



# Gateway to the West



Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society P. O Box 231 Jonesville, Virginia 24263-0231

January 2012



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*Just a reminder for non-Life Members, it is time to pay your dues, which are \$10.00 per year. Life Membership is \$100.00.*

## President's Report

By Becky Jones



I believe the Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society has prospered this year. We have had good attendance at our meetings and several new members are taking an active part in the Society.

We have had outstanding speakers at our meetings and good social time as well. Mr. Arthur Garrett has kept the building and grounds looking great and we owe him special thanks for his dedication and hard work.

Bob McConnell, President of The Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association from Gate City, Va., spoke to us in July. The Wilderness Trail Association is responsible for the 1775 replica of the Anderson Blockhouse which was a stopping place on the great westward migration route.

If you have not visited the "Blockhouse on the Holston" at the Natural Tunnel State Park in Scott County, Va. you should. It was the first "Gate Way to the West." In 1784 thirty thousand people crossed the dirt path to the west.

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## Frank Byron Rowlett

Frank Byron Rowlett (May 2, 1908-June 29, 1998) was an American Cryptologist. Rowlett was born in Rose Hill, Virginia and attended Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia, where he was a member of the Beta Lambda Zeta fraternity. In 1929 he received a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry. He was hired as a "junior" cryptanalyst" for the Signals Intelligence Service (SIS) on April 1, 1930.

During the 1930's, after a lengthy period of training, Rowlett and his colleagues compiled codes and ciphers for use by the U. S. Army and began solving a number of foreign, notably Japanese, systems. In the mid-1930's, they solved the first Japanese machine for encipherment of diplomatic communications, known to the Americans as RED. In 1939-40, Rowlett led the SIS effort that solved a more sophisticated Japanese diplomatic machine cipher, codenamed PURPLE by the U.S. Once, when asked what his greatest contribution to that effort had been, Rowlett said, "I was the one who believed it could be done."

Rowlett also played a crucial role in protecting American communications during World War II, making fundamental and innovative contributions to the design of the SIGABA cipher machine. Its security was an important factor in saving American lives in combat. As a result, in 1964, Congress awarded Rowlett \$100,000 as partial compensation for his classified cryptologic inventions.

In addition to having highly-developed cryptanalytic skills, Rowlett was a good manager, and he rose quickly within the organization. In 1943-45 he was chief of the General Cryptanalytic Branch, and in 1945-1947 chief of the Intelligence

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## Society Loses Faithful Member Larry Fish (1941-2011)

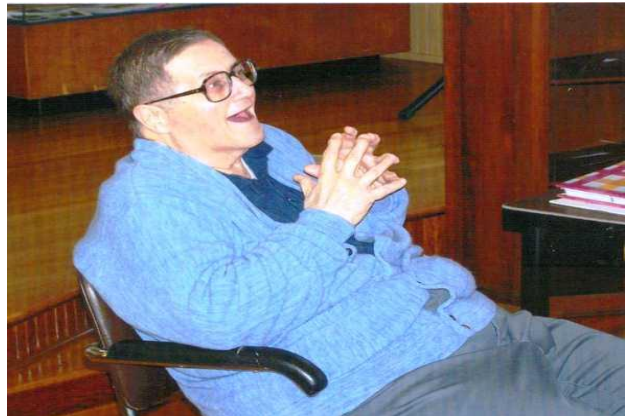
Larry Fish, a lifetime member of the Lee County Historical Society, passed away at Wellmont Regional Hospital, Kingsport, TN, on November 19, 2011. In accordance with his wishes, his remains were cremated and his ashes were spread, with friends and family present, on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Larry was born in Lee County and from an early age he grew up in Pennington Gap. He graduated from Pennington High School and attended Clinch Valley College (now UVA-Wise) when it was a 2-Year institution. He completed his Bachelor's Degree at Lincoln Memorial University. He taught in the Lee and Wise County Public School systems for a few years, but recognized that "this was definitely a profession for which I was not suited."

He secured a position with Virginia Social Services (VSS) which shortly led to a supervisory position in Buchanan County, VA. He retired from that position in 1990 and returned to Pennington Gap to live with his widowed sister.

In his retirement years, Larry was elected for 6 years to the Pennington Gap Town Council and also served as Vice-Mayor. He also served on the Regional Library Board. A voracious reader, Larry became a living repository for local historical facts. He spoke before the Historical Society in March 2011 regarding many little-known and less-documented facts of Lee County's history.

An active member of the Union Christian Church, Dot, VA., Larry was described by their minister, Rev. Larry Munsey, as a "truly good man." His friends, fellow believers and our Society will miss him dearly.



## Bacon Beginnings in Lee County *by Patty Bacon Wilson*

Thomas Alexander Bacon (1837-1876) was the first Bacon on record to reside in Lee County. He came with his bride, Pattie Goode Farrar Bacon (1840-1908) from Mecklenburg County, Virginia in 1868. They were married in 1860 in Christiansville, Virginia, now known as Chase City, Virginia in Mecklenburg County. Three of their seven children were born in Mecklenburg County and four were born in Lee County.

The reason for this long journey which is close to 350 miles by today's automotive standards will be explored later in the article. What a gruesome journey it must have been in the 1860's with a wife and three small children.

The Bacon's originally came from Friston Hall in Suffolk County, England. Those seeking a new life from the religious and political conflicts in England set out for the New World. These earliest Bacon settlers arrived in eastern Virginia in the seventeenth century settling largely in New Kent and Surry Counties. In the 1700's some of the Bacons migrated further inland from the coast to avoid the more dense populations of Indians and for other unknown reasons.

A distant cousin of these Bacons, Nathaniel Bacon, better known as "The Rebel", proved to be a great asset to the safety of life across the state of Virginia as far inland as Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg has a state park named Occoneechee State Park, the site where Nathaniel Bacon and his small band of men wiped out the Occoneechee and Susquehannock Indians in 1676. Many Indians were killed and many others fled the area. This story is well documented in *The Torch Bearer of the Revolution* by historian Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker.

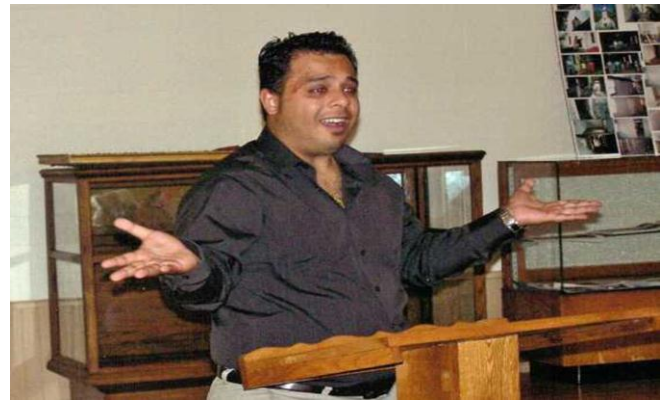
Travels across uncharted routes in a predominately wilderness territory were still dangerous, but this did not stop those early brave Virginians. Thomas Alexander Bacon's father, Colonel Lyddal Bacon (1793-1875), and his grandfather, Drury Allen Bacon (1765-1845), made their way westward to Cumberland Parrish which today is territory divided into the three counties of Brunswick, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg. These counties are approximately 100 miles inland from the eastern coast of Virginia.

Thomas Alexander Bacon was born to Lyddall

*Continued on page 7*



*Bob McConnell  
President of The Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association*



*Emell Laney was our Guest Speaker at our August meeting.*

## President's Report *from page 1*

It was an important station between the East and Kentucky. You may enjoy reading their book "The Blockhouse on the Holston" by William L. Anderson. A new tourist center is being planned in Duffield, Va.

Willie Slep Rogers recently joined the Society and in September presented a program on the Seminary area of the County. She gave us a map of the area and discussed the history of the Old Seminary Church which was built in 1851. The brick for the Church was made from the ground around the Church. The Seminary United Methodist Church is still in use today.

Chester Bays, a retired attorney from Bowling Green, Ky., spoke to us in October. Chester was raised in the Hagan area of the County and recalled interesting stories of his childhood, family and neighbors.

Emell Laney, a native of Egypt, spoke to us in August. He provided contrasts of Egypt and the United States - including living conditions, food and transportation. Emell worked as a tour guide prior to coming to America. He currently resides with his wife Renee in Lee County.

Joe Hines, a Lee County native who is a retired Trooper, spoke on the history of the Virginia State Police at our November meeting.

Initially, the Department of State Police was a

part of the Department of Motor Vehicles. In 1932, Virginians were required to obtain a driver's license in order to drive a motor vehicle on the highways. Joe discussed State Police operations in Lee County throughout the years, including several coal strikes.

We have installed a new computer in our office and we are working on cataloging our books and family records. We have our Web Page back up and by spring our resource room/library will be available for use by appointment. We can use your family genealogical papers if you wish to donate them. If it is available, we would appreciate a copy of the document(s) on CD or by email in addition to any hard copy.

We want to thank Betty Jo Poteet for compiling and typing the "Robert Burroughs Ely Family" story. The papers were found in Mrs. Ely's papers after her death in Washington, D.C., and were sent to us. Bob Ely was an attorney in Jonesville in the 1930's. The book looks great. Betty Jo is also compiling Elizabeth Carpenter's note books of obituaries for the Society.

Just a reminder for those who are not Life Members in the Society - it is time to pay your dues, which are \$10.00 per year. Life Membership is \$100.00.

Thank you for your interest and support.



*Member Willie Slep Rogers presented a program on the History of the Seminary Area of Lee County.*



*Chester Bays spoke on his recollections of Hagan, Virginia.*

## An Inquiry: The West Virginia Gunman by Calvin Hannah

*If you have any information on or knowledge of this incident please contact Calvin Hannah – email: calhannah@yahoo.com or telephone (304) 763-4772.*

The following story was passed down through my family regarding an incident in Pennington Gap, VA., in the early 1920's. This story of the West Virginia Gunman was passed down through a couple of generations. I'm trying to find out if this is a true story, or just a legend.

My father was Harrison Hannah. The story is said to have taken place just a few years after his returning home from WW I. His younger brother Willie didn't come home. Willie was killed in Meuse, Champagne-Ardenne, France and buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. Harrison was wounded himself, shot through the mouth with the bullet still lodged in the back of his neck.

He and a younger friend found work in coal mining at a mine near Pennington Gap, Virginia. Harrison was in his late twenties and his buddy was still in his teens. This was a turbulent time, the miners were fighting for union organization and the mine owners fought tooth and nail to quell the effort. The company hired armed guards to protect their interests. Most of the guards came from the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency in Bluefield, WV. The miners referred to them as the Bald'in Thugs.

As the legend goes, Harrison and his friend finished a hard day of work and went to the office to collect their pay for the week. The clerk paid them about half of what they had earned. The clerk said, "The rest of your pay goes for other expenses." My dad said, "I'm going to the bathhouse to clean up and I expect you to have the rest of the money when I come back in a few minutes."

He walked toward the bathhouse with the young man following. Shortly after they arrived my dad asked

his friend, "Did you bring your gun, you'll need it?" He replied, "No, I don't have a gun." As Harrison started to tell him that he needed to stay low the door flew open and two mine guards started firing. The young man was shot and fell to the floor. My dad dived behind a bench and started firing his 38 Special; his first shots struck the first two guards square in the chest. As they dropped to the floor the other guard stepped in the doorway and Harrison also shot him in the chest. He fell backwards and got back up and started shooting again.

The dying young man realized that the guard was probably wearing a bullet-proof vest said with his last breath, "Aim high!" With only one round left in his gun he fired and struck the mine guard, a shot dead between the eyes.

Shortly thereafter the police arrived and found two dead mine guards, a dying mine guard, and a dead miner. The third guard died later that day. Harrison was charged with murder and taken the local jail. Looking out the window from his jail cell he saw a crowd gathering and thought, this is a lynch mob. As evening approached the crowd became larger. An old man was passing by the barred window of his cell and Harrison yelled, "I guess they're going to hang me, huh?" The old man yelled back, "Hang ya, no this mob is going to burn down the courthouse if they don't let you out."

The legend goes on; he was let out of jail and escorted back to West Virginia. Also, an examination of the first two guards revealed that a fifty-cent piece would cover the two bullet holes in each of the guard's chest. The townspeople hated the mine guards with a passion.

Shortly after they were buried the townspeople dynamited their graves, and someone in the town thought so highly of the pistol-carrying miner that a book was written called *The West Virginia Gunman*.



*Retired Trooper Joe Hines of Jonesville spoke to the Society in November on the History of the Virginia State Police.*

## Work Continues on Historical Society Building

**While we have made great progress in remodeling our building, much still needs to be done. We are presently obtaining estimates on repairing the steeple and eaves and installing vinyl siding on the entire building. In addition, we need to install metal bars over the windows for security purposes. Any contribution to our building fund would be greatly appreciated!**

**Frank B. Rowlett** *from page 1*

Intelligence Division. From 1949-52, he was technical director in the Office of Operations of the Armed Forces Security Agency, predecessor to the National Security Agency (NSA).

Rowlett differed with General Ralph J. Canine, the first director of the NSA, over personnel movements, including his own. Acting on his differences, he transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 1952 and worked there until 1957. At that time he returned to the NSA as a Special Assistant to the Director. In 1965 Rowlett became commandant of the National Cryptologic School. He retired from federal service in 1966. In 1965 he was awarded the National Security Medal by President Lyndon B. Johnson for his work on breaking the Japanese Purple cipher.

Rowlett has been inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame. He received the following awards: U.S. Legion of Merit (1946), Order of the British Empire (1946), U.S. (CIA) Distinguished Intelligence Medal (1957), U.S. (NSA) Exceptional Service Award (1960), U.S. Congressional Award for Inventions held Secret (1964), Emory and Henry College Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (1966), U.S. National Security Medal (1966), Newark College of Engineering



President Johnson awarding the National Security Medal to Frank Rowlett in 1965.

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (1969) and U.S. Military Intelligence Hall of Fame (1988).

Because of his importance in the protection of American communications, the Information Systems Security Organization has named its highest award the Frank Byron Rowlett Award.

Frank Rowlett died June 29, 1998 at age 90.

(Sources for this article were taken from *The Story of Magic: Memoirs of an American Cryptologic Pioneer* by Frank B. Rowlett, Aegean Press, 1999.

## **Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Business Directory for Lee County (1888-89)** *compiled and published by J. H. Chaitaigne, Richmond, Virginia 1888.*

Population 1880--White 14,192, Indians 2; colored 922, total 15,116.

County Seat, Jonesville. Population 277

Vote of county November 2, 1886--Democrats 913;

Republicans 1,131

Value real estate, 1886: \$1,076,639.33

Value personal property: \$ 533,467.00

Tax real estate: \$4,357.79

Tax personal property: \$2,133.91

Captation Tax: White 2,633, colored: 121

Lee County was formed 1792 from Russell, and named in honor of Henry Lee, the then Governor. It lies on the eastern slope of the Cumberland mountains at the extreme southwestern angle of the State. The States of Kentucky and Tennessee bound it on the north and south and Scott county on the east. The western part is very mountainous and the land unimproved, but the eastern and valley portions are quite fertile and produce good and abundant crops of corn, oats, rye, and wheat and the

grasses. Some tobacco of fine grade is also raised. The orchard and dairy yield handsome revenue. The county is well watered by the headwaters of Powells river, which also furnish a means for the transportation of grain and forest products to market. The minerals found in this county are iron (red and brown hematite), coal, barytes and salt. The timbers are white oak, much being the natural growth, and every variety of wood to be found in any other county in the State. Jonesville, the county seat, is a thriving village, located about the middle of the county, and has a population of about 300. The area of the county is 400 square miles, or 256,137 acres, and the average assessed value of the land is \$4.20 per acre.

### **Post Offices**

Bailey

Bales' Mills - J. S. B. Richmond

Beech Spring - B. M. Morgan

Blackwater - John T. Livsay

Boon's Path - Charles E. Baylor

**Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Business Directory for Lee County (1888-89)***continued from page 5***Post Offices** – continued

Brick Store - J. B. Cox  
 Canyon Hollow - Mrs. M. E. C. Ewing  
 Chandler - James M. Stamper  
 Corin - E. M. Pennington  
 Crab Orchard - James R. P. Legg  
 Cumbow - Charles H. Kincaid  
 Delphi - W. M. Pennington  
 Douglass - S. A. Ball  
 Fritts' - B. F. Thompson  
 Gibson's Station - C. W. Nash  
 Golconda  
 Hau - John P. Graham  
 Jonesville - J. M. Couk  
 Longfield  
 Pridemore - W. P. Word  
 Rocky Station - Lafayette Loyd  
 Rose Hill - Robert M. Bales  
 Slemp  
 Stickleyville - C. V. Young  
 Tide - W. P. M. Stewart  
 Turkey Cove  
 Van - Charles W. Marshall  
 Walnut Hill - J. M. Wheeler  
 White Shoals - Wright Stickley  
 Yokum Station - E. S. Flanary  
 Zion Mills- W. S. Hunt

**Courts**

The Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Circuit meets at Jonesville on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in March, August and November.  
 Judge: H. S. K. Morrison  
 Clerk: John A. G. Hyatt  
 The County Court meets at the Courthouse on the first Monday in each month.  
 Judge: C. T. Duncan  
 Clerk: John R. Gibson

**County Officers**

Sheriff: S. H. Ewing  
 Treasurer: J. P. Graham  
 Surveyor: Luther N. Carmichael  
 Commonwealth's Attorney:  
 John M. Morgan  
 Superintendent of Poor: J. R. Ely

**Magistrates**

H. C. Joslyn, Charles Marshall, W. A. Owens, Jonesville District; John Riddle, F. B. Cox, F. M. Paison, Yokum Station District; A. J. Littleton, J. P. Myers, J. J. Newman, Rocky Station District; J. W. Woodward, E. H. Daniel, D. C. Willis, Rose Hill District; John Curry, E. M. Russell, H. Edmondson, White Shoals District.

**Supervisors**

S. S. Surgener, Jonesville District; Craig Pennington, Yokum Station District; J. T. Hughes, Rocky Station District; H. C. T. Richmond, Rose Hill District; Wm. Jayne, White Shoals District.

**Constables**

S. H. Bolen, C. C. Poteet, Jonesville District; James Smith, C. B. Turner, Yokum Station District; J. P. Ely, Wm. Tankersly, Rocky Station District; J. R. Edds, Neil Jennings, Rose Hill District; Jonathan Smith, S. S. Rose, White Shoals District

**Attorneys at Law**

Duncan, C. F. - Jonesville  
 Goins, A. M. - Jonesville  
 Howard, Henry - Hau  
 Johnston, C. B. - Gibson's Station  
 Legg, H. H. K. - Crab Orchard  
 Legg, U. S. G. - Crab Orchard  
 Moore, A. C. - Crab Orchard  
 Morgan, John M. - Jonesville  
 Morgan, H. J. - Jonesville  
 Morris, G. C. - Jonesville  
 Orr, J. W. - Jonesville  
 Orr, W. A. - Jonesville  
 Pennington, E. M. - Corinth  
 Pennington, E. W. - Delphi  
 Pridemore, A. L. - Jonesville  
 Sewell, B. H. - Jonesville

**Cattle Dealers**

Hurst & Shelburn - Zion's Mills  
 Litton, D. S. - Dryden  
 Litton, Robert - Bailey

Parsons, M. C. - Zion's Mills  
 Russell, George W. - Hau  
 Slemp, Cain - Turkey Cove

**Coach and Wagon Builders**

Carnes, Alexander - Pridemore  
 Barren, Adam - Gibson's Station  
 Burk, Francis - Rocky Station  
 Cau, Jefferson - Rose Hill  
 Cridlin, John N. & Sons - Jonesville  
 Dillman, George W. - Rose Hill  
 Gates, W. A. - Crab Orchard  
 Hall, Jacob - Pridemore  
 Hall, John S. - Zion's Mills  
 Harber, J. - Beech Spring  
 Hobbs, S. D. - Rose Hill  
 Horton, W. H. - Tide  
 Hyatt, N. G. - Crab Orchard  
 Lawson, R. - Chandler  
 Martin, W. - Rose Hill  
 Mink, Hiram - Chandler  
 Moore, J. A. - Blackwater  
 Sarvers, John - Tide  
 Seal, J. K. - Boon's Path  
 Woodward, G. - Cumbow

**Dentists**

Astrop, V. R. - Zion's Mills  
 Duff, C. - Friths  
 Duff, John - Douglas  
 Duff, M. F. - Jonesville  
 Ely, J. G. - Hau  
 Gibson, H. R. - Gibson's Station  
 Larmer, E. S. - Stickleyville  
 McGinness, G. C. - Jonesville

**Distillers**

Clark, F. M., Sr. - Crab Orchard  
 Clark, Wm. - Crab Orchard  
 Ely, Joseph - Hau  
 Gibson, T. S. - Gibson's Station  
 Hurst & Shelburn - Zion's Mills  
 Legg, J. K. P. - Crab Orchard  
 Morris, D. F. - Crab Orchard  
 Skaggs, John - Hau

*(To be continued next edition.)*

## Bacon Beginnings in Lee County *from page 3*

Bacon and Mary Ann Carter (1798-1862) in Mecklenburg County June 2, 1837. He was the thirteenth of fifteen children, four of whom died in infancy or in early childhood. The father, Lyddall Bacon, was known and recorded throughout all county records as Colonel Lyddall Bacon. The title of Colonel was often given to men of that time who were members of the County Courts. Colonel Lyddall Bacon served as a Justice of the County Court and before that, served as a vestryman of Cumberland Parrish. One can read more about the County Courts in author Landon Bell's Cumberland Parrish found in public libraries in Mecklenburg County.

Thomas Alexander Bacon did not live very long after arriving in Lee County. He died in October, 1876. The story goes that Thomas returned in the early fall of 1876 to Mecklenburg County to buy horses. Christiansville, Virginia (now Chase City) was well known at that time for its horses and its race track. Between 1740 and 1766 thirty thoroughbred mares had been imported to Virginia from England as recorded in author Douglas Summers Brown's book, *Chase City and Its Environs* (1765-1975). This marked the beginning of a long era of horse breeding and horse racing in Mecklenburg County which today no longer exists in the area.

Thomas A. Bacon made the long arduous journey once again from Lee County to Christiansville and then returned to Lee County with his newly purchased horses. Weather conditions mixed with the stress of the journey took its toll on the young adventurous Bacon. In October of that same year, 1876, he succumbed to pneumonia leaving a widow with seven small children, the youngest of whom was just nine months old. That nine-month old baby girl, Virginia Alexander Bacon (1876-1927) grew up to become the mother of a well-known Lee Countian, Thomas Bacon Fugate, a former United States Congressman (1951-1953).

Mrs. Thomas Alexander Bacon (Pattie Goode Farrar) remained in Lee County after her young husband's untimely death and successfully raised her seven children (5 girls and 2 boys) to adulthood. One son, Ernest L. (1865-1887) died at age 22 and the other son, Drury Lydall (1873-1936) grew up to become the father of another well-known Lee Countian, Edgar Bacon, a former Commonwealth's Attorney and a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly. Three of the five daughters of Thomas and Pattie Bacon stayed in Lee County. They were Mrs. Joe Moore (Eva, born circa 1862, no records available); Mrs. George McClure (Pattie Goode 1871-1951); and Mrs. Colby Fugate (Virginia Alexander 1876-1927). One daughter, Nannie Ashby (1864-1949), moved with her husband Dudley Thompson (1856-1941) to Missouri, and another daughter, Mary Carter (1869-1903), moved back to Mecklenburg County to attend school with her cousins. She married Eugene Emory (1855-1911) in Mecklenburg

and lived the remainder of her life there.

According to local neighbors, Thomas Bacon's widow, Pattie Goode Bacon, was a tough lady and managed the farm in Lee County much as a man would have done. Pattie's mother, Martha Goode Farrar (1811-1880), also a widow, moved from Mecklenburg County to Lee County to be of help to her daughter. Martha died in Lee County in 1880 and she is buried in the Lee County family cemetery.

Why did Thomas A. Bacon move to Lee County and how did he find the particular farm which he purchased? There is a word-of-mouth story that attempts to answer the "Why", but no living relatives or neighbors seem to know "How" Thomas Bacon found or knew of a farm for sale in Lee County when he left Christiansville, VA. He had possibly made a solo trip before taking his family, or perhaps there were family connections which are not apparent in any records. Lee County records do not reveal from whom Thomas Bacon purchased his farm. Deeds cannot be found. There are county records showing the partial sale of his estate upon his death. It shows that his oldest brother, William Bacon, traveled from Mecklenburg County to Lee County and purchased two of Thomas Bacon's horses, one for \$77 and one for \$25.

According to Douglas Summers Brown's book, *Chase City and Its Environs* (1765-1975), Thomas A. Bacon's father, Colonel Lyddall Bacon, owned more than 2000 acres of land in Mecklenburg County in the 1860's and he had ownership of more than 100 slaves. After the Civil War ended and the slaves were freed, there arose some sort of conflict between the Bacon family and some of the slaves. The conflict was serious enough to involve the law. Thomas Alexander and an older brother, Drury Allen (named for his grandfather), were the main two family members involved in the controversy. The story goes that Thomas Alexander suddenly packed up his young family and headed west in order to avoid any further conflict leaving his brother Drury Allen (1821-1876) to deal with the legal problems. Drury Allen died of pneumonia the month following Thomas Alexander's death. His father had already deeded Thomas more than 400 acres of land in Mecklenburg County, land running adjacent to the Meherrin River which might explain why Thomas chose a farm in Lee County partially surrounded by the Powell River. Colonel Lyddall Bacon bought back the land from his son, Thomas, in 1874 according to Mecklenburg County records.

**Bacon Beginnings in Lee County** *continued from page 7*

The farm which Thomas Bacon found and purchased in Lee County is approximately 12 miles west of Jonesville, Virginia with a difficult vehicular access off the Longleaf Road in the Beech Grove Community, and an even more difficult access by foot off the Flatwoods Road. For Thomas Bacon and his family in 1868, accessing this farm meant having to ford the Powell River multiple times before bridges were constructed in the area. The surviving Bacons in Lee County used the walking access over the years. This entrance meant that one would park his/her vehicle on top of a bluff overlooking the farm, walk down a steep embankment, walk a narrow path alongside a steep cliff, walk a swinging bridge across the Powell River, and finally reach the farm. Of course, Thomas and Pattie did not have the use of a swinging bridge in 1868. The walk continued uphill through a large field where the family dwelling stood. The early dwelling had dirt floors. In later years a beautiful farm house was built by the only surviving son of Thomas and Pattie. The farm is completely surrounded by the Powell River except for a small section of land in the eastern corner of the farm on the south side of the Powell River. Now, how did strangers from Mecklenburg County happen upon such a farm?

As mentioned earlier, Thomas died in 1876 and his widow, Pattie, died in 1908. The only surviving son, Drury Lydall, at the time of his mother's death was 35 years of age and had been married to Edna Hamblen (1876-1915) for 13 years. Notice the change in the spelling of the name Lydall. The grandfather spelled it Lyddall and two generations later, Drury Lydall Bacon, Sr. named a son Drury Lydrell Bacon, Jr. Perhaps education played a part in the change of spelling. Thomas Alexander Bacon was a well-educated man having attended the old Randolph Macon College in Mecklenburg County which is now located in Ashland, VA. Drury Lydall Bacon, Sr. had only a third grade education. Lyddall originated as a maiden name of one of the Bacon wives in Suffolk, England which according to most English records spelled it Lydal.

Spelling lesson aside, Drury Lydall Bacon, Sr. inherited the Powell River farm. He was widowed in 1915 with eight children, the eighth one being only three days old. Those children were: Robert Clyde (1896-1976); Thomas Eugene (1898-1977); Susan Virginia (1900-1930); James Olin, Sr. (1902-1979); Pattie Hazel (1905-1992); Fane Coleman (1908-1993); Mary Florence (1910-2009); and Edna Earl (1915-1993). Drury

Lydall, Sr. married a second time to Patsy Ely (1893-1971) and raised two more sons: Edgar (1917-1999) and Drury, Jr. (1919-2002). These last two sons, Edgar and Drury, Jr. inherited the river farm. It stayed in their possession until the 1990's when Drury's nephew by marriage, O. V. Debusk, bought the farm and he is still the present day owner. A private family cemetery is on this farm with six family members buried there. They are Thomas Alexander Bacon, his wife Pattie Goode Farrar Bacon, his sons Ernest Bacon, and Drury L. Bacon, Sr., his mother-in-law Martha Goode Farrar, and an infant granddaughter, Annie McClure (born and died 1901).

As has been written earlier in this article, Thomas Alexander Bacon had seven children. He had 34 grandchildren, and 69 great-grandchildren. Only those living or born in Lee County have been mentioned in this article. There are also great-greats and great, great, greats which this writer does not have an accurate accounting for at this time. Several of these are living in Lee County.

There are no surviving grandchildren. The last one, Mary Bacon Porter, Radford, Virginia lived to be 99 years and 5 months of age. She died December 29, 2009. Of those 34 grandchildren, several were born in Lee County and thirteen (13 lived and raised their families there. Those thirteen (all deceased) were:

- Robert Clyde Bacon (1896-1976)
- Annie McClure (Infant death 1901)
- Susan Bacon Glass (1900-1930)
- Claude Bacon McClure (1904-1982)
- James Olin Bacon, Sr. (1902-1979)
- Mae McClure Ely (1909-1992)
- Fane Coleman Bacon (1908-1993)
- Evelyn McClure Robertson (1911-1993)
- Edgar Bacon (1917-1999)
- Thomas Bacon Fugate (1899-1980)
- Drury Lydrell Bacon, Jr. (1919-2002)
- Pattie Fugate Johnson (1903-1949)
- Carrie Moore

Another six (6) of those 34 grandchildren (all deceased) were born in Lee County but later moved away. They were:

- Thomas Eugene Bacon (1898-1977) VA
- Joseph Newton McClure (1902-1980) NC
- Hazel Bacon Bolton (1905-1992) TN
- Mary Bacon Porter (1910-2009) VA
- Mary Elizabeth Fugate MacLemore (1901-1946) VA
- Edna Earl Bacon (1915-1993) OH



**Bacon Beginnings in Lee County** *continued from page 8*

Of the 69 great-grandchildren several were born in Lee County and moved away, several are deceased, and at this writing 14 are still living in Lee County. Many others are alive in other parts of the country. The 14 great-grandchildren of Thomas and Pattie Bacon still residing in Lee County are as following:

Morton Clifford Bacon  
 Diane Bacon Bruner  
 D. Kemp Bacon  
 Jan Bacon Moseley  
 James Olin Bacon, Jr.  
 Harry Marshall Fugate, Sr.  
 Dr. James B. Johnson  
 Michael Hamblen Bacon  
 Virginia June Johnson Edds  
 Mary Gene Bacon Warner  
 Frances Robertson Inwood  
 Mary Sue Bacon Hounshell  
 Pattie Sue Ely Graham

There are seven (7) great-grandchildren who lived in Lee County and are deceased including infants and early childhood deaths.

Lois Fugate (1920-1931)  
 Robert L. Glass (1922-1927)  
 Charles Lydrell Bacon (1923-2007)  
 Edna America Bacon (1925-1926)  
 Isaac Walton "Ike" Bacon (1936-2008)  
 Pattie Jane Bacon (1943 infant death)  
 Ernest Lydrell "Mick" Bacon (1931-2011)

Eighteen (18) of the 69 great-grandchildren were born in Lee County and later moved away. They are/were:

Lavada Bacon Smith (TN)  
 Maureen Fugate Shandrick (NC)  
 Robert Clyde Bacon, Jr. (AL)  
 Katheryn Fugate Testerman (TN)  
 Donald Colby Bacon (IO)  
 Francis Bacon Fugate (TX)  
 Pattie Bacon Wilson (VA)  
 Dr. Charles Johnson (Puerto Rico)  
 Gwen Bacon Pendergraft (KY)  
 Olivia Johnson Cole (VA/FL)  
 Horace Fane Bacon (IN/FL)  
 Marguerite Johnson Middleton (MI)  
 Drury Lydrell Bacon III (NV)  
 Palmer Glass (1917-1951) MD  
 Thomas Harry Bacon (TN)  
 Lloyd F. Glass, Jr. (1919-1992) MD  
 Paul Coleman Bacon (1933-2006) NE  
 Thomas Bacon Glass 1927-1975) MD

The surviving descendants of the first Bacon to reside in Lee County can be proud of their heritage. From the fighting rebel, Nathaniel Bacon, to the courageous adventurer, Thomas Alexander Bacon, descendants have been given a gene pool of industrious, civil, and civic-minded ancestry spanning the globe from Suffolk County, England to Lee County, Virginia. There must be so many wonderful stories out there which could be written about each of these family members.

It is the hope that readers will be able to glean from these sketchy facts enough information from which to launch their own search for more family history.

Submitted by Pattie Bacon Wilson, Great-granddaughter of Thomas Alexander Bacon.

*Note about the writer:*

Pattie Bacon Wilson, the youngest daughter of Clyde and Stella Glass Bacon, grew up in Lee County.

She graduated valedictorian from Flatwoods High School in 1958, and graduated from Radford University in 1961 concentrating in Secondary Mathematics, Biology, and Music. Pattie taught math at Pennington High School (Lee County) for 2 years, taught math for 34 years in South Hill (Mecklenburg County) where she resides, taught one year in Blackstone, VA (Nottoway County), and worked 12 summers for Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta VA (Brunswick County).

Pattie retired in 2001 and presently babysits grandchildren and serves as a church musician in South Hill.

She has three children: a daughter who is a Registered Nurse; a son who is a Food Science Engineer; and a son who is a Certified Public Accountant. She has 5 grandchildren.

**It's Time To Pay 2012 Membership Dues \$10 or become a Life Member for \$100 !!**

***Have A Story or Article?***

If you would like to contribute an article or story for our Newsletter please send it to Becky Jones or Judy Davidson. We would appreciate the article in digital form, either on CD or by email, if possible, in addition to any hard copy you might send.



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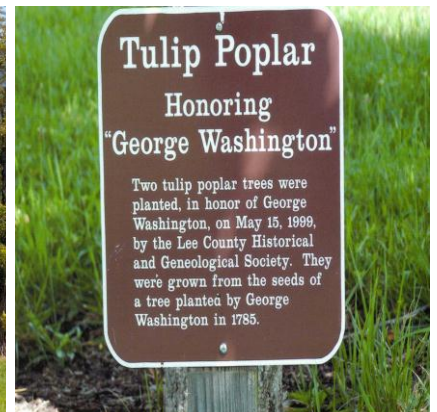
*Before and After – Photos of the Chrisman Log House at Rocky Station now owned and restored by Scott and Elaine Woliver.*



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- Cemeteries of Lee County
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  - Volume 3.....\$50 + \$5 shipping (Va. Residents add \$2.50 sales tax)

If you would like to purchase any of these books please send a check to Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 231, Jonesville, VA. 24263



*Historical Society poplar trees planted in 1999 at Wilderness Road State Park.*