirth in modern times as a nature preserve. Beginning with ancient times, the article traces the evolving interface between our natural environment and its human inhabitants. James Crawford received his Master of Science degree in Geography from Virginia Tech in 1995.

The letters that form the basis for our fourth article, "William P. Hickman in the New River Valley, 1852-1864," are part of a large, previously unknown, collection that recently was inherited by H. William Gabriel of Florence, Montana. Mr. Gabriel's collection includes material gathered over a 200-year time span. William Hickman, the author of the letters that are provided in this article, was an educator, a farmer, and a Presbyterian minister who served several churches in the area during the mid-1800s. One of those churches was in Blacksburg, Virginia. Consequently, the letters contribute to the social history of Blacksburg and the surrounding region, because so many names and events are discussed. As a farmer and land owner, Hickman provides considerable information about land, commodities, and their prices. As an educator, he discusses schools and their practices. He also gives considerable attention to various diseases and medical problems. As with so many people of that era, his life and the events of the Civil War converged to provide a sudden and unexpected climax to the story of clergyman Hickman. William Gabriel grew up in Virginia, graduated from Virginia Tech, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Montana.

Tom Costa, a professor of history at Clinch Valley College, introduces our new Book Review Section, with a review by Wade Shaffer of West Texas A&M University. The subject of the review is *Diversity and Accommodation: Essays on the Cultural Composition of the Virginia Frontier*, edited by Michael J. Puglisi. Volume 3 closes with an index of the first three volumes of *The Smithfield Review.*

For the benefit of our readers who have not seen the first two volumes, a brief orientation is appropriate. Smithfield is an historic property adjacent to the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. The manor house, constructed around 1774 on the frontier, is a premier example of early American architecture and is one of few such regional structures of that period to survive. It was the last home of Colonel William Preston, a noted surveyor and developer of western lands, who served as an important colonial and Revolutionary War leader. Smithfield served as a land office involving property as far west as Kentucky. It was a home for the distinguished Preston family and a military base during the tumultuous Revolutionary War period. Today, Smithfield is a museum that is interpreted and administered by a local group of volunteers.

The Smithfield Review originated as a Smithfield publication designed to ensure that the often neglected history of the region is made available to the general public in a way that is both interesting and enlightening. The Smithfield-Preston Foundation and the History Department of Virginia Tech have joined in sponsoring our effort. *The Smithfield Review* continues to focus on the history of the area west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and adjacent states. We seek articles that include studies of important personages and events, reports of archaeological discoveries, and analyses of the social, political, and architectural history of the region. Whenever possible and appropriate, the articles will incorporate letters, speeches, and other primary documents that convey to the reader a direct sense of the past.

Hugh G. Campbell, Editor
Editorial Board:
Clara Cox
Charles E. Modlin
Lon Savage
Charles L. Taylor

Thomas Winton Fisher, c. 1870.
Tintype courtesy of Dianne M. Gardner.

Thomas Winton Fisher, Confederate Soldier and 19th Century Pilgrim from Wythe County, Virginia: Part 1

Darlene Brown Simpson

I. The Pilgrim

Thomas Winton Fisher was a weary pilgrim in a foreign land. Not a Mayflower pilgrim, but a pilgrim nonetheless. A foreign land? Not exactly, but Virginia was the scene of many farewells, encampments, drills, formations, marches, battles, and death notices, all of which combined to scar her scenic farmlands, valleys, and by-ways and alter the peaceful prewar way of life. Fisher himself suffered great personal loss during the years he was away from home. Grief-stricken and lonely, he found the winters long and bleak, the summers long and hot.

Thomas Fisher was a native of Crockett, Virginia, a small village in Wythe County, itself a rural area of small family farms in Southwest Virginia. He was a simple man, a religious man, a family man, and a courageous soldier in the War Between the States. He never was a famous man, but later generations of his family knew a good deal about him because he wrote, and kept, many letters. At least thirty-three survived the war. Not all depicted compelling battle scenes, but some did.

Thomas was born on June 9, 1837[1] in Wythe County, the second son of Rev. Absalom and Judith Oury Rader Fisher of the Cripple Creek community. Of seven children born to this union, only Thomas and a younger sister survived to adulthood. A writer in the 1880s described Absalom as "a popular local preacher" who

> held revival meetings. He was especially gifted in song, his services much in demand. The thousands that used to gather at Cripple Creek Campground, at the annual religious feasts, will never forget Absalom Fisher as he stood in the front of the battle and led the hosts in victorious song. While he was thus serving God so acceptably his wife at home was training the children whom God had given them, thus rendering equally acceptable service.[2]

Thus was the home life of Thomas Fisher's childhood — one that was centered upon a devoutly religious way of life.

Thomas, a talented singer like his father, often accompanied his father to religious meetings. He chose carpentry and farming to earn his living. At 20 years of age, on November 11, 1857, he and Frances Ann Fisher, a third cousin, were united in marriage.[3] The U.S.Census of 1860 listed Thomas Fisher, age 22, residing in Wythe County with his wife "Francis," their one-year-old son John, and twelve-year-old Sallie, who was probably living temporarily with her older sister's family.

The union of Thomas and Frances produced three sons: John Cooper, called "Cooper" or "Coop"(b. December 13, 1859), Jason Alfred, called "Jace" or "Jacy" (b. August 13, 1860), and Reuben Paulett, called "Ruby" and later "Paul" (b. February 23, 1862).[4]

Then came the war that disrupted their happy home life.

II. The Farmer Goes to War

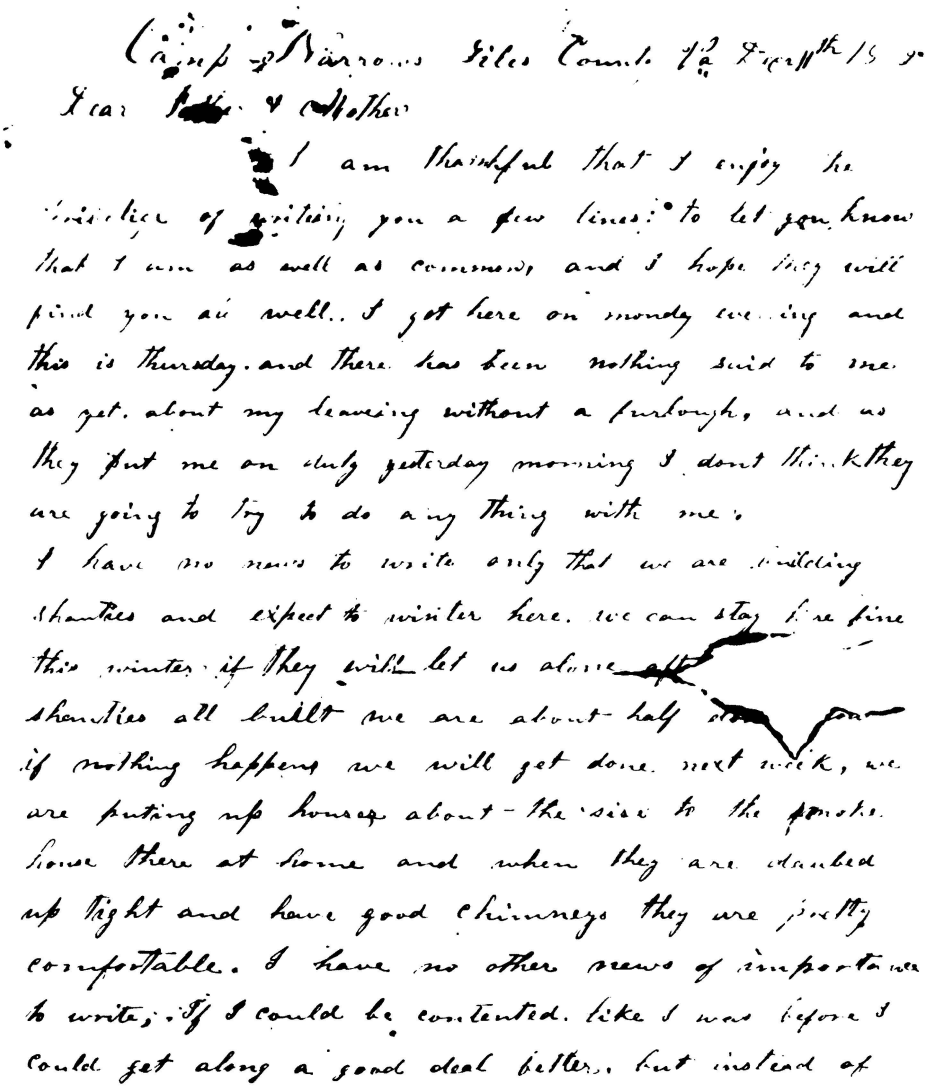
Wythe County had a population in 1850 of 9,618 whites, 2,185 slaves, and 221 free persons of color. Most upper New River Valley farms were small. Many had only their own families to earn their livings by tilling the soil and raising the crops they bartered for the remainder of life's necessities, and those with slaves had only one or two. Wythe Countians were divided about the war, and many tried to avoid participation on either side.[5] Thomas Winton Fisher was not among the slave-holding citizenry.

The 51st Virginia Regiment was organized at Wytheville, the county seat of Wythe County, two months after the first battle at Bull Run (July 21, 1861). Men enlisted from Wythe, Wise, Tazewell, Nelson, Grayson, Amherst, Bland, and Patrick counties.

These green recruits quickly engaged Union troops. In the autumn of 1861, the 51st Virginia regiment marched to the Kanawha Valley, the largest salt-producing region in the South. Because of its importance to the Confederate war effort, the Valley was a major prize for the Union. Although the region changed hands several times during the war, the Federal troops were successful in their first attempt at wresting it away from Confederate control. The Confederates' defeat at Carnifix Ferry on September 10, 1861, left the Kanawha salt supply in Union hands.[6]

Brigadier General Robert E. Lee, the new commander of all Confederate forces in the Kanawha Valley, reorganized the Southern effort in the region. Despite their setback at Carnifix Ferry, the men of the 51st remained in high spirits. On December 14, the regiment strode into Newbern, Virginia, for its first grand review.[7]

Subsequent tests on the battlefield proved that Gen. John B. Floyd and Gen. Henry A. Wise, two former governors of Virginia, impeded Con-



Camp Barrows Giles Count. Va. Dec 11th 1862

Dear [redacted] & Mother

I am thankful that I enjoy the privilege of writing you a few lines: to let you know that I am as well as common, and I hope they will find you all well. I got here on monday evening and this is thursday. and there has been nothing said to me as yet. about my leaveing without a furlough, and as they put me on duty yesterday morning I dont think they are going to try to do any thing with me.

I have no news to write only that we are building shantees and expect to winter here. we can stay here fine this winter if they will let us alone [redacted] shantees all built we are about half [redacted] if nothing happens we will get done next week, we are puting up houses about the size of the smoke house there at home and when they are daubed up tight and have good chimneys they are pretty comfortable. I have no other news of importance to write; If I could be contented like I was before I could get along a good deal better, but instead of

Page one of a letter written by Thomas Winton Fisher on December 11, 1862, to his parents. Original manuscript : Darlene Brown Simpson.

federate success. After unsuccessfully defending Fort Donelson in February 1862, Floyd was removed from command of the Floyd Brigade.[8]

During May 1862, Colonel Gabriel C. Wharton reorganized the 51st Regiment Virginia Infantry at Wytheville, and recruiting officers diligently tried to fill the dwindling ranks. Several officers had resigned when General Floyd was removed from command of the Southwest Virginia Division. General Lee appointed General Henry Heth, a strict disciplinarian, to follow the popular and lax Floyd. The Regiment consisted of eleven companies from Southwestern Virginia. Records are incomplete, but, of those who listed an occupation, there were 88 farmers, six physicians, two clerks, two wheelwrights, two shoemakers, a carpenter, a miller, a brickmason, a cooper, a blacksmith, a tinner, a constable, a student, and a mechanic.[9]

At the age of 24, Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army at Wytheville on May 1, 1862, in Company C, 51st Regiment Virginia Infantry. He was mustered into service as a private. Military records indicate he was 5'6" and fair, with light hair and blue eyes.[10]

With little time for training these raw recruits, Heth's troops marched toward Lewisburg and the Kanawha Valley on May 16. The following two days found them engaged near Princeton, where they avoided a Federal trap but suffered heavy casualties. On May 28, two companies of the 51st were fighting in the battle of Lewisburg; others were on the move.

While the men of the rural South were away at war, families suffered great personal sacrifices. Women often had to do the work of the absent men. Frances writes of doing so in a letter dated May 30, 1862.

> I have to do most evry thing that is to do my self. I jest have got done cleaning up rye to send to mill. We aint got any rye out of the mill since you left. We have bin a eating corn bread pretnear all the time. I aint got the rye all thrashed yet. Jake hilten thrashed out some of it and the balance is thare a geting wasted for the chickens and rats have destroid it nearly .... We have a tollarable good garden. It keeps me busy to do all the weding and hoing in the gardin.[11]

As a prolific letter-writer while living a soldier's life, Thomas reveals his private thoughts, his loneliness, his fears, his character, his religious beliefs, and his devoted love for Frances.

The first letter that survives is dated June 1, 1862:

> Camp Wawbash[12] Giles Co Va
> Sunday June 1st 1862
>
> Dear Wife
>
> I take this oportunity to write you a few lines to let you know where I am. And how I am.We are at Wawbash Camp Ground 12 miles from dublin depot waiting for further orders. I am well and hearty at this time. I have

got well or very near so of the cold I had when I last wrote to you but I am verry tired and sleepy to day. We marched about 20 miles yesterday and last night I had to stand guard and it thundered and rained here like forty. This is the first time I have stood guard since I been in the army.

I have been looking for a letter from you for 2 or 3 days but have not seen it yet. I have wrote you three letters since I left home and this is the fourth.

Last Thursday all of a suden we were ordered to cook two day rations and be ready to march at 4 o clock next morning which we did and came here in two days. I dont know how far it is but I guess it is about 35 miles. I stood the march verry well although it was awful hot yesterday. There is but 2 of our company sick now James [J.S.] Crocket we left in the hospital at rocky Gap, he has the pneumonia, and Branson [John] Murray was taken sick night before last and we brought him in a waggon to this place. I think he also has the pneumonia.

I dont know where we are going but we think we are going to Heath [Gen. Henry Heth]. This is the greatest objection I have to the war we never know where we are going nor any thing about it, we are sometimes ordered to leave and dont even know which way we are going. We heard since we came here that the yankees are falling back from about lewisburg and vicinity. Heath is at the salt sulphur springs and it was rumered yesterday through the regiment that we were going there but I dont know anything about it.

I have no news of importance to write to you, but I hope you will write soon and let me know how you all are and how you get along since I left home. Tel me how Cooper [son, age 3] and Jace [son, age 21 months] & the baby [Reuben Paulett (Ruby)] comes on & etc. Give me the news from the war & etc. You wanted me to come home if I could. This is a thing I would like to do if I had it in my power. I would be glad to see you all and spend a few hours with you, but at present I cant tell when I can enjoy such a privilige.

Make yourselves as contented as possible about me, and always remember me in your prayers. And also remember that we are all in the hands of the great Creator of the univerce and if we are never permited to meet on Earth again we may if we serve him meet in heaven as for my part I feel willing to trust myself in his hands to do with me as he sees best.

Write to me all of you. Direct your letter this way
Thos. W Fisher dublin
Depot Pulaski Co Va
Incare of Capt Wm A Yannce [Younce]
Company C 51st regt Va. Volenteers

Since our regt was reorganised the letter of our company is changed it used to be company E, but it is now Company C from Your Affectionate husband and lover Thos W Fisher[13]

Camp Loring, Monroe Co. Va
Sept. 1st, 1862

Dear Wife:—

I again seat myself to write you a few lines. Not because I have anything of importance to write about but because I think you like to hear from me every day if you could. But paper, envelopes and stamps cost too much money to write every day. This morning finds me well and hearty and I hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I was sorry that father[14] could not stay longer when he was over here for we received our money the next day. For fear I will lose it or have it stolen from me, I thought I would write you a short letter and send $10.00 in it, and risk it rather than keep it here with me. I expect to come home in a week or so if we don't leave here, but it is the talk that we will be ordered from here in a couple of days to go down in the Canawha [Kanawha] Valley to clean the Yankees out from there. I don't know that we will go but it is the general talk here. I hope we will not go yet awhile till I get to come home again, but I will never come home till I can come honorably for there are about 16 in the guard house now for running off. They will be court-martialed and $30.00 of their wages taken from them. I know you want me to come, but not run off, so don't be uneasy I will do all I can to get to come. I received a letter from Eva several days ago and she said you were there and said she was sorry to tell me she had not been to see you since I had been gone, but would go and see you and the children befor long. I have nothing more of importance to write and will close hoping to get to come home soon. We are at the same place we were when Father was here but the name of the camp has been changed[15]. So goodbye for this time.

Your affectionate husband,
Thomas W. Fisher[16]

Camp Loring, Monroe Co., Va.
Sept. 3, 1862

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the 31st this morning and hasten to reply. I was glad to hear you were all well and hope you continue to enjoy good health. I am well and hope to enjoy good health and strength while I stay in this army. I wrote a letter to you day before yesterday and put $10.00 in it and and another yesterday and put in $20.00. I want you to be sure and write and tell me if you received the money or not. I know you got what I sent by Jas. Lindamood [Private, Co., C, 51st Regt.]. I am sending this by mail today with $5.00 in it and our mail is so uncertain is why I ask if you had gotten the money. I am sorry to inform you that I will not get to come home for 25 or 30 days yet. The Col. [Augustus Forsberg] won't let a man away from camp now for we are going to start to Canawha

Valley day after tomorrow and we expect to be gone 20 to 30 days and unless the Yankees have more force than we think they have we will be at the Canawha salt works before many days. So there is no chance to come home the Col. says till we get back again. I am not sure that I will go yet, for I have no shoes, mine are worn out, and there is none here to draw. The Capt. [Wm. Younce.] says he will try to send me a pair. If he can't get me any he will leave me here to help guard the tents and commissary stores. Some one will have to be left here anyhow. Your letter was a very short one this time but it said a good thing when it said you were all well. We just drew a new suit of clothes, pants and roundabout of first rate stuff and nice. I wish I could send my old one home for I can't carry it with me. I would like to come now with my new suit on. Tell Father he can prepare to go to seeding all he can. I told him when he was here where I wanted to sow wheat. I fear I will not get a chance to come home, till it is too late to seed much. If he can buy any seed wheat that is cleaner than mine to do so. I must now close as I have no more news that would interest you.

Though towering heights between us rise
And roaring stream between us flow
I love to think of brighter days
When wars shall cease to be no more.

Yours affectionately till death,
Thomas W. Fisher[17]

An undated letter bearing the date 1862, with no month given, must have been written in September, shortly after the battle of Fayette Courthouse, Sept. 10, 1862. Apparently missing the first page, it commences a listing of casualties:

... George W. Walters in the head badly. John Simmerman slightly in the hand. Flem Shelter by a bomb and pretty badly bruised. Robert C. Jones very slightly in the head by a piece of shell. Jas. Shelton about the same way the last two are with the company the other 4 were left at the hospital. Well before day the next morning the Yankees set on fire a part of their commissary stores and their medical store. By daylight we were persuing them. We pushed them so close that they burned several of their wagons in the road. We took 50 odd wagons at Fayettville[18] and a large quantity of commisary supplies consisting of a large amount of bacon and about 200 boxes of crackers and a quantity of flour and various other things. Well we followed them on to Cotton Hill where we had another fight. Two of our men were killed and four or five wounded and 30 of the Yankees were buried here and 49 at Fayettville. I do not know the number killed on our side at this place but there were 8 out of our Regiment. We next run them from Cotton Hill and followed them to the river where we had another sharp fight.[19] Several Yankees were killed, no

body hurt on our side but here they burned up a large amount of ammunition and commisary supplies worth over a million dollars I suppose for there was any amount of bacon, sugar, molasses and salt. We saved here at least 1000 bushels of salt. From there we had skirmishes all the way down the river till we got here at this place we had another big fight and heavy cannonading but Co. C, 51st was not engaged here. From the falls of Kanawha to Charleston we captured thousands of bushels of salt and other things in proportion in all is worth several thousand dollars. They tried to burn Charleston but we put it out. This is the largest and beautiful town I have ever seen, but enough about this. I have seen Jace [Jason Lee Fisher, wife's brother] and Alf [Alfred Bronson Fisher, wife's brother] and Jake Thomas[20] and all the rest of the boys you know none of them are hurt. Jake told me that a ball passed near his left foot but did not hurt him. There were 6 or 8 of the minute men hurt. We heard Clay Whitman was shot in the stomach and may be dead by this time. Andy Blair had his right eye shot out and one leg broken but they say he will get well. I see no possible chance to get home now without running off. If you all were dead I could not get a furlough. They won't even let us go to town. I hope this war will end before long and we can return home. Let me know how you all are getting as soon as you can. Tell father to do the best he can with the seeding. Jace says you can have his horse if you all can work her. I have nothing more of importance to write but I want you to write and tell me how many letters you have got with money in them and what amount was in each letter. I sent $10.00 in one $20.00 in one and $5.00 in one and I want to know if you got any or all or not. I want you to write soon for I am very uneasy untill I hear from you all again. May the Lord bless and comfort us all and at last save us in heaven. Remember your husband till death.

Thomas W. Fisher.

P. S. I send this in a Yankee envelop
and this white piece is Yankee paper.[21]

Thomas worked on the breastworks on September 28, and for the remainder of the month his regiment camped two miles from Charleston. Having captured wagons, bacon, oats, and other supplies worth nearly a million dollars, the Confederates were jubilant and well-supplied.

With the return of the salt supply to Confederate control, salt was again available and inexpensive. Gen. Loring, for whom the camp in Monroe County is named, planned to obtain salt supplies nearby and not permanently occupy the area. He left the Kanawha Valley and headed to Lewisburg, ignoring Lee's plan to have him move northward from Charleston and join the Army of Northern Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley. Loring was relieved of his command by Lee, and the 51st Regiment was placed under the command of Gen. John Echols, who returned the army to the

Kanawha Valley, a trip of 100 miles in cold rain. Near Charleston, the 51st was assigned picket duty. Not supplied with tents at the time, the men built beds of straw and hay.[22]

III. Illness Strikes at Home

On September 30, 1862, Frances wrote of her own illness.

I will endeavor to right you a few lines for perhaps it may be the last riting you will ever see from me at least I feel so now.... I got up Monday morning an I could jest fell that my throat was sore an before night I could hardly swallow an today I feel that I am not long for this world: the diptheria or some thing has got in my belly. I have not had much ease this day but I want you to prey to our good being an creater to preserve my life to see your sweet face. Oh, if I die what will become of my little babes. I am lying on the bed on my belly so I can right. The Lord is merciful and maybe he will let me get well to take care of my children. I want you to come home as soon as you get this if they will let you but I havent any idie that they will but I say dont run _____ if you never see any more of me never are permited to see each other in this world less try an meet me in heaven. I want to live if it is the Lord's will to see this troublesome war ends.[23]

Camp near Charleston
Kanawha County. Va
October 4th 1862

Dear Wife

I once more seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. It is a strang thing to me that I cant get a letter from home any more. We came here today three weeks ago. I have wrote you four letters since that time. And have not recieved but one from you it was written on the 16th of Sept. That has been 19 days since I have heard from home. I have been uneasy for two weeks, for you told me that you would write at least once a week. I dont know whether you get any of my letters or not but I make it a rool to write at least once a week and verry often twice, and I will still do so whether I get any thing from home or not. I am almost afraid to tell you that I have been quite unwell for the last two days. It may cause you to be uneasy but dont make yourself more uneasy than you can help. I was afraid yesterday and day before that I was going to have another spell of the Enzcipelas [encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain]. I was taken with a tremendous head ache, & sore throat and neck. I had had a verry sore mouth for several days before, but did not think anything of it til I got the headache and sore neck.

I feel a good deal better this morning and my neck is not near as sore as it was. I hope I will be well in a few days again.

I have some good news to tell you now. I had layed down my pen & paper to rest a while, and had picked up the Bible and was reading the 9th Chapter of Daniel & while reading Cameron [John G., a good friend, possibly related] come in and handed me a letter. I looked at it, saw it was your hand write and you had better believe I soon had it open and read it with great pleasure and satisfaction.

It was written on Sunday the 28th of Sept that day I worked hard all day on the breastworks and on the next day, Monday I finished a letter and started it to you. I have written 4 letters since I have been at this camp and the first one I wrote was all the one you had recieved. I hope before this time you have got some (or all) of the rest. I was glad to hear that you was all well except: Ruby [his son, age 7 months] and I hope he is well by this time. I was sorry to hear of the Death you mentioned but as she had to die. It is a pleaseing thought to think that she left this world praising God! May this be the happy end of us all! Is my prayer.

The news of the matrimonial connection of George Kegley and Mag Wolford came like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. I had not so much as heard that he was courting her! Or anybody else. So it is Deaths & Marriages is all we hear of! While some are sorrowing over the absence of Loved ones others are joyous & happy! Haveing joined in wedlock.

Tell Sally [Sarah Elizabeth Fisher, wife's sister] and Nant [Nancy Oury Fisher, his sister, age 19] that they must put off their weding til I get to come home so that I can get some of the good things. More than that I would like to see Sally Fisher and Nancy Fisher once more before it is Sally & Nancy Kincer. Tell Sis that from all accounts, I am verry much afraid that she will have to dance in the hog trough, for the first thing she knows Nant will give her the slip.

Tell Mother I would like to know how she is pleased at the Idea of her Son in Law or wheather she has been consulted any on the subject: by the young wooer of her daughter Nancy O. I will rest a while now as I cant send this letter til tomorrow morning and I can tell you more about how I feel this evening as in the morning. I have had to take a pill every hour in the four part of the day and I feel a good deal better all day to day than I did yesterday.

It has rained a considerable shower after which I resume my Seat to finish my letter. We have had the most agreable weather for the time of year I ever saw. I have not seen a bit of frost yet this fall, and there has been verry few nights but what we could lay without cover. But I suppose there has been plenty of frost in Wythe before this time. This is a good deal warmer place than Wythe. The mornings are verry foggy here and I fear it will not be a healthy place to camp. But so far I believe there is no more sickness in our Regt than there has formerly been.

I feel pretty well this evening and I think your letter will almost cure me together withe the Medicine I have been takeing!

It is hard telling how long we will remain at this place. Some say we are only to stay til the salt in hands is hauled away other say it is the intention to hold our position all the time if possible. If we do fall back to our old position (at the Narrows). I Intend to come home a while if there is any possible chance, and If we stay here til Christmas and I live I Intend to come anyhow if I live & keep my health.

The boys are all as mischieveous as usual. The only complaint is they dont get letters enough. Cameron offered me a quarter for my letter to day after I had read it he said he had not got one for so long that he would have to buy one of some body or else he would not get none atall. James Harrell [Pvt. in Co. C] says if he dont soon get one he intends to write a great long one and take it home and let his wife read it and then bring the answer back then he was sertain he would get one.

I believe I have nothing more to write that would be of any interes to you. & a great deal of what I have wrote is of verry little importance, so I will close for the present and write you a few lines in the morning and let you know how I am by that time.

Sunday morning Octo 5th

I resume my writeing this morning and I am glad that I can inform you that I am a good deal better this morning. I rested and slept verry well last night. And I cant complain much only that my mouth Is right sore & a misery in my back. I have just been to the doctor & he says I shall take good care of my self and I would not nead any more Medicine.

You need not be uneasy atall. If I should get bad I will write another letter to morrow. If not I will wait 4 or 5 days before I write again.

I forgot to tell you before that Capt Reppass [William G., Co. G] has got the feaver. He is in town at a private house. And they say he is mending. I suppose I had as well close my letter as I have no more of importance to write. I have not seen Jace [wife's brother] nor Alf [wife's brother] nor Mon [Greenville Monroe Fisher, wife's brother] for 3 or 4 days but I presume they are well or I would have heard something about it. I think I will be able to take Jaces letter to him to day. We are only 3/4 of a mile apart, but they are on one side of the river and we are on the other. Alf wrote you a letter and put in my last one. Maybe you have got it by this time.

Give this brown letter to Wiley Grubbs [Pvt. in Co. C, neighbor and friend] Mother and oblige him. Give my respects to all the family both in the house & kitchen, and dont forget to take a long portion to Babes self. Good bye Babe for this time. Dont forget to write often.

I am, Dear Wife, as ever, your Affectionate Husband, til Death,

Thomas. W . Fisher

Remember me Remember me, O babe remember me [24]

Kanawha Co Va Oct 7th 1862
Camp near Charlston

My Dear wife,

I received your letter of the 30 yesterday evening informing me of your illness which gives me to feel much uneasiness and sorrow of heart. It finding me not very well myself and far away from you to. it seems to be one of the most trying times I have had to pass through in all my life. I have not made any application for a furlough knowing it to be useless: for the orders of General Loring is that no man can get a furlough or leave of absence under any circumstance whatever. It is my desire to come home and to be with you but it is a thing impossible now. But I sincerely hope that when these few lines comes to hand they will find you well again. And while I would love to be with you and comfort you in your afflictions and sorrows if it was my privalege. We are compelled to submit to the almighty providence of our heavenly Father yet I pray the Lord to be with you and preserve your life and take care of you and the children while I am absent from you and may he give you grace to support you amidst all your afflictions and sorrow and trials.

I am about as I was when I wrote to you a few days ago. I am not able for duty yet but the doctor says if I will take care of myself a few days that I will be able for duty again without taking any more medicine. I am able to be up and about on my feet the most of my time. Monroe and Jace are well [Frances' brothers]. You may tell J Thomases wife that he is well. The health of the soldiers is generally good at this time. There is no news of importance to write to you at present so I must bring my letter to a close by saying to you that although I cannot be with you myself in person you may rest assured to my prayers are with you imploring the blessings of God to rest upon you. I want you to aid me in your prayers that God may give me grace to support me and to do his will while I live so no more but remain your affectionate husband intell death.

T. W. Fisher

Dear sister, you need not be uneasy about Thomas. It is not because he was not able to write but from the sad impression made upon his mind from hearing of your condition. His love and affection for you causes him to shead tears of sorrow when attempting to write to you under the present circumstances. This leaves me well. I want you to pray for me and may God bless you and save you is my prayer. A. B. Fisher[25]

Sorrow due to battles is to be expected during the turbulent wartimes, but disease was raging in Wythe County and news of family deaths took its toll upon the absent brother, father, and husband. On October 7, 1862, Thomas' brother Jim died of diptheria at age 15. Nine days later beloved

19-year-old sister Nancy (called Nant) succumbed. When breaking the news to her dear husband in a letter dated October 19, Frances is fearful

> ...I am afraid the dredfull Disease is not done in this family yet for Sally (her sister) is lying at the point of death now with it. It is the Diptheria but the rest is all well at present but we don't no how soon we will have to leave the world an follow on after Nant and Jim... Pray that the Lord will preserve my life[26]

It was the last letter from Frances, for it was not God's will that she live to see the end of war and the return of her devoted husband. She and her oldest son, three-year-old John Cooper were gravely ill. Arriving at her bedside on the ninth of November, Thomas found little Coop already dead and Frances soon followed, on November 10.[27] Jason, two years of age, and Reuben Paulett, eight months, lost their young mother and were taken in by their paternal grandparents, Absalom and Judith Fisher.

Though Thomas left camp without furlough, he was unpunished after his return to camp following the funerals. His friends had said they would cover for his absence.

IV. The Long, Grievous Winter

The grieving soldier had a rough time in the days and months following such tremendous losses. His faith in God and hope of a reunion in the life to come saw him through the worst of times.

The Regiment had entered winter quarters at Camp Narrows in early November, 1862. Men built huts (shanties) as the long winter set in and heavy snows accompanied the dropping temperatures. The camp at Narrows was five miles from Pearisburg and well-defended by the geography of the high cliffs on both sides of the New River.

In late April 1863, Gen. Wharton established headquarters at Glade Spring (situated near Saltville and Wytheville). Here the 51st was under orders to safeguard the salt works, Wytheville's lead mines, and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad — all three of great value to the Confederacy.

As he sat and waited out the long winter, Thomas wrote of his concern for honoring the Sabbath and adhered to the practice of no exertion of any kind on that day of rest. Amusements were avoided, while the day was reserved for worship of the Almighty, study of scriptures, and family visitations. In one of Frances's early letters she points a finger of scorn at a young woman in the community who played checkers on Sunday.[28] In his life as a soldier, this son of a Methodist preacher held to his religious convictions both in the camp and on the battlefield.

Camp Narrows, Giles County Va
Dec 11th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I am thankful that I enjoy the privelige of writeing you a few lines: to let you know that I am as well as common, and I hope they will find you all well.. I got here on Monday evening and this is Thursday. And there has been nothing said to me as yet about my leaveing without a furlough, and as they put me on duty yesterday morning I dont think they are going to try to do any thing with me. I have no news to write only that we are building shanties and expect to winter here. We can stay here fine this winter if they will let us alone after we get the shanties all built. We are about half done now. If nothing happens we will get done next week. We are puting up houses about the sise to the smoke house there at home and when they are daubed up tight and have good chimneys they are pretty comfortable. I have no other news of importance to write. If I could be contented like I was before I could get along a good deal better, but instead of It being better as I hoped it would it is tentimes worse. I cant write scarcely. It brings to my mind things that are passed and gone. And brings grief and sorrow and distress to my heart. I cant help thinking to whom I wrote a few months ago, but never can hear from her again til I go to join her in her glorious home above. You know, that three months ago I had a brother who many a time entertained us with his frolicsome play and merryment, but now where is he — gone to the spirit world.

Again, two months ago I had a Dear Sister, you an affectionate daughter. Who by the melody of her voice ———* ofttime charmed our hearts. Where is she now ———* ng halleluyahs with angels around Gods throne I also had a lovely little boy whom I ardently loved he also is gone to join the rest in heaven.

And lastly I a few short weeks ago, I had a dear lovely Companion who loved & cheered me in affliction and sorrow. Where is he, She told me she was going to see Nant & Jim & little Cooper and told me I must meet her there, and by Grace of God I am determined to try and comply with her request, be my time long or short in this world. I feel like I would not care how soon the call would come for me to leave this poor, troublesome world. I feel that it would be a great deliverance to leave this world of sin and sorrow, for I feel that Gods grace is sufficient to save to the utermost.

I must now close. I want you both to pray for your unworthy son, that we may at last meet our friends in Glory.. I pray for you and my little Children & the rest every day. Train them up in the way they should go-----*. Dear Parents, life is uncertain. And if I see you no in this world——
———*meet you in heaven—* There wars & parting ———* all the sorrows and troubles incident to this life will be for ever at an end. O how

*Note: portions of paper burned.

I love to think of the Joys of that glory land. And thank God I now feel a fore tast of those joys in my heart.

Affectionately your Unworthy Son til Death Thos. W. Fisher

To Absalom & Judith O. Fisher—adieu[29]

Camp Narrows Giles Co Va
Jan 4th 1863

Dear Mother

I find myself seated this the first Sabbath morning in 1863 to write you a few lines to let you know that I am in tolerable good health at this time. I am heavier than I ever was before in my life.

I received a letter from you and Sallie night before last and was truly glad to hear that the baby had got better. & I hope it may please God to restore him to health again. I had got a letter through Mr Harrell from you and I was verry uneasy til I got an other letter and when I got it I was afraid to open if for I felt almost sure that It would bring the sad news of the death of little Ruby but thank God I was disappointed and, I still have hope of his recovery.

I hope this will find you all well. It seams like I have had a hard time with sickness. I have had nothing but sorrow and sadness for the last 8 months. Truly "this world's a wilderness of woe"—In the first place I had to leave home and dear ones and go into the army. On the morning of the 16th July, I bid farewell to you all.—when you were well & hearty, but on the 9th of November when I got home again, Jims seat was vacant, Nants voice was hushed in death. I no more saw sweet Little Cooper prattling around the fireside, And on the bed lay my beloved wife! I just got home to see her a few hours in misery & pain. Oh! What a sore trial! If it be Gods will I do not want to stay in this world much longer. I hope I commit no sin by indulging such a desire. I have but one sister in this world and I trust she is on her journey to meet those that are gone before to a better world. Soon In the course of Nature My Dear Father will preached his last sermond: will have warned sinners for the Last time. Soon he will pass away —And Dear Mother [Judith O. Rader Fisher], you are geting old. It will not be long at furthest, til your body will be laid beneath the clods of the valley. & thy spirit take flight—What then have I to live for. If little Ruby does not get well, one dear little boy!

They are the subjects of many prayers and tears. Oh! that God would protect them, and if It is his will that they live to be men: Oh may they be useful in his cause. May they be as lights in a benighted land!

While pening these lines tears are in my eyes. No one knows the grief and sorrow that fills my breast. I am glad to learn that you pray for me. I am lyable to run into folly, but while I feel my weakness and inability to do any thing acceptable I feel that I have a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, who is able to assist me in the days of tryals.

I have no news of importance to write to you. Give my respects to all the family, and all enquireing friends. Let me know whether Jake Thomas [a neighbor, 63rd Regt., Co. H] has gone to the army, and how his family have got. Give my respects to Trine. I shall respect her as long as I live, because Frances thought so much of her. — I saw sam Smith [a friend] to day he got a letter from home, he is trying to get a furlow.

—I will write a few lines to Sis and put in here.

We may never see each others faces on Earth. Oh let us try and meet in heaven.

Write Soon to your unworthy Son Thomas W Fisher [30]

Camp Narrows, Giles, County, Va.
Jan 10th, 1863

Dear father and mother: –

I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines as I have a chance to send it by S. C. Smith, he having obtained a furlough to go home to see his brother who we understand is lying at the point of death. I am as well as usual my self and Cameron and the rest of the boys are well also. The weather is very rough now, but we have quite comfortable quarters and we don't mind the weather much. I think if they are all well at home now you might come and see us a few days. There is no danger of you freezing when you get here, we have quite a warm shanty and we sleep as warm as a nest of pigs. I have no news of importance to write and do not expect to write much as I wrote a letter a few days ago and as yet have received no answer. I want to know what amount of corn James Harrell got so that I will know how to settle with him, or rather him settle with me. I want to come home toward spring if possible and make some arrangements about a corn crop. I can't say whether I will get to come or not, but hope so. I am scribbling in a hurry. Sam is waiting on me so for the present I must close.

Remember me in your prayers.

Your affectionate son, Thomas W. Fisher [31]

Camp Narrows, Giles Co., Va.
Feb.1, 1863

Dear Mother,

Once more through the providence of God I am seated in order to write you a few lines in answer to yours of the 25*th* but this time I cannot tell you that I am well. I would have written as soon as I received your letter but thought I would wait few days and maybe I would get well and not have to tell you about it, but I feel very dull and stupid this morning so much so that I can't think of anything to write. My head and breast are very much stopped up and I have a tormenting cough. I think it nothing

more than a cold and hope to be well in a short time. Don't be alarmed; if anything serious get the matter, I would immediately give information.

Cameron may get to come home tomorrow. There will be three get to come and if he gets to come he will take this letter. If it comes by mail you may know that he did not get to come.

I don't know when I will get to come whether ever or not. I would like to see you all again especially little Jace [son, age 2½] and Reuben [son, age 1 yr.]. I wonder if they are much trouble to you since their mother is dead. Mother this is a hard world to live in. I am away from home and loved ones, but my mind is wandering back to better days yet never a thought of home passes my mind without bringing a feeling of grief to my heart.

I think of the happy hours which I have spent with those that have now crossed the cold stream of Jordan but perhaps it is not best to indulge in such thoughts. My gloves were too small so I let Sam have them. Get me a larger pair hooked. There are no socks to be had here, but I don't need them just now, have a couple pair ready till I want them. I get shirts and pants and such things but no socks. Write me soon for nothing affords me more pleasure than to read letters from Friends.

From your only living son, T. W. Fisher[32]

Camp Narrows, Giles, Co., Va.
March 1st. 1863

Dear Mother:—

This blessed Sabbath night finds me seated by a dim candle light trying to drop you a few lines as father is going home in the morning. But it is not necessary for me to write much for he can tell you all that you would want to know in regard to matters and things here in camp. But before I forget it, and have you think me ungrateful I will thank you very kindly for the presents you sent me in the way of pies, sausage and tea cakes, all of which I relished. They tasted like mother had made them. I wish I had a jug full of ink like the vial full you sent, I could sell if for three or four dollars a quart. And to give an idea of the price of such things as eatables, I only have to tell you that it would have been an easy job to have sold the pies you sent me for 50 cents a piece. The gloves you sent fit fine, except the fingers were a little short. I believe this is all I need to say on paper for father can talk a good deal faster than I can write, so whatever you want to know just ask him. He can tell you what sort of looking place it is. Sis [Rachel Elizabeth Fisher], you wanted to know who drew the engine I sent. Wiley Grubb [Pvt. in C Co., neighbor] drew it. I have never tried to draw one, but believe I can.

Tell Jacy and Paul hello for Papa.
Your affectionate son,
Thomas W. Fisher[33]

Camp Narrows, Giles Co., Va.
March 12th, 1863

Dear parents:—

Once more I have the pleasure of seating myself to write to you. I am happy to inform you that I am blessed with health at this time and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing. I am not going to write very much tonight. I am just merely going to begin a letter. I am looking for a letter from you. I think I will get one tonight and if I do I want to have my letter ready to leave by tomorrow's mail. I have no news of importance to write you this time, except there are 3 new cases of smallpox. I am getting afraid it is going to get in our regiment. If it does I expect you will find me in bed some morning when you get up. I don't think I can stand my ground against the smallpox. I could stand the Yankees, but if the Yankees and smallpox both get after me I think I will run. We are having some very rough weather now snowy and sloppy. I will now stop till morning. They are beating tattoo and I must go answer to my name after which I will go to bed and take a nap if I can. Well sure enough before I got out of bed, orderly Patterson, came around with the mail and there was a letter for me. I knew the handwriting as soon as I looked at it. I opened and read it with much satisfaction and am truly glad to hear that you were all well. It found me in pretty good health and I hope the good Lord will be merciful and continue his blessing upon us while we are separated by this unholy war. You complain of having no news to write. These thing never bother me, I sit down and write what ever comes into my mind and write till I get my paper full. I will suggest a few things for you to write about next time. It makes no difference how simple it seems, anything that is going on at home, or throughout the neighborhood is interesting to us here in camp. Our ever busy minds are continually wandering back to the scenes of home and all the little amusing incidents that render home happy and desirable. Now we have no means of knowing these things, but by reading letters from our relatives and friends. You wrote in one of your letters some time ago about Cousin Elizabeth Seagle and Jim Grey having run off. I have wondered if it is true. What is cousin Judy doing since Jonas is dead. I know she is lonely. Is Jake Thomas still at home or has he gone back to his regiment? Has diptheria died out in the neighborhood. Is John Irvin, Wess Louthian, Andy Hilten [Andrew C., Reserve Force, member Mt. Ephraim] and others at home yet or did the last call get them. Tell me how the children are getting along every time you write. Tell me how many hogs you killed and if you will have enough meat to do you, and how the wheat and rye looks and so on. I think you can write next time if you answer my questions. I am going to send some papers home that I want preserved for the sake of the likenesses they contain. It is a paper I am taking called the "Southern Illustrated" and it is published at Richmond. Another paper I am taking is the

"Lynchburg Republican" and the "Holston Journal". Consequently I get all the news pretty much both religious and political. I must now close. I can imagine I see you reading my letter. Give my respects to the neighbors generally, and particularly to Jake Thomas' family.

I remain as ever your affectionate son,

Thomas W. Fisher[34]

Camp Narrows, Giles Co., Va.
March 23, 1863

Dear Parents:—

This morning amid the noise and confusion of the camp, I seat myself by our camp fire while my mess mates are reading the journal. I can again inform you that I am well and God grant that these few lines may find you all still enjoying the same blessing. I must inform you that I have changed my base, that is, I have left my old mess and have gone into another. You ask what made me do so. Well, I can tell you I didn't fall out with them, not at all, and would liked to have stayed in the mess with Cameron, but I found a chance to get into a mess where they do not use God's name and point a finger of scorn at those who try to live a christian life. I have tried to quit swearing every since I have been in the army, but finding that some cared nothing for the feelings of those that are trying to live for Eternity, I thought I had better withdraw and get into a mess where my feelings would be respected. I am now with Bro. Epperson, C. W. Umbarger [Charles W., Sgt. Co. C], Isaac N. Umbarger [Isaac Milton, Pvt.Co. C] and others. I hope Cameron will be able to get with us as soon as we get out of the shanties and get into tents again. All the boys are well as far as I know. You intimated that you would like to know how close I was to the smallpox. We are in about a quarter of a mile of it. There are no new cases since I wrote last and I think it will soon die out if proper precaution is observed. I reckon you thought I could ask more questions than any body in my last letter and I expect you got tired of answering them, but I want to ask another. Have you all of our sheep at home yet? Well we are having some of the roughest weather we have had this winter. It sleeted and snowed about 6 inches deep the other day and it is now melting off and is a perfect slush. I and Bro. Epperson had a letter last night from Bro. Boring [Capt. William C. Bourne]. He said they had a good meeting at Mt. Pleasant [Methodist Church, Wythe County] and he said you and father were there and did him a good service in preaching, praying and singing, talking to penitents and rejoicing. I wish I could have been there to enjoy the meeting. I hope I will soon be free from this war. I feel that you remember me in your prayers. My paper is about exhausted and I must close. Write soon.

Your affectionate son,
Thomas W. Fisher[35]

May 30, 1863

My Dear Father:—

I have delayed writing to you for a considerable time expecting to find out something about the matter of your coming out here and my coming home, but as yet I cannot tell how it will turn out. The probability is that it will not go through. Col. Clark told me that the paper came back disapproved by Gen. Jones [Samuel] and he seemed to be out of humor about it. He said he had Col. Fornsberg's [Augustus] consent and he didn't see why Gen. Jones did not approve it. He said I should write you and tell you that the paper came back unapproved, but that he was not going to give it up and would go see General Jones himself in a few days and see if he could put it through. As soon as I hear anything different about it I will write or come myself if so be that it goes through O. K. I believe that I have no strange news to write at this time. I am still enjoying good health and getting along as well as you could expect for a soldier to do. I have been up at the widow Litz' several times since you left and do you know I tried every way to give her pay for your board and staying there not one cent would she have pay, she says she does not do business that way. They are just as clever folks as I ever got acquainted with. Well I have nothing more to write unless I fill it out with foolishness and as today is the sabbath it would not be prudent to do so, in fact I have already written more on business than I like to do on Sunday.

The boys are all well and join me in sending their respects to you. With the best wishes for your welfare, both spiritual and temporal, I close hoping to hear from you soon.

Your devoted son, Thomas W. Fisher[36]

In June 1863 the 51st regiment was ordered into Tennessee to provide support to Gen. S.B. Buckner's command near Chattanooga. While the 51st was encamped near Morristown, the Yankees came within fourteen miles, burning a railroad depot and leaving without engaging in conflict. After an uneventful two weeks in the area, Gen. Wharton ordered the regiment to return to camp at Glade Spring to protect the salt works. On June 27, the small unit guarding Saltville was endangered by a Federal brigade, and the 51st was ordered to fortify the defense there. They moved by railroad.[37]

Camp near Glade Springs, Va.
June 29, 1863

Dear father and mother:--

I have no doubt but what you have been looking for a letter from me some days passed and perhaps have become uneasy about me. But to tell the truth we have been running about so much here of late that I

have had no chance to write. I used to think I never would get tired of riding the cars, but I have changed my mind. I wrote you a few lines and sent it by Mr. Rose the day before we left New River bridge the first time, but it turned out that he did not get off home that day and at night we received orders to go to Tenn. We started that night (or rather the next morning which was Saturday.) We got to Max Meadows about daylight passed on through Wythe County that morning. We arrived at Bristol about 3:00 o'clock in the evening. We had a pleasant ride as it was dry weather. We were cheered on by ladies waving their handkerchiefs from the windows and doors of almost every house we passed.

Some of our men in the regiment acted mean and amused themselves by shooting at dogs, geese, and sheep along the road. 1 or 2 were killed. Well we changed cars at Bristol and left there about an hour by sun. Day light Sunday morning found us at Rogersville Junction 75 miles the other side of Bristol. From there we went to Morristown. But through the Union men (of which there are quite a few in East Tennessee.) The Yankees found out we were there and no sooner did they find it out than they skedaddled. They burned 3 or 4 bridges and some little property besides. But I must digress: the harvest when we were out there. If the crop is as good and there is as much out all over Tennessee as where we were, I believe that state alone can supply 1/4 the Confederate army. Corn doesn't look so well, although there are large crops planted. I believe that at least 2/3 of the cleared land is in grain. But to return to telling you of our trip. We stayed at Morristown, Tenn., till last Thursday when we were ordered back to ole Virginia again. I shall never forget that morning. We were all tired of the place. The band was on top of a car and when we started they commenced playing, "Carry Me Back To Old Virginia." And cheering, I have never heard the 51st do as they did then. We were quite merry coming back and we came over the country in day time and enjoyed it very much. I must now close. Remember me in your prayers.

Your affectionate son, Thomas W. Fisher[38]

Editor's note: Early in July 1863, the 51st regiment was ordered to the Shenandoah Valley, where they joined the Army of Northern Virginia and saw more action in battle. Thomas continued to write to his family, describing life on the battlefield. One of his letters recounts a cavalry charge, a tale that is not to be missed.

• • • To be continued in the next issue • • •

Author's note:

This paper is written in tribute to Thomas Winton Fisher, my great-great grandfather (descending through Reuben Paul Fisher, Nettye Fisher Riggle, and Mildred Riggle Brown). In all the letters uncovered and studied and other research completed, no disparaging word was found. In my eyes he was a great man, a man to be honored and respected for his wartime bravery and his unwavering faith in God, even when the days were darkest. He left behind a legacy of faith, a legacy passed on to future generations.

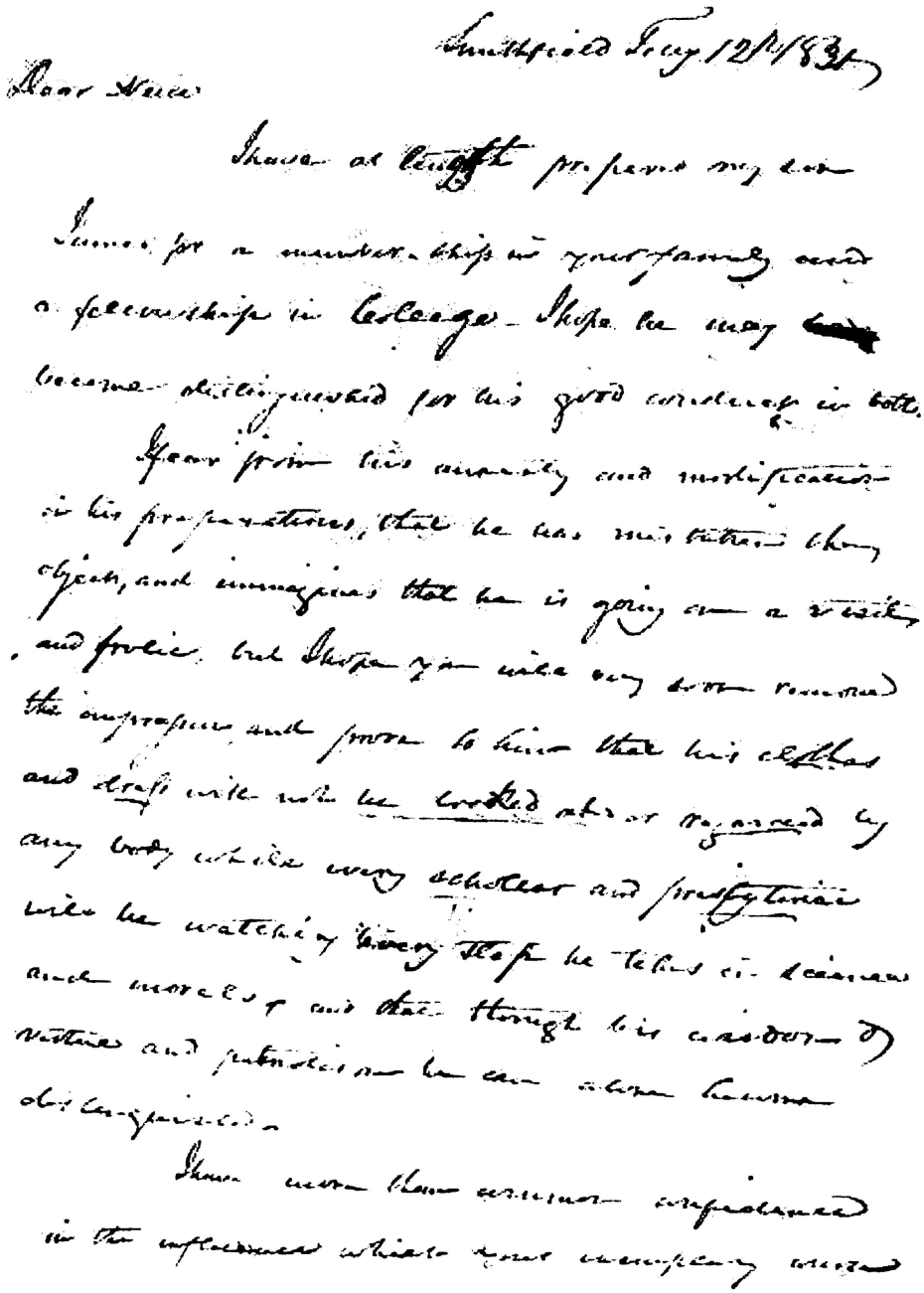
The path taken toward this assemblage of 33 TWF letters has been curious and evolutionary. Upon the death of my great-aunt (Mrs. F. Mark Fisher) in 1985, Mother and I inherited seven original letters. When reading James Davis's history of Thomas's 51st Regiment, we noted Thomas Winton Fisher letters among the credits. At that time my husband wrote Professor James I. Robertson, inquiring about the letters in his files, whereupon he sent copies of those later known to be typed transcripts of the October, 1933, clippings from the *Southwest Virginia Enterprise,* a Wytheville, Virginia, newspaper. Since this project was begun, the final letter was forwarded from a Waynesboro relative.

Special thanks to Bobbie Irvin Jones, who organized her Grandmother's newspaper clippings of some of the TWF letters; to Merle Neece Hash for typing those TWF letters and forwarding them to Professor Robertson's Civil War files; to Dianne McGinley Gardener and Mildred Riggle Brown for providing photographs which help to make the words come alive and also to Dianne for her Fisher genealogy; to James I. Robertson for making his files available; and to author James A. Davis for his detailed history, *51st Virginia Infantry*.[39]

Endnotes

1. Thomas Winton Fisher, tombstone at Mt. Ephraim Methodist Church Cemetery, Crockett, Va.
2. K.C. Atkins, Obituary of Judith 0. Fisher, *Wytheville* (Va.) *Dispatch*, March 26, 1888.
3 Thomas Winton Fisher Family Bible: Birth, death, marriage records.
4. Ibid.
5. Helen M. Lewis and Suzanna O'Donnell, *Remembering Our Future* (Ivanhoe [Wythe County], Va.: The Ivanhoe History Project, 1990), page 27.
6. James A. Davis, *51st Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard Co., 1984), pp. 3-5.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., p. 50.

10. State Library of Confederate Records, Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond.
11. Frances Ann Fisher, Letter to Thomas Winton Fisher, May 30, 1862. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
12. Wabash Camp, 8 miles south of Giles Court House.
13. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
14. Rev. Absalom Fisher often visited camp bringing supplies and comforts.
15. Camp Loring, named for Gen. W. W. Loring, Commander of the Department of Western Virginia.
16. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 10, 1933.
17. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
18. "An outstanding victory...with severe loss of men and officers in Federal units." Davis, *51st Virginia Infantry*, p. 15.
19. Ibid. Here the Confederate 1st and 3rd Brigades again flanked and put Federals on the move.
20. Jacob Thomas, friend and member of Mt. Ephraim Methodist Church, Crockett, Va.
21. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
22. Davis, *51st Virginia Infantry*, p. 16.
23. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
24. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
25. Original: Ronald W. Harris, Waynesboro, Va.
26. Frances Ann Fisher, Letter to Thomas Winton Fisher, October 19, 1862. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
27. Thomas Winton Fisher Family Bible.
28. Frances Ann Fisher, Letter to Thomas Winton Fisher, May 30, 1862. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
29. Original: Darlene Brown Simpson.
30. Original Mildred Riggle Brown.
31. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933 (Wytheville, Va.)
32. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
33. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
34. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
35. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
36. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
37. Davis, *51st Virginia Infantry*, p. 18.
38. Printed in *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, October 1933.
39. Davis, *51st Virginia Infantry*.



First page of a letter from James Patton Preston to Susanna Smith Preston McDowell, February 12, 1831. Smithfield-Preston Foundation Collection, Collections Department, University Libraries, Virginia Tech.

James Patton Preston's Wayward Son:
Letters from the Smithfield-Preston Foundation Collection at Virginia Tech

Laura Katz Smith

The Special Collections Department of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech has been the fortunate recipient of several significant collections of manuscripts and original materials relating to the Preston family and the Smithfield Plantation in Montgomery County, Virginia, in the last several years. In Volume II of *The Smithfield Review*[1] I wrote about Preston family-related collections available at academic institutions and historical societies across the United States, but I will now focus on the features of one extraordinary collection.[2]

The Smithfield-Preston Foundation collection was donated to the Special Collections Department in July 1997 by the organization of the same name. The collection had been donated to the Foundation by Mrs. Frances Preston Fox, formerly of Roanoke, Virginia. Mrs. Fox's mother, Frances Preston Venable, purchased the letters at a McDowell family auction sometime in the years between 1935 and 1939.[3]

The collection consists of over 200 letters and documents written almost exclusively by two generations of members of the Preston family to James McDowell (1770–1835) and his wife Sarah Preston McDowell (1767–1841) of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and their son James (1795–1851) and his wife Susanna Smith Preston McDowell (1800–47). Most of the letters were written by the brothers and sisters, and their spouses, of Sarah Preston McDowell and the children of her brothers Francis Preston (1765–1835) and James Patton Preston (1774–1843).

The content of the letters, which date from 1784 to 1881, with the bulk written from the 1810s to the 1840s, span the range of human emotion and experience. Several of the letters focus purely on the business or political dealings of the family, especially with the ownership of a salt manufacturing business at the Preston property in Saltville in Smyth County, Virginia, or with the various elections of the Preston and McDowell men to the

Virginia Senate or other political offices. The letters written by the female relations of Sarah Preston McDowell and Susanna Smith Preston McDowell usually deal with family and domestic matters — the health of their children, buying fabric for clothing, and their yearning for more frequent visits to each other. Of course, being the principal method of transferring information, several letters convey information about births, deaths, and marriages within the family.

One series of letters, written by James Patton Preston to James (1795–1851) and Susanna Smith Preston McDowell, provides interesting information about Preston's son James Francis Preston's career as a student at Washington College, in 1831. Washington College, now known as Washington and Lee University, is located in Lexington, Virginia, close to the McDowell home of Col Alto in Rockbridge County. James Patton Preston sent his son to the school, and asked James McDowell to keep a close watch on the youth.

James Patton Preston, the fourth son of William and Susanna Smith Preston, had a distinguished and varied career during his sixty-nine years.[4] Born at Smithfield in 1774, he attended the College of William and Mary from 1794 to 1796, was a trustee in 1798 of the newly established town of Blacksburg, Virginia, adjacent to his ancestral home, and served in the Virginia Senate. From 1809 to 1815 he rose through the ranks of the Virginia militia to that of colonel, until a battlefield injury crippled his leg. He served as Governor of Virginia from 1816 to 1819, and as postmaster of Richmond from 1824 to 1837. He resided alternately in Richmond and Smithfield until his death in 1843. He married Ann Barraud Taylor in 1801 and fathered eight children.

James McDowell (1795–1851) had an equally illustrious career. Son to James (1770–1835) and Sarah Preston McDowell (sister to James Patton Preston), he married his cousin Susanna Smith Preston (1800–47) in 1818. Like his uncle James Patton Preston, he too was a distinguished member of the Virginia militia, and attended Washington College, Yale College, and the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). He was a founder of the Virginia Historical Society and represented Rockbridge County in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1830 to 1835. And, again like his uncle, he served as Governor of Virginia from 1843 to 1846, as well as a member of the United States Senate from 1846 to 1851.

The first letter from James Patton Preston was addressed to his niece Susanna, written February 12, 1831. He has sent his son off to school with high hopes, but with the fear that young James will not behave himself as a gentleman should. He writes:

Dear Niece

I have at length prepared my son James for a member-ship in your family and a fellowship in College. I hope he may become distinguished for his good conduct in both.

I fear from his anxiety and mortification in his preparations, that he has mistaken the objects, and immagines that he is going on a visit, and frolic, but I hope you will very soon remove the impression, and prove to him that his clothes and dress will not be looked at or regarded by any body, while every scholear and presbyterian will be watching every step he takes in science and morals, and that through his wisdom & virtue and patriotism he can alone become distinguished.

I have more then common confidence in the influence which your exemplary course will have upon his conduct. I felt sensably the impression which Mr. McDowell made upon me favorably in his conversations respecting James's capacity and I thought that his devotion to reading and high attainments, will infuse into my son a similar spirit and then I should have accomplished all I desire. If James can have his ambition[?] stirred up and could be brought to indulge the least enthusiasm I know that the qualities of his head & heart must assign no ordinary standing, but I was speaking like a doting[?] father and if it were not to a neice it would be unpardonable variety.

After he has been with you long enough to judge of his course, will you do my wife and myself the favor to write to us of him saying what you think truly and openly and expressing what you wish us to say or do for him ...

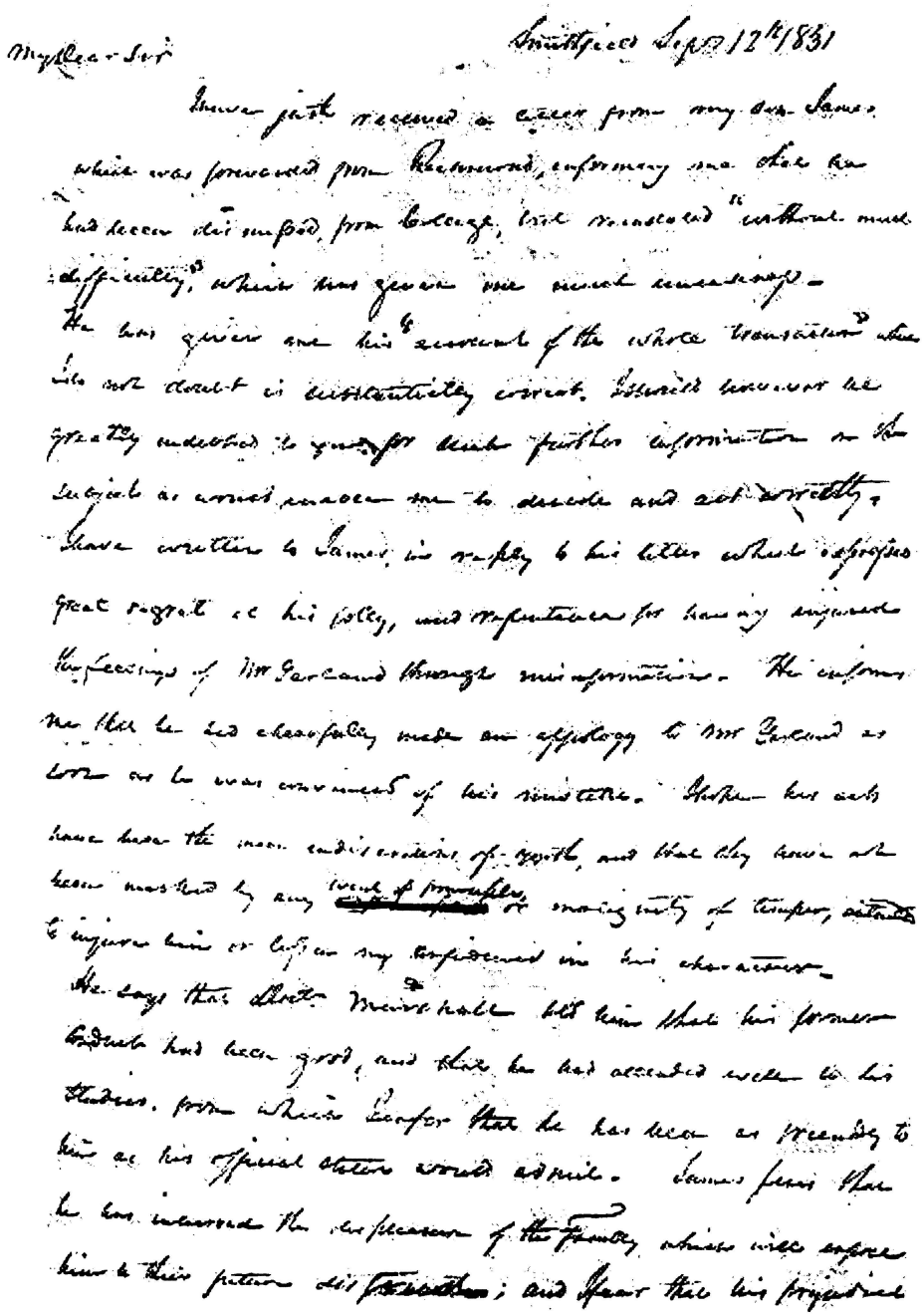
Your Afft. Uncle
James P. Preston

After seven months, when the next letter about the subject is available, it is apparent that James Francis Preston has not behaved in the manner expected of him. His father writes to James McDowell on September 12, from Smithfield, about the situation:

My Dear Sir

I have just received a letter from my son James which was forwarded from Richmond, informing me that he had been dismissed from College, but reinstated "without much difficulty," which has given me much uneasiness.

He has given me his "account of the whole transaction" which I do not doubt is substantially correct. I should however be greatly indebted to you for such further information on the subject as would enable me to decide and act correctly. I have written to James, in reply to his letter which expresses great regret at his folly, and repentance for having injured



First page of a letter from James Patton Preston to James McDowell, September 12, 1831. Smithfield-Preston Foundation Collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, Virginia Tech.

the feelings of Mr Garland through misinformation. He informs me that he had cheerfully made an appology to Mr. Garland as soon as he was convinced of his mistake. I hope his acts have been the mere indiscretions of youth, and that they have not been marked by any want of principle, or malignity of temper, calculated to injure him or lessen my confidence in his character.

He says that Doctr. Marshall told him that his former conduct had been good, and that he had attended well to his studies, from which I wager that he has been as friendly to him as his official status would admit. James fears that he has incurred the displeasure of the Faculty which will expose him to their future distrust; and I fear that his prejudice may sour him against them to an extent injurious to his future safty and success. I must therefore my Dear nephew get you to place a vigilent eye over him, and should you discover any probability of his being injurious to the Institution or himself, that you will give me promply and confidently the information, that I may withdraw him without a public stigma, and save him from dismisal or expulsion. I see much folly and insubordination in the students ridiculous serenade, but I should think that censure or suspension, would be punishment enough for such an offence. To dismiss or expell a young man from College is a punishment little short of the Penitentiary or death. It cuts off his future hopes of professional or literary attainments. Besides it is the deepest wound upon parental hopes that can be endured ...

With sincere and respectful affection I am your uncle

James P. Preston

By October we learn that young James has continued his misbehavior, and is expelled again. James Patton Preston writes James McDowell on the 16th of that month:

My Dear Nephew

Your letter of the 4th was handed to me by my son James, whose delay had given some uneasiness. Your statement of the affair which brought about his dismissal is precisely the same which he had given me, and altho as you say "his offence was of a description in no respect calculated to impair any ones confidence in his morals or lesser his standing even with the faculty that dismissed him, as an honorable young man," I deeply regret it, because I fear among the illiberal and straight laced it will be recollected to his disadvantage. The indiscretion of a silly serenade deserved admonition, had the dismissal of a student, for playing on a jews harp in the hearing of the profession, without a demand for explanation, or a suitable appology for so trivial and childish an act, was certainly a punishment too severe for the nature of the offence; either censure, or

suspension, would have seemed like acting less under the momentary influence of resentment, and personal feeling. There is no man more sensible of the necessity of discipline among Virginia boys, & students, than I am, but from the nature of their education and state of society, they must be made to feel the authority of the laws and not of persons over them. To correct a spirit of insubordination it was right to make an example, but as James declares that he had no intention of offering disrespect to the professors, by his childishness, in playing on a jews harp at the time he did, and as his reputation for attention to his duties had even interested the kind feelings of Doctr. Marshall for him, I think it fell unfortunately on an improper object, and I am therefore not surprised at his indiscreet resentment under the unexpected punishment. He has attoned for all, and I rejoice that you have been able to get him back to College priviledges again, as I should have considered it a calamity to have had his prospects ruined and overthrown by an idle boyish folly at the early age of seventeen. I have not expressed these opinions to my son. Your affectionate invitation, with your declaration that "competent vigilent and attached teachers, with cultivated associates afford advantages to that which should not be yielded on a whim" has induced me to decide upon sending him back to your parental roof and care. He is my youngest son, and I have thought an hopeful one, pure and innocent I believe, and if with the faculty his reputation has been impaired, I desire that his conduct and their justice may restore it upon the spot where it occurred. Your other reasons for his return are the dictates of your benevolence and affection, and describe all I have to offer for them, my sincere and grateful acknowledgements ...

We all desire to be affectionately remembered — our Rockbridge clan.

Your Uncle
James P. Preston

Such frantic letters would portend a misbegotten and wanton future for poor young James Francis, but with the distance of 168 years between then and now, we know that he went on to become a credit to his family's good name. James Francis Preston (1813–62) left Washington College in 1832 without graduating and attended the United States Military Academy. He left West Point in 1833, again without graduating, studied law, and became Commonwealth's Attorney for Montgomery County and then a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. He established "White Thorne," his portion of the Smithfield estate inherited by him from his father.[5] The White Thorne Manor house still stands in the midst of the Blacksburg housing development known as Hethwood.

James Francis Preston served as a soldier in the Mexican War, and during the Civil War was a colonel in the 4th Virginia Infantry Regiment, part of the Stonewall Brigade, of the Confederate States of America Army. He was wounded on July 21, 1861, at the Battle of First Manassas, and died on January 20, 1862 from disease and the effects of his battle wounds.[6] He married Sarah Ann Caperton in 1855, and they produced three sons.[7]

These three letters give a mere hint of the riches within the Smithfield-Preston Foundation collection. The Special Collections Department provides the opportunity for all interested researchers to view the original letters in the department reading room, or to see the digitized copies of the letters, with transcriptions, at the collection's website at:

http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/mss/SmithfieldPreston.htm

Descriptions of other Preston family collections, as well as the Montgomery County research resources, are available at:

http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/specgen/mcintro.htm

Endnotes

1. Laura Katz Smith, "A Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections of the Preston Family," *The Smithfield Review* (Montgomery County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities), Volume II, 1998.
2. Other examples of significant Preston family collections include the Alice Preston Moore collection and the Charles Peale Didier collection of Preston papers. Both collections hold business transactions, land surveys, and correspondence of William Preston (1729–83), a surveyor in the county and active in the military affairs of the Virginia frontier. Preston, with his wife Susanna Smith Preston (1740–1825), settled in Montgomery County and built Smithfield Plantation beginning in 1772.
   The University Libraries also holds the papers of Robert Taylor Preston (1809–80), grandson of William Preston, who was born at Smithfield and built his home nearby, at Solitude, now part of the Virginia Tech campus. The department holds later papers dealing with Smithfield, those accumulated during the renovations of the property done in the 1960s and 1970s by what was by that time the owner, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the same organization that owns Jamestown.
3. Information about the acquisition of the letters came from a telephone conversation with Mrs. Frances Preston Fox, presently a resident of Maui, Hawaii, on January 18, 1999. Mrs. Fox is a descendant of Francis Preston (1765–1835), brother of James Patton Preston and Sarah Preston McDowell, mentioned later in this article.
4. Most of the biographical information about the members of the Preston and McDowell families mentioned here, particularly of James Patton Preston, James McDowell, and James Francis Preston, is gathered from John Frederick Dorman, *The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia* (Louisville, Kentucky: The Filson Club, Inc., 1982).
5. James Patton Preston's original Smithfield estate was divided among his three sons, William Ballard Preston, Robert Taylor Preston, and James Francis Preston. The 1860 Montgomery County census and Dorman, *The Prestons of Smithfield and*

Greenfield in Virginia, show James Francis Preston's real estate valued at $41,800 and his personal property valued at $43,450. William Ballard Preston's property, the original property at Smithfield, was worth $132,000 and personal property valued at $251,338. Robert Taylor Preston, who built Solitude as his home, had his land valued at $44,830 and his personal property at $37,500.

6. James I Robertson, Jr. *4th Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, Virginia: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1982.), p. 68.
7. The author wishes to thank Kevin Roberts, of Blacksburg, Virginia, for his assistance and research of information about James Francis Preston and White Thorne.

The Smithfield Review
Volume III, 1999

Bottom Creek — From Community to Conservancy

Jim Crawford

In the far eastern corner of Montgomery County, cloistered atop Poor Mountain, rests The Nature Conservancy's Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve. Now the emblem of humankind's efforts to preserve diversity of nature, the preserve also harbors the fading remains of an isolated mountain community. The story of the old Bottom Creek community is the story of this region's cultural past and reminds us of our interconnectedness with the environment.

The popular preserve is a place of edges, boundaries, isolation, and awesome elevation changes. The cultural history of the preserve was molded by its unique geography, not only its physical geography but its political and cultural geography as well.

Physically, the 1,657-acre preserve lies atop Poor Mountain along the southern rim of the Roanoke Valley, where the Blue Ridge Mountains fan out into a rugged plateau. Its foundation of Precambrian granite and gneiss are some of Virginia's oldest geologic formations. From its perch at the edge of this highland plateau of uplands and ravines, Bottom Creek drops a thousand feet in less than a mile to join Goose Creek. Together they form the south fork of the Roanoke River on its course to North Carolina's Albemarle Sound. Along the creek's precipitous descent through Bottom Creek Gorge, Camp Creek cascades into the gorge, forming Bent Mountain Falls, the second highest waterfall in Virginia.

Politically, the preserve is tucked into the easternmost corner of Montgomery County, bordering the intersection of Montgomery, Roanoke, and Floyd counties. Towering Poor Mountain and the precipitous Bottom Creek Gorge served to isolate the former community of Bottom Creek from the rest of Montgomery County to the west.

Culturally, this land has been host to several distinct patterns. The beliefs of the first people to live on this land were animistic; their social and economic systems were tribal and subsistence level.[1] These Native Americans left very little in the way of a physical imprint. They were supplanted by an onslaught of European culture whose God reigned over all human-

kind and nature. The colonialists soon initiated the institution of slavery, which lasted nearly 250 years, deeply marking the land and its inhabitants. The first white settlers to work the land of the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve owned slaves.[2] From our position 135 years after the emancipation of slaves, it is difficult to understand and interpret what we see now through the sordid lens of slavery.

The cultural landscape of this region can be traced back to sporadic contact many thousands of years before the Bottom Creek community was established. Tom Klatka, archaeologist with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, has excavated evidence of a campsite dating to the Middle Archaic Period (6000–2500 B.C.) in the Bottom Creek community. The specimens found include quartzite, quartz, and chert flakes; one quartz Guilford projectile point; and one sherd with cordmarked exterior surface and quartz temper. In relating how he found these 5,000-year-old artifacts, Klatka described the geography of the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve. "If I wanted to find an archaic site, one thing that I know: if I go into a mountainous area and I go to a saddle or a ridge top or a ridge bench, something like that – especially an area where you've got some level land and you're in very close proximity to water, small spring heads, and southern exposure, there's very high probability of finding a site," Klatka said.[3]

In the period from 500 A.D. to 1600 A.D. ancestors to the Totera Indians, (also called Totero, or Tutelo), lived extensively in this region.[4] Today, residents of the Bottom Creek area have found many stone points and tools of these pre-colonial peoples.[5]

Totera Indians of the Siouan linguistic group lived in small clans of up to 100 people per village. Their palisaded villages were located near rivers and streams. Their well-built houses were poles set in the ground in a circle and joined at the top, the sides covered with strips of bark or mats. Their gardens had many of the same crops as our gardens today: corn, tobacco, gourds, sunflowers, and beans. They also harvested wild plants and herbs and relied on hunting and fishing to provide sufficient meat. Bear, deer, elk, mountain lion, turkey, box turtle, and passenger pigeon were mainstays of their diet.

Village life consisted of activities such as pottery making, processing animal hides, tool making, cooking in a central communal area, tending garden plots, hunting, and foraging. In all likelihood, these peoples practiced animism. Each clan had a benevolent spirit, represented by a familiar animal, which provided for their needs.[6]

It is estimated that at least 50,000 Indians inhabited the entire state of Virginia when the English established Jamestown in 1607.[7] The colonial

presence in Jamestown got off to a rocky start. In the first 15 years, 14,000 Europeans came to the malaria-infested settlement. Of these souls, 13,000 perished of disease or famine or in the Great Massacre of 1622.

After 1622 the fortunes of the colonial settlers changed mainly due to the growing importance of one export crop: tobacco. With the aid of legislation that forbade the growing of tobacco in England or Ireland in 1619, the English Parliament predetermined Virginia's economic and political heartbeat.[8] Tobacco became Virginia's medium of exchange and left its cultural geographic mark on her land in the prominence of the plantation and its voracious appetite for land and labor. In 1619, the first year African slaves were brought to Virginia, the colony shipped out only 20,000 pounds of tobacco. By 1627, 500,000 pounds were exported. In 1619 the population of the colony was around 2,500. By 1662 the burgeoning population was 40,000.[9]

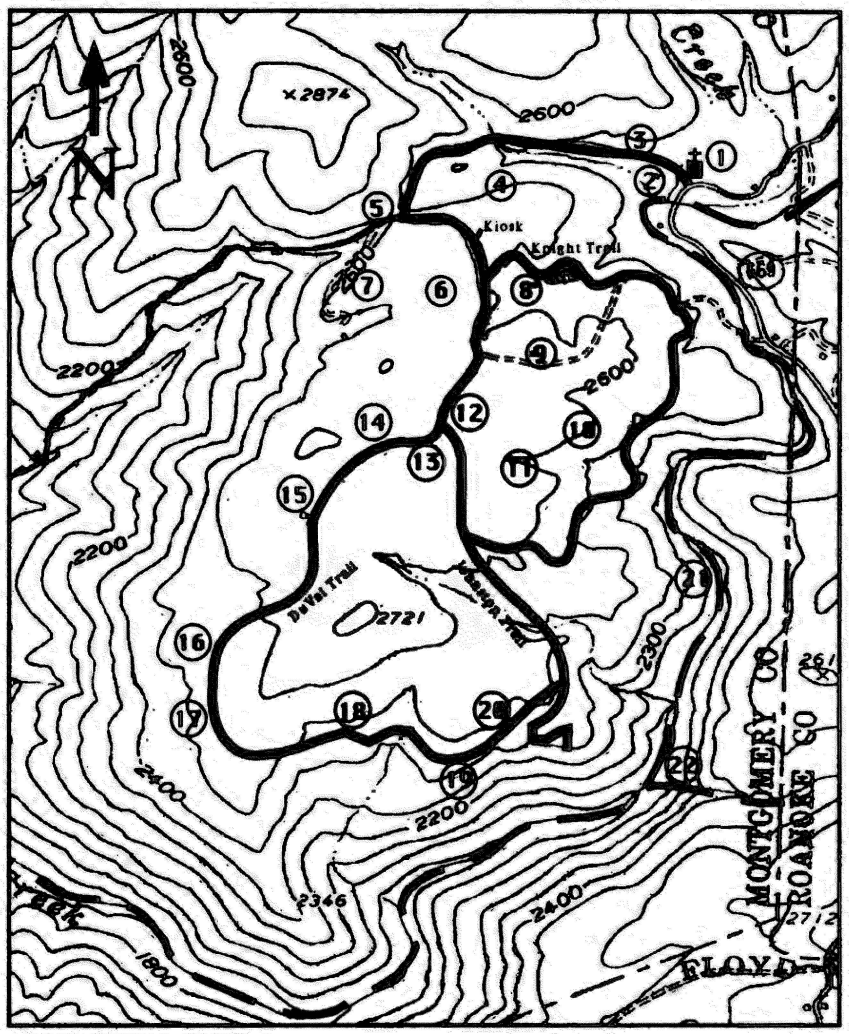
Archeological evidence suggests that shortly after the Indians' first contact with colonialists, 80–90 percent of them died of smallpox or influenza. The survivors were either taken into bondage or moved into other territories to the west.

This was true in the Roanoke region. In 1671 explorers Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam ventured through the gap in the mountains just to the north of Bottom Creek in the Roanoke Valley. These explorers provided the first written documentation of Indians living in this region, a Totera Indian village in the valley. By the 1720s traders and trappers in the Roanoke Valley found few, if any, Indians. The Totera Indians had vanished from the area.[10]

As more settlers, mainly of Scotch-Irish and German ancestry, moved south into the valley from Pennsylvania and Maryland or westward up the James and Roanoke rivers from the Virginia Piedmont, the frontier spilled over the divide into the New River Valley and Greenbrier river system. These waters flow into the Ohio River system and on to the Mississippi River on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. The French controlled the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and this expansion by the colonialists into these river systems set the stage for the French and Indian War.[11]

In 1753 skirmishes began in these outer settlements, and this frontier region was abandoned. The Roanoke and James river valleys became the frontier for the next decade until hostilities diminished. In 1756, just below Poor Mountain, along the south fork of the Roanoke River in the present day Shawsville area, a contingent of Indians under French command entered the area and attacked a stockade fort built by Ephraim Vause, capturing most of the occupants and burning Vause's Fort.

Shaded areas are The Nature Conservancy's Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve located in Montgomery County.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET

Legend

(1) Bottom Creek Church
(2) Leland Craighead Home
(3) William "Buck" Craighead Home
(4) Maxey Place
(5) Mt. Road to Shawsville
(6) Funk Cemetery
(7) Jim Poff Home
(8) Tenant House
(9) Funk Residences
(10) Tenant House
(11) Tenant House
(12) Will Funk Home
(13) King - Collins Homeplace
(14) Funk's Mt. School
(15) Walter Manning Homeplace
(16) Hall Cemetery
(17) R. Woods Hall Homeplace
(18) Jesse Hall Home
(19) Zenas Hall Home
(20) Lee King Home
(21) Bottom Creek
(22) Bent Mountain Falls

That same year Governor Dinwiddie ordered the militia to construct a more substantial fort near the same site. This fort, Fort Vause, was inspected by George Washington during construction.[12] The Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve lies at the edge of this frontier, within three miles of the divide between waters flowing to the Gulf of Mexico and to the Atlantic coast.

With the cessation of conflict around 1763, the frontier surged westward and new counties were established. In 1770 Botetourt County was formed from Augusta County, its vast boundaries stretching to the banks of the Mississippi. Montgomery County was organized in 1777 from Fincastle and Botetourt counties, and it encompassed an area three times larger than Connecticut. Since its formation, thirty-two counties wholly or in part were formed from it to reach its present boundary lines.[13]

In the early 1800s, the heirs to General Andrew Lewis, who owned several hundred thousand acres of the highland plateau, sold large tracts to families moving to the mountains. This land was choice for growing tobacco. The settlers cleared forests to make way for their tobacco fields which were bounded by log drying-sheds. Other families moved into the area as homesteaders or tenant farmers.[14]

Among these homesteaders, in the 1840s, William Craighead, the son of Timothy Craighead and Mary "Poly" Agee, came to the area from the Hales Ford section of Franklin County. The 1850 census lists William Craighead as being 45 years old.

According to Robert O. Craighead, William's great-great-grandson, William came to Bottom Creek with his oxen, his wagons, his tobacco seed, his family, and an unknown number of slaves. He eventually acquired land totaling around 2,000 acres, including much of the land now owned by The Nature Conservancy. Family oral history depicts William's wife, Susannah Maxey, as part Cherokee Indian.[15]

During this period, altitude was a barometer of impoverishment. The higher you lived above the surrounding valleys, the poorer you were likely to be. To the west of the valley below Bottom Creek, the Scot, John Loudon McAdam, was supervising the construction of the first road built by his McAdam system.[16] The macadam pavement, formed by covering packed crushed rock and clay with a surface of tar, improved the Great Road and offered excellent transport for horsedrawn vehicles, aiding the movement of thousands of families westward. Also, the railroad was completed with connections to the Atlantic coast at Norfolk. Christiansburg, the county seat of Montgomery County, was at the railhead, and this period was one of prosperity for Montgomery County.

As the valley below prospered, William and his family cut and burned clearings for their first crops. He soon learned that not enough tillable land

existed in that area to make a living growing tobacco. The plantation model of Virginia's vast Piedmont territory, where fields produced tobacco for three years before being abandoned and new fields cleared, could not be applied to this section of mountain plateau.

The early community turned to a forest economy. The forest supplied many of life's necessities: shelter, fences, wagons, buckets, eating utensils, food, furniture, herbal remedies, heat, and money, to name a few. The first houses were small log cabins, tucked along the hillsides, some covered with split clapboards. Window openings were small or non-existent. The floors were logs, hewn smooth on one side and often removable in a section above a dirt cellar for the storage of fruits and vegetables.[17]

Other families, many of Scotch-Irish descent, joined the Craigheads. As the community developed, the old log cabins were expanded or replaced with wood frame structures. New homes were built as families grew and new families began. Millard Collins, a third-generation Bottom Creek native who now lives in Portsmouth, is not sure when the Collinses first came to Bottom Creek. "But I do know why they were over here from Ireland," he said. "They transported them over here for horse thieves from Ireland. And they either come over here or get hung, and that's the reason the Collinses are over in here."

Montgomery County deed records provide documentation of grants and sales of land amongst the principal families of the area. The large families in the community became inter-related in complex ways, including the commonplace marriage between first cousins. "They were cousins, yeah, a lot of them were cousins," one former resident said of the early family marriages. "But they didn't have a whole lot of other people in the neighborhood to pick from, did they?"[18]

Records show that in 1845 William Craighead granted 363 acres of land to his children for the sum of one dollar. William reserved the right to live on the land rent free for the rest of his life. His personal belongings were listed as consisting of five feather beds, household furniture, ten head of cattle, one yellow mare, one dark bay horse, and ten head of sheep. A later account of William's personal belongings included fifty bushels of corn, 1,200 pounds of leaf tobacco, nine feather beds, three head of milking cows, five heifers, five sheep, one side house, and one horse. Bottom Creek's waters provided food, recreation, and power for the community, as well as a place of reflection. In 1850 Montgomery County granted William Craighead permission to construct a fifteen-foot-high dam to power a gristmill and a sawmill near the present entrance to the preserve.[19]

The Bottom Creek community grew to around 70 people in its heyday from 1900 to 1920. "Of course we all had the same grandparents," Genny

Virginia (Kreger), Jessie, and Nettie Craighead in the Bottom Creek Community, circa 1917.

Henderson says, referring to William and Susannah Craighead, her great-great-grandparents. At one time there were two small stores, a church, and a school within the community. Besides farming, some in the area found they could make a living growing apples, and the area became known for its orchards. When first entering the preserve, one passes by the remains of "The Little Brown Church on Bottom Creek," which rests on the knoll to the right of the road in a stand of white pines. It is a fitting symbol of the community and the many people who lived difficult but fulfilled lives in this corner of Montgomery County.

The church was the heart of the community. The simple one-room, wood-frame building, lighted by kerosene lamps and heated with a potbelly stove, reflected the intense community spirit and common thread that bound these people together for more than one hundred years.

The church was used by various denominations, alternating Sundays, and often the same people attended, regardless of denomination. Ministers would come from Christiansburg and Shawsville and as far away as Salem. The community looked forward to revivals in the summer, and the visiting minister stayed with families in the community.[20]

In her memoirs, Genny Henderson tells of the community's shared effort to keep the church functioning:

> One of the ladies living nearby always assumed the responsibility for cleaning the building, filling the lamps with kerosene, trimming the wick, and washing the soot off the lamps from previous use. A man who lived nearby would see that there was some firewood for the little potbelly stove and would come to the church a little ahead of everyone else and have a fire going to warm up the building in the winter months.

"That's where I got saved," Virginia Kreger said, remembering the winter of 1910.

> I was about ten years old. I'll never forget the preaching at that revival. He said, "Two at the mill grinder, one taken, the other left. Two in the field, one taken, the other left." And that's it. I wasn't but about ten years old, and I remember that. He was a Brethren preacher. That was the best old preaching preacher. He'd read a verse and then he'd explain it. Anyway, there was nineteen baptized in December, and it was so cold they had to take an ax and cut the ice on the river. ...
>
> There was nineteen of us, and when we'd come out of the water, they'd take them [us] up to the house real quick. But I just went like a leaf when I came out of there; I didn't get cold, I don't remember getting cold at all. Nineteen baptized in December came out of that ice water.

Five-year-old Genny Craighead in the yard of the "Poff Place" where she was born in 1935. In the background is her father's mill house.

When no one was available to fill the pulpit in the one-room church, folks attended the Christo church along Bottom Creek or would arrange to attend the Brethren church at nearby Copper Hill.

Another structure still standing in the preserve is the Poff/Craighead homestead. It rests in a swale at the western edge of a field, surrounded by encroaching woods. An old roadbed passes to the south of the house, curving around the hill and into the woods beyond. The ground sloping out of the field, moist from spring seeps, seems to cascade down the grade into the woods. The house itself is gray and silent, its weathered siding and faltering tin roof slowly recycling to the earth. Rusted pieces of metal are scattered among clumps of grass and brush around the house under a canopy of pioneering trees.

Genny Craighead Henderson was born in this house, and her memories of her childhood reside here even though nature and time have altered their physical backdrop. She can recall the muffled talk of young boys walking along the road in the twilight to visit sweethearts, the sounds of young children playing, the solitude and grace of the picket fence, the dahlias, the chickens and kittens roaming the yard, the slosh of water carried from the springhouse, and the clatter and buzz of a young man's industry in the mill across the way.

To listen to the stories of people who grew up on Bottom Creek is to begin to understand a different time: no televisions, no electricity, no telephones. Work was hard and physical. "Life for us was better than a lot of people that were in here because Daddy always had a job," Genny said, thinking back to the late 1930s.

> A lot of people, you know, they were tenant farmers and didn't have income coming in. Life was good for us as long as I can remember. You know we always had a car and most the time had a truck and always had plenty of food; we had everything we needed except we didn't have modern conveniences. But everybody else had the same thing, so you didn't miss them. You didn't miss them at all.

From the beginning of the community in the 1850s into the 1940s, horses and mules helped plow the fields, transport the goods in wagons, and haul timber to the mill and tobacco to the market in Danville. It was common for a man and a woman to work from dawn to dark, especially during planting and harvesting times. Children worked alongside their parents in the fields.

Ninety-eight-year-old Virginia Kreger's best memory of her life on Bottom Creek was fixing cornbread on a sheet-iron wood stove while her husband, Jesse, was milking the cow:

> Of a morning he'd go milk while I got breakfast, and then I'd go to the field with him, and one of my sisters came and took care of the little girl. We'd come back, and maybe I had to churn at lunch time. You see, we had a cow. We loved cornbread and milk. I'd bake some cornbread and wrap it up in a clean towel and put it under the pillow to keep it warm. That's what we'd eat when he got home from work. When the chickens went to roost, we went to roost 'cause we had to get up the next morning early, you know. And I was happy. We were happy. I got out there and helped him, and he helped me in the house.

For the residents of Bottom Creek, registering land deeds, marriages, and deaths required a day-long trek down the mountain, past Alleghany Springs and Shawsville and up Christiansburg Mountain to the courthouse in Christiansburg. This old roadbed is still visible as it leaves the community, dropping down the steep mountainside to the valley below. Now, white pine, hemlocks, and other trees and brush have mostly reclaimed the old roadbed.

As time progressed, the community's isolation from the rest of the county gained in significance. Montgomery County graded only a short distance of the road into the community once a year. The dirt wagon road to Shawsville was steep and impassable during rainy periods. The roads in the community were never paved.

Within a few generations after the community began, resources on the mountain were diminished and work became harder to find. With the advent of the automobile, increased mobility lifted the veil of isolation. Families left the community, drawn to jobs and better education opportunities. Many found work in Roanoke with the Norfolk and Western Railroad and at the American Viscose plant, which opened in 1917.

As the community's population declined in the 1930s, the county closed the school. Children had to walk several miles to catch a bus to attend Bent Mountain School in Roanoke County. Losing the school signaled the end of the community. Soon the stores closed. The community's slow demise ultimately led to its death in the 1950s.[21]

Isolation and the lack of county services depressed property values even after the community faded. A Roanoke doctor bought some property and used one of the old homes as a hunting lodge. Some of the fields were fenced and cleared for a cattle operation whose workers were rumored to manufacture a little moonshine now and then.

This isolation, provided by the mountain and the county boundary, allowed nature the time to renew and adapt. The forest returned, covering bare hillsides, aged orchards, home sites, and yards. In 1988 The Nature

Amos and Edith Craighead in the Bottom Creek Community, circa 1937. The barren hillside in the background, testimony to years of timbering, is now forested.

Conservancy acquired the land and formed the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve.

Last spring, the first reunion of the Bottom Creek community was held at the preserve. It had been nearly fifty years since the community faded. Family members numbering in the hundreds gathered in the field near the Funk Cemetery. Awnings covered tables groaning with country cooking. The air seemed charged as the older folks visited, looked at old photographs, and reminisced. Their young grandchildren and great-grandchildren played amongst the chairs and tables and in the beds of pickup trucks, oblivious to the significance of the gathering.

The clear mountain air filled with the hum of conversation and laughter around clusters of lawn chairs. One card table held a box of fresh homegrown cantaloupes complete with a good knife for anyone to indulge himself or herself.

For many, the reunion was a cathartic event, a healing of the past. Some had not returned to this land since they had left many years ago, still unable to forget the hard times they had on this mountain. One woman told me that her husband would not come to the reunion. "Why would I want to go see that mountain that kept me from getting an education?" he had asked her.

Another summed up the feelings of many former residents: "This is what heaven's going to be like."

Today, many of those born in the Bottom Creek community and their descendants live nearby on the mountain plateau or in the valley around Salem and Roanoke, close to their roots. Their history and values reflect another time, an agrarian lifestyle that deeply bound these people to the land. "They had hard times; they was the happiest times," Virginia Kreger said. "People was happier then than they are now."

The words of a former resident echoes the sentiments of many Bottom Creek residents, reflecting the dual essence of this preserve as a refuge of nature and a repository of their history. "That was the best thing," he said. "Now I know can't nothing be happening over there."

Endnotes

1. Keith Egloff and Deborah Woodward, "First People, the Early Indians of Virginia" (Richmond, Virginia: The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1992), pp. 27-28; Interview with archeologist Tom Klatka at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, March 11, 1998.
2. Interviews with former residents of Bottom Creek: Genny Henderson, Millard Collins, and Robert Craighead. Also reference to ownership of Blacks by families

settling the Bent Mountain area, including the area of Bottom Creek are found in an article "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia" by Mrs. Philip St. Leger Moncure, winter 1992, available at the Roanoke Historical Society. Unpublished memoir of Bottom Creek Community written by Genny Henderson, available at Roanoke County Public Library, Bent Mountain branch. 1860 census records show one in five residents of Montgomery County were slaves.

3. Interview with Tom Klatka at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, March 11, 1998. Archaeological Site Inventory Form, Site Number 44MY455, filed with the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, 1/92.
4. Interview with Tom Klatka at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, March 11, 1998; Egloff and Woodward, "First People, the Early Indians of Virginia", pp. 49–50.
5. An extensive collection of arrowheads and other artifacts from the Woodland Period has been collected by Arthur Conner from the area around Bottom Creek and viewed by the author.
6. Interview with archeologist Tom Klatka at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, March 11, 1998.
7. Ibid.
8. Marshall W. Fishwick, "Virginia: A New Look at the Old Dominion" (New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1959), p. 10.
9. Ibid.
10. Interview with archeologist Tom Klatka at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, March 11, 1998.
11. F. B. Kegley, "Kegley's Virginia Frontier, The Beginning of the Southwest, The Colonial Days, 1740-1783" (Roanoke, Virginia: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938), pp. 131–35.
12. "The Montgomery County Story 1776–1957", compiled and edited by Charles W. Crush, Chairman of Montgomery County (Jamestown) Festival Committee, 1957, pp. 4–7.
13. Ibid., p. 15.
14. Mrs. Philip St. Leger Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia" (Winter 1992), available at the Roanoke Historical Society.
15. Interview with Robert Craighead, March 1998; and unpublished memoir of Bottom Creek written by Genny Henderson, available at Roanoke County Public Library, Bent Mountain branch.
16. "The Montgomery County Story 1776–1957", p. 62.
17. Mrs. Philip St. Leger Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia".
18. Genny Henderson, unpublished memoir of Bottom Creek community; interview with Genny Henderson, April 1, 1997.
19. Lee Mills, "Land Use History, Craighead and Hall, Bottom Creek, Montgomery County, Virginia." unpublished manuscript filed with the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, April, 1992.
20. Genny Henderson, unpublished memoir of Bottom Creek community.
21. Much of the detail of the Bottom Creek Community came from several sources, some of which are previously noted. These include the unpublished memoir of Bottom Creek written by Genny Henderson, and taped interviews conducted during the period from 1997 to the spring of 1998. The interviewees were Genny Henderson, Ocie Cralle, Virginia Kreger, Millard Collins, and Reba Conner.

Mary Elizabeth Hickman (1840–1909) — the second of Roger Hickman's eighteen children. She was the "Lizzie" referred to in many of William P. Hickman's letters. (The Virginia Historical Society has a photo of Flora Cooke Stuart (1836–1923), wife of J.E.B. Stuart, with an identical hairdo and a similar dress and earrings.)

William P. Hickman in the New River Valley, 1852–64[1]

H. William Gabriel

The Rev. William P. Hickman was a Presbyterian preacher who spent twenty-two years ministering to small congregations in Wythe, Pulaski, and Montgomery Counties until his life was cut short by the Civil War. Born at Sun Rise on Back Creek in Bath County in 1810, Hickman earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Washington College in Lexington before leaving his beloved mountains to attend the Union Theological Seminary at Hampden Sydney. Licensed to preach by the Lexington Presbytery, he began his labors as a Home Missionary in Pulaski County in 1842, and there he met Margaret Reid Hoge (1821–1904) while boarding in the home of her parents, John Hoge (1772–1847) and Elizabeth Rippy (1782–1851). William and Margaret were married in 1843 and eventually had nine children.

Like many people of his time, Hickman was a writer of letters, and many of those sent to his youngest brother, Roger Hickman (1813–89), have survived to give an account of the life of his family in mid-nineteenth century Southwest Virginia. The subject matter and tone of his letters change over time, but those from this period contain comments on the land, resources, and people of Southwest Virginia; the coming of the railroad; and William's ever-present interest in a proper education for his children and those of his brothers. William asked Roger to send his older children, Lizzie and Lanty, to live with him in Wytheville or Blacksburg to get the schooling unavailable to them on Back Creek.

As William pointed out to Roger in many letters, Back Creek was an isolated and lonely place that growth of the nation was leaving behind, and he often asked his brother to consider moving to Pulaski County where there were better prospects of improving his lot in life. His assessment of Bath County was correct, for the stony soils in its narrow mountain valleys make cultivation difficult, the distances to markets are great, and opportunities limited. Accordingly, throughout much of its history the chief export of Bath County was its young people. But Roger seemed content to stick close to his home and neighbors.

William, on the other hand, was always in the saddle, going from church to church and town to town as he carried the word of the Lord to the growing population of Southwest Virginia. There were no Presbyterian circuit riders — that was a Methodist calling — but ministering to his scattered flocks required the Rev. Hickman to ride ten to forty miles between meetings in all sorts of weather. He complained in 1852 that "...35 miles is a long distance to ride winter & summer to preach. It is very fatieguing indeed, & I ought to know..."

In September 1845 the Rev. William P. Hickman was called to serve as "Stated Supply" of the new White Glade Presbyterian Church in Pulaski County with a congregation of only seventeen members, including John Hoge as the elder and seven other Hoges. The little church, which met at Page's meeting house, had been organized on 17 August 1844 by a committee of the Montgomery Presbytery including his friend, the Rev. Henry H. Paine, and the Rev. Nicholas W. Chevalier, pastor of the Blacksburg and Christiansburg Presbyterian churches. Records of the White Glade Presbyterian Church tell us that

> This church was without the stated means of grace from its organization in Aug. 1844 until Sept. 1845 when the Rev. Wm. P. Hickman began to labour here as Stated Supply. ...[2]

To make ends meet, William was then preaching at three places: one-half time at Wytheville, one-quarter at the Brick Church southeast of Wytheville, and one-quarter at White Glade, which was thirty-five miles from Wytheville.

In 1850 William's White Glade congregation constructed a new church building in the Long Hollows on one acre of ground donated by Michael Brown and Moses B. Lloyd, the husband of Margaret's sister Matilda Hoge (1809–55). The deed stated that they gave the land

> for the erection of a Presbyterian Church with the understanding that it is to be used by the Methodists when not occupied by the Presbyterians and Missionary Baptists and that the Missionary Baptists are to occupy it on the first Sabbath in each month exclusively.

In 1851 the church name was changed from White Glade to Bell Spring in recognition of a nearby spring from which the water fell with a musical bell-like tone. Although the date of the change is a bit confused in the records, it was confirmed by an act of Presbytery during its meeting at that church on 25–26 April 1851.

Presbyterian congregations were small in that part of the state in William's day, making it necessary for him to serve two or three concurrently — and sometimes also teach school — to support his family. To make matters worse, William sometimes had difficulty collecting a salary from his congre-

gations. The situation was so bad in 1859, and again in 1860, that the Presbytery admonished the Blacksburg congregation "for their delinquency in discharging their pecuniary obligations to their pastor."

It was a hard life, but by 1852 he was prospering and had a home near Wytheville and small farms in both Wythe and Pulaski Counties. His twenty-nine acres in Wythe County came with a small log house that William enlarged on a T-shaped pattern like thousands of other farm houses in Virginia. He had made a comfortable home and he had many friends, but the churches were too small to support a man with a growing family.

The important news in the following letter was that he had been invited to move to Blacksburg. If William were to move, he could serve two churches only twelve miles apart.

Wytheville Jan. 6th 1852.

Dear Brother.

Yours of the 14th ultimo was received to day about noon. I was glad to hear from you. I was not surprised to hear of Uncle Jimmy death. You wish to know how much I would charge you to board Elizabeth a session &c. Well I suppose that I would not charge you more than $500. any how; & if she behaved herself pretty cleverly & learned pretty well perhaps might take something less. Tuition per session is Ten dollars, in our best female school, is the price for tuition per session.

But the same mail that brought your letter, brought one from Blacksburg, giving me a call to take charge of that church. Mr. Chevalier, who has divided his time between that place & Christiansburg, has recieved a call from the church of Christiansburg for the whole of his time, which he has concluded to accept so soon as Blacksburg can engage another to supply his place; & so notified the congregation a few Sabbaths ago. And hence they have applied to me. And it is probable I shall accept I will dislike to leave this place very much; for I have many kind friends here. And altho at presant a hard field, this is to be a very important place yet. And I have built my self a very comfortable house here. I built a porch since I was in Bath; & have also made some other improvements; so that so far as these things are concerned I am very comfortably fixed. But there is one heavy drawback, this church is too week to take the whole of my time, & there is no other church nearer than Pulaski 35 miles distant with which it can be connected. And I find it very laborious to ride so far in all sorts of wether to preach. The plan is to connect Blacksburg with Bell Spring the church in Pulaski to which I have been preaching. Bell Spring is a new church, built a little more than a year ago, & stands near Moses Lloyd's , some half a mile on <u>this</u> side of the river. Some 12 miles this side of Blacksburg. But shoul I remove to Blacksburg, you could nevertheless send Lizie & it will be fifty miles nearer to you nearly half way. They usually have a very good school in Blacksburg, but I do not know

how it is just now; for I have not been there since last spring as I returned from Bath.

Should the wether, health &c. permit I shall go down to Pulaski the last of this week; & it is likely I shall visit Blacksburg before I return And if the matter will then very soon be determined. But should I decide to go, I cannot leave here till after the meeting of Presbytery, which is about the first of May; as I am installed pastor of this church, & hence must be released by Presbytery before I can leave. And the same is the case with brother Chevalier & Blacksburg church. I will write to you again as soon as I can begin to see what is likely to be the isue of the present comnorion.

You say there are changes & turnings taking place on the Creek, & they might perhaps turn you out. I wish they would & roll you over to South Western Virginia I think it would be the best "roll" you ever made. But you know my sentaments on this subject. I wish you were located in this country This is to be a great-great country after awhile, when we get our railroad in operation. They are tareing away like wild-fire on it. It is nearly all let to the Tennessee line, & the heaviest of the grading pretty well done to New River...

We had very abundant crop here last year. My corn did not turn out quite as well as expected but it was pretty good. The ground was too new. My rye did well. And I raised 42 bushels of Buckwheat. I suppose I raised enough of grain (except wheat of which I raised none) to have done me, but rather than be scarce I bought 21 bu- of corn. I gave 37½ cets. per bushel.

We are all pretty well. I have had rheumatism which has confined me to the house pretty much since last Thursday. I preached once on Sabbath But I am a good deal better now. I am a good deal troubled with rheumatism; which make me more anxious to get so situated that I will have less riding to do to attend my appointments....

Write to me often. Postage is cheap - only three cents. What toper would not give his friend a dram at any time, which would cost that & more....

The next letter was to his nephew, William W. Hickman (1828–?), the eldest child of Arthur Hickman and Rebecca Walker. William W. may have then passed it on to his Uncle Roger to read and save, not knowing that William P. had sent a similar letter to Roger. Arthur Hickman had moved his family west to Braxton County, and schools may have been scarce there because it sounds as if William P. had expected his nephew to board with him while attending school in Wytheville.

Wytheville Jan. 7th 1852.

Dear William:

... I was very glad to hear from you. And would like to hear often. We have all enjoyed pretty good health since you were here. Old Mother

Hoge died the 13th of May. Her last end was peace; for the clouds that so bedarkened her sky when you were there, all vanished before she left us. Nancy was married the 20th of Nov. to Jno. Spickard of Blacksburg. There was a good deal of marrying here last Fall. One month brought me in $35. by way of fees. I wonder if so much marrying betokens a hard winter? What think ye? The rye that looked so badly when you were here, turned out prety good. and I got a fine set of clover on the ground. It was half leg high over nearly all the field; & a great deal of it bloomed. My corn in the New ground did not come up to my expectation quite. But was petty good especially on the part that had been cleared the previous year. From various interuptions I did not get that piece of old ground in oats as I had expected, but I put it in buck wheat & got 42 bushels. I have built a porch to my house, side next to town. And built a dary for milk &c. in the yard close up against the plings where the hen-house stood when you were here (which is now moved across the lane under the locust tree) It is nine feet deep 8 wide 10 long walled up with rock, & covered first with plank doubled, then whith tan-bark some six inches, then two feet of earth & soded. It does very finely. I then built a shed from the smokehouse over the steps which lead down into the dary & enclosed it. the dary thus constructed is one of the most convenient places I ever saw. Nothing freezes in it. I have my potatoes & beets in it.

I have been looking for you out to go to school. The crops were fine here last summer, & grain is cheap. Corn 37½ cts delivered. I dont think we would fall out about the boarding. The Misses Walker are well. Neither of them married yet. They have some [here he drew a picture of some bows] it is said. I saw Olivia when Nancy was married. She was well.

Mr. Chevalier is going to quit preaching at Blacksburg & give the whole of his time to Christiansburg. And the Blacksburg people have applied to me to become their pastor. And I have a pretty strong notion of accepting. It would suit me much better as it would be but a morning ride over to Bell Spring as you know. But they wont agree for me to live on my farm in Pulaski, they say I must live in Blacksburg. It will however go very hard with me to leave this people, for I have some warm friends here. And I will dislike it very much to leave my house here just as I am getting it comfortably fixed. and my land fenced & in grass &c. The great difficulty is this church is not able to take the whole of my time & there is no church nearer than Pulaski (35 miles) to connect with it; & 35 miles is a long distance to ride winter & summer to preach. It is very fatieguing indeed, & I ought to know, for I have tried it six years....

Your uncle Roger & family were well when he wrote 14 ult. Uncle Jame Hickman is dead. He died Nov. 11th Was sick only two or three days. He left a will. Six negros are to be sold now the rest are disposed of by will; & the land to be sold at the old woman's death — which wont be long. ...

I wish you could be with me a few months. I think I could help you a good deal. Dont idle these long night away. Get the best books in your reach, & read them carefully. Be sure, dont run over any thing in a careless thoughtless manner. It will ruin any mind. Read with attention. If you cant at first; keep trying till you can. Then often stop, & con over in your mind what you have read, until you get it thoroly fixed in your mind. And my word for it you will soon read to purpose, if you will as this. ...

Sickness and death were frequent subjects in Hickman's letters because his role as pastor brought frequent contact with the sick and dying and because, in those days, dying was a public event not hidden away as it is now. The Old Mother Hoge was his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Rippy (1782–1851), the third wife of John Hoge.[3] The Uncle Jame Hickman was James Hickman (<1770–1851), who in 1795 married Margaret Bird, referred to as "the old woman" in the above letter. His property was located on Back Creek north of William P.'s family home.

William P. Hickman decided not to accept the call from the Blacksburg Presbyterian church because of their insistence that he live in Blacksburg.

Salem Va. Nov. 17th 1852.

Dear Brother:

It has been a long, long, time since I wrote you last. And as I have nothing very special to engage my attention just now I will spend a few minutes in writing to you. From the caption of my letter you may perceive that I am not at home I am in Salem Roanoke county, whither I have come to assist brother Lacy in a meeting. I left home last Friday, the 12th instant, & come to Pulaski where I had a sacramental meeting on last Sabbath brother Lacy assisting, & come down here on yesterday. When I wrote you last I had some thought of leaving Wythville & removing to Blacksburg, which however I did not do. I am still at Wythville where I preach half my time & the other half in Pulaski.

Margaret & the children were well when I left home; and we all have enjoyed generally good health since I had wrote. My general health is better than it has been for several years. My friends in Pulaski & Blacksburg were well when I left there....

I suppose you have had some addition to your domestic treasure since you wrote last. We have not yet, — we have but four but are expecting a New-years-gift. I am anxious to hear from you; & to hear what you are doing for the education of your children. What ever you do — or do not do, — do not neglect that. It is the most valuable legacy you could possibly leave them. We have good schools in Wythville — both male & female.

Andrew Mathis has bought land in, & moved to Pulaski. He is in striking distance of my church, & was there last sabbath. He gave $30.000 for about 17.000 acres. His land lies near Newbern the county seat. The

rail-road is progressing very well. The cars now run to within four miles of this place — Salem: And moust of the grading is done between this & New-River, & a great-deal between the River & Tennessee. The work will soon be done; & then what a country will the South western Virginia be!! I wish your lands lay out here. They would then be worth something....

The first train of the new Virginia & Tennessee Railroad had arrived at Big Lick on 1 November 1852, and trains were within four miles of Salem when he wrote.

William P. Hickman's four children were Elizabeth "Eliza" Jane, Mary Crockett, James Brown, and Emily Kate. In the next letter he announced the birth of another son, William White Hickman, born 31 December 1852. William was a favorite name among the Hickmans and now there was a second William W. Hickman to confuse with Arthur's son, although with a twenty-five year difference in ages.

Wytheville Jan 31st 1853

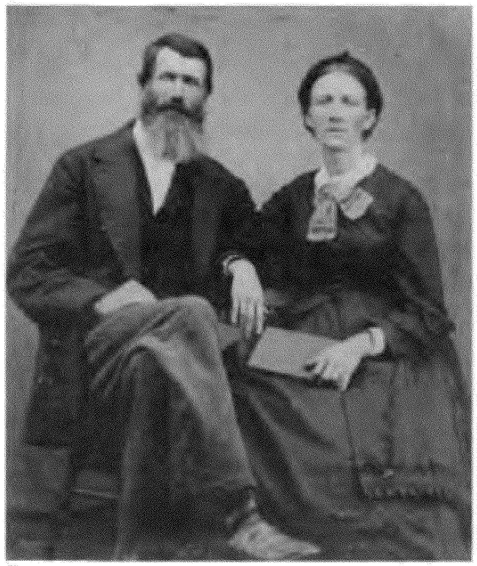
Dear Brother:

Your letter came duly to hand & I was glad to hear from you. We are all in good health. My expected New-year's gift came to hand the evening before about sundown — a son; we call him William White after Dr. White of Lexington. He is doing very well. He is a month old this evening.

The friends in Pulaski were all well a week ago except Mary Hoge, John Mathew's wife, who was quite sick. It was thought she had the fever.[4]

You wished to know what it would cost to send Landreth & Lizzie to school here a year. I could suppose it hardly worth while to say any thing on that subject now, as we expect to start to California in May i.e. provided I can sell this property on which I am living; I do not expect to sell my land in Pulaski. Mr. Charles McClannahan of Roanoak an acquaintance of mine, has spent three years in California & is now in Wythe expects to return with his family this Spring & we expect to go out with him. Mr. Robert Crockett, son of one of the elders of this church is going. He & McClannahan expect to take out 5.000 sheep. I had forgot to say we expect to go by land from Indipendance Missouri over the plains & across the Rocky mountains. It is 1600 miles from Indipendance to California....

They need ministers there very much, especially Presbyterian. There were seventen towns that applied to the Presbytery of California last spring for preachers offering a salery of 2500 dollars a year. The field is very important & promising. And I hope to enter it before the close of the year. ... By the way how would you like to go to that country? I should like to have you along. The government gives each setler 160 acres of land....



William Taylor (1821–1902), Methodist missionary to California from 1849 to 1856, with his wife Isabelle Anne Kimberlin. Raised in Rockbridge County, he was the son of Martha E. Hickman and Stuart Taylor, and a nephew of William P. Hickman. Near the end of his long missionary career William Taylor was named the Methodist Episcopal Bishop of Africa.

This reply to an inquiry from Roger must have come as quite a surprise, considering William's love for the Wythe and Pulaski county areas and his many entreaties to Roger about joining him there.

Succumbing to gold fever, William sold his Wythe County farm and prepared to move to California to preach to the godless miners. Since the salary paid by his small congregations totaled only $800 to $1,000 per year, the $2,500 salary in California must have seemed generous. However, costs of living in California would have gobbled it up. At about the time William P. paid $240 for five half-acre lots with a small house near Wytheville, his nephew had to pay $1,250 for a lot only 23 feet by 137 feet (less than 1/10 acre) in booming San Francisco. William Taylor (1821–1902), son of William's sister, Martha Elliott Hickman (1800–75), had gone to California as a Methodist missionary in 1849 and was making a name for himself as an eloquent and forceful preacher on the streets of San Francisco.

As it turned out, William P. Hickman did not take his family to California. Maybe he got cold feet and could not put them on the road west, but it is unlikely that Margaret caused his change of mind because in later letters William noted her suggestions that he should see the West — probably meaning Missouri — and also take a look at Texas as places where they could relocate.

Roanoak Montgomery County Va. May 6th 1853

Dear Brother.

I suppose you are very anxious to hear from me as the last time I wrote to you, it was my purpose to go to California. I sold my property in Wythe with that intention; but all my friends & bretheren in the ministry whith whom I came in contact, & especially the church in Pulaski opposed my going very strongly; & other difficulties arising in our geting ready in time to go this Spring. We have for the present pitched our tent within four miles of Blacksburg on the road leading from Blacksburg to Fincastle on a farm belonging to Col. Thomas — which I think I pointed out to you when we passed by it some years ago.[5] The Col. had built a new house which had never been occupied in which we are living. The pastoral relation between me & the church of Wytheville was disolved by Presbytry last week, & I expect for the present to divide my time between Blacksburg & Bell Spring the church in Pulaski.

We have not entirely abandoned the idea of going to California. We may go next spring. But in that I will be subject to the leading of Providence. Should I not go, I shall give out all idea of leaving this country & shall go to our farm & build there & settle down for life. At least that is my present feelings. The man that is living on it, is doing very well both for himself and for me. He had between 25 & 30 acres in corn last year which brought him, he told me, an average of fifty bushels to the acre. The rail road runs in some two miles of it.

I sold my property in Wythe for $2250. cash. I would not have taken that if I had known how things would have turned out. But I trust there is an overeeling providence it. You may remember that Blacksburg church presented me a call last Winter was a year which I then declined. And it was the least of my thoughts when I got the California fever that was to bring me to the very place I had declined fifteen months before. But as it is, "A man's heart deviseth his ways; but the Lord directeth his steps." You might get out to see us now, as we are some fifty odd miles nearer than formerly. It is but 36 miles from Fincastle to my house. But the most direct way is by Covington & New Castle. We have been talking of paying you a visit the latter part of the summer or the early part of the Fall, but I dont know how it may turn out yet.

Margaret has not had quite as good health the past Winter & Spring as usual. She has suffered a great deal from a pain in her jaw & ear & such like ailment of the head & face. My own health has been better than it has been for many years. A few weeks ago, I weighed 175½ & I have lost none since. I suffer but little now from dyspepsia.

I saw Shanklin McClintic at Presbytry last week — he gave me some of the news of Bath. Let Lanty & Lizzie come to see us this summer. — Inclosed I send you your old note for renewal. I do not need the money. You can have the use of it as long as you may choose, or until it is entirely

convenient for you to pay. But I think as there are a good many credits endorsed on the note, it would be better to renew it.

William P. Hickman had pulled himself up by his own bootstraps from the time he left Back Creek for Washington College. As an impoverished student he wore his few clothes till threadbare, and he wrote of his appreciation for receiving a new pair of warm socks from home or enough homespun cloth to have a pair of pants made. Unable to afford to ride, he walked the sixty miles between home and school each term. And while at the Union Theological Seminary, he wrote of having "tea & bread, bread & tea, and tea & bread" with lots of sugar for his three meals a day.

Even though he sold his Wythe County farm for less than it may have been worth, William was now financially secure. He had the Pulaski County property leased to Mr. Burton, and he was able to buy still more land. He no longer asked Roger for money and, in fact, told his brother there was no urgency in Roger paying the balance of the note due since their father's death in 1843. By the terms of their father's will, Arthur was to pay $100 and Roger was to pay $200 to William from the assets willed to them. Now, ten years later, there was an outstanding note by which Roger still owed William $146.50, and William charged him interest on the balance. The method by which he calculated the interest caused a later misunderstanding. By that will William also inherited a slave named Jesse, six years old at the time, who is mentioned in several of the following letters.

Montgomery Co.Va. June 22nd 1853

Dear Brother.

I wrote you the 6th of May but have not yet recd. an answer. My letter may have been miscarried. As your note had a good many entries on it &c. & had been of several years standing, I sent it to you in my last for renewal. The amount on the 6th of May was $146.50 I make this statement because it may be my letter containing the note never came to hand.

We think it probable that we — Myself wife — five children & Jesse — will pay you a visit about the first day of Sept. if we can make the arrangements, & provided also, you think you could find room for such a swarm, a few days. We propose to leave here the 29th of Aug. & spend two weeks in Bath & Rockbridge, & take Presbytry on our way home, which is to meet at Falling Spring (8 miles from Lex.) on the 15th of Sept. And I should like it if Andrew could meet us at your house the first of Sept. Margaret has never seen him, & wants him to meet us there. If we can carry out our present plan, I will preach for you the first Sat. & Sunday in Sept. at your house if you desire it.

We are all pretty well. One of the children — Emily — next to the youngest — has not been very well for several days; but with that excep-

tion, we are well. Margaret's health is much better now than it was in the winter & spring. Our friends in these parts are well.

Mr. Chs. Black Mary Hoge's father, dropped dead in his yard the 7 of this month of apoplexy. He had had a stroke about six weeks previous, & had made his will & setlled up his business. And atho the call was sudden, it was not unexpected....

Andrew Johnson Hickman (1811–80) was a younger brother who had moved from Back Creek west to Pocahontas, then Greenbrier, and on to Nicholas County.

Charles Black's daughter Mary was the wife of John Matthew Hoge (1819–1903?). Six years later William noted that Mary Black's mother was one of "two very sudden & unexpected deaths in my congregation at Blacksburg."[6]

In the next letter William mentioned another "shirt-tail" relative who was dying. John Peterman was the husband of Jane Rutledge Hoge (1804–59), Margaret's half-sister by their father's second wife. Jane Rutledge Hoge Peterman would be the second of those sudden and unexpected deaths in 1859.

Blacksburg July 14th 1853.

Dear Brother.

Yours of June 13th & July 2nd was duly recd. today. I was very sorry that you think I charged you compound interest on the note I sent you. You are certainly mistaken. I would rather loose the debt than do so knowingly, & I have always thought for these twenty years at least, that I knew how to compute simple interest, as well as compound; & to know the difference between them. I hope you still have the old bond. if so keep it till I see you, & I know I can in five minutes satisfy you that you are mistaken. I computed the simple interest at six per centum per annum on that bond, & not one cent more. I think I know wherin your mistake lies. And if you will examine the Arithmatics on bonds where partial payments have been made, I presume you will be able to see your error without my assistance. Compound interest is illegal in Va & exposes him who exacts it to the forfeiture of the whole debt. And it being illegal, it would be immoral in me to charge it. But I know you did not bringe or impute such a charge against me. But your statement has made me feel very badly. Such consequences being involved in it. But I will dismiss it for the present by again saying you are mistaken in your supposition. And honestly so, I have no doubts.

We are all pretty well. Margaret was complaining of headache this morning when I left home.

Mr Peterman, at whose house I now am, & who married one of Margarets half-sisters, is very low. He cant live but a day or two. Disease of the stomach. He has been a very worldly man, & has accumulated a good deal of prop-

erty; but has been for some days thoroughly awake to his awful situation. And his distress has been, & sill is awful. Poor man, how he has sufered both in body & mind. He unites his testimony to the millions who have preceded him, that a death bed is a poor place to prepare for eternity. ...

I think I told you of the death of Chs. Black in my last.

I hope to see you in Sept. Is there a good waggon road down the Indian drought from Vances in the direction of Covington? I hardly know how to get on to Back Creek. I can get to Covington pretty directly for here; but how to get from thence to the Creek bothers me a good deal.

I got a letter day before yesterday from little John G. Kerr. He is going as a Missionary Physician to China; & is now on his way to New York.

Write soon & let me know how the road is from your house to Covington or, to Callehan's old stand; or whether there is a road through the drought yet; & what sort, & whence it intersects the road leading from the Warm Springs to the White Sulpur.

The primitive roads of the time may have changed enough for William P. to need Roger's help in planning his route. Vance's was the site of an old fort from the time of the Indian Wars near Mt. Grove in Bath County. The Indian Draft, Callaghan's old stand, and Covington were southwest of Back Creek in Alleghany County. If William P. went to Sun Rise by that route, then he took a different route home as outlined in the next letter. Millboro lies southeast of Sun Rise in Bath County. Martha Hickman and Stuart Taylor — parents of William Taylor — had their home near the head of Cedar Creek, near Cedar Grove Mills in Rockbridge County, and the Kerrs lived in Lexington. So, William and Margaret visited with family and friends on the return journey.

John G. Kerr was most likely a son of the Kerr's of Lexington, with whom William had boarded while a student at Washington College.

Montgomery Co. Va. Jun 26th 1854.

Dear Brother.

I have delayed writing to you much longer than I had intended when I left you. We got to Milboro the day we left your house; & the next day to Mr. Taylor's. We visited Mr. Kerr's the monday after Presbytery; Tuesday it rained all day, so we staid there that day; on Wednesday we went to Mr. Robert Glasgows, where we said till Thursday afternoon, when we left for home, where we arrived Saturday a little before sundown without a misshap of any kind. We had an exceedingly pleasant visit. Margaret says she never enjoyed a visit so much in her life. Now it remains for you & your Margaret to return the visit.

I have been trying to purchase a house in blacksburg, but as yet have been unable to get one that would suit me. And so we have concluded to remove to Pulaski & build us a cabin on our own dung-hill raise our own

potatoes. I was at a sale yesterday & bought a plow & harrow. One of my Pulaski hearers not knowing what was in my head, wished to what I wanted with a harrow? I replied, by asking him if he did not think my people needed a harrowing some times.

Mr. Burton raised four hundred bushels of wheat last year, & about two thousand bushels of corn. I have some thought of buying the remainder of the time. I will either do that or build me a cabin on the other end of the farm & open land for myself.

Wheat is very high here now. It is selling at a dollar & a half in Lynchburg. And about ten cents will market it, from here. Corn is worth 62½ cents per bushel, & rising. It is pretty near time for me to go to the [White] Glade, with plow & harrow, when bread-stuffs are getting up so. Every thing is getting up, but preacher's salaries. They remain about the old noch.

I have nothing new or important to write. All the friends are well. My own health has been generally remarkably good since I was in Bath. The rheumatism took hold of me last fall pretty strongly; but I commenced the first of November taking a cold bath every morning; & some times at night also & it has relieved me almost entirely; & has improved my general health very much. I have several times broken the ice, & gone in when the mushy ice woul sweap down my sides. I am very advantagiously situated as the creek is only about fifty steps from the house. It is not as disagreeable as one would suppose. I of couse dry off, & dress by the fire. Do you try it. I know you would like it if you would try it awhile.

I wrote to Andrew some time since but have not received an answer yet. I suppose you have heard of Dr. Patton's death? I was very sorry to hear of it. He was an excellent man. I loved him like a brother.

Margaret & the children are well I have been teaching Lizzie & Mary since my return from Bath. Lizzie is beginning to read right smart. She says she wants to lear to read Greek like Pa. I some times read the Greek Testament aloud; & when I do, she & Mary will sit & listen with all eagerness, delighted simply with the sound. I know a minister, who was led to lay aside the plain, & seek a classical education by hearing a boy repeat the Greek alphabet.

I wish your home lay in this country i.e. in Pulaski. But the time for getting land here at low prices has past. There is a little piece of land adjoining mine of 148 acres which Moses Lloyd bough some 4 or 5 years ago for about $3. per acre, for which I offered him $10. a few weeks ago & he would not take it.

The man, whose sale I was at yesterday has rented his farm of 1000 acres 600 cleared for a term of ten years to some men who are about setting up a cheese & butter factory near Christiansburg for $1000. a year i.e. $10,000. for the ten years!! Ain't that going it? And that too for grazing purposes; which will improve the land. ...

Dr. William Nicholas Patton, from Cedar Creek in Bath County, died 12 October 1853. Patton had been his roommate at Washington College and was the brother of Elizabeth Howard Patton whom William intended to marry. When Eliza died of consumption (tuberculosis) in December 1834, William Hickman was devastated and, in her memory, took Patton as his middle name in 1836. Up to that time his letters were signed "William Hickman Jr." or "William Hickman Secund."[7]

Over the years William tried a variety of remedies for rheumatism including wearing flannel shirts, drinking water from various mineral springs, and now a cold bath in the creek.

The value of farm crops was increasing, with corn going from 37.5 cents per bushel in 1852 to 62.5 cents in 1854. And the price of land was also rising, to the extent that he could not persuade Margaret's brother-in-law, Moses Lloyd, to sell at what sounds like a nice profit. Increasing prosperity may have enabled William to live on his Pulaski County farm for awhile because the next letter was sent from there, but gaps in letters at this time leave his movements a mystery. Most surviving letters were sent from Blacksburg.

Pulaski Co. Aug. 9th 1855.

Dear Brother.

I suppose you have looked so long for a letter from me that you will be some what surprised to receive one. I will not formerly enter into the reasons for my long silence. For the reason will be seen as you proceed. You percieve from the caption of my letter that I am in Pulaski. I bought Jacob Howery's lease & moved to my own farm last March was a year. I have put up a comfortable hewed-log house with some out houses: but do not intend to build extensively as I am on the East end, where as I intend living on the West end of my farm as soon as Burton is out off my way. I had out about ten acres of corn last year. It was good but did not furnish enough. I sowed about eighteen acres of wheat last fall most of which was good. I have not thrashed it yet; but I expect to have about a hundred bushels to sell. I have out about thirty acres of corn this year which looks well. The wheat crop in this country is an abundant one; & corn was never more promising & a great quantity out.

Mr Burton, my tenant, has been doing badly. He has been turned out off the church for lying & profane swearing. He has been giving me some trouble; but as I hold the rains in my own hand he can't do much. I think I shall discharge him this Winter. I have already given him notice to that efect. He is bound to give up his lease when ever I want it; & to leave the terms to the arbitration of three men. I think I shall take full possion in the Spring. I had a well dug on Burton's end last summer, & got very good water at thirty feet.

We burried our little Willie last fall. He took the flux in June, & before he had entirely recovered from that he took the whooping cough, which caused the flux to return, & then the two disease aggrivated each other. In October he seemed to get a little better but the cough ultimately settled on his lungs, & he died the 9th of Nov. being 22 months & 14 days old. Poor little fellow, he suffered greatly, but our loss was his gain. For "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." But the Lord has given us another on the ninth of last March. His name is John Hoge. He is very much like Willie....

Robert Crockett got back from California last spring. He made a loosing trip of it. He says McClannahan misrepresented things altogether. McClannahan has proved himself to be nother but a liar, a blackleg & a swindler. What an escape I made!! He swindled Crocket out off some three or four thousand dollars besides Crocking our lopes. He however seems to be cheerful & happy since his return. He says Callifornia is the last place in creation; especially for an honest man.

John M. Hoge & family are well. They lost a little girl some two or three years old since I was in Bath.— I wish you would take the time to pay me a visit. Our Presbytry meets in Covington the 18 of October suppose you come out the latter part of next month, & then I would accompany you that far on your return. Or if it would suit you better come home with me. The Synod meets in Lexington the week ofter presbytery. I would be glad if you & Lizie would meet me there & come home with me, if you cannot come before. And let her spend the winter with us. We have plenty of wood & some wheat, & a prosect for a few hundred bushels of corn, some potatoes, & we have just sowed about an acre in turnips; so that all together there is righ smat between us & starvation.

I want to hear from you very much. I have not heared since you sent me the grafts: which by the way got too dry before they came to hand. I did not get one....

William had heartbreaking news about his little son, William White Hickman, who died before he was two years old. But he and Margaret had a new son named for the boy's grandfather, John Hoge. The flux William mentioned was a nineteenth century term for what we call dysentery.

"Blackleg" was the term for a cheating gambler, and it does seem William had a narrow escape by not going to California with Charles McClannahan.

The next letter took three weeks on its journey from Bath County to Montgomery County.

Blacksburg March 8th 1857

Dear Brother.

Your very welcome letter of the 14th ultimo came to hand this evening. I was aware that I was the delinquent. I had not forgotten you, tho' I had neglected you. I have often, often thought of you, & over & over again purposed to write, but did not just then get at. When I was farming I was kept very busy; & now I am teaching, & am kept busier than ever. I found that I could not get my children educated unless I would teach them myself; & there was a teacher needed very much in this place, so I yielded to the urgent solicitations of my friends here, to move over & open a female school in the Blacksburg Academy. I opened the 5th of Jan. I now have 33 scholars. Nine of them studying Latin. It is the first time I have ever taugh girls alone; & I greatly prefer them to boys. <u>There is no comparison.</u> The only draw back is, my health is not so good, as it was when farming. I suffer a good deal from dyspepsia.

My Mag presented me with another daughter the 27th of Dec. It is a fine harty child. We call her Kate Lyle. Mary Hoge, John's wife, has another daughter some 2 weeks old. She has been very sick, but I head from her this evening & she is better.

I was gratified to learn that Huldah expects to visit us not summer. I have been think & talking of visiting her during the coming Summer. As Margaret is anxious for me to take a look at the Western country. I was surprised to learn that Wm Taylor had returned from Cal. Do you know why? Is it on a visit? This seems improbable as he (from your letter) seems to have stoped in New York....

I recd a letter from W. W. Hickman a short time ago. He told me of his brother's death. I am afraid he will be disappointed in getting mony, for I have been wholy unable this far to get any for him. But I hope I shall in a few days. Money matters are very tight here, & have been for months. Wm was saying something about your sending Lanty out here to go to school. My house is small, but if you wish to send him, I will do the best I can for him. There is a male school here — an embrio college under the Baltimore Conference. But I do not know from personal knowledge, what sort of a school it is.

But if you would send Lizzie I take care of her at my own school. I do not know what to say about going to Bath this Summer. If Huldah comes of course I must see her. I was asking Mag about taking another trip but she seems rather to back out unless we could leave all the children at home, — I suppose except the baby — <u>Kate.</u> But I would like to take them all along. — & we have but one more than we had when we visited you before. We have six. And the older ones are better able to take care of the small ones. But I suppose you would have to fit up the barn for them to sleep in....

... The Hoge Lanty met with near Richmond was a cousin of Margaret's. He told me of his speaking with him. He is one of the General's sons.

> And by the way Aunt Nelly, the General's wife is dead. She dropt dead from her feet. She was standing in the poarch at her house talking to me, & sunk down, & as she sunk I cought her, & two minutes she was dead - she never breathed — nor moved. I never conceived of any thing as sudden. the general was then lying with a stroke of paralasis from which he has only partially recovered. It was in June aunt Nelly died. Kind regards to all: & to Lizzie especially for her kind letter which I have not yet answered....

Once again, William P. Hickman was teaching school and suffering from dyspepsia, a chronic problem that appeared whenever he took up teaching.

His statement about opening a female school in the Blacksburg Academy is confusing; a Blacksburg Female Academy had opened in the town some seventeen years earlier.

The "embrio college" was the new Olin and Preston Institute, opened under Methodist sponsorship in 1851 and granted a charter in 1854. The little institute fell on hard times and closed during the Civil War. In the years just before the Civil War, with no public school system in Virginia, there were hundreds of small, privately supported academies in the state with a total estimated enrollment in 1860 of 13,000 students and 700 teachers.[8]

But there were no academies on Back Creek, and it was necessary for Roger Hickman to send his children away from home to get an education. After the war Roger sent his eleventh child, my grandfather, to Roller's School at Fort Defiance in Augusta County.

William considered making another trip to visit Roger on Back Creek, taking his whole family. Traveling must have been tough enough in those days even without a double handful of kids to look out for, and they would probably have made such a trip in the farm wagon, probably with some hay in the wagon bed to cushion the ride for the kids in back. One reason for the trip would be to once again see his sister Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806–88), who had moved to Illinois in 1834 with her husband, Isaac Callison, and several children.[9]

After William Taylor had spent seven years preaching in California, a San Francisco fire and financial panic wiped out his mission, forcing his return to the East Coast. There he wrote two books about his California experience to recoup the money owed: *Seven Years Street Preaching in San Francisco* and *California Life, Illustrated,* published in 1857 and 1858, respectively. They were the first of seventeen books written by that amazing man who supported his missionary work on four continents with income from the books and public speaking tours. William Taylor was later

the Methodist Episcopal Bishop of Africa and, in his time, the best known of the Hickmans.

William married into an influential family. His wife's uncle was James Hoge (1783–1861), brigadier general of the 19th Brigade of Virginia Militia who had been a captain in the 75th Virginia regiment during the War of 1812. The general's wife was Eleanor "Nelly" Howe (1792–1856), who died 13 June 1856. Eliza Hoge (1815–46), the only daughter among their five children, died on 11 August 1846, leaving an infant son named James Hoge Tyler (1846–1925), who grew up to become the governor of Virginia in 1898 — the third Tyler to serve as governor.

Blacksburg March 27th 1857

Dear Brother.

I have just returned from Pulaski after an absence of several days. Mary Hoge, wife of John M. Hoge, has been very sick, but is recovering. Margaret went over last Wednesday week, & I went over Sab. evening, & we returned to day. On my return amongst other letters I was no little surprised to find one from you to "Mr. W. W. Hickman Braxton C. H. Va," which your Postmaster has carelessly sent to me at Blacksburg Va. I have inclosed it & will give it another start in the morning. — I think you had better not attempt to send that money by mail, unless you cut the notes & send half at a time. And it would be well for you to take a note of the number, letter &c of the notes you send, in the presence of the P. Master then if one letter should fail, the other end of the notes will draw the money in Bank or banks whence the notes were issued.

We are all quite well. Kate grows finely. I sent William a certifficate of deposit on the bank in this place a couple of weeks ago, for $100. which I hope he received.

My folks are all in bed. Good night. Love to all.

In continuing a tradition of helping family, Roger and William P. were sending money to their nephew, and that is the last word we have of the family of Arthur Hickman. Some of his descendants may still live in West Virginia, but the contact with their cousins on Back Creek was lost.

Blacksburg Montgomery Co. Va Dec. 20th 1858

Dear Brother.

I was very much gratified on the reception of your letter. It had been along time since I had heard from you, & was therefore much more gratified on hearing. I was sorry to hear that you had lost Peter Lightner from your community for I think he has not left many equals behind him in that community. I do not wonder that you some times feel like leaving too. Had you left ten or twelve years ago & purchaised in this country as I wanted you, you would have bettered your condition very much. But it is now too late for that here, as land has more than doubled in that time.

The rail road has wrought wonders here. There is some pretty good land now for sale in Pulaski adjoining mine on the South, & on the Rail Road, for which I have understood 26 dollars per acre is asked. There are some 15 or 16 hundred acre in the tract. I should like very much to have you for a neighbor. Some of the land is very good, & some of it is rather thin.

We had an excessively dry season here last year. Wheat, about half a cropt. Oats a perfect failure; I have been trying to get some for seed, but have not yet succeeded. Corn also very short, — & esspecially in this vicinity. I had some 6 or 8 acres out here, from which I expected to get as much as wuld do me but I got I supose about 50 bushels. The corn on my farm in Pulaski was good — the best in that neighborhood. I had rented a field of some 25 acres from which I have already halled a good deal, & have a great deal more to husk. I will have more than will do me. It is quite troublesome to hall so far. I will also have some wheat to sell. I have bought three parcels of land all lying together about a mile & a half from town — together making about ninety acres for which I gave lot first containing 33 acres forty dollars per acre — lot second I bought by the lot containing about 25 acres for which I gave $775. the third & last purchase I gave $26.50 per acre. Some of the land is very good especially my first purchase a pourtion well timbered, & some ten or twelve acre prity well set in grass, from which I mowed last summer as much hay as will keep my horses I hope till hay comes again. But the drought has killed a great deal of the timothy. There are rods where you can with your foot just rake the ground perfectly bare.

But I did not intend troubling you with so long an account of my farming matters as I am no farmer.

We are all pretty well. And had another added to our family two weeks ago tonight the 6th instant, which is the eighth giving us seven living children — five daughters & two sons. We have not named her yet. The children want to call her Margaret after their mother; I dont know how they will come out I am indifferent. The list is Eliza Jane, Mary Crockett , James Brown, Emily Susen, William White (dead), John Hoge, Kate Lyle, & the baby. No mean string — for length. And then the end, perhaps not yet.

I have been right anxious to go to see you for some time, but I do not know when I will be able to do so; as it seems difficult for me to leave home. I dislike to leave my churches vacant. That is the principle difficulty. I wish you would come over & see us. Bring Lizzie & let her stay several months with us it would do her good. We have pleanty of room now, as I enlarged my house last Summer. And I have corn enout to feed her on for a few months any how....

Suppose you come to see me this winter & bring Lizzie, you would be out only two nights from home to Covington from Covington to Pottse's Creek & the Blue Spring run to New-Castle & the third day to my house. I wish you would. I had intended writing some to Lizzie, but my paper is

about out & it is pritty near time for the mail to close for today; so must, defer to another time what I have to say to her.

Margaret is in her chamber caring for the little one, & the girls are at school & James has gone with Jesse to the field with a load of manure & to bring back a load of fodder for the cows — they would all join in much love to you & family one & all.

Yours as ever W. P. Hickman

It is hard to account for the indifference to the naming of his eighth child. William's daughter was two weeks old and did not yet have a name, which was not at all unusual in that household, but he seemed willing to leave the matter up to the other children. She was eventually called Leila Lowry Hickman.

William's eldest son, James Brown, was ten years old and big enough to help the twenty-one-year-old slave, Jesse, with the farm work.

It seems that, after commuting the twelve miles to White Glade for years in order to farm, William P. Hickman finally bought about ninety acres of land near Blacksburg. So, he again had farms in two counties. Having enlarged his house, and with corn enough to feed visitors, he wanted Roger to come with his daughter Lizzie for a visit. But it sounds in the first paragraph as if Roger had considered leaving Back Creek for the West.

The Peter Lightner (1816–71) who went west to Missouri in 1858 or 1859 was the son of Jacob Lightner and grandson of an earlier Peter Lightner and among the most highly respected persons of his community. He married Rachel Berry Hamilton (1821–94), a neighbor of Roger Hickman on Back Creek. Peter and Rachel joined the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church in 1858, the same year Roger Hickman became a ruling elder of that congregation.

Roger Hickman's eleventh child was born 23 February 1858 and named Peter Lightner Hickman in honor of his neighbor. At about the same time, another family on Back Creek named its son Peter Lightner Gum. Those folks lived in a small world in which neighboring families provided a wonderful network of support for each other.

William P. wrote the following letter to his niece Mary Elizabeth Hickman (1840–1909, the oldest half-sister of Peter Lightner Hickman), when she was nineteen years old. From the tone of his various letters, William was eager to have Lizzie live with him, but not so eager to have her older brother Lanty. That may be because he saw Lizzie as potential domestic help for Margaret.

Blacksburg Va. Sept 16th 1859

Dear Lizzie,

I have been intending for a long time to write to you; but have put it off from time to time, waiting for more leisure that I might write you a letter more worthy of your perusel. But, although I have thus long put it off, I fear that the present production will be little better than a blank.

It has been a good while since I heard from you, I do not recollect how long. I hope you are all well.

My main object in writing to you at this time is to invite you to come out to the meeting of our Synod which is to commence on the 5th of next month at Christiansburg, nine miles south of this place. Could not your Pa bring yout out to Synod, & leave you with us all winter; & Lanty could come after you in the Spring, or I could take you home in the Spring, if he could not come. And you could either go to school if you choose, or spend you time in reading, & profitable visiting & the like. We have a good female school here now. What say you to it? I should like to see you any how if it was only on a visit for a few days. Come & see <u>where</u> we live & <u>how</u> we live. Not that I have anything more than a comfortable home to invite you to.

The health of the family has not been very good for near a year past. I think when I last wrote Emma Sue had St. Vites' dance She was very bad with it all winter — so bad that she could not hold up her head, nomore than an infant, for several weeks, & could not speak or make her wants known by nod or gesture for a long time. And your Aunt had a young baby at the same time to care for, which she had to raise by hand, rendering it very cross & troublesome. These cares & anxieties caused her health to give way, which up to this time she has not regained. Emma Sue has been pretty well during the Summer; but since the weather has begun to grow cool, her nervousness has been returning. But she is still able to go about & feed herself. And I hope she may be spared such another spell of suffering as she had last winter. This is the third attack. The first was last Spring a year ago. The baby — Leila Lowry — has been quite sick for a week, but I think is better now, tho' still far from well. The rest of the children are well. Lizzie & Mary are going to school.

We have had a dry summer with us, & consequently rather light corn crops; which by the way is not entirely out of danger yet, as a great deal of it is very late. The corn on the river bottom is matured & most of it cut off. But the upland corn would be greatly injured by frost <u>now</u>. We had a very severe frost the morning of the fifth of June that bit the corn badly. & threw it back. The wheat was also very much injured in certain localaties. And wheat generally is not threashing out up to expectation. Grain was very scarce with us last Spring & Summer; & I fear it will be so again next year. The people are in need of money & are consequently runing off their surpluss wheat as fas as they can get it out & the cars can take it away.

We have had two very sudden & unexpected deaths in my congregation at Blacksburg this Summer viz. Mrs. Peterman, my wife's sister, & Mrs. Black the mother of J. M. Hoge's wife. ...

I have been anxious to go to see you this fall, but I know not whether I will be able to make it out. Your aunt has been urging me to visit Texas to look at the country to see how I would like it for a home; but the means to go on are so hard to get, I think that trip very doubtful; tho' I should like very much to see that country. I doubt not, but we could better our condition by a removal to that state. Missouri is too cold for me. ...

St. Vitus' dance, now called chorea, is a disease of the nervous system characterized by jerky, involuntary movements of the face and extremities and occurs mostly in children.

Unfortunately, that is the last letter from William P. to his family that has passed down over these 139 years. It is unfortunate that no later ones survive to help explain the meaning of the following rather cryptic letter to the governing body of the Blacksburg church.

Blacksburg Dec. 16th 1860

To the Session of the Presbyterian ch. Blacksburg.

Dear Bretheren.

In the Providence of God I am led to feel that it is my duty to tender to you, & through you to the members of the church & congregation, the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian church & congregation of Blacksburg. And I do hereby ask you to join with me in asking Presbytery to dissolve the Pastoral relation now existing between me & this church. The reasons for this step need not now be given; as I presume, they are all known to you.

And may the Lord bless you abundantly; & pour out his Spirit upon you, & make each one of you a blessing.

May you be guided & supported while in this world of sin & sorrow; & when the toils of life are over may you receive the plaudid, "well done good & faithful servant enter thou into the joy of your Lord."

Your Pastor

W. P. Hickman[10]

While William P. thought the reasons for his resignation were all known to the members of the Session, they are not so evident to us today. Smyth, in *A History of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church*, did nothing to illuminate the subject, leaving the impression that the Rev. William P. Hickman resigned because of a salary dispute:

...on May 1, 1853, the Rev. W. P. Hickman was called to serve as Stated Supply in Blacksburg for half his time, in addition to serving Bell Spring. Then, after Mr. Chevalier went west, Presbytery installed Mr. Hickman as regular pastor for half-time in Blacksburg on June 13, 1857. During this

> period, the Blacksburg people seem to have had financial difficulties. When Presbytery met here in 1859, "They were admonished for their delinquency in discharging their pecuniary obligation to their pastor." Again in 1860 this happened, and the church in Blacksburg was notified that they were expected to pay interest on the arearage due Mr. Hickman, and that they ought to increase his salary to at least $700 and to report their action at the next meeting of Presbytery. The Rev. Mr. Hickman was released from his pastoral connection with the Blacksburg Church on August 16, 1861, "for reasons which seemed satisfactory." He continued as pastor of Bell Spring Church, but was killed in action at the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain on Cloyd's Mountain May 9, 1864, while serving in a Confederate artillery brigade.[11]

However, Smyth does provide a clue to other problems when he refers to 1862 as "... a time of stress and turmoil. The dust had not settled from the unfortunate Luster-Hickman affair..."[12]

On the same day that William P. Hickman submitted his letter in 1860, the Session minutes reveal the following action by that body:

> It being commonly reported that Achilles W. Luster had been guilty of unchristian and grossly immoral conduct in this, that he did on the ___ day of ___ attempt to commit a rape upon the person of Elizabeth Jane Hickman. It is ordered that the said Achilles W. Luster be cited to appear before the session on the 6th Day of January 1861 at the Presbyterian church in Blacksburg to answer said charges and that Elizabeth Jane Hickman, Mary C Hickman, William P Hickman, George W Sheaf., Giles D Thomas & Thos. T Jackson, P L Francisco be named as witnesses.[13]

Nine months later, minutes for the meeting of 11 September 1861, provided more details to the charge:

> It appearing that in the charge against A W Luster brought on the 16th Dec 1860 the time and place were omitted ordered that the said charge be now corrected by inserting the time 12th of July 1860 & the place the Rev. Mr. Hickmans parlor.

So there we have a second reason, more serious than a salary dispute, for Hickman to dissolve his relationship with the Blacksburg church. Achilles W. Luster, a member of the church, was accused of attacking the pastor's sixteen-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Jane (1844–72), in her father's home on 12 July 1860. The mystery to us now is why an attempted rape of his daughter would have caused the preacher, who should have been the aggrieved party, to resign his post. Could Luster's behavior have irreparably damaged the pastor's relationship with his flock?

A Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted Luster "for an attempt to commit rape" but when he appeared for trial at the county court on

7 November 1860, the case was continued to the June 1861 term. At that time the indictment was dismissed on a technicality due to the disqualification of one of the grand jurors who had found the presentment in the case.[14]

That led the Session of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church to bring its own action against Luster under church authority on charges of attempt at rape and falsehood. However, because so many members of the Blacksburg Session were related to either Luster or Hickman, the Session asked to have trial jurisdiction transferred to the Montgomery Presbytery. On 14 April 1862, Montgomery Presbytery found Luster guilty of the first charge, attempt at rape, by a unanimous vote, and guilty of the second charge, falsehood, by a majority vote. They then proceeded to administer the Act of Suspension according to the current Directives for Worship which read:

> Whereas you Mr A W Luster are in the judgement of this court found guilty of the sins of "attempt at rape" & "Falsehood" we declare you suspended from the sacraments of the church till you give satisfactory evidence of the sincerity of your repentance.[15]

For whatever reason he resigned, William P. Hickman was free to move his family across the New River to his White Glade farm in Pulaski County, where he continued as pastor of the Bell Spring Presbyterian Church.

On 19 April 1863, the Blacksburg Session granted a certificate of dismissal to Margaret Hickman and her daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to unite with the church at Bell Spring. However, for some reason they did not actually join the Bell Spring church until 23 July 1864.

In May of 1864 the Civil War arrived in Southwest Virginia, where Pulaski and Wythe Counties contained a number of resources important to the Confederacy. Among those were the saltworks at Saltville, lead mines at Austinville, and the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad. The rail depot and army warehouses at Dublin, and the bridge over the New River, became strategic objectives that Union forces were determined to destroy.

A Union Army division under the command of General George Crook had managed to move through West Virginia, eluding Confederate scouts, almost to Dublin before General Albert G. Jenkins, commanding the Confederate Department of Western Virginia, was aware of the danger. Jenkins gathered up all the available forces and called for reinforcements. He even took an artillery unit, the Ringold Battery, traveling by rail to reinforce Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, off the train at Dublin and sent it west toward Cloyd's Mountain on Saturday, 7 May 1864.

The next morning, Sunday 8 May 1864, General McCausland arrived with his brigade consisting of the 36th Virginia Infantry and 60th Virginia Infantry Regiments, the 45th Virginia Infantry Battalion, and one battery of

light artillery. Jenkins sent word to the surrounding communities that their home guards were needed for the impending conflict, and their response is noted in many of the regional histories:

> ...He called companies of home guards to Dublin. Word of Crook's approach reached Christiansburg while townspeople were in church. Every man rose and left the meeting house. Fetching their guns, men in surrounding counties formed ranks and set out for Dublin. Reverend William P. Hickman, pastor of the Dublin Presbyterian Church, urged his congregation to rally to the Confederate cause. Though overage himself, he left his pulpit with a flourish and volunteered to fight.[16]

This call to arms by the preacher, noted in several of these histories, seems to be a myth, and I am at a loss to explain its origin. I have found no primary source placing the Rev. William P. Hickman in the pulpit exhorting his congregation to join the defense of Dublin, but the story has been passed on by various writers. A contemporary newspaper account and Presbyterian memorials of 1864 and 1865, while telling of his bravery and cruel death, make no mention of the call to arms. A history of Pulaski County carries a more likely account:

> The Rev. Mr. William P. Hickman was the first pastor of the old Bell Spring Presbyterian Church....
>
> Before the Battle of Cloyd's Farm a Montgomery home guard company crossed the river, bound for the battlefield. As they passed the Bell Spring the minister, wearing his high silk hat, picked up a gun and joined the guardsmen. ...[17]

And an unpublished 1894 memorial, written with the help of William P. Hickman's diaries and the memory of his widow, stated:

> ... Having spent his Sabbath with his family May 8, 1864, the next day he went over to Back Creek, where the battle of Cloyd's Mountain was pending. His object was to minister to the wounded and dying.
>
> Seeing an invading army coming into his very neighborhood was more than his courageous spirit could stand, and shouldering his musket, he went into the very thickest of the fight, ...[18]

A force of only about 3,000 Confederate troops, militia, and over-age home guards hastily gathered on the farm of Joseph Cloyd and set about fortifying a position astride the road to Dublin. They would try to prevent the advance of a Union Army division of over 6,100 men.[19]

Initially, the Confederate artillery took a fearful toll of Union soldiers, but then the Union First Brigade flanked the 60th Virginia Regiment on the Confederate right, which began to retreat. Then the center of the Confederate line fell back, leaving the Ringold Battery exposed. Lieutenant Will-

iam H. Lipscomb, with twenty-nine men of the battery and some home guards, struggled to defend his field piece. Among those home guards defending a gun when it was overrun was William P. Hickman.

> ...It was at this point that Mr. Hickman fell, mortally wounded.
>
> Private Augustus Spotts McNeil, of the Forty-fifth Virginia regiment, saw the minister fall and heard him call for help. McNeil lifted Mr. Hickman, resting him against a tree....
>
> After the battle, Yankee medics came to the aid of the Confederate as well as the Federal wounded. The minister, not being in uniform, was considered a bushwhacker, and was left on the battlefield without medical attention.
>
> The Reverend Mr. Hickman died two days after the battle. ...[20]

"Bushwhacker" was the Yankee name for Confederate guerrillas, or irregular non-uniformed troops, whose mission was to harass the Union Army behind its lines.

Thus it was that the Union forces won the battle at Cloyd's Mountain, and the Rev. William P. Hickman, who was born next to Back Creek in Bath County, died next to Back Creek in Pulaski County. His fifteen-year-old son, James Brown Hickman (1848–1908), was wounded in the battle.

A week after the battle Jane Wade, from her home in Christiansburg, wrote a long letter to her husband, Captain John C. Wade. Some excerpts follow:

> Christiansburg 15th May, 1864
>
> My Dearest Husband
>
> ... Well to commence at the beginning, just as we were going to Church last Sunday we heard the Yanks were advancing on Dublin and every man got up and left the Church....
>
> We were badly whipped at Dublin. About 5 o'clock our wounded commenced coming in. Ed French was wounded in the foot, Nat Woods in the leg, White Ryan was killed and his two sons were wounded. Mr. Hickman died of his wounds and his son was wounded. Every house on Main Street had some wounded ones, some had four or five, some of them dreadfully wounded. They were coming in until 12 o'clock at night. ...I don't suppose three women in the 'Burg went to bed that night....[21]

Margaret Hoge Hickman probably wrote such a letter to Roger telling of the battle and his brother's death. If so, the letter is lost, but the following original clipping, from a Salem, Virginia, newspaper of 20 May 1864 that describes William's death must have been sent by his widow. It says nothing of him exhorting a congregation to take up arms.

REV. WILLIAM P. HICKMAN

Among the countless victims of this cruel war, not many will be more deeply lamented than the pastor of the Presbyterian church at Bell Spring who fell in the fight with the Yankee raiders near Dublin while bravely defending his home against the invaders. Though past the military age, he had connected himself with the Home Guard of Pulaski county, and had on former occasions shown himself willing to take up arms in a cause to which he was ardently devoted.

During the hottest of the fight, being near one of the guns, and seeing the soldiers who supported it shot down, he rushed forward to take their place, and almost immediately fell, mortally wounded in the body. The last words he was heard to speak were "Do your best, boys, my work is ended!" — words worthy of a patriot, and Christian soldier.

No truer man, nor braver heart is left behind him. Falling into the hands of the enemy, and finding him in citizen's dress, they chose to consider and speak of him as "a bushwhacker" and it is supposed that he was brutally treated by them. He was left on the field in a dying condition for thirty-six hours without any attention whatever, and died immediately after being removed to a neighboring house.

He had, for a few months past, been in part supplying the church in Salem in the absence of its pastor as chaplain in the army and had greatly endeared himself to the people during his brief ministry. We deeply sympathies [*sic*] with his bereaved widow and children, and lament his loss not only as a dear friend, but as a gifted and devoted minister of the Gospel.

A memorial in the Montgomery Presbytery minutes of 2 June 1865 provides additional information:

BATTLE OF CLOYD'S MOUNTAIN:
THE REV. MR. HICKMAN'S DEATH

Bro. Hickman fell fighting for civil and religious liberty at Cloyd's Farm on Monday, May 9, 1864. When the sound of cannon and the tramp of the enemies cavalry were heard approaching his humble home, threatening destruction, as well as the most cherished rights of humanity, he volunteered to join a company assigned to the duty of supporting a Brigade of Artillery; and it was while eagerly and bravely discharging this duty that he fell mortally wounded. After calling to his stripling son (who had run to his relief) to never mind him, but to fill his place in the ranks. And after that son and others nearby had been overpowered by numbers and driven from the field, he was allowed by the enemy to remain that evening and all day Tuesday without adequate attention; and it was not until Wednesday the 11th that his spirit took flight. Kind female friends were permitted to sit by him and minister to his wants during Tuesday, but were driven from the place when night came and not permitted to sit

Grave of the Rev. William P. Hickman (1810–64) with two headstones. The larger stone on the right was probably erected some years after his death.

and watch with him. On Wednesday morning he was taken to a neighboring home but died a few hours afterwards. He was calm and composed while thus lying in intense suffering and had no fear of death....[22]

The Rev. William Patton Hickman, his wife Margaret, five of their children, and thirteen grandchildren are buried in the Hickman Cemetery on Hickman Cemetary [*sic*] Road (route 624) in Pulaski County in soil that was once his "White Glade" farm. The location is about equally distant from the present Belspring Presbyterian Church and Cloyd's Mountain, where he was fatally wounded.

In 1886 Margaret R. Hickman donated the Hickman Cemetery, and some adjacent land to enlarge the cemetery, to the Bell Spring and Riverview Presbyterian churches.[23] Today, the Hickman Cemetery is well-tended but, while descendants of the Rev. William P. Hickman still reside in the area, the Hickman name is no longer found among this country preacher's descendants in Virginia.[24]

Endnotes

1. The letters reproduced here are among a large collection of Hickman family papers saved by Roger Hickman (1813–89) and passed down to his son, Peter Lightner Hickman (1858-1937), and then to his granddaughter Ruth Gertrude Hickman (1908-1997) and grandson Clare Brown Hickman (1905-1997), and finally to Roger's great-grandson, the author of this article. Punctuation and spelling in the letters quoted in the text follow the originals.

2. Transcribed by H. William Gabriel from the handwritten "The Records of White Glade/Bell Spring Church, Belspring, Virginia."
3. William said she died on 13 May 1851, but a Hoge genealogy reports the date as 9 May 1851. See James Hoge Tyler, *The Family of Hoge: A Genealogy Compiled by James Hoge Tyler* (James Fulton Hoge, 1927). A number of these discrepancies in dates are found in the Hickman letters, but, in the absence of other documentation, I am inclined to accept William's dates as the more accurate because they were written close to the events by a man who kept track of the births and deaths of his relatives and members of his churches.
4. John Matthew Hoge was married twice, to Mary Black and Mary Hoge, and I do not know which of them William referred to as being quite sick.
5. His landlord was probably Col. William Thomas, the husband of Margaret's oldest half-sister, Rachel Montgomery Hoge (1800–?)
6. Charles Black was probably the son of John Black and the nephew of William Black, for whom the town of Blacksburg was named.
7. Other writers, without tracing Hickman's genealogy, have jumped to conclusions about his name and family. Patricia Givens Johnson, *The United States Army Invades the New River Valley May 1864* (N.P., n.d.), p. 20, erroneously states, "Hickman was a descendant of the sea captain James Patton who had first brought colonists to the area along Back Creek where the battle was fought." However, Hickman's ancestors were in Accomac County even before Patton was born in 1692 and, in fact, the Hickmans had been in Virginia for 100 years before Patton arrived from Ireland. Similarly, Linda Killen, *Farm Land, Boom Town, Village: A History of Belspring, Virginia, 1750–1940*, (Radford Univ., 1992), p. 8, shows her confusion about his place of birth and his ancestors when she writes: "Born on Back Creek and related to the Pattons and Thompsons on his mother's side, Hickman married into the Hoge family. ..." Actually, his mother was Mary Elliot (1771-1842) of Rockbridge County.
8. Virginius Dabney, *Virginia: the New Dominion* (Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia, 1971), p. 250.
9. Huldah Shallum Hickman (1806-1888) and Isaac Callison (1804-1880) are the great-grandparents of Vice-Admiral James Bond Stockdale, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry as a POW in Vietnam. He is the author of two books about those experiences, and was a candidate for vice president of the United States on the third-party ticket with H. Ross Perot in 1992.
10. From microfilm records of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.
11. Ellison A. Smyth, *A History of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church: Its First 150 Years* (Blacksburg, 1982), p. 8.
12. Smyth makes various references to the "behavior and misbehavior of the members" of the church but chose to ignore this incident, which takes up more space in the Session records than any other.
13. Microfilm records of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. The date was left blank in the original minutes. The Minutes for 11 Sept. 1861 give the date as 12 July 1860.
14. Order Book, County Court, Com: Law & Chancery 1859-1868, Montgomery County, Va., 7 Nov 1860, 3 Jun 1861
15. Microfilm records of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, at Union Theologicial Seminary, Richmond.

16. Howard Rollins McManus, *The Battle of Cloyds Mountain: The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Raid, April 19–May 19, 1864* (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc.,1989), p. 19. See also Gary C. Walker, *The War in Southwest Virginia, 1861-65*. 3rd ed. (Roanoke: Gurtner Printing Co., 1985), p. 81; and Patricia Givens Johnson, *The United States Army Invades the New River Valley May 1864* (N.P., n.d.), p. 20.
17. Conway Howard Smith, *The Land That Is Pulaski County* (The Pulaski County Library Board, 1980), p. 284.
18. Extracted from a photocopy of text passed down through William P. Hickman's descendants. B.W. Mebane, "Rev. William P. Hickman: A Memorial," prepared for the semicentennial services at Bell Spring, Va., August 19, 1894.
19. Harry T. Williams, *Hayes of the Twenty-third: The Civil War Volunteer Officer* (New York: Knopf, 1965; Lincoln: Univ. Nebraska Press, n.d.), pp. 175-77.
20. Smith, *The Land That is Pulaski County*, p. 285.
21. Excerpted from Charles W. Crush, *The Montgomery County Story 1776–1957* (Montgomery County [Jamestown] Festival Committee, 1957), pp. 94–96.
22. Smyth, *A History of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church*, p. 55.
23. From *The Records of White Glade/Bell Spring Church*, Belspring, Virginia.
24. Surnames of William P. Hickman's descendants on the gravestones include Brown, Chumbley, and Huff.

Book Reviews

Edited by Tom Costa

Dept. of History and Philosophy, Clinch Valley College

Diversity and Accommodation: Essays on the Cultural Composition of the Virginia Frontier. Edited by Michael J. Puglisi. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997. Pp. x, 310. $45.00, ISBN 0-87049-969-6)

The twelve essays in this collection, the product of a conference held at Emory and Henry College in 1992, attest to the maturity and vitality of recent scholarship on the backcountry. The articles focus on ethnic and cultural interaction on the Virginia frontier, broadly defined in both geographical and chronological terms. Michael Puglisi, who organized the conference and edited this volume, sets the tone in prefatory remarks and an introductory essay by emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of most recent work in this field and by establishing the unifying themes of the collection: "pluralism, toleration, acculturation, and accommodation"(ix). Overturning persistent stereotypes of backcountry life as "quaint, heroic, and backward"(3) and integrating Native Americans and African Americans into the story of Virginia's frontier culture are also chief objectives of the volume. To reflect this diversity and interdisciplinary approach, Puglisi selected essays from nine historians, two geographers, two archaeologists, and a linguist. The result is a sophisticated and nuanced portrayal of life on the Virginia frontier in the eighteenth century.

Robert Mitchell, whose classic work, *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley* (1977), is cited in virtually every essay in the collection, leads off with a survey of recent literature on the Virginia backcountry. He criticizes scholars for neglecting to stress sufficiently place and the attributes of place, which he considers key determinants in understanding the frontier experience. Environmental conditions, such as the number and types of trees in a locale, were also crucial in shaping human responses to their situation. Mitchell acknowledges the ethnic diversity of western Virginia, but maintains that the "most distinctive fact" about settlement patterns there was the "search for edge habitats to provide a broader range of resource possibilities."(36) German, Scots-Irish, and Anglo-American settlers vied for prime tracts of land, but this competi-

tion produced economic cooperation and interaction, not conflict. Further empirical studies of the region grounded in a geographical context, Mitchell concludes, are needed to understand more fully how Shenandoah Valley residents related to each other and to the natural world.

Continuing the theme of ethnic diversity, Warren Hofstra discusses the process of community formation in the eighteenth century Shenandoah Valley. He describes the central role of ethnicity in shaping the "cultural landscape"(60) of the region, which developed through four stages: the transformation of the wilderness into property; the emergence of towns; the rise of commercial markets to transport backcountry agricultural products throughout the Atlantic trading basin; and the evolution of towns such as Winchester and Staunton as regional market centers which tied the widely dispersed settlements of the Shenandoah Valley together, at least economically. After describing this process, Hofstra boldly asserts that western Virginia in 1800 more closely resembled "twentieth-century, rural-farm, small-town America"(62) than either the older society east of the Blue Ridge or the European communities that backcountry farmers formerly called home. Hofstra, like Mitchell, found abundant evidence that German, Scots-Irish, and English immigrants often forged strong and lasting bonds on the frontier. At the settlement of Opequon, for instance, "families of all ethnic groups settled near one another, traded with one another, and governed in common."(70). Interaction and accommodation did not extend to social relations, however. A strong desire to maintain the "separate spheres of family and kin"(71) coexisted, at times uneasily, with the common goal of European settlers to achieve economic independence.

Richard MacMaster and Kenneth Keller provide more detail about the ethnic composition of colonial Shenandoah Valley society. MacMaster argues persuasively against the traditional interpretation that religious life in the region was marked by rigid ethnic boundaries. His research on Smith's Creek reveals an astonishing amount of social and religious intermingling. This interaction persisted even after the initial settlement period, when churches had been built and ministers hired, and extended to such areas as church services, baptisms, and weddings. The various religious groups of the area, he concludes, "learned to accept one another and to recognize a commonality with other Christians that made it relatively easy to change church memberships at times of marriage or in seasons of revival."(94). Keller's essay on "The Outlook of Rhinelanders on the Virginia Frontier" offers a straight forward account of the values and practices of this important group of immigrants. As one might expect, he finds that Rhinelanders continued to follow old world economic, social, and cultural practices after moving to western Virginia. Keller suggests that Rhenish society was simi-

lar in certain key respects to frontier Virginia society, which made the transition from old world to new less dramatic and allowed immigrants from the Rhineland to assimilate into Anglo-American culture with relative ease.

Part III of the collection contains four essays on Native Americans and African Americans in western Virginia. These studies advance our understanding of the composition of frontier society and shed light on neglected aspects of that culture, most notably the nature of slavery. To accomplish this, however, requires extending discussions beyond the eighteenth century Shenandoah Valley. Michael Barber and Eugene Barfield, for instance, use archaeological evidence to explain the extensive but "indirect interaction"(150) between Indians and Europeans in the seventeenth century Roanoke Valley. For a variety of reasons, however, the region "was devoid of Native Americans early in the eighteenth century"(147). Likewise, Marilyn Davis-DeEulis's case study of slave literacy on Wilson Cary Nicholas's plantations in Kanawha and Cabell counties between 1795 and 1840 is intriguing and informative, but is a poor fit with the rest of the collection. Back in the eighteenth century, but now on Virginia's Kentucky frontier, Ellen Eslinger provides an overview of the development of slavery between 1775 and 1800. Noting that "frontier conditions were extremely conducive to unfree labor"(173), she explains the rapid growth of the institution (slaves accounted for 18% of Kentucky's population in 1800) and argues that "the two most important factors shaping western slavery were the selective migration process and the danger of Indian attack"(185).

The most compelling essay in this section, and the one that most closely fits the scope of the volume, is J. Susanne Schramm Simmons's examination of African Americans in Augusta County in the late colonial period. While fewer than one hundred blacks lived in Augusta in the 1750s, their number and importance rapidly increased as hemp production took off in the region the following decade. By the time of the first federal census in 1790, African Americans (all but 59 of whom were slaves) accounted for 15% of the county's population, contributed significantly to the "evolving commercialism of the frontier"(159), and established important precedents and contexts for slavery in the antebellum period.

Turk McCleskey examines another aspect of life in Augusta County in his essay, "The Price of Conformity: Class, Ethnicity, and Local Authority on the Colonial Virginia Frontier." His comparison of officeholding in two settlements, one Anglo-American and one German-American, produces three central conclusions. First, both towns followed similar patterns "in the establishment and succession of local officeholding"(219). Next, German immigrants regularly held political office, despite being legally excluded from these positions. This was allowed, McCleskey explains, because na-

tive Virginian elites desirous of recreating the hierarchical society of the Tidewater recognized that certain German settlers possessed the "potential to regulate and govern"(219). Thus, "class counted for more than ethnicity"(220) when it came to local officeholding in Augusta County. Finally, German officials accepted Virginia-style politics and "participated willingly in the fabrication of a deferential, hierarchical frontier society"(212).

Moving from local to national officeholding, Gail Terry explores congressional elections in far western Virginia in the 1790s. In a penetrating analysis of three elections between Francis Preston and Abram Trigg, Terry reveals that certain aspects of Virginia's colonial political culture, especially the vital role played by family and kinship, remained intact after the Revolution. But the creation of the two-party system in the 1790s opened the political process to savvy newcomers (in this case Alexander Smyth) who employed Democratic rhetoric to accuse "aristocrats" like Preston of lacking virtue and disinterestedness and therefore being unfit for office. Smyth's attacks on Preston helped Trigg oust the two-term congressman in 1797, despite the valuable and practical advice that Preston's sister, Eliza Preston Madison, gave him during the campaign. Madison's actions in both defending her family's honor and sharing with Preston her knowledge of local politics suggest the need to reformulate our understanding of women's political participation in the post-revolutionary period.

The volume closes with two essays on material culture. Ann McCleary provides an overview of the literature on vernacular architecture in the Shenandoah Valley, which emphasizes the tremendous diversity of the area, even among ethnic groups. She calls for more intensive study of this topic, conducted along interdisciplinary lines. John Morgan traces the history of the distinctive cantilever barn, noting its existence in southwest Virginia before it appeared in eastern Tennessee, where scholars have argued it originated. He suggests that the cantilever style evolved from structures in western Pennsylvania, but developed distinctive features on the Virginia frontier. Echoing McCleary, Morgan stresses the need for additional research on this topic.

Taken together, these studies provide compelling evidence that ethnic diversity, interaction, and accommodation were the hallmark of eighteenth century frontier Virginia society. They also establish the uniqueness of the region and reveal the inaccuracy of many previously held interpretations. Most important, the essays in *Diversity and Accommodation* contribute significantly to the creation of a much needed consensus on the culture of the colonial Virginia backcountry.

Wade Shaffer, West Texas A&M University

The Smithfield Review
Volume III, 1999

Index to Volumes I, II, and III

Mary C. Holliman and Diana Kittleman

- Italicized numerals indicate the page numbers of illustrations.
- Family names are in all-capital letters, and come before other entries using the family name. Where possible, dates of birth and death, or dates mentioned in the text that help to identify a person by indicating a time when he or she was alive, are given.
- Two or more people with the same family and given names are indicated by a (1), (2), etc. after the given name. In some cases, they may actually be the same person, but the text does not make that clear.
- Information in the endnotes has not been indexed herein.

A

Abbs Valley, beginning of Toland attack on Wytheville lead mines ..... II: 85
Accommodation (in frontier culture) .. III: 83
Acculturation (in frontier culture) ..... III: 83
Act of Suspension (Presbyterian) ..... III: 76
Adelbert College, in Cleveland, Ohio ... II: 70
ADKINS (Atkins)
family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Mary, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 19
African Americans, in frontier culture ..... III: 83, 85
AGEE, Mary "Poly", wife of Timothy Craighead ..... III: 42
Albemarle
County, Va. ..... I: 63, 75
Sound, No. Car. ..... III: 37
ALBERT family ..... I: 57, 58
ALDERMAN, E.A., president of University of Virginia ..... I: 50
Allegheny (Alleghany)
County, Va. ..... III: 64
Mountains ..... II: 10
Ridge ..... II: 10, 11
Springs, Va. ..... III: 48
ALEXANDER, Mr., married to Col. John Floyd's sister ..... II: 44
American Viscose Plant, 1917 ..... III: 48
American Journal of Science ..... II: 65
Amherst County, Va. ..... II: 41, 42; III: 6
AMISS, Lewis ..... II: 20
"Anchor and Hope" estate on Reed Creek, Pulaski County, Va. ..... I: 11
Angels Rest Mountain, Giles County, Va. ..... II: 67
Apoplexy ..... III: 63
Appalachian Mountains ..... II: 78
geological history ..... II: 78–79
Appomattox, Va. ..... II: 88
ARGABRIGHT (Argabrite)
family, built house in Blacksburg ..... II: 15
Wesley ..... II: 21
William ..... II: 9, 14, 21
ARMISTEAD
family papers ..... II: 60
Maria Carter, papers of ..... II: 60
Army of Northern Virginia ..... III: 12, 76
ATKINS, see Adkins
Atlanta, Ga., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
Augusta County, Va. ..... I: 5, 10; ..... II: 8, 29, 46, 53; III: 42, 69, 85, 86
AUSTIN
Moses, part owner of Austinville lead mines, father of Stephen F. Austin . II: 81
Stephen, brother of Moses, part owner of Austinville lead mines ..... II: 81
Stephen F., son of Moses, "Father of Texas" ..... II: 81
Austinville, Va. ..... III: 76
lead mines ..... II: 76, 77–89; III: 76
zinc mining ..... II: 88
Automobiles, impact on Bottom Creek III: 48
AVERELL, William, Union general II: 76, 86

B

Back Creek
in Bath County, Va. ..... III: 53, 58, 62, ... 63, 64, 69, 70, 72, 78
in Pulaski County, Va. ..... III: 77, 78

Backcountry, see frontier
Baer family papers ..... II: 63
BALDWIN, Judge Briscoe, first owner of Spring Hill Farm (near Staunton, Va.) .... I: 5
Baltimore, Md.
Conference (Presbyterian) ..... III: 68
felt earthquake ..... II: 69
BARBER, Michael (author) ..... III: 85
BARFIELD, Eugene (author) ..... III: 85
BARGER (Barguer)
family, early Blacksburg settlers ..... II: 6
Casper, killed at Draper's Meadow ..... II: 7
Philip, killed at Draper's Meadow ..... I: 7, 8
William, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 21
BARNWELL, Nathaniel, letters to John Smith Preston ..... II: 59
BARRINGER, Paul B., president of Virginia Tech ..... I: 45, 46
Baseball, in Newport, Va. ..... I: 21
Bath County, Va. ..... III: 53, 55, ... 56, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 78
Battle of
Bull Run, July 21, 1861 ..... III: 6
Cedar Run, 1862 ..... II: 103
Cloyd's Mountain .... I: 19; III: 75, 76–80
Cove, the, 1864 ..... II: 86
Fayette Courthouse, 1862 ..... III: 11
First Manassas, 1861 ..... III: 35
Guilford Courthouse ..... I: 14
King's Mountain ..... I: 14, 15
Point Pleasant ..... II: 64
Tippacanoe (Tippecanoe) ..... II: 49
BATTS, Thomas, explorer 1671 ..... III: 39
BEALE, Mrs., sister of Miss Maupin ..... II: 48
Beargrass Creek, Kentucky estate of John Floyd ..... II: 44
Beets, as farm crop ..... III: 57
BELL
John, purchased lots in Blacksburg .... II: 19
John, of Floyd County, Constitutional Unionist politician ..... II: 91
Bell Spring, Va. ..... III: 54, 55, 57, 61
Presbyterian Church = White Glade Pres byterian Church ..... III: 54–57, 61, 74, 76, 77, 79, 80
Belspring, Va. ..... I: 53; III: 80
Bent Mountain, Va. ..... II: 98; III: 37
Falls ..... III: 37
School ..... III: 48
BENTON, Thomas H., of Missouri, married daughter of Sarah Preston McDowell ... I: 15
BERGEE, Charles ..... II: 27
Beverley Manor, near Staunton, Va. ..... II: 8
BEYER, Edward, artist ..... I: 18
Big
Lick = Roanoke ..... III: 59
Sandy River ..... II: 86
Vein Mine, McCoy, Va. ..... I: 54
BIRD, Margaret, married James Hickman 1795 ..... III: 58
BLACK
family ..... II: 5–7, 8
Charles, died 1853 ..... III: 63, 64
Jane, wife of William ..... II: 11, 15
John, Samuel's son, born 1755 ..... II: 8, 9, 10, 19
John, Jr. ..... II: 9
Mary, daughter of Charles, wife of John Matthew Hoge ..... III: 59, 63, 81
Mrs. Charles, mother of Mary Hoge ..... III: 63, 74
Samuel, Irish immigrant ..... II: 8, 9, 20
William, Samuel's son, born 1766 ..... II: 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 19
Blacksburg, Va. ..... I: 1–4, 37, 39, 92; II: 1–22, *12–13*, *22*; III: 2, 30, 53–58, 61, 63, 64, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75
Academy ..... III: 68, 69
Female Academy ..... III: 68, 69
first streets of ..... II: 11
founding of college ..... I: 92; III: 69
Presbyterian Church ..... III: 54, 55, 57, 58, 61, 74–76
Session (Presbyterian) ..... III: 74–76
BLACKWELL
Abraham, Rebecca's son, saved from Confederate patrol ..... II: 97
Rebecca, of Floyd County, supported Confederate deserters ..... II: 97
BLAIR, Andy ..... III: 12
Bland County, Va. ..... III: 6
BLANTON, Lindsay H., Floyd County Presbyterian minister, Confederate Loyalist ..... II: 105
Blue
Ridge Mountains ..... III: 37, 84
Spring (near Covington, Va.) ..... III: 71
Bluefield, West Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Bluegrass Trail = Fincastle-Cumberland Turnpike, Giles County ..... I: 18
BOLLINGER, Gil (author) ..... II: 2, 65–75
BOOTH, Asa, Captain of Company D, 54th Virginia, led Floyd deserters ..... II: 94
leader of Confederate patrol ..... II: 100
BORING, Bro. (Capt. William C. Bourne) ..... III: 23

Botetourt
County, Va. ..... I: 10, 11; ..... II: 8, 16, 24, 41, 42, 53; III: 42
Lord, governor of Virginia ..... I: 11
Bottom Creek, Va. ..... III: 2, 37–51
maps of area ..... III: *40–41*
BOWMAN
Christian, Dunkard clergyman, Floyd County ..... II: 103
Peter, Floyd County Unionist ..... II: 104
BRADLEY, Aggie, midwife, of Newport I: 30
Bradley Covered Bridge, Newport, Va. ..... I: 27
Braxton
County, West Va.(?) ..... III: 56
Court House, Va. ..... III: 70
BRECKENRIDGE
family ..... I: 11
Alexander, son of Col Robert & Miss Poage, Robert (2)'s brother ..... II: 45, 46, 47
Henry, Capt. ..... II: 49
James (1), General, brother of John, worked at Smithfield ..... I: 14
letter about, from John Preston ..... II: *58*
James (2), 1763–1833 ..... II: 61
James D., son of Capt. Breckenridge and Mrs. Floyd ..... II: 47
John (1), nephew of William Preston, married Polly Cabell ..... I: 13
attorney general of U.S. ..... I: 14
John (2), of Fayette County, Ky. ..... II: 47
John C., of Kentucky, Confederate general ..... II: *76*, 86–88
commander of Western Virginia ... II: 100
Latitia, daughter of John, married General P.B. Porter ..... I: 14
Mrs. (widow of Col. John Floyd) ..... II: 45, 47, 48
Mrs. James D. ..... II: 49
Robert (1), Col., husband of Miss Poage ..... II: 46
Robert (2), general, Alexander's brother, guardian ..... II: 46–49
Robert (3) ..... II: 48
Sophonisba P., papers of ..... II: 63
William, Alexander's step-brother ... II: 45, 47
Brick Church, near Wytheville ..... III: 54
Bristol , Va./Tenn. ..... III: 25
Brock, R.A., historian, newspaperman ..... I: 4
BRODNAX, General, of Dinwiddie ..... I: 68, 72, 73
BROGAN, Jackson, Floyd Guard member, deserter ..... II: 94
BROWN
John, of Rockbridge, friend of Col. John Floyd ..... II: 44, 47
John, Presbyterian clergyman, married Margaret Preston, sister of Col. William Preston ..... I: 9–10
J. Wilcox, of Newport ..... I: 20
Margaret Preston, sister of Col. William Preston, married John .... I: 9–10
Michael, donated land in Long Hollows for church, 1850 ..... III: 54
Mildred Riggle, descendant of Thomas Winton Fisher ..... III: 26
Brown's Mill, Newport, Va. ..... I: 29
Bruce, Mr., of Halifax County ..... I: 73
Brunswick County, Va. . I: 66, 67, 70, 74, 75
Brush Mountain, Montgomery County, Va. ..... I: 54, 56
BUCHANAN (Buchannan)
Anne ..... II: 46
Jane, married Col. John Floyd, mother of Dr. John Floyd; later married Captain Alexander Breckenridge ..... I: 3, 16; II: 39–51
John (1), married daughter of Col. James Patton, father of Jane Buchanan Floyd; elected to House of Burgesses ..... I: 7, 10; II: 41
John (2) ..... II: 49, 50
Margaret (1), daughter of Col. Patton ..... I: 11
Margaret (2) ..... II: 46
William ..... II: 40, 46, 49, 50
BUCKINGHAM, S.A., Floyd County captain of Confederate militia ..... II: 93
BUCKNER, General S.B. ..... III: 24
Buckwheat, as farm crop ..... III: 56, 57
BURBRIDGE, Stephen, Union general ..... II: *76*, 86-87
BURFOOT, Miss, married John Floyd .. II: 42
BURGESS John ..... II: 11, 20
Burks (Burke's) Garden, Va. ..... I: 7
BURRUSS, Julian A., president of Virginia Tech ..... I: 45
BURTON, Mr., leased William P. Hickman's farm ..... III: 62, 65, 66
Bushwhackers, Confederate guerillas . III: 78
BUTLER
family ..... I: 19
Benjamin, Union general ..... II: 85
BYARS, William, family of ..... II: 6
BYRD, Col. William ..... I: 11; II: 34
BYRNE, James ..... II: 8, 9

C

CABELL
Col. Joseph ..... I: 11, 13
Polly, daughter of Col. Joseph, married John Breckenridge ..... I: 13
Col. William ..... II: 41
Cabell County, West Va. ..... III: 85
California, as economic hope ..... III: 59–61
Callaghans old stand (Va.) ..... III: 64
CALLISON, Isaac, husband of Huldah Hickman ..... III: 69
Cambria, Va. ..... I: 20, 57
CAMERON, John G., friend of Thomas Winton Fisher ..... III: 14, 15, 20, 21, 23
CAMP, see Des Camp, DesChamp
Camp Creek, Va. ..... III: 37
CAMPBELL
family, papers of ..... II: 63
Arthur, colonel, of Washington County, brother-in-law of Gov. Campbell ..... I: 13
Charles, first operator of salt works at Saltville, Va., 1750s ..... II: 82
Hugh (editor) ..... II: 55
M.R., geologist ..... II: 70–71
Sarah Buchanan, married Francis Smith Preston, mother of Sarah Buchanan Preston, had 15 children ..... II: 41
William, general, of Washington County ..... I: 13
Campbell County, Va. ..... I: 74, 75
Canawha, see Kanawha
CAPERTON, Sarah Ann, wife of James Francis Preston ..... III: 35
CARLETON
Mary, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 19
Susanna, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 19
CARNEAL, W. Leigh, architect ..... I: 47
Carneal & Johnston, architects for Virginia Tech ..... I: 39, 46, 47–50
Carnifix Ferry, West Va., marked Confederate loss of salt supply in Kanawha valley ..... III: 6
CARPENTER, J.T. Jr., donated Cochran's copy of Letitia Preston's letter ..... I: 3–4
CARPER, Nicholas, letter to ..... II: *58*
CARRINGTON, Eliza Henry Preston, papers of ..... II: 61, 63
CARTER, Miss, poetess, friend of Aaron Palfreman ..... I: 13
Castle Thunder Prison, Richmond, Va. ..... II: 106
Cattle drives, in East ..... II: 31
Cedar
Creek, Va. ..... III: 64
Grove Mills, Va. ..... III: 64
Run, Battle of , 1862 ..... II: 103
Celanese Plant, Narrows, Va. ..... I: 31
Central, Va. =Radford ..... II: 86
Chapman's Mills =Newport, Va. . I: 18, 28
Charleston (now West Va.) ..... III: 12, 13, 16
CHARLTON
Capt. James, defended Smithfield ..... I: 12
Frank, brother of James ..... I: 12
Chattanooga, Tenn. ..... III: 24
Cheese and butter factory, near Christiansburg, Va. ..... III: 65
CHEVALIER, Nicholas W., Presbyterian pastor, 1850s ..... III: 54–57, 74
CHISWELL
Col. John, opened lead mines in southwest Virginia, mid 1700s ..... II: 34, 80
Chiswell, Fort ..... II: 34
Chorea = St. Vitus' dance ..... III: 73, 74
CHRISTIAN, Col. William, High Sheriff ..... I: 12; II: 42
Christiansburg, Va. ..... I: 18, 92; II: 9, 10, ... *12-13*; III: 42, 45, 57, 65, 73, 77, 78
Courthouse ..... III: 48
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Montgomery Female College ..... I: 92
Mountain, Va. ..... III: 48
New Star, The (Christiansburg, Va.), supported secession ..... II: 92
Presbyterian Church ..... III: 54, 57
Churches
in Bottom Creek, Va. ..... III: 45, 47
in California ..... III: 59–61, 69
Cripple Creek Campground ..... III: 5
in Newport, Va. ..... I: 23–24
Presbyterian ..... III: 53–57, 74–76
Cincinnati, Ohio ..... II: II: 69
Circuit riding (Methodists) ..... III: 54
CLARK (Clarke), Col. ..... III: 24
Clark County
Kentucky ..... II: 47
Ohio ..... II: 15
CLARKE, General George Rogers .... II: 45
Clay Street, Blacksburg, Va. ..... II: 11
Cleveland, Ohio ..... II: 69, 70
Clinch Valley College ..... III: 2, 83
Clover
as farm crop ..... III: 57
Hollow community, Giles County, Va. ..... I: 18, 20, 27, *29*

CLOYD
Col., saved William Preston in battle .. I: 14
David, son of Col. Cloyd ..... I: 14
John, Joseph's brother, killed by Indians ..... I: 11
Joseph, early settler ..... I: 11; III: 77, 79
Mrs., Joseph's mother, killed by Indians ..... I: 11
Cloyd's Mountain, battle of, 1864 ..... I: 19; III: 75, 76–80
Coal
as fuel ..... II: 77, 78
Bank Hollow, Va.
community ..... I: 54, 56, 57, 58
mining at ..... I: 54
mining, New River Valley, Va. .. I: 53–62
River, West Va. ..... I: 19
COCHRAN, James, transcribed Letitia Preston's letter in 1846 ..... I: 3–4, 5, *6*
COCKE
Thomas Lewis Preston, grandson of Thomas Lewis Preston, letters of ..... II: 60
William, of Henrico and Cumberland counties, papers of ..... II: 60
Col Alto, Rockbridge County, Va., home of McDowell family ..... III: 30
Collegiate Gothic, architectural style for Virginia Tech ..... I: 39
COLLINS
family ..... III: 43
Millard ..... III: 43
Commonwealth's Attorney, Montgomery County, Va. ..... III: 34
Compromise of 1850 ..... I: 77, 89
Congress, see United States Congress
Congressional
Globe ..... I: 64
Record ..... I: 64
Constitution of the United States ..... I: 76–89, 93, 98, 99
Consumption (tuberculosis) ..... III: 66
Cook's Mill, Newport, Va. ..... I: 29
COPENHAVER, James H., of Newport, Va. ..... I: 32
Corn, as farm crop ..... II: 31; III: 56, 57, 65–67, 71, 73
Cornstalk, Indian chief ..... I: 10
COSTA, Tom (book review editor) .. III: 2, 83
Cotton Hill (Civil War battle) ..... III: 11
Court House district, Floyd County, Va. ..... II: 98, 103, 104, 107
Cove, Battle of the, 1864 ..... II: 86
Covered bridges, in Newport, Va. I: 17, 27, *28*
Covington, Va. ..... III: 61, 63, 64, 67, 71
COWAN, Mrs. ..... II: 49
CRAIG
John ..... II: 25
Rev. Mr., tutor of William Preston ..... I: 7
Craig County ..... I: 17
CRAIGHEAD
family ..... III: 43
Amos, Bottom Creek, 1937 ..... III: *49*
Edith, Bottom Creek, 1937 ..... III: *49*
Genny (Henderson) ..... III: 43–47
at Bottom Creek, 1935 ..... III: *46*
Jessie, Bottom Creek, 1917 ..... III: *44*
Nettie, Bottom Creek, 1917 ..... III: *44*
Robert O., William's great-great-grandson ..... III: 42
Susannah, wife of William ..... III: 45
Timothy ..... III: 42
William, Timothy's son, homesteader at Bottom Creek ..... III: 42–43
CRAM, Ralph Adams, architect for Virginia Tech ..... I: 38, 45, 46, 47
CRAWFORD
Jim (author) ..... III: 2, 37–52
Scott (author) ..... II: 1, 23–38
Cripple Creek, Wythe County, Va. ..... III: 5
site of lead mines ..... II: 80
Cristel's field, battle of, in Canada ..... I: 16
CROCKETT
James (J.S.) ..... III: 9
Robert, elder of Glade Spring Church, went to California ..... III: 59, 67
Crockett, Va. ..... III: 5
Crockett's Cove, near Wytheville, Va. . II: 86
Battle of the Cove ..... II: 86
CROGHAN
Col. George C. ..... II: 45
Mrs., sister of General Clarke ..... II: 45
Crook, George, Union general ..... I: 19; II: 86; III: 76
Crossroads = Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
CROUCHER, Leonard ..... II: 27
CROY
Adam, Jr., owned Blacksburg lots .. II: 14, 21
Andrew, owned Blacksburg lots ..... II: 21

D

Dairy farming ..... III: 57
DANGERFIELD, Henry, Floyd County deserter ..... II: 97-98
Danville, Va. ..... II: 110; III: 47
DAVIE, Preston, Preston descendant .... II: 54

DAVIS
family ..... II: 42
Abidiah, married William Floyd ..... II: 42
James (author) ..... III: 26
Jefferson, President of the Confederacy, correspondence ..... II: 58
handling deserters in Floyd County . II: 109
Robert (1), father of Abidiah, grandfather of John Floyd ..... II: 42
Robert (2), oldest son of Robert, to Natchez ..... II: 42
Davis-DeEulis, Marilyn (author) ..... III: 85
Declaration of Independence ..... I: 89–91
DES CAMP, DESCHAMP
Zachariah, bought Blacksburg lots II: 11, 21
DESKINS, Harvey, of Floyd County, delegate to Virginia Secession Convention II: 92
magistrate ..... II: 99
Development, see economic development
DICKERSON, Andrew, organized Floyd Grays ..... II: 92
Dickinson College ..... II: 47
DIDIER, Charles Peale, papers of ..... II: 62
DILLION, William, J., Floyd County Unionist, aided deserters ..... II: 98, 107
DINWIDDIE, Governor ..... III: 42
Dinwiddie County, Va. ....I: 68, 72, 73, 75
Diptheria ..... III: 13, 16–17
Directives of Worship, Presbyterian ... III: 76
Diseases ..... III: 9, 13, 16–17, 22, 39, 63, 65, 66, 67, 73, 74
DIVEREX, Charles, "ordinary" license . II: 24
Diversity on frontier ..... III: 83–86
DOBYNS
family, built house in Blacksburg ..... II: 15
Dangerfield ..... II: 9, 11, 14, 15
William, owned Blacksburg lot, store; started school ..... II: 11, 14, 20
DODD, William E., Virginia Tech alumnus ..... I: 42
DONALD
and company ..... II: 26
James, merchant in Manchester, Va. .. II: 25
Robert, merchant in Manchester, Va. . II: 25
William, merchant in Manchester, Va. II: 25
DORMAN, John Frederick ..... I: 4; II: 54
DOTSON, Paul Randolph Jr. (author) ..... II: 2, 91–118
DOVE, James, Floyd County, Confederate Army physician ..... II: 105
DOWDY, Giles M., of Newport, Va. ..... I: 20
DRAKE, Joseph
license for "ordinary" ..... II: 24
to Kentucky with Col. John Floyd ..... II: 40, 46, 49
DRAPER
family, early Blacksburg settlers ..... I: 7–9; II: 6–8
Betty, captured at Draper's Meadow .... II: 7
Eleanor, killed at Draper's Meadow ..... II: 7
George, one of first settlers ..... II: 6, 23
John, living in Blacksburg, 1754 ..... II: 6
Lyman C., of Buffalo, New York ..... I: 3, 4
collection of historical records ..... II: 64
Mary, wife of William Ingles, captured at Draper's Meadow ..... II: 7
Mrs., mother of Mrs. Inglis ..... I: 8
Mrs., sister-in-law of Mrs. Ingles ..... I: 8
Draper's Meadow ..... I: 7, 11; II: 6-9, 23
Massacre ..... I: 8; II: 7
Drill Field, at Virginia Tech ..... I: 38, *38*
Dublin, Va. ..... III: 76–78
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
railroad depot ..... III: 9
site of Confederate Department headquarters ..... II: 85, 108; III: 8, 9
DUKE, Confederate general ..... II: 107
DULANY, Hyram, Floyd County Unionist ..... II: 103
DUNBAR, Ben C., of Danforth, Maine . I: 33
Dunkards, in Floyd County, Unionist sentiment of ..... II: 102, 103, 107
DUNKLEE family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
DUNMORE, Lord, John Murray, governor of Virginia ..... I: 12
signed land grant ..... II: 63
Battle of Point Pleasant, papers ..... II: 64
DUNNINGTON, Lawson ..... II: 19
Dutch Station ..... II: 46
Dysentery (=flux) ..... III: 67
Dyspepsia ..... III: 61, 68, 69

E

EARLS, John, Floyd County deserter ... II: 98
EARLY, Jubal, signed military orders .... II: 62
Earthquake of May 31, 1897 ..... II: 2, 65–75
effects in Narrows, Va. ..... II: 67, 70
effects in Pearisburg, Va. ..... II: 65, ... 67, 70, *73*
isoseismal map ..... II: 74
Law Engineering Testing study ..... II: 72–74
magnitude of ..... II: 65–67, 72–75
reports from Cincinnati, Ohio ..... II: 69–70

Earthquake, *continued*
reports from New River Valley, Va., communities ... II: 68
reports from Richmond, Va. ... II: 69
ECOLS, John, Confederate brigadier general, defended Saltville II: 86-87; III: 12
led deserter-hunting operations ... II: 100, 101, 108
Echols Mill, Newport, Va. ... I: 29
Economic development ... II: 23-38; III: 53–75, 83–86
Education ... III: 53, 55, 58, 59, 65, 68, 69, 73
EDWARDS, Grace Toney ... I: back cover
EGGLESTON, Joseph D., president of Virginia Tech ... I: 38, 45, 47-51
Eggleston, Giles County, Va. ... I: 18
Springs ... I: 24, 26
Emory and Henry College ... III: 83
Encephalitis ... III: 13
English Field (baseball), Virginia Tech .. I: 21
Environmental conditions, determinant in frontier culture ... III: 83
EPLING family, of Newport, Va. ... I: 18
EPPERLY, Eli, Floyd County Unionist, supported deserters ... II: 92, 97, 105
EPPERSON, Bro. ... III: 23
ESLINGER, Ellen (author) ... III: 85
ESTILL, William, high sheriff of Augusta County, employed William Preston ... I: 10
Eva, friend of Thomas Fisher ... III: 10

F

FALLAM, Robert, explorer, 1671 ... III: 39
Falling Spring, near Lexington, Va. ... III: 62
Falls Manufacturing Company, Newport, Va. ... I: 25
Farm
crops, see specific crop or activity
house, buildings, design of ... III: 55, 57
Farming, as economic activity
in Bath County, Va. ... III: 53, 57
in Newport, Va. ... I: 28, *29*
in southwest Virginia ... III: 8, 11, 20, 22, 23, 25, 38, 39, 42–43, 45, 47–48, 64–65, 66, 71, 73
FARRIER
family, prominent in Newport, Va. ... I: 26
Hal, of Newport, Va. ... I: 30
Henry, of Newport, Va., superintendent of Giles County schools ... I: 27
Robert, of Newport, Va. ... I: 32
Fayette
Courthouse, Battle of ... III: 11
County, Ky. ... II: 46, 47
Fayetteville, Va. (?) ... III: 11
FERGUSON, Dr. Richard ... II: 48
Ferries ... II: 25
"Fever" (for gold, riches) ... III: 59, 60
FILLMORE, Millard, president of U.S. . I: 89
Filson Club, Ky. ... II: 54, 55, 57
Fincastle
County, Va. .. I: 10; II: 24, 34; III: 42, 61
courts ... II: 26
Resolutions, source for Delcaration of Independence ... II: 80–81
–Cumberland Turnpike ... I: 18
FISHER
Absalom, Reverend, Thomas's father ... III: 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24–25
Alfred Bronson "Alf", Frances Fisher's brother ... III: 12, 15, 16
F. Mark, Mrs. ... III: 26
Frances Ann, wife of Thomas ... III: 6, 8-9, 10–11, 13–16, 17, 18,19, 20, 21
Greenville Monroe "Mon", Frances Fisher's brother ... III: 15, 16
Jason Alfred ("Jace", "Jacey"), son of Frances and Thomas ... III: 6, 9, 10, 17, 21, 22
Jason Lee (Jace) Frances Fisher's brother ... III: 12, 15, 16
Jim, Thomas Fisher's brother ... III: 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
John Cooper ("Coop"), son of Frances and Thomas ... III: 6, 9, 17, 18, 19
death of ... III: 17
Thomas's bereavement for ... III: 18
Jonas (last name?), relative of Thomas Fisher's cousin Judy ... III: 22
Judith Oury Rader ... III: 5, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24-25
Judy, Thomas Fisher's cousin ... III: 22
Nancy Oury "Nant", Thomas Fisher's sister ... III: 14, 16, 17, 18, 19
Rachel Elizabeth, Thomas Fisher's sister ... III: 21
Reuben Paulett ("Ruby", "Paul") ... III: 9, 10, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26
Sarah Elizabeth "Sallie(y)", Frances Fisher's sister ... III: 6, 14, 17, 19
Thomas Winton ... III: 1, 5-27
William ... I: 57, 60
Flax, as economic crop ... II: 31, 34

FLEMING, Col. William, of Augusta County ..... I: 12, 13
FLOYD
family ..... II: 39–42, 63
Abadia(h), sister of Col. John ..... II: 40, 44
Abadiah Davis, mother of Col. John ..... II: 40, 42, 44
Benjamin Rush, son of Letitia Preston ..... I: 3; II: 39
Charles (1), brother of Col. John ..... II: 40, 44, 46
Charles (2), brother of William, moved to Georgia, father of Gen'l John Floyd of Darien, Georgia ..... II: 42
Charles (3), nephew of Col. John, on Lewis & Clark expedition ..... II: 40
Col. John, married Jane Buchanan; father of Dr. John, Kentucky; surveyor ..... I: 3, 4, 12, 16; II: 39–51
tutor to William Preston's children .... I: 11
Dr. John, born 1783, son of Col. John and Jane B., married Letitia Preston in 1804; governor of Virginia 1830–34 ..... I: 2, 3, 16; II: 39–51, 59
Eliza Lavalette, sister to Benjamin R., married George Frederick Holmes ..... I: 4
General John, of Georgia ..... II: 42
General John B. ..... III: 6, 8
George ..... II: 46–49
George Rogers Clarke, born 1782 to Mrs. Floyd ..... II: 45
Isham, brother of Col. John ..... II: 40, 44, 45, 49
James John, Col. ..... II: 39
Jane Buchanan ..... II: 39–51
Jemina, sister of Col. John ..... II: 40, 44
John, brother of William (moved North) ..... II: 42
John Buchanan, 1806–63, son of Dr. John and Letitia Preston; Governor of Virginia, 1849–52 ..... I: 3; II: 39–41
papers of ..... II: 53, 59–60, 62
John G. ..... II: 49
John Jr., son of Col. John, see Dr. John
Letitia Preston, married Dr. John ..... I: 2–16; II: 1, 2, 39–51
papers of ..... II: 59
Miss Mourning ..... II: 46
Nathaniel, grand-uncle of Benjamin Rush Floyd ..... II: 50
Nicketti, daughter of Dr. John and Letitia Preston, married John Warfield Johnston, papers of ..... II: 59
FLOYD, *continued*
Robert, brother of Col. John ..... II: 40, 44
Sarah Buchanan Preston, daughter of Francis and Sarah Preston, married John Buchanan, papers of ..... II: 60
Thomas, "redemptioner" and doctor .. I: 10
William, father of Col. John ..... II: 42
William Preston ..... II: 44, 46, 47
Floyd
Brigade ..... III: 8
County, Va. ..... II: 91–118; III: 37
Confederate military units ..... II: 92
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
"infested with deserters" ..... II: 99
secessionist sentiments ..... II: 91
Defenders, under Jackson Godby ..... II: 92
Grays, under Andrew Dickerson ..... II: 92
Guards, under Henry Lane ..... II: 92. 94
Floyd's
Fork of the Salt River, Ky. ..... II: 45
Station, Ky. ..... II: 44, 46, 48
Flux (= dysentery) ..... III: 67
FORNSBERG, Col. Augustus .... III: 10, 24
Fort
Chiswell, Va. ..... II: 34
Donelson ..... III: 8
Sumter, So. Car. ..... I: 96
Vause, Va. ..... III: 39, 42
FOUNTAIN, Sally ..... II: 49
Fourth of July speech, 1852 ..... I: 89–92
FOX, Mrs. Frances Preston ..... III: 29
FRANCISCO, P.L., witness ..... III: 75
Frankfort, Ky. ..... II: 47
FRANKLIN, Benjamin ..... II: 43
Franklin County, Va. ..... III: 42
FRENCH
Ed, wounded at Cloyd's Mtn ..... III: 78
L. Baptist, Confederate Adjutant General ..... II: 105–106
French and Indian War ..... II: 6-7; III: 39
FROG, Captain, nephew-in-law of Andrew John Lewis ..... I: 12
Frontier
family ..... II: 28–29, 30–31
of Virginia ..... II: 23–28; III: 83–86
FRY family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Fry's Mill, Newport, Va. ..... I: 28
Funk Cemetery, Bottom Creek, Va. . III: 50
Fur trade ..... II: 29–30

G

GABRIEL, H. William (author) III: 2, 53–82
Galatin County, Ky. ..... II: 45
Gap Mountain, Giles County, Va. ...I: 17, 20
GARDNER
  Dianne McGinley ..... III: 4, 26
GARDNER, *continued*
  John, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 11, 20
GARLAND, Mr. ..... III: 33
GEORGE, Confederate captain ..... II: 107
GHOLSON, Mr., of Brunswick County ..... I: 74, 75
GIBBES, W.H., letters to John Smith Preston ..... II: 59
GILBERT, Felix, merchant ..... II: 25
Giles County, Va. .. I: 17–36; II: 29, 65–75; ..... III: 8, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23
  earthquake ..... II: 65–75
  "infested with deserters" ..... II: 99
GIST, Christopher, frontiersman ..... I: 17
GIVENS, Joe, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
Glade Spring, Va., railroad spur to Saltville ..... II: 83; III: 17, 24
GLASGOW, Robert ..... III: 64
GODBY, Jackson, Floyd County surveyor, organized Floyd Defenders ..... II: 92
GOODE, Mr., of Mecklenburg County, Va. I: 68
GOODRICH
  John, owned Blacksburg lots ..... II: 14
  John B., owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 19
Goose Creek, fork of Roanoke River .. III: 37
GOSS, Thomasina (Tommassa), descendant of William Preston ..... I: 4
GRAHAM
  Amos, Floyd County Unionist, hired deserters ..... II: 97, 107, 108
  Perry, Floyd County slaveholder ..... II: 105
GRANT
  Dr., daughters of ..... II: 48
  Ulysses S., Union general ..... II: 85
GRAY
  James, Floyd County soldier, deserter II: 95
  Joseph, Floyd County soldier, deserter . II: 95
Grayson County, Va. ..... III: 6
Greasy Creek district, Floyd County, Va. ..... II: 103
Great
  Massacre of 1622 ..... III: 39
  Road ..... II: 10; III: 42
  Valley, effect of geology on human history ..... II: 80
  Mine, McCoy, Va. ..... I: 54, 55, 55, 60
  Wagon Road ..... II: 25
GREEN, General (Battle at Guilford) .... I: 14
Greenbrier
  community (now West Va.) ..... III: 63
  river system, West Va. ..... III: 39
Greenfield Plantation, near Amsterdam, Va. ..... I: 10, 11; II: 8, 41, 53, 54
"Green Hornet" company bus, from Newport, Va. ..... I: 31
GREY, Jim, eloped with Elizabeth Seagle ..... III: 22
GRIST, Col. Nathaniel ..... I: 12
GRUBBS, Wiley, Pvt. in Co. C ..... III: 15, 21
Guadaloupe Hidalgo, Treaty of ..... I: 76
Guilford, Battle of (Revolution) ..... I: 14
Gulf of Mexico ..... III; 39, 42
GUM, Peter Lightner ..... III: 72
Gunpowder Springs, Giles County ..... I: 18
Gypsum deposits, Smyth County, Va. .. II: 80

H

HAGER, Miss ..... II: 49
Hales Ford section, Franklin County, Va. ..... III: 42
Halifax County, Va. ..... I: 73, 74
HALL
  Freeborn, Floyd County Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 103, 105, 108
  Hiram, Floyd County Unionist ..... II: 103
HAMILTON
  British Governor ..... II: 45
  Rachel Berry, 1821-94, wife of Peter Lightner Hickman ..... III: 72
HAMMET, John R., Confederate captain of Company I, 54th Virginia ..... II: 95
Hampden Sydney College I: 63; III: 53, 55
HANCOCK, Col. George, served in Revolution ..... I: 15; II: 58
Hanger's, seat of Judge Baldwin (Va.) ..... I: 7
Hanover County, Va. ..... I: 68; II: 46
HARLESS family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
HARMAN
  Adam ..... I: 17–18; II: 29
  Austin, Confederate captain of Company D, 54th Virginia ..... II: 95
  Jacob, early Blacksburg settler ..... II: 6
Harper's Magazine, article on salt manufacture ..... II: 83, *84*
HARRELL, James (pvt. in Co. C) ..... III: 15, 19, 20
HARRISON, General ..... II: 49
HART, Nathaniel, of Kentucky, married Susanna Preston ..... I: 15; II: 45, 49

HARTHE, John, peddler ..... II: 27
HASH, Merle Neece ..... III: 26
Headache ..... III: 63
Heath, see Heth
HEAVENS (Havens, Heaven, Heavin, Heavins, Hevin) family
on militia muster rolls, 1784 ..... II: 9, 18 *(endnote. 17)*
HELMS
Eva Reynolds, educator ..... I: 30
John, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 19, 20
John D., Blacksburg assessor ..... II: 9
Hemp, as economic crop ..... II: 31–34
Hen house ..... III: 57
HENDERSON
Genny Craighead, great-great granddaughter of William & Susannah Craighead ..... III: 43, 45, *46*, 47
John, Blacksburg trustee ..... II: 10, 19
HENRY, Rev. Patrick, tutor to Susanna Smith ..... I: 10
HEPBURN, Susan Preston Christy, 1819–97, sister to William Preston (3) of Kentucky ..... II: 55
HERBERT, David, built ferry ..... II: 25
Hercules Powder Plant, see Radford Arsenal
Heroes of America, Unionist peace society, of Raleigh, North Carolina ..... II: 104–105, 108–109
HETH (Heath)
General Henry ..... III: 8, 9
Farm, near Blacksburg, Va. ..... I: 57
–wood, Blacksburg, Va. ..... II: 16; III: 34
HICKMAN
Andrew Johnson, 1811–80, William P.'s younger brother ..... III: 62, 63, 65
Arthur, William P.'s brother, William W.'s father ..... III: 56, 62, 70
Elizabeth Jane "Eliza, Lizzie", 1844–72, William P.'s daughter ..... III: 59, 65, 71, 73, 75, 76
Emily Kate "Emma Sue", William P.'s daughter ..... III: 59, 62, 71, 73
Emily Susen = Emily Kate ..... III: 62
Huldah Shallum, 1806–88, William P.'s sister, wife of Isaac Callison ..... III: 68, 69
Jame(s), 1770–1851, Uncle Jimmy, married Margaret Bird ..... III: 55, 57, 58
James Brown, 1848–1908, William P.'s son ..... III: 59, 71, 72, 78
Jesse (last name?), slave owned by William P. Hickman ..... III: 62, 72
John Hoge, William P.'s son ..... III: 67, 71
HICKMAN, *continued*
Kate Lyle, William P.'s daughter ..... III: 68, 70, 71
Landreth "Lanty" William, Roger's son, ... III: 53, 61, 62, 68, 72,73
Leila Lowry, William P.'s daughter, "the baby" ..... III: 71, 72, 73
Margaret, Roger's wife ..... III: 64
Margaret, William P.'s wife ..... III: 62–68, ... 70, 71, 73, 74, 76, 78–80
Margaret Bird, wife of James (1) married 1795 ..... III: 58
Martha Elliott, 1800–75, William P.'s sister, wife of Stuart Taylor ..... III: 60, 64
Mary Crockett, William P.'s daughter ..... III: 59, 65, 71, 73, 75
Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie", 1840–1909, Roger's daughter ..... III: 52,53, 55, ... 61, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72
Peter Lightner, Roger's son ..... III: 72
Rebecca Walker, wife of Arthur ..... III: 56
Roger, 1813–89, William P.'s youngest brother ..... III: 52, 53, 55–72
William Jr. = William P. ..... III: 66
William P., 1810-64 ..... III: 2, 52–82
William Secund = William P. ..... III: 66
William W., 1828–?, son of Arthur & Rebecca Walker ..... III: 56, 57, 59, 68
William White, born 1852, William P.'s son ..... III: 59, 67, 71
Hickman Cemetery ..... III: 80
"High Bridge", railroad bridge, target of Union Army ..... II: 85
HILTEN, Andy ..... III: 22
HINES, George, mayor of Newport ..... I: 20
HODGE, Hazel ..... I: 56, 58
HOFSTRA, Warren (author) ..... III: 84
HOGE
family ..... III: 54
Eliza, 1815–46, daughter of James and Nelly, mother of James Hoge Tyler III: 70
Elizabeth Rippy, see Rippy, Elizabeth
James, 1783–1861, uncle of Margaret Reid, general ..... III: 68–69, 70
Jane Rutledge, 1804–59, half-sister of Margaret Hickman, wife of John Peterman ..... III: 63, 74
John (1) ..... II: 9; III: 67
John (2), 1772–1847, husband of Elizabeth Rippy, father of Margaret Reid ..... III: 53, 54, 58, 67
John Matthew, 1819–1903?, husband of Mary Black ..... III: 59, 63, ... 67, 70, 74, 81 *(endnote 4)*

HOGE, *continued*
Margaret Reid, 1821–1904, wife of William P. Hickman ..... III: 53–80
Mary Black, wife of John Matthew ..... III: 59, 63, 81*(fn 4)*
Matilda, 1809–55, sister of Margaret Hoge Hickman, wife of Moses B. Lloyd .. III: 54
Nancy Rippy, married Jno Spickard 11-20-1851 ..... III: 57
"Old Mother" ..... III: 53, 56–57, 58
Rachel Montgomery, 1800–?, half-sister of Margaret, wife of Col. William Thomas ..... III: 81 *(fn 5)*
"Hokie stone" at Virginia Tech ..... I: 38
HOLLOS, James, "ordinary" license .... II: 24
HOLMES
Eliza Lavalette Floyd, sister of Benjamin Rush Floyd ..... I: 4
George Frederick, brother-in-law of Benjamin Rush Floyd, professor at University of Virginia ..... I: 4
Holston
Journal (newspaper) ..... III: 23
Salt and Plaster Company, Saltville, 1864-1892 ..... II:88-89
HOLT, Martin, Floyd County Confederate Loyalist ..... II: 108
Home
Guard, Pulaski County, Civil War ..... III: 78
Missionary (William P. Hickman) ..... III: 53
Homesteading, at Bottom Creek ..... III: 42; in the West ..... III: 59
HOPPER, Margaret, co-author of isoseismal map of Giles County earthquake .. II: 72, 74
HORBACK, Andrew Jackson, Floyd County physician ..... II: 109
House
of Burgesses, on peddlers ..... II: 26–27
of Delegates, see Virginia House of Delegates
of Representatives, see United States House of Representatives
HOUSTON, Sam, correspondence ..... II: 58
HOWARD
James M., lieutenant, 42nd Virginia II: 110
John, Kentucky landowner ..... II: 44
Miss Margaret ..... II: 45
Mr./Mrs., Kentucky landowners ..... II: 45
HOWE, Eleanor "Nelly", 1792–1856, wife of James Hoge ..... III: 69, 70
HOWELL
John, Confederate infantryman .. II: 102
William, Floyd Guard member, deserter ..... II: 94
HOWERY, Jacob ..... III: 66
HUDSON, Monroe, Floyd County soldier, deserter ..... II: 95
HUFF
Charles, Floyd County Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 92, 104, 105
Esom, Unionist magistrate, Floyd County ..... II: 102, 108
Huffsville district, Floyd County ..... II: 101,103, 107
Hunter's Hotel, Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Hunting, as livelihood ..... II: 29–30
HYLTON, Elijah, Floyd County Unionist, aided deserters ..... II: 98

I

Illness, see specific illness or disease
Immigrants ..... II: 15, 16, 23; III: 83–86
Chinese ..... II: 16
English ..... II: 6, 16
German ..... II: 6, 16; III: 84
Indian (East) ..... II: 16
Korean ..... II: 16
Protestant ..... II: 16
Scots-Irish ..... II: 6, 16; III: 84
Income, from ministry ... III: 57, 65, 74–75
Indentured servants ..... I: 10; II: 25
Independence, Missouri ..... III: 59
Indian
Draft, "Callaghan's old stand" ..... III: 64
Valley, Floyd County, Va. ..... II: 92
wars at Fort Vance, Bath County ... III: 64
see Native American
Indianapolis, Ind., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
INGLES (Inglis, Inglish)
family, early Blacksburg settlers ..... II: 6
George, William's baby, captured by Indians ..... II: 7
Mary Draper, William's wife, mother of Thomas and George ..... I: 8-9
Thomas, son of William, captured by Indians ..... I: 8; II: 7
William, Col., early settler, brother-in-law of Draper ..... I: 7
license for ferry, tavern ..... II: 24, 25
INGLIS, INGLISH, see Ingles
Interaction (cultural, economic) on frontier ..... III: 83–86
Interest, on loans ..... III: 62, 63
Iron
furnaces and forges ..... II: 78, 83
mining
in Valley and Ridge province of Va. . II: 78

Iron mining, *continued*
in southwestern Virginia ..... II: 83
IRVIN, John ..... III: 22

J

JACKSON
John, frontier peddler ..... II: 28
Mary, John's wife, frontier peddler .... II: 28
"Stonewall" ..... II: 78
Thomas, owner of lead mines at Austinville, built Shot Tower ..... II: 81
Thomas T., of Blacksburg ..... III: 75
Jackson Street, Blacksburg, Va. ..... II: 11
Jacksonville district, Floyd County ..... II: 92, 93, 102, 105
James River, Va. ..... III: 39
Jamestown, Va. ..... III: 38–39
JEFFERSON, Thomas ..... I: 71, 75
Jefferson County, Ky. ..... II: 41, 45
JENKINS, General Albert G ..... III: 76
JESSE, slave owned by William P. Hickman ..... III: 62, 72
Johns
Creek ..... II: 43
Mountain Iron Company, Newport, Va. ..... I: 20
JOHNSON
Edward ..... II: 25
Patricia Givens, author, historian ..... I: 4
JOHNSTON
family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
correspondence of women of ..... II: 60
Albert Sidney, 1803–62, papers of ..... II: 57, 58
Eliza Mary, granddaughter of John Preston (brother of Letitia Preston Floyd); adopted by Sarah Buchanan Preston & John Buchanan Preston ..... II: 41
Margaret Preston, 1885–1964, papers of ..... II: 57
Nicketti Floyd, daughter of Dr. John Floyd and Letitia Preston Floyd ..... II: 59
Philip Preston II, 1877–1937 ..... II: 57
Rosa, wife of William ..... II: 57
William Preston, 1831–99 ..... II: 54, 57
faculty member, Washington & Lee University, papers of ..... II: 57, 58
JONES
Bobbie Irvin ..... III: 26
Esther, of Wake Forest, Va. ..... I: 53, 60
Gabriel, Englishman, purchased books for Preston and others ..... I: 13
Robert C. ..... III: 11
Samuel, General III:24
Thomas W. ..... II: 21
Jousting tournament, Newport, Va. ... I: 21

K

Kanawha
County, West Va. ..... III: 13, 16, 85
Valley, salt-producing region ..... III: 6, 8, 10-11, 12, 13
KEGLEY, George, married Meg Wolford III: 14
KEITH, Daniel, Floyd County soldier, derserter ..... II: 95
KELLER, Kenneth (author) ..... III: 84
Kentland Farm, Montgomery County, Va. ..... I: 57
Kentucky ..... II: 39, 41, 44–50
County, Ky. ..... II: 41
courts ..... II: 41
Lagoon, felt earthquake ..... II: 69–70
KERR
family, of Lexington, Va. ..... III: 64
John G., missionary to China ..... III: 64
KESSINGER
family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Lucy ..... I: 57
KIMBERLIN, Isabelle Anne, wife of William Taylor ..... III: *60*
KING
C.B., of Newport, Va. ..... I: 32
Robert, purchased Blacksburg lots. II: 11, 19
William, owner/operator of salt works, Saltville, Va. ..... I: 7; II: 83
King's Mountain, Battle of ..... I: 14, 15
KINNEAR, D. Lyle, Virginia Tech historian ..... I: 39, 47, 50
KINSEY
Aley Ann, Floyd County, supported deserters ..... II: 97
Otey F., Floyd County miller, supported deserters ..... II: 97
Otey F., Floyd County blacksmith, Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 105
KINZER, Michael ..... I: 9, 11
KINZIE
Albert, grandson of Adam P. Taylor ..... I: *31*
Billy, photo from ..... I: 31
Mary, basketball player at Roanoke College ..... I: 30
KLATKA, Tom ..... III: 38
Knoxville, Tenn., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
KREGER
Jesse, Virginia's husband ..... III: 47–48
Virginia ..... III: *44*, 45, 47–48, 50

L

Lacy, "Brother" (church member) ..... III: 58
LAFON family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
LA LONE, Mary B. (author) ..... I: 2, 53–62
LAMB, Jane Preston Boulware ..... II: 54
LANCASTER, Mildred, of Newport, Va. I: 32
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania ..... II: 27
Land
  Grant College Act, see Morrill Act
  values, on frontier
    ..... III: 53, 56, 58–61, 65, 66, 71
LANE, Henry, Jacksonville lawyer, organized Floyd Guards ..... II: 92, 94, 103
Latin School, Newport Va. ..... I: 21
Law Engineering Testing, of Marietta, Georgia ..... II: 72-74
LAWSON, Fred ..... I: 56, 57
Lead Mines (town of), Fincastle County seat, site of Fincastle Resolutions ..... II: 80
Lead mines ..... II: 34–35
  at Austinville, Wythe County ..... II: 77–90
  before Civil War ..... II: 80–82
  illustration of ..... II: *81*
  site map ..... II: 79
LEE, Robert E., Confederate general; correspondence ..... III: 6, 8, 12, 76
LeMASTER, brother-in-law to John Floyd ..... II: 40, 44, 49
LEONARD, Henry, captured by Indians ... II: 7
LeSUEUR, James W., Floyd County tanner ..... II: 102
LETCHER, John, Governor of Virginia under Confederacy ..... II: 93, 98, 105
Levisa Fork of Big Sandy River ..... II: 86
LEWIS
  Andrew (colonel, major, general), of Botetourt ..... I: 12, 13; III: 42
  Andrew John ..... I: 12
  Charles, brother of Andrew, colonel .... I: 12
  J.M.B., Lynchburg architect ..... I: 46
  John, of Rockingham ..... I: 12
  Samuel, Andrew's son ..... I: 12
  Thomas, Andrew's nephew ..... I: 12
  Thomas, of Rockingham, Commissioner for Indian treaty ..... I: 10, 13
    growing hemp in New River Valley ... II: 33
  William E., Floyd County Confederate Loyalist ..... II: 103
Lewis and Clark expedition ..... II: 40
Lewisburg, West Va. ..... III: 9
  battle of ..... III: 8, 12
Lexington
  Kentucky ..... II: 45
Lexington, *continued*
  Presbytery ..... III: 53
  Virginia ..... III: 30, 53, 59, 62, 64, 67
LIGHTNER
  Jacob, Peter (1)'s son ..... III: 72
  Peter (1), Jacob's father ..... III: 72
  Peter (2) 1816-71, Jacob's son .. III: 70, 72
LILLY
  family ..... I: 58
  Warren ..... I: 57
LINCOLN, Abraham
  elected President ..... I: 92
  reaction to Fort Sumter ..... I: 96–97
LINGLE, Jacob, early settler ..... II: 6
LINK
  family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
  J. Claude, teacher in Newport ..... I: 22
LINKINS, Floyd Guard member, deserter ..... II: 94
LINKOUS
  family ..... I: 57; II: 16
  Lee ..... I: 58
LIPSCOMB, Lt. William H. ..... III: 77–78
"Little Brown Church on Bottom Creek" (Va.) ..... III: 45
Livestock trading ..... II: 30
LLOYD
  Clarburn, Floyd County Unionist ... II: 103
  Moses B., husband of Matilda Hoge, brother-in-law of Margaret Hickman ..... III: 54, 55, 65, 66
LOCKHART, Patrick, of Botetourt County ..... I: 13
Locust Grove, Floyd County, site of Confederate "tax-in-kind" station ..... II: 97
LONG family ..... II: 16
"Long Bridge", railroad bridge over New River near Radford ..... II: 86
Long Hollows, church at White Glade III: 54
LORING, General ..... III: 12, 16
Loring, Camp ..... III: 10, 12
Lousiville, Ky. ..... II: 41, 45
  felt earthquake ..... II: 69
LOUTHIAN, Wess ..... III: 22
Loyal Company ..... I: 14
LUCAS
  family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
  Cap' John ..... I: 12
Lucas Farm, Clover Hollow, Va. ..... I: *29*
LUSTER
  Achilles W. ..... III: 75–76
  –Hickman affair ..... III: 74–76
LYBROOK, Philip, at Draper's Meadow Massacre, settler on Sinking Creek ..... I: 7, 8

LYNCH, Charles ..... II: 35
Lynchburg, Va. ..... III: 65
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Lynchburg Republican ..... III: 23
LYON, William ..... II: 11
LYONS
family, built house in Blacksburg ..... II: 15
William ..... II: 14, 15, 20

M

Macadam system, for paving roads .... III: 42
MacMASTER, Richard (author) ..... III: 84
MADISON
Eliza Preston, papers of ..... II: 63; III: 86
George, John's son, married Jane Smith, governor of Kentucky ..... I: 15; II: 44
James, John's son, bishop, president of William & Mary College ..... I: 15
John, of Augusta County, father of George, James, Thomas ..... I: 13, 15
Thomas, John's son, married sister of Patrick Henry ..... I: 15
William, son-in-law of Col. William Preston ..... I: 13
Malaria ..... III: 39
Manchester, Virginia ..... II: 25
MANNING
James, Floyd Guard member, deserter ..... II: 94
John L., governor, letters to John Smith Preston ..... II: 59
MARSHALL, Dr. ..... III: 33, 34
MARSHALLS, Humphrey ..... II: 45
MARTAIN family, on militia muster 1784 .. II: 9
MARTIN (Martain)
family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Douglas D. (author) ..... I: 2, 17–36
Perry D., (author) ..... I: 2, 17–36
MASON family, of Newport, Va. I:26
Mathieson Alkali Works, at Saltville .. II: 89
MATHIS, Andrew, Pulaski settler ..... III: 58
MAUPIN
Col. Gabriel ..... II: 48
Miss, daughter of Gabriel, married George Floyd ..... II: 48
Maybrook community, Giles County, Va. ..... I: 18, 19, 23, 29
MAYO
Eliza Ann Carrington, married John Preston, letters of ..... II: 60
Elizabeth, daughter of John Preston .. II: 60
Max Meadows, Va., trans-shipment point on railroad ..... II: 82; III: 25
MAXEY, Susannah, wife of William Craighead ..... III: 42
McADAM, John Loudon, road builderIII: 42
McBETH, Jane, William Black's wife ..... II: 8
McBRIDE, J.B., at Union Theological Seminary, letter from ..... II: 62
McBRYDE, John M., president of Virginia Tech ..... I: 37, 45, 46
McCAUSLAND, General ..... III: 76
McCLANNAHAN, Charles .. III: 59, 60, 61
McCLEARY, Ann (author) ..... III: 86
McCLESKEY, Turk (author) ..... III: 85
McCLINTIC, Shanklin ..... III: 61
McCOY, Kenneth, photos from ..... I: 55, 59
McCoy
community ..... I: 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60
family ..... I: 57, 78
mines ..... I: 54. 55, 55
McDONALD
family, on militia muster rolls, 1784 ..... II: 9
Joseph, early Blacksburg settler ..... II: 6
McDOWELL
family ..... II: 57; III: 29
James (1), 1770–1835. colonel, of Rockbridge, married Sarah Preston ..... I: 15; II: 52; III: 29, 30
James (2), 1795–1851, son of Col. James & Sarah P. ..... II: 53; III: 1, 2, 29–34
Governor of Virginia ..... I: 15; III: 2, 30
Jos. ..... I: 10
Judge Saml. ..... II: 44
Sarah Preston, 1767–1841, wife of James (1) ..... III: 29, 30
Susanna Smith Preston, 1800-47, wife of James (2) ..... III: 29, 30, 31
McELRATH, Vena, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
McGEE
John, bought Blacksburg lots ..... II: 11, 19
Robert, bought Blacksburg lots . II: 6, 11, 20
McGILL, Thomas, undercover investigator ..... II: 109
McNEIL, Augustus, Private ..... III: 78
McPherson's store, Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
Mecklenburg County, Va. ..... I: 68
Melungeon ..... I: 18
MERCER, Charles Fenton ..... II: 45
Merrimac
community ..... I: 54, 56, 57, 58
Mine ..... I: 54, 55
Methodist
Church ..... II: 21; III: 54, 69, 70
missionary to California ..... III: 60

Mexican War ..... III: 34
Militia, during Revolution ..... II: 8, 9
MILLER
family, prominent in Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Hattie, historian of Newport ..... I: 21, 28, 30, 33
Lewis, painter of Newport ..... I: 18
Mrs. "Fan", principal of high school, Newport, Va. ..... I: 29
Millboro, Va. ..... III: 64
Miller & Sons store, Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Mills, as economic activity in Newport, Va. ..... I: 28–29
Mining for coal, in the New River Valley ..... I: 53–62
Ministering to church members .... III: 54–58, ... 61, 71
MINNICK, Donald, of Belspring, Va. .... I: 53
Missionary, Missionaries
physician, to China ..... III: 60, 64
Mississippi River ..... III: 39, 42
Missouri
as western goal, dream ..... III: 60, 74
Compromise ..... I: 93, 98, 99
state/territory ..... III: 60, 72
MITCHELL
James, bought Blacksburg lot ..... II: 20
Robert (author) ..... III: 83, 84
MODLIN, Charles (editor) ..... II: 55
MONROE, brother-in-law of Col. Charles Lewis ..... I: 12
Monroe County, Va. ..... III: 10
MONTGOMERY family ..... I: 58
Montgomery
County ..... I: 53, 63–64; II: 8, 10, ... 22–38; III: 29–36, 37–52, 53–82
census of 1860 ..... I: 91
Committee of Safety ..... II: 99
courts ..... II: 26
Preston family, properties in ..... II: *12–13*
sheriff a Heroes of America member ..... II: 109
slave population in ..... I: 91-92
Presbytery ..... III: 54, 79
Female College ..... I: 92
Monthly Weather Review ..... II: 65
MOORE, Alice Preston, papers of ..... II: 62
MORGAN
John (author) ..... III: 86
John Hunt, Confederate general ..... II: 86
MORLEY, Edward W., Adelbert College . II: 70
Morrill Act (=Land Grant College Act) ... I: 39
MORRIS, Gouverneur, senator ..... I: 13
Morristown, Tenn. ..... III: 24, 25
MOSES, Jacob B., Floyd County miller, Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 104
MOSS family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Mount
Grove, Va. ..... III: 63
Pleasant Methodist Church, Wytheville County ..... III: 23
Mountain Lake, Giles County ..... I: 17, 27
community ..... I: 18
Mt., see Mount
MUMFORD, G.W., Secretary of Commonwealth ..... II: 109
MURRAY, Branson (John) ..... III: 9
MUTER, Judge (making laws in Ky) ..... II: 44

N

Narrows, Va. ..... I: 31; II: 67, 68, 71
Camp ..... III: 15, 17, 18, 19, 20
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Native Americans ..... III: 37–39, 42
in frontier society ..... III: 83–86
Nature Conservancy ..... III: 37, 42, 48, 50
Neighboring, as community activity ..... III: 45, 50, 72
Nelson County, Va. ..... III: 6
New
Castle, Va. ..... III: 61, 71
Jersey, College of (now Princeton Univ.) ..... III: 30
Zinc Company ..... II: 88
River ..... I: 17, 57; ..... III: 17, 21, 22, 23, 25, 56, 59, 76
Valley ..... II: 7, *12–13*; III: 39
New Star, The, Christiansburg, Va. ..... II: 78
Newbern, Va. ..... III: 6, 58
NEWBILL, Tyree G. ..... I: 18
Newport, Va. ..... I: 17-36, *27*
Academy ..... I: 21-22
Act of Incorporation ..... I: 35-36
Eastern Elementary & Middle School ..... I: 34
Fair ..... I: 32-33
fire destroys village, 1902 .. I: 25–26, *27*
High School ..... I: 32
Hotel ..... I: 24
Ruritan Club ..... I: 33
schools ..... I: 21-23, *22*, 27, 32, 34
sports in ..... I: 21
Women's Club ..... I: 33
News Messenger, Christiansburg ..... II: 68
NEWTON, Mr., of Westmoreland County, Va. ..... I: 75

NICHOLAS, William Cary, slaves on plantations, West Va. ..... III: 85
Nicholas County, W. Va. ..... III: 63
Niter-rich deposits, in limestone caves of western Virginia ..... II: 78
Norfolk, Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68
port of ..... I: 92; III: 42
Norfolk & Western Railroad ..... III: 48
NUTTLI, Otto, St. Louis Univ. ..... II: 73

O

OADS family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Oats, as farm crop ..... III: 57, 71
Oconastoto, "the old Mingo Chief" ... I: 7, 10
Ohio, state of ..... II: 65, 69, 70
River ..... III: 39
Old
Lucas Memorial Christian Church, Maybrook, Va. ..... I: 23
Mother Hoge ..... III: 53, 56–57, 58
Olin
Industries ..... II: 89
Mathieson, operated salt works at Saltville, 1954–1971 ..... II: 89
Olin and Preston
Building, Virginia Tech ..... I: 38, 40, *41*
Institute, Blacksburg ..... I: 40, 92; III: 69
Opequon, early Va. settlement ..... III: 84
Ordinary, see tavern
Overstreet, Tilman, Floyd County farmer, Unionist, "Hero", supported deserters ..... II: 97, 104

P

PAGE family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
Page's meeting house ..... III: 54
PAINE, Henry H., Rev. ..... III: 54
PALFREMAN, Aaron, employee of Col. William Preston ..... I: 13
Paralysis ..... III: 69
Parliament, of England ..... III: 39
PARRIS, Eileen, Virginia Tech librarian. II: 55
Parrott, Va.
Community ..... I: 54
Mine ..... I: 54, 55
Pastor, pastoring, see Ministering
Patrick County, Va. ..... III: 6
PATTERSON, (?), orderly in Civil War III: 22
PATTON
Col. ..... II: 47
Colonel James ..... I: 5; II: 6, 53
PATTON, Colonel James, *continued*
killed at Drapers Meadow Massacre ..... I: 7; II: 7, 8
papers of ..... II: 60–61, 62
Elizabeth, sister of Col. James, married John Preston in England, mother of William Preston ..... I: 4, 5-7; II: 53, 54
Elizabeth Howard, first love of William P. Hickman ..... III: 66
Peggy, daughter of Col. James Patton, befriended William Preston, married John Buchannan ..... I: 7: II: 41
William Nicholas, Dr., died 1853, brother of Elizabeth Howard Patton ..... III: 65, 66
Patton tract, 750- acre land grant ..... II: 6
PAXTON, James (author) ..... II: 1, 5–22
PAYNE, Captain William, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18–19
PAYTON, John R., Confederate recruiting officer ..... II: 98
Pearisburg, Va. ..... III: 17
Earthquake, 1897 ..... II: 65
damage from earthquake ..... II: 67
Pearisburg Virginian ..... I: 20
Peddlers ..... II: 26–28
PENDERGRAST, Dr. ..... II: 47
PENDLETON, Edmund ..... I:14; II: 43
Pennsylvania ..... III: 39, 86
Pennsylvania Gazette ..... II: 26, 27, 28
PEPPER, Samuel, license for ferry ..... II: 25
Pepper's Ferry Road ..... II: 10
PETERMAN, John, husband of Jane Rutledge Hoge ..... II: 20; III: 63
Petersburg, Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68–69
PEZZONI, J. Daniel (author) .... I: 2, 37–52
PHARES, Joseph, Floyd County Constable, suspected Unionist ..... II: 108
PHLEGAR, Emma, of Newport, Va. .... I: 30
PICKETT, George E., signed military orders ..... II: 62
Pittsburgh, Penna., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
Plantation model ..... III: 43
Plasterco, Va., site of gypsum mining .... II: 83
Pluralism, in frontier culture ..... III: 83
Pneumonia ..... III: 9
POAGE, Miss, first wife of Col. Robert Breckenridge ..... II: 46
Pocahontas County, W. Va. ..... III: 63
Poff/Craighead homestead ..... III: 47
"Poff Place" ..... III: *46*
Point Pleasant, Battle of ..... I: 12; II: 64
POLLARD, Edward A., reporter for *Virginia Tourist* ..... I: 24
Poor Mountain, Va. ..... III: 37, 39

POPE, Col. (Executor for John Floyd) .. II: 46
PORTER
Jane, wife of Samuel Black ..... II: 8
General P.B., secretary of war for J.Q. Adams ..... I: 14
PORTERFIELD
Bob, of Newport, Va., in baseball major leagues I:21
J., headmaster of Newport Academy ... I: 21
Noble, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
Portsmouth, Va. ..... III: 43
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Postal Service, U.S. ..... III: 70
Postage, cost of ..... III: 10, 56
Potatoes, as farm crop ..... III: 57, 64–65
Pottse's Creek, near Covington, Va. .... III: 71
Powder Plant, see Radford Arsenal
POWELL, Mrs., of Lynchburg, Va. ... II: 44
Presbyterian, Presbytery ..... III: 53–62, 67, 74–76, 77–80
Act of Suspension ..... III: 76
Baltimore Conference ..... III: 68
California Presbytery ..... III: 59
Directives of Worship ..... III: 76
Lexington Presbytery ..... III: 53
Montgomery Presbytery ..... III: 54
Synod ..... III: 67, 73
PRESTON
family ..... I: 1,3–16; ..... II: 2, 6, 7, 15, 39-42; III: 29
acquisition of salt works ..... II: 83
books about ..... II: 54
manuscript of family and frontier history ..... I: 3–16; II: 39–51
Montgomery County properties .. II: *12–13*
papers of ..... II: 55–64; III: 28–36
Alfred G., papers of ..... II: 62
Anna, daughter of Col. William, died at age 13 ..... I: 15
Anne, sister of Col. William, married Francis Smith ..... I: 10
Colonel, 4th Virginia Reserves, arrested Unionists ..... II: 108
Elizabeth, daughter of Col. William, married 2nd son of John Madison ... I: 15
Elizabeth Patton, 1700–76, sister of James Patton, married John Preston, mother of Col. William ..... I: 9; II: 53
Francis ..... II: 9; III: 86
Francis Smith, 1765–1835, son of Col. William & Susanna; married daughter of William Campbell . I: 15; II: 41; III: 29
papers of ..... II: 55, 59, 60, 61
PRESTON, *continued*
James Francis, 1813–62, son of James Patton Preston & Ann Barraud Taylor ..... III: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35
constructed WhiteThorne ... II: 16; III: 34
James Patton, 1774–1843, son of Col. William ..... I: 15; II: 4, 8, ... 9, 10, 16, 19, 53; III: 2, 29-36
born at Smithfield 1774 ..... I: 12
Govenor of Virginia ..... II: 53; III: 30
papers of ..... II: 61, 62, 63
married daughter of Robert Taylor of Norfolk ..... I: 15–16; III: 30
trustee of Blacksburg ..... II: 10–16, 19
John (1), died 1747, father of Col. William ..... I: 9; II: 8, 53, 54, 59
John (2), 1764-1827, son of Col. William, general, married Polly Radford .. I: 10, 11, 14, 15; II: 8, 10, 14, 49, 58, 59, 61, 62
John, distant relative of Col. William, of Washington County, Va., married Margaret Brown Preston ..... I: 16; II: 40
John Smith, 1809–81, letters of ..... II: 59
John Thomas Lewis, served with 9th Virginia Volunteers ..... II: 61, 63
Letitia, daughter of Col. William, married Dr. John Floyd .. I: 1, 13–16; II: 1, 39–51
manuscript, 1843 ..... I: 5–16; II: 42–50
Letitia (Lettice), sister of Col. William, married Col. Robert Breckenridge .... I: 10; II: 46
Margaret, sister of Col. William, married John Brown ..... I: 9-10
Margaret Brown, daughter of Col. Wiliam, married Col. John Preston of Washington County ..... I: 16; II: 40
Margaret Junkin, notebooks of ..... II: 63
Mary, daughter of Col. William, married Capt. John Lewis ..... I: 16
Robert, battles with Indians, 1774 ..... I: 12
Robert Taylor, 1809–80, son of James P.; Colonel, Civil War, hunted deserters ..... II: 54, 100–101
constructed Solitude ..... I: 7; II: 16
papers of ..... II: 62
Robert Wickliff, 1850–1914 ..... II: 57
Sally, owner of Salt works ..... I: 7
Sarah, daughter of Col. William, married Col. James McDowell ..... I: 15
Sarah Buchanan, daughter of Sarah Buchanan Campbell & Francis Smith Preston, married John B. Floyd ..... II: 41
Sarah McDowell, papers of ..... II: 57

PRESTON, *continued*
Susanna, daughter of Col. William, married Nathaniel Hart ..... I: 15
Susanna Smith (1) married Col. William, had 12 children ..... I: 15; II: 41, 53, 62; III: 30
Susanna Smith (2), 1800-47, wife of James McDowell ..... III: 30
Thomas Lewis, son of Col. William, married Edmonia Randolph . I: 16; II: 60
papers of ..... II: 61
William (1), 1729–83, Col., son of John and Elizabeth Patton Preston; married Susanna (daughter of Francis Smith), father of Letitia Preston Floyd .. I: 1, 3, 4, 5–7, 10, 14–15; II: 6, 8, 9, 25, 39–41, 43, 45, 46, 49, 53, 62–63; III: 30
papers of ..... II: 55, 59–64
William (2), son of Col. William, major, married daughter of Col. George Hancock ..... I: 15; II: 49
William (3), of Kentucky, 1816–87, U.S. Congressman, minister to Spain II:54
papers of ..... II: 55, 57
William A., papers of ..... II: 62
William Ballard, 1805–62, son of James P., inherited Smithfield ..... I: 2, 63–100, *65*; II: 16, 53
papers of ..... II: 61, 62
political philosophy ..... I: 97–100
speeches by
on July 4, 1852 ..... I: 89–91
on secession, 1861 ..... I: 93–96
on slavery in the Western Territories, 1849 ..... I: 76–89
supporting gradual emancipation, 1832 ..... I: 64–76
William Bowker ..... II: 54
William Campbell, of South Carolina, 1794–1860, U.S. Senator ... II: 54, *56*-57
papers of ..... II: 59, 61, 63
PRICE
families
coal mining families ..... I: 57, 58
early Blacksburg settlers ..... II: 6
of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18, 26
Henry, owned Blacksburg lot II:20
Jimmie, coal miner's son ..... I: 60
Martha, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Michael, early settler ..... I: 14
Tazewell, Floyd County Confederate . II: 98
Price
–Leffel-Givens Mill, Newport, Va. .... I: 29
Price, *continued*
Mountain, Montgomery County, Va. ..... I: 54, 56
Prince Edward County ..... I: 63
Princeton, Va. ..... III: 8
Provisional Congress, of Confederate States ..... I: 97
PUCKETT, Maurice, of Newport, Va, overseer of bridges ..... I: 27
PRYOR, brother-in-law of Col. John Floyd ..... II: 40, 44, 49
PUGLISI , Michael J. (author) . III: 3, 83–86
Pulaski County, Va. ..... I: 53; III: 9, 53–61, 64, 65, 66, 69, 71, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80
felt earthquake ..... II: 68

R

RADFORD
family papers ..... II: 60-61
Susanna ..... II: 49
William, colonel ..... II: 43
letter from J.B. McBride ..... II: 62
Radford
Arsenal ..... I: 31, 54
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
University ..... I: 53
Railroad
building of ..... III: 53, 56
economic value ..... III: 42
Raleigh County, West Virginia ..... I: 18
RANDOLPH
Edmonia, daughter fo Col. Edmund, married to Thomas Lewis Preston .... I: 16
Edmund, colonel, of Williamsburg, father of Edmonia, aide to Washington, attorney general of the U.S., Secretary of State for George Washington ..... I: 16
George Wythe, secessionist ..... I: 95
RATLIFF
Adline, married to John A. ..... II: 93-94
John A., Floyd County Confederate soldier, deserter ..... II: 93-94
Philip, brother of John A., Floyd Unionist, supported deserters . II: 94, 97, 107, 108
REDD, Lucinda Staples, married to William Ballard Preston ..... I: 63
REED
Andrew Micheal, Floyd Guard member, deserter ..... II: 94
Madison D., tenant farmer, Floyd County Unionist ..... II: 92, 107
Miriam, Floyd Unionist, supported deserters ..... II: 97

Reed Creek, southwestern Va. ..... II: 85
Regiments, Virginia, Civil War:
4th Virginia ..... III: 35
51st Virginia ..... III: 6, 8, 9
63rd, Company H ..... III: 20
Religion, religious life
for Thomas Fisher .... III: 5-6, 17, 19, 23
in frontier culture ..... III: 84
in Newport, Va. ..... I: 23-24
RENQVIST, Ake, musician,
of Newport, Va. ..... I: 33
REPASS, Capt. William G. ..... III: 15
Republican political party ..... I: 92, 99
Revival meetings ..... III: 5
Reynolds, covered bridge ..... I: 27
Rhenish society, see Rhineland
Rheumatism ..... III: 56, 65, 66
Rhineland, society of ..... III: 84–85
Richmond, Va. III:22, 30
College (= University of
Richmond) ..... I; 45–46, 47
felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Rich Valley on Holstein, salt works ..... I: 7
Richmond, Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Daily Dispatch ..... I: 93
Standard ..... I: 4
Richter magnitude, for earthquakes ..... II: 73
RIFE, Peter ..... II: 26
RIGGLE, Nettye Fisher, descendant of
Thomas Winton Fisher ..... III: 26
Ringold Battery ..... III: 76, 77
RIPPY, Elizabeth, 1782–1851, Margaret
Hoge's mother, 3rd wife of John Hoge,
"Old Mother Hoge" ..... III: 53, 56–57, 58
Riverview Presbyterian Church, Va. III: 80
RIVES, Mr., of Campbell County ..... I: 75
Road
Great Wagon ..... II: 25
Three Notch'd ..... II: 25
Road from Monticello, The ..... I: 64
Roanoke, Va. (=Big Lick)
..... III: 2, 58, 59, 60, 61
County, Va. ..... III: 37, 39, 48, 50
River ..... III: 37, 39
Valley ..... III: 37, 39, 85
Roap (Roop) Street, Blacksburg
(= Water, Draper) ..... II: 11
ROBERT, Joseph Clark, author of
The Road from Monticello ..... I: 64
ROBERTSON, James I, Jr.
..... I: back cover; III: 26
ROBINSON, John ..... II: 34
Rockbridge County, Va.
..... I: 10, 70; III: 30, 62, 64
Rocky
Gap ..... III: 9
Sink School, Newport, Va. ..... I: 22, *22*
Rogersville Junction, Tenn. ..... III: 25
Roller's School at Fort Defiance ..... III: 69
ROSE, Mr. ..... III: 25
RUBSAMAN, Jacob ..... II: 35
RUTLEDGE
Edward, Blacksburg trustee ..... II: 10, 19
George, Blacksburg trustee ..... II: 10, 19
Thos., owned Blacksburg lots ..... II: 20
RYAN, White, killed in Civil War ..... III: 78
Rye, as farm crop ..... III: 56, 57

S

Saint Domingo, "deluded planters of" ... I: 74
Salary, for ministers ..... III: 54–55, 59–60
See also Income
Salem, Va. ..... III: 45, 50, 58, 59
Salt
Pond Mountain ..... I: 19
River, Kentucky ..... II: 45, 46
Sulphur Turnpike, Giles County .... I: 18
supply, Confederate ..... III: 12, 15, 24
Saltville, Va. ..... II: 76; III: 17, 24, 29, 76
Battles of, 1864 ..... II: 77–89, 86–87
Salt works in southwestern Virginia
..... I: 7; II: 77–89
Preston family holdings ..... II: 55, 88
site map ..... II: 79
Sandusky, battle of ..... II: 45
Sandy River, Va. ..... I: 10
SAVINE
family, built house in Blacksburg ..... II: 15
Lydia, bought Blacksburg lot,
tavern license ..... II: 11, 14-15
SAWYERS, Col. Robert ..... II: 43
Schools
decline of in Bottom Creek, Va. ..... III: 48
in Newport, Va. ..... I: 21–23, *22*, 27,
32, 34
schoolhouse, first in Blacksburg ..... II: 14
in New River area ... III: 57, 59, 62, 68, 69
SCOTT, Leo, coal mining family ..... I: 57
SEAGLE, Elizabeth ..... III: 22
SEBASTIAN, Benjamin ..... II: 44
Secession, politics of ... I: 92–93; II: 91–93
SEDDON, James, Confederate Secretary
of War ..... II: 109
Seiche effect, of earthquake ..... II: 70
Seismological Society of America,
Bulletin of ..... II: 72

Session of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church ..... III: 74–76
Settlers ..... II: 6, 15, 16, 23-38
English ..... II: 6
Scot ..... II: 6
SHAFFER, Wade (author) ... III: 2–3, 83–86
Shawnee Indians ..... II: 7
Shawsville, Va. ..... III: 39, 45, 47
SHEAF, George W., witness ..... III: 75
SHELBY
Evan, general, married daughter of Robert Davis ..... I: 14; II: 42
Isaac, governor of Kentucky, son of Evan ..... I: 14
Shelby County, Kentucky ..... II: 46, 47
SHELOR
G.W., Commonwealth Attorney ..... II: 99
William Banks, Confederate colonel . II: 95
SHELTER, Flem ..... III: 11
SHELTON
G.W., Floyd County Confederate loyalist ..... II: 93
Jas., wounded in 1862 ..... III: 11
Shenandoah Valley, Va. ..... III: 12, 84–86
SHEPHERD
family ..... I: 57, 58
Lee A. ..... I: 57
Shot Tower, built by Thomas Jackson on New River ..... II: 81
SHULER, J.A.H., Baptist minister ..... II: 71
SIBOLD, Mrs. Mila, State Mother of the Year ..... I: 30
SIFFORD, Harmon ..... II: 9, 11, 19, 20
SIGEL, Franz, Union general ..... II: 85
SIMMERMAN, John ..... III: 11
SIMMONS, Susan Schramm (author) III: 85
SIMPSON
Darlene Brown (author) ..... III: 1, 5–27
Samuel, license for ordinary ..... II: 24
Simpsons district, Floyd County ..... II: 97, 103, 105
Sinking district, Giles County, Va. ..... I: 7, 17, 20, 25, 27, 29
community ..... I: 18
Mountain ..... II: 8
SISSON
David, led Floyd County gang to fight Confederate patrols ..... II: 95
gang, ambush of Confederate patrol .. II: 100
James, led Floyd County gang to fight Confederate patrols ..... II: 95
Sisson's Kingdom ..... II: 100
Skin (of animals) trade ..... II: 29–30,31
Slavery, slaves ..... I: 63–100; ..... II: 6, 10, 15, 16, 19; III: 57, 62
in Bottom Creek, Va. ..... III: 38, 39
in Floyd County, Va. ..... II: 91–92, 102
in frontier society ..... III: 83–86
Smallpox ..... III: 22
SMITH
Francis (1), captain, married William Preston's sister Anne ..... I: 10, 11
Francis (2), a carpenter, father of Susanna ..... I: 10
Francis (3), brother-in-law of Col. Preston ..... II: 46
Francis H., letters from John Thomas Lewis Preston ..... II: 61
Jane, niece of Col. William Preston, married George Madison ..... I: 15
Laura Katz (author) II: 2, 53–64; III: 2, 29–36
Melvin, of Newport, Va., dirt-track star I: 33
S.C. "Sam", friend of Thomas Fisher . III: 20
Susanna, daughter of Francis (2), married William Preston ..... I: 10; II: 8
William, Confederate governor of Virginia ..... II: 99, 106, 108–109
Smith's
Creek region, Va. ..... III: 84
Hotel, Newport, Va. ..... I: *25*, 26
Smithfield
Draper's Meadow Massacre ..... I: 8
Plantation ..... I: 3, 7, 11, 12, 16, .. 63, 89, 91; II:8, *12–13*, 16, 43, 46, ... 53; III: 29, 35
-Preston Foundation Collection ..... III: 2, 29, 35
Street, in Blacksburg (= Jackson) ..... II: 11
Smokehouse, on farm ..... III: 57
SMYTH
Alexander, Democratic politician ..... III: 86
Ellison, author of *A History of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church* ..... III: 74–75
Parrot, purchased Blacksburg lot ..... II: 11
Smyth County, Va., site of salt deposits ..... II: 78, 89; III: 29
SNIDER, Della, coal miner's daughter ... I: 60
Solitude, Blacksburg house built by Robert Taylor Preston ..... I: 7, 16; II: *12–13, 16*
Siouan linguistic group ..... III: 38
South Carolina ..... I: 96–97
Southern Claims Commission, testimony before ..... II: 92, 95–96
Southern Illustrated (newspaper) ..... III: 22
Southampton County, Va. ..... I: 64
Southwest Virginia Enterprise, Wytheville, Va. newspaper III:26

SOWERS, John H., Floyd County Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 104
Spangler's Mill, Floyd County ..... II: 103
Spartansburg, S. Car., felt earthquake ... II: 69
Spradlin orchard, near Cambria, Va. ..... I: 57
SPICKARD, Jno., of Blacksburg, married Nancy Rippy Hoge ..... III: 57
SPRAKER, Reverend Levi, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 26-27
Spring Hill Farm, Augusta County, first home of John and Elizabeth Preston ..... I: 5
Spruce Run Community ..... I: 18, 29
St. Louis University ..... II: 73
St. Vites' (Vitus') dance = chorea ... III: 73, 74
STANGER
Elizabeth, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 20
Hannah, wife of Jacob ..... II: 11
Jacob, owned Blacksburg lot ..... II: 11, 19
Stated Supply (Presbyterian pastor) ..... III: 54, 74
Staunton, Va. ..... II: 8, 25; III: 84
STICKLEY, Rev., Lutheran minister and schoolmaster, Newport, Va. ..... I: 21
STIGLEMAN, Andrew F., Floyd County anti-secessionist, aided deserters ..... II: 92, 98, 103, 107
STONEMAN, George, Union general, destroyed lead mines and salt works ..... II: 76, 87-88, 110
Stonewall Brigade ..... III: 35
Stroubles Creek ..... I: 7, 11: II: 5, 6
mining at ..... I: 54
STUART
Alexander H.H., Unionist ..... I: 95
Flora Cooke, 1836–1923, wife of J.E.B. Stuart ..... III: 52
J.E.B., Rebel cavalryman ..... II: 84; III: 52
Col. John, brother-in-law of Col. William Fleming ..... I: 12
William, brother of J.E.B., partner in salt works ..... II: 84
Stuart, Buchanan and Co., operated salt works during Civil War ..... II: 84
STUBBS, June (author) I: 2, 3–4; II: 1, 39–52
Study habits ..... III: 58, 65, 73
STURGIS, brother-in-law to Col. John Floyd ..... II: 40, 44, 49
Suffolk, Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68
SULLIVAN, Ken ..... I: back cover
Sun Rise, Bath County, Va. ..... III: 53, 64
Sunnyside, community of, Va. ..... I: 56
SURFACE
George, early Blacksburg settler ..... II: 6, 11, 14, 15
SURFACE, *continued*
John, owned Blacksburg lots ..... II: 20
Suspension, Acts of (Presbyterian) ..... III: 76
Sweet Briar Institute (=Sweet Briar College) ..... I: 45, 46

T

TAIBER, Jacob ..... II: 20
Tavern (= ordinary) ..... II: 14–15, 24
TAYLOR
Adam P. "Pent" ..... I: *31*
Ann Barraud, wife (1801) of James Patton Preston ..... III: 30
Harry, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
John, major, married niece of Col. Buchannan ..... I: 12
Robert, of Norfolk (daughter married James Patton Preston) ..... I: 16
Susan, daughter of Sarah Preston McDowell ..... I: 15
William, 1821–1902, son of Martha Elliott Hickman, nephew of William P. Hickman, Methodist missionary, bishop in Africa ..... III: 60, 68, 69–70
Zachary, elected President 1848 ..... I: 89
Tazewell County, Va. ..... III: 6
Temblor, see Earthquake
Tennessee
railroad ..... III: 56
state/territory ..... III: 24, 25, 86
see also Virginia & Tennessee Railroad
TERRY, Gail (author) ..... III: 86
Texas (western dream or goal) .... I: 83; III: 60
A&M University ..... III: 3
THOMAS
Col. William, husband of Rachel Montgomery Hoge ..... III: 61, 81
Giles D., Hickman witness ..... III: 75
Jake ..... III: 12, 16, 20, 22, 23
William ..... II: 21
THOMPSON
Hugh S., letters to John Smith Preston ..... II: 59
Waddy, papers of ..... II: 63
THORP, Daniel (author) ..... II: 24, 36
Three Notch'd Road (east to Richmond) II: 25
Tippecanoe (Tippacanoe), Battle of .... II: 49
Tobacco, as export crop ..... II: 35; III: 39, 42, 43
TODD, Col. Robert ..... II: 44
TOLAND, John, Union colonel ..... II: *76*
killed in Battle of Wytheville ..... II: 85

Toleration, in frontier culture ..... III: 83
TOMPKINS, James Luke, Jacksonville lawyer, Floyd County Confederate loyalist ..... II: 93
Totera (Totero, Tutelo) Indians ... III: 38, 39
Transportation on the frontier ..... II: 28
See also Railroad
Travel, traveling, in the back country III: 57, 59, 61, 62, 64, 67, 69, 71–74
"riding the cars" ..... III: 25, 59
Treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, 1848 .... I: 76
Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond ..... II: 77
TRENT
Alexander, merchant ..... II: 25
Peterfield, merchant ..... II: 25
TRIGG
Abram, politician ..... III: 86
Col. Daniel, friend of Col. William Preston ..... II: 42
Colonel, Civil War ..... II: 108
Daniel, 1843–1909, of Abingdon, Va. .. II: 59
Truck mines, New River Valley ..... I: 54
Trustees of Blacksburg ..... II: 10, *14*
Tuberculosis (consumption) ..... III: 66
Tuckwiller, Robert, artist, of Newport, Va. I: 33
Tug Fork of the Sandy River ..... I: 10
TURNER, Fredrick Jackson, "Frontier Thesis" ..... II: 23-38
TURNER, Nat, slave rebellion ..... I: 64
Turnips, as farm crop ..... III: 67
Two-party system, 1790s ..... III: 86
TYLER, James Hoge, 1846–1925, grandson of James Hoge and Nelly Howe, son of Eliza Hoge, governor of Va. .... III: 70

U

UMBARGER
Charles W., friend of T.W. Fisher ..... III: 23
Isaac N., friend of T.W. Fisher ..... III: 23
"Uncle Jimmy" (Hickman?) ..... III: 55
UNDERWOOD, Noah B., Floyd County farmer, Unionist, aided deserters ..... II: 98, 108
Union
Lead Mine Company, 1860 ..... II: 82
Theological Seminary .. II: 62; III: 53, 62
West Va. ..... I: 18
Unionism, Unionist .. I: 93; II: 91, 101–110
United States
Congress ..... I: 76–89
Constitution ..... I: 76–89, 93, 98, 99
see also Constitution
Declaration of Independence ... I: 89–91
House of Representatives .. I: 63, 76–89
Military Academy ..... III: 30
Senate ..... III: 30
University of Virginia ..... I: 37–39, 50, 63

V

Valley
Campaign, Civil War, 1862 ..... II: 78
and Ridge geologic/physiologic province ..... II: 78
VAN LEAR (Vanlear)
Mrs., mother of Rev. John, nurse for James Patton Preston ..... I: 12
Rev. John ..... I: 12
Vance's (fort), Bath County, Va. ..... III: 64
VAUGHT family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
VAUSE, Ephraim, built fort ..... III: 39
Vause's Fort, Va. ..... III: 39, 42
VENABLE
Frances Preston, mother of Frances Preston Fox ..... III: 29
Mr., married daughter of Robert Davis . II: 42
"Virginia", Floyd County Confederate correspondent ..... II: 99, 108–109
Virginia
see also Virginia Tech
Virginia Gazette ..... II: 26–27, 30, 34
Virginia
Department of Historic Resources III: 38
Historical Society ..... III: 30
House of Delegates ..... I: 63, 64–76; III: 30, 34
Militia ..... III: 30, 70
Secession Convention ..... I: 92-97
Committee on Federal Relations I: 93
Senate ..... I: 76; III: 30
Virginia Tech ..... I: 20, 32, 37-52; III: 29
Academic Buildings I and II ..... I: 40-41
Agriculture and Mechanical College, 1872 ..... I: 39, 92
Agriculture Hall ..... I: 43
architecture ..... I: 37–52
Auditorium (=Dutch Barn) ..... I: 46
Burruss Hall ..... I: 47
Chapel, 1905 ..... I: 43, 46, 49
Drill Field ..... I: 38, *38*, 47, 50
"Dutch Barn" (= Auditorium) ..... I: 46
"Golden Jubilee" celebration ..... I: 50
"Gothic" style architecture ..... I: 45-51
Henderson Hall ..... I: 40
"Hokie Stone" ..... I: 37–52

Virginia Tech, *continued*
History Dept. ..... III: 3
Lane
Hall ..... I: 41, 47
Stadium ..... I: 37
Library ..... III: 2
map of campus in 1922 ..... I: *38*
McBryde Building (Hall)
..... I: *43*, *44*, 47, *48*, 49, 50
Memorial Gymnasium ..... I: 47, 49, *49*
Mess Hall ..... I: *43*, 49
"Native stone" construction ..... I: 37–52
Newman Library ..... I: 43, 46
Olin & Preston Building
..... I: 40–41, *41*, 46; III: 68
Performing Arts Building ..... I: 43
President's House, 1876 ..... I: 40
Price Hall (= Agricultural Hall) ..... I: 43
Science Hall ..... I: 42
Upper Quad
..... I: 41, 42, 43, *44*, 46, 47, 49
YMCA Building ..... I: *44*, 46
Virginia & Tennessee Railroad
... I: 91; II: 78, *80*, 83, 84, 86, 87, 99;
..... III: 17, 54, 56, 59, 76

W

Wabash (Wawbash), Camp ..... III: 8
WADE
Jane, resident of Christiansburg,
Va. in1864 ..... III: 78
John C., captain, husband of Jane .. III: 78
"Wagon" mines ..... I: 54
Wake Forest, Va. ..... I: 53, 56
WALKER
Mildred, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
"Misses" ..... III: 57
Olivia (?) ..... III: 57
Paul, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 32
Rebecca, wife of Arthur Hickman,
mother of William W. Hickman ..... III: 56
Dr. Thomas, of Albermarle .... I: 14; II: 43
WALLENSTEIN, Peter (author) . I: 2, 63–101
WALTERS
George W., wounded in Civil War ... III: 11
Jacob, Floyd County Unionist . II: 104,107
WALTON
Cepas, Floyd County Confederate
infantryman ..... II: 93, 101, 102
Louisa, mother of Cephas, Confederate
Loyalist ..... II: 101
"War of the Colleges" (UVA and
Virginia Tech) ..... I: 37, 39, 44, 45
Warm Springs, Va. ..... III: 64
Presbyterian Church ..... III: 72
WASHINGTON, George ..... III: 42
Washington
College (now Washington & Lee Univ.)
..... III: 2, 30, 34, 53, 61, 62, 64, 66
County, Va. ..... II: 55
D.C., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
Water Street, Blacksburg
(= Roap, Draper) ..... II: 11
WAX, Peter ..... II: 20
WEAVER
Jacob, Floyd County farmer, Unionist,
supported deserters II:101, 107, 108
Lucy, wife of Jacob ..... II: 107
WEBB family, of Newport, Va. ..... I: 18
WEDDLE
Andrew, Floyd County deserter ..... II: 98
David, Sr., Floyd Unionist .. II: 97, 103, 105
Jane, Floyd County, supplied
deserters ..... II: 95–96, 101
Joshua, a Dunkard of Floyd County,
fed deserters ..... II: 97, 104
WELLS
George, Floyd County soldier, deserter II: 95
Mr., gave horse to Col. John Floyd ..... II: 44
WEST, W.F., architect (1899) ..... I: 43
West
Point (U.S. Army college) ..... III: 34
Texas A&M University ..... III: 86
Westmoreland County, Va. ..... I: 75
WHARTON, Col. Gabriel C. . III: 8, 17, 24
Wheat, as a farm crop ..... II: 31–32;
..... III: 65, 66, 67, 71, 73
Wheeling, West Va., felt earthquake .... II: 69
WHICKER, J.R., Confederate, Virginia
attorney general ..... II: 106
Whig political party ..... II: 76, 89
Whiskey ..... II: 31
WHISONANT, Robert C. (author) . II: 2, 77–90
WHITE, Dr. of Lexington, for whom William
W. Hickman was named ..... III: 59
White Glade, Va. ..... III: 54, 65, 71, 76
Hickman farm at ..... III: 76
Presbyterian Church ..... III: 54
WhiteThorne ..... II: *12–13*, 16; III: 34
WHITLOW, Robert W., Floyd County
carpenter, Unionist, "Hero" ..... II: 105, 107
WHITMAN, Clay ..... III: 12
Whooping cough ..... III: 67
WICKHAM, L.G., Floyd County
Unionist, "Hero" ..... III: 104

WICKLIFFE, Robert, 1775–1859, father-in-law of William Preston of Kentucky . II: 45
papers of ..... II: 57
William and Mary, College of ..... III: 30
WILLIAMS
family, prominent in Newport, Va. ..... I: 26
Alberta, switchboard operator, Newport, Va. ..... I: 30
E.P., of Berryville, Va., president of iron company ..... I: 20
John, Confederate general, defended Saltville ..... II: 86–87
John B., undercover investigator .... II: 109
Mike, of Newport, Va., baseball player I: 21
Williamsburg, Va., felt earthquake ..... II: 68
Willis Ridge district, Floyd County ..... II: 103
WILLS, Wirt H. (author)I: 2, 3–4; II: 1, 39–52
Wilmot Proviso (restricted slavery) ..... I: 76, 79, 85, 86, 98
WILSON, John D. ..... I: back cover
WIMMER, Hosea, Floyd County Unionist, aided deserters ..... II: 104
Winchester, Va. ..... III: 84
WINGO, Christopher, doctor ..... I: 20
WINSTON, Ferdinand A., Floyd County cabinetmaker, Unionist ... II: 102, 105-106
Winston, No. Car., felt earthquake ..... II: 69
WISE
General Henry A. ..... III: 6
John S., Lieutenant, VMI cadet, deserter hunter ..... II: 100–101
Wise County, Va. ..... III: 6
WOLFORD, Mag, married George Kegley ..... III: 14
Women, political participation of ..... III: 86
Woodford County, Ky. ..... II: 45
WOODS, Nat, wounded in 1864 ..... III: 78
Woodville, Ky. ..... II: 48, 49
WRIGHT, James, Floyd County farmer, Unionist ..... II: 107
Wysong's Mill, Newport, Va. ..... I: 29
Wythe
County, Va. .. II: 78, 82; III: 5, 6, 14, 16, ... 23, 25, 53, 55, 60, 61, 76
Lead Mines Company, 1838 ..... II: 82
site of lead deposits, lead mining ..... II: 76–78, 79, 80-89; III: 17, 76
Union Lead Mine Company, 1848 . II: 82
Wytheville, Va. ..... II: 80, 85, 87; ..... III: 6, 8, 17, 26, 53, 54, 55–59
Battle of ..... II: 85
Wytheville Dispatch (Va.) ..... III: 26

Y

Yale College, Connecticut ..... III: 30
Yannce (Younce), Capt. William A. ..... III: 9, 11

Z

Zell's Mill, Newport, Va. ..... I: 29,*30*
Zinc mining, at Austinville, Va. ..... II: 88

The Smithfield Review is published annually by the Montgomery County Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Subscriptions are $10 per year, including tax; please add $2.00 for shipping. Make checks payable to *The Smithfield Review.*

Proposals or manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Texts may be of varying length, but should ordinarily not exceed 8,000 words. Annotations should be collected as endnotes and should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, latest edition. Please address all correspondence to:

The Smithfield Review
555 Edgewood Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060

With this issue *The Smithfield Review* begins a book review section. The editors plan for each issue to carry reviews of books dealing with all periods of trans-Appalachian history and culture. We will enlist active scholars and professionals to write the reviews. Review copies, requests to review books, and other inquiries may be addressed to:

Tom Costa, Book Review Editor
The Smithfield Review
Department of History and Philosophy
Clinch Valley College
Wise, VA 24293

In this issue:

Thomas Winton Fisher, September 3, 1862:
... So there is no chance to come home the Col. says till we get back again. I am not sure that I will go yet, for I have no shoes, mine are worn out, and there is none here to draw. ... (page 11)

October 4, 1862: The boys are all as mischieveous as usual. The only complaint is they dont get letters enough.... James Harrell says if he dont soon get one he intends to write a great long one and take it home and let his wife read it and then bring the answer back then he was sertain he would get one. (page 15)

James Patton Preston, September 12, 1831: I see much folly and insubordination in the students ridiculous serenade, but I should think that censure or suspension, would be punishment enough for such an offence. To dismiss or expell a young man from College is a punishment little short of the Penitentiary or death.... Besides it is the deepest wound upon parental hopes that can be endured ... (page 33)

Bottom Creek:
In the far eastern corner of Montgomery County, cloistered atop Poor Mountain, rests The Nature Conservancy's Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve. Now the emblem of humankind's efforts to preserve diversity of nature, the preserve also harbors the fading remains of an isolated mountain community.... (Jim Crawford, page 37)

William P. Hickman, June 26, 1854: The rheumatism took hold of me last fall pretty strongly; but I commenced the first of November taking a cold bath every morning; ... I have several times broken the ice, & gone in when the mushy ice woul sweap down my sides. I am very advantagiously situated as the creek is only about fifty steps from the house. It is not as disagreeable as one would suppose.... (page 65)

December 20, 1858: Had you left ten or twelve years ago & purchaised in this country as I wanted you, you would have bettered your condition very much. But it is now too late for that here, as land has more than doubled in that time. The rail road has wrought wonders here. There is some pretty good land now for sale... for which I have understood 26 dollars per acre is asked. (pages 70–71)

***The Smithfield Review*, Volume III, 1999**