



# Gateway to the West



Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society P. O Box 231 Jonesville, Virginia 24263-023

July 2013

## President's Report *By Becky Jones*

We have had a busy Spring with scanning of pictures for our new pictorial, working on the building and keeping up with requests, etc.

Our building really looks good with the new siding and new awning. Inside we have been working on display cases. We have Dr. Grover Sumpter's old medical tools displayed. We also have old wool coverlets, quilts and other hand woven ideas displayed. The original organ that was given by the Spangler family to the Friendship Church was donated by the Church to the Historical Society and is back in our building.

We have hired our first paid employee. Libby LaForce will be working 5-6 hours a week at our building organizing files, arranging displays and taking calls. If anyone wants to use the genealogy library someone can be there.

We still have a monthly meeting and have had some good speakers. In January Virginia Spence talked to us about Thompson Settlement Church and how the community and other Churches developed from the Church. At one time there was Midway School, Curry College (Bible), post office, and stores, etc. in that area. David Thompson spoke to us at our February meeting. David is a child survivor of the Holocaust. He lives in the western part of the county and works with the Bell

*Continued on page 4*

## Powell Valley Electric Cooperative at 75

*by Libby Laforce*

A milestone for Lee County came on September 6, 1938, when local residents came together to organize an electric co-operative. The organizing group consisted of John Reasor – Big Stone Gap, W. W. Jessee – Dryden, Mrs. B. T. Young – Duffield, Loran Roop – Jonesville, Davis L. McNiel – Jonesville, James Quillen - Ocoonita, and Rhea D. Hyatt – Rose Hill.

The territory consisted of Lee, Scott and Wise Counties. Davis McNiel was the first Powell Valley Electric manager. A short 14 months later the lives of rural Lee Countians would be changed forever. On November 4, 1939, electric lights dotted the country side. At that time there were 134 members of the cooperative. Within a 10 day period that figure increased to 280. When the first meter was read on December 20, 1939, the number leaped to 340 members. Connections for electricity depended on how rapid the house wiring and meters could be installed.

Initially, the average rate for electricity was \$2.00 per month. In 1940 the average bill had increased to \$2.12 per month. Electric extensions were being made for the Robbins Chapel & Keokee areas in Lee County and to sections of Hancock, Hawkins and Claiborne Counties in Tennessee

It is now 75 years later and a lot has changed and improved for the residents of the Lee County Community thanks to electricity and to the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. This is a milestone we can all be grateful for.



Presidents  
Report..... 1

Powell Valley Electric  
Cooperative.....1

The Smiths of Lee  
and Harlan.....2

Work on Pictorial  
History Book  
Continues.....2

Passing of Society  
Members.....4

Old Occupations.....8

Thrice Blessed Is This  
Food.....10

## The Smiths of Harlan and Lee Counties *by William Smith*

On January 22, 1886, the few commercial establishments not in the hands of the Turners or their kin around Harlan Courthouse were primed for trouble. The Turner-Howard Feud was well underway. One year later, open warfare would break out around this two story frame weatherboard sided county court building between the Turners, Howards and their allies. In January of 1886, the Turners pretty well ruled the town of Harlan and businesses which began to cut into their trade had problems. Owners or these rival interests were killed or forced to leave the county. The Turners had been slave holders, sided with the south during the Civil War and were Democrats.

The Cawoods fell into the same three categories, were close allies of the Turners and their kinsmen. Stephen Cawood's mother was a Turner. This Nancy Turner Cawood was the daughter of William and Susannah Turner and supposedly the first white woman born in what is now Harlan County. The Baileys were also kinsmen of the Turners. The Howards, on the other hand, were Republicans, had fought on the northern side of the war and in the person of Wilson "Wilse" Howard, took exception to the Turners pushing their weight around. The Jennings were a tough and proud people and their kinsmen. Wilse's mother was a Jennings. The Gilberts and Days also supported the Howards.

George Washington "Wash" Smith and his large family lived on the Smith home place off Martins Fork on Cranks Creek. They had a lot in common with the Howards. The Smiths were Republicans, had sided with the north and Wash's sister, Betsy Ann, had married Edward Howard.

Why then in 1886 was Noble Smith, Wash's oldest son, operating a general store in the town of Harlan during these times and under these circumstances? It might have been that a marriage two years earlier in 1884 between Noble's sister, Nancy Smith, with Charley Cawood, had led Noble to understand that he would have some immunity from Turner aggression. At the very least, George Washington Smith and Stephen Cawood, patriarchs of their respective clans, had arranged Charley and Nancy's marriage to help keep the peace between their two families during these troubled times. The Smith's held large tracts of land on the upper Martins Fork. The Cawoods held large land tracks along the middle section of Martins Ford. Thus, it made good business sense for the Smiths and Cawoods to keep the peace between their families.

However, no one counted on Charley Cawood. Charley was bad news. He was for the lack of a better description, a killer. He once killed a man sitting on a split

*Continued on page 3*

## LCHGS Continues to Scan Photos for Pictorial History *by Staff*



*Glenn Robbins of the Miller's Chapel Community  
as a soldier in 1943 during World War II.*

*Courtesy of Arlene Hall*

The Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society is still seeking photographs for a second pictorial history book for Lee County. We have scanned and received hundreds of photos from all over the country.

No cutoff date has been set but we anticipate scanning and accepting photos until fall. We would like more photos of ancestors, businesses, old homes, barns and other structures. We would also like photographs of the floods we have had.

The photos should be prior to 1980 and should be Lee County people and scenes or photos of Lee Countians serving in the military or while in college.

We cannot accept copyrighted photos from magazines, newspapers, and other publications including photos from school yearbooks. Scanning sessions will be publicized and photos can also be emailed to:

**leecovahistsociety@hotmail.com**

We have included a few photographs in this edition of our Newsletter to give you an idea of what has been submitted. We hope you enjoy them!

*The Smiths of Harlan and Lee Counties* *continued from page 2*

rail fence in cold blood because the victim and his family were identified with the Howards. It was said that whiskey did not help his disposition. The Cawoods did have a healthy mixture of Cherokee in their blood. On the winters day of January 22, 1886, Noble Smith, then 25 years of age, was operating his general store. Like most of these establishments at the time in eastern Kentucky, whiskey was being sold and drank at the counter or bar. In the dead of winter, many of the local farmers considered it a place to socialize and have a nip or two. Finley Smith, Noble's younger brother of 18, was said to have found a make shift stool by sitting on a nail keg over by the wall. Some say he was strumming a banjo.

Through the door of this rural scene of uneasy conviviality came Charlie Cawood, age 22. Apparently Charley had been drinking before he got there. His and Nancy's son, "Little" Frank, would have been a few months more than a year old and was being carried in his father's arms. What possessed Charley to do what he did next is not known. Maybe he had first used "Little" Frank to entertain his kinsmen at the nearby Turner store and they had suggested or dared Charley to pull off the same act at his brother-in-law's establishment. Perhaps he thought Noble would have to put up with his antics because his marriage to Nancy gave Noble's business venture the insulation needed from Turner wrath. In any case, when Charley burst into Noble's store, his behavior that followed, painted Charley into the proverbial corner. Charley walked up to the bar with "Little" Frank. Noble was attending his patrons. Charley then proceeded to stand the little fellow on the bar top. He then asked his son what political party he belonged to. At the sound of these words from his father, "Little" Frank had been trained to hold his small hands to his chest, flap his elbows and crow like a rooster. "Little" Frank, too young to understand, had been taught to demonstrate a preference for the Democrat Party by imitating their emblem. "Little" Frank's performance, though humorous, was received poorly by Noble. Charley knew all the Smiths were Republicans and Noble felt Charley had made his son to look the fool to insult his uncle and his mother's family. Noble expressed this opinion to Charley. But Charley hadn't finished painting himself into the corner.

Ignoring his brother-in-law's displeasure, Charley turned to Finley and asked him what political party he belonged to. He knew full well what the answer would be. Finley spoke up and said he was a Republican at which point, Charley said, "Republicans ought to be shot." Knowing Charley by reputation and on a personal level, Noble saw the ominous direction his brother-in-law was

taking. He immediately stood up for his younger brother by inviting Charley to leave and if he, Charley, returned, then Charley would have Noble to answer to. When a man like Charley receives such a challenge, he feels he can not back down without losing face. Both men must have known they were on a collision course. Charley took his son home.

Noble quietly drew up his rifle from behind the bar and laid the firearm on the counter facing the door. Charley returned to Noble's general store and burst through the door armed. Noble was ready for Charley's return. He fired a lethal shot through his brother-in-law, dropping Charley where he stood. Noble's future was not promising in the town of Harlan. The sheriff was a Turner. Judge Lewis was a Turner kinsman and when Nancy received news that her husband had been killed by her brother, she went looking for Noble with a pistol in her apron. The fastness of the Smith stronghold at Cranks Creek off upper Martins Fork would have been about the only sanctuary for Noble Smith and his family immediately after the shooting. It speaks of the pervasive influence that the two patriarchs, George Washington "Wash" Smith and Stephen Cawood, had over their families that the large number of adults on both sides didn't go on a killing rampage.

With the Turner influence over the Harlan County Court, it was questionable that Noble could receive a fair trial in Harlan County. Wash had considerable influence in his own right (the Cawoods would derisively refer to "Wash's gold". Wash was determined to protect Noble from Turner justice by keeping his son out of the jurisdiction of Harlan's court. How this was accomplished is not exactly understood. We do know that the trial was delayed for five years. During the interim, Wash retained the considerable talents of Judge H. F. Finley, a practicing attorney and a noted Republican Party leader of eastern Kentucky. It is also possible that Wash and Judge Finley may have been long time friends; possibly the judge's name was the source of Wash's son's name, Finley. Judge Finley was obviously a skilled tactician. He was able to secure a change of venue to Laurel County where registered voters and presumably jurors were predominately Republican. He then made certain the local citizenry was aware of his political persuasion. The following article appeared in the local newspaper on May 22, 1891: "Judge H. F. Finley was in Circuit Court Tuesday as an Attorney for the defense in the case of Noble Smith for murder, moved here from Harlan County. Judge Finley left that night for Lexington to attend the Republican Convention."

*Continued on Page 6*

## Four Members of the Historical Society Have Passed Away

The Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society offers our sincere condolences to the families of four of our members who have passed away since January:

**Willie Orr Slemp Rogers**, age 86, passed away Thursday, March 28, 2013 in Indian Path Medical Center in Kingsport, TN. She was a lifelong resident of Lee County. Willie dedicated her life to Jesus at an early age and was baptized in the creek on Valley View Road of Dry Branch. She was a graduate of Pennington High School, became a registered nurse after classes at Ft. Sanders and the University of Tennessee in 1947. She was employed by the Virginia Health Department for over 35 years. She married Clarence Taylor Slemp in 1947 who passed away in 1967. She married Add Rogers in 1975 and he passed away in 1985. She was the Business Woman of the year in Virginia in 2005, and chairman of the Virginia Nurse's Association. She was also voted Woman of the Year in Lee County as Public Health Nurse of the same year. She was a member of the Pennington Gap Woman's Club, Lovelady Chapter of the D.A.R., The Rebecca Circle of the Methodist Church, Lee County Garden Club and a member of Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society. Willie was the first female to belong to the Lee County School Board. Willie was also a member of the Pennington Gap United Methodist Church, a life member of the Virginia Garden Club, a life member of the National Garden Club and a Charter member of the Lee County Art Guild, Charter member of the Virginia State Rural Health Association. Calling hours were held on Tuesday April 2, 2013 from 6 until 8:00 p.m. at Sturgill Funeral Home in Pennington Gap, VA with funeral services following. Graveside services were at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday at the Slemp Cemetery in the Seminary Community.

**Max Chance**, age 84, of Rose Hill, VA passed away Tuesday May 21, 2013. He was born in the Flatwoods community on May 25, 1928, the son of Charles and Dollie Beatrice Kyle Chance. He attended and was a lifelong member of Flatwoods Methodist Church. He was an Army Veteran and served during the Korean War. He graduated from Flatwoods High School, received a Bachelor's degree from Lincoln Memorial University and a Master's Degree from Ball State University. He worked in the engineering department for Avco Corporation at Cape Canaveral with NASA. He taught high school and coached cross country and basketball at Hamilton Southeastern before moving back to Lee County where he taught at Flatwoods High School. He loved coaching men's varsity basketball, baseball and cross-country. He treated his players as family and ended his teaching career at Lee High School. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Beaty Chance; three brothers, Jack, Robert and Pete Chance and one infant sister, Margaret. Funeral services were conducted at 7 p.m. Friday May 24 in the Province Funeral Home Sanctuary. Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday May 25 at the Edds-Chance Cemetery near Chance's Chapel.

**Patsy R. Bledsoe**, age 82, of Jonesville, VA passed away on Monday, June 17, 2013 at Lee Health and Rehabilitation Center. She was born on October 19, 1930 in St. Charles, Virginia to the late Ethridge T. and Lillie Mae Branson Raines. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Howard Ellis Bledsoe, Jr., and three brothers, James, Glen and Herbert Raines. Patsy had been a member at First Baptist Church of Jonesville for over 50 years where she had held numerous positions. She was also a member of the Jonesville Women's Club and the Lee County Historical Society. She is survived by her daughter, Pam Hines and husband John, of Jonesville, VA; son, Jim Bledsoe and wife Suzy, of Pulaski, VA; brother, Carl Raines of Church Hill, TN; four grandchildren, Adam Hines, Andy Hines and wife Andrea, Julie Gibson and husband Larry and Katie Queen and husband Lance; five great grandchildren, Michael and Amelia Hines and Sophie, Gannon and Ellie Gibson. The family received friends from 6 until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, 2013 at Robinette Funeral Home in Jonesville. The funeral service followed at 8:00 p.m. with Rev. Layne Pennington officiating. The graveside service and interment were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 21, in Miller's Chapel Cemetery in Jonesville.

**Elizabeth Mae Carpenter** of Pennington Gap, VA was born at Shavers Ford on September 12, 1925 and passed away due to an incurable cancer at the Lee Health and Rehabilitation Center on Sunday June 23, 2013 at the age of 87 years. Elizabeth graduated from Madison College, Harrisonburg, VA (now James Madison University) in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, majoring in Home Economics. She taught Home Economics at Cleveland (Russell County), at Valley Institute near Bristol and 8th grade English at St. Charles, Virginia. Chronic bouts of Asthma and breathing difficulties precluded further class room work; however she continued to share her expertise with neighbors and friends in sewing, crocheting, plastic canvas, and bead work. She was active in the Lovelady Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Lee County Historical Society. For years she was a daily volunteer at the Lee County Public Library, answering ancestry questions from anyone with Lee County roots and organizing the Library's Genealogical files. Family received friends from 3 until 4:00 p.m. at the Sturgill Funeral Home on Wednesday June 26 with the funeral at 4:00 p.m. Burial followed in Lee Memorial Gardens next to Elizabeth's parents.

*President's Report from page 1*



*Mrs. Virginia Spence*



*Mr. David Thompson*

County Historical Society. He gave a very interesting talk.

We were entertained for our March meeting. Todd Meade, director of Mountain Music at Mountain Empire Community College. He talked to us about the roots of our music and fiddled for us.

In April, William Smith, a native of Rose Hill, Va. who lives in Kentucky told us how the Smiths got from Kentucky to Lee County, Va. The move was the result of a family feud of course.

In May Amy Clark, a native of Lee County, presented a program on Appalachian dialect and language. Amy and Nancy Hayward wrote "Talking Appalachian: Voice, Identity and Community" (The University Press of Kentucky, 2013). Amy is a recipient of the Jean Ritchie Fellowship in Appalachian Writing and teaches at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

At our June meeting we watched a DVD of film footage that was taken by Mr. Harve Lankford in 1949-

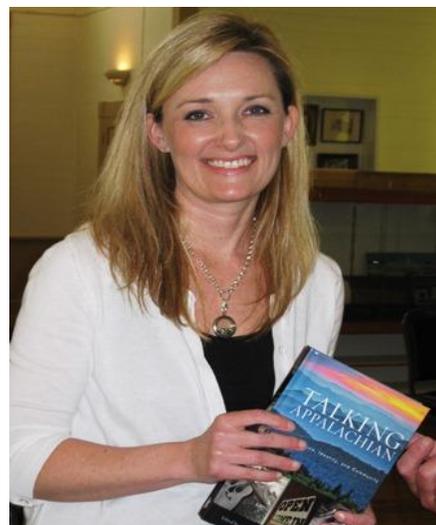
1950. Mr. Lankford had a movie camera and went about Rose Hill, Virginia, making a film of the people and events in the Town. The film footage was in a box nearly 50 years until his son, Carl Lankford, decided to have it developed. It was very entertaining and many of our members recalled people in the film.

A local quilt group used our building for a Quilt Show. Several quilters exhibited old and new quilts. Wilderness Road Dulcimer Club performed throughout the day. Many came to view the quilts.

The Society has lost four of our local members. Patsy Bledsoe was our vice-president and did our newsletter until she had a stroke in 2007. Elizabeth Carpenter was the lady at the Lee County Public Library who helped so many with their genealogy research. Willie Slemp Rogers and Max Chance were new members and faithfully attended our meetings. They will all be missed.



*Mr. Todd Meade*



*Ms. Amy Clark*

*The Smiths of Harlan and Lee Counties* *continued from page 3*

The trial in Laurel County was not held until November of 1891. On the eve of the trial Wash was determined to personally attend the trial with a sufficient show of manpower. After the trial was over, they had to return posthaste to Cranks Creek to defend their families from possible acts of retribution over the shooting and the decision of the jury. To realize this ground covering objective was no mean accomplishment in the 1890's.

Wash and the men saddled up in the predawn and armed to the teeth against ambush, ride over the Cumberland through Wagon Road Tunnel, come off the mountain at Hubbard Springs and ride on to Rose Hill, Virginia in time to catch the passenger train to London, Kentucky. So concerned that war might break out between the Smiths and Cawoods during the trial at London, the Laurel county Court arranged for a marshal to meet Wash and his men at the Rose Hill railroad depot. The marshal required them to disarm and leave their firearms at the depot before getting on the train. The marshal then escorted Wash and his men on the train through Cumberland Gap and on up to London, Kentucky.

It was reported that while Wash and his men were at the trial, a deputy sheriff of Le County, Virginia happened by the railroad depot at Rose Hill. He was unaware of the arrangements the Laurel County Court had worked out concerning the firearms. Apparently the deputy was taken aback by the sight of all the firearms propped up against the walls inside the depot. When the stationmaster explained the circumstances behind this temporary arsenal, the deputy became very officious. He inferred that it would be appropriate for him to confront these Kentuckians and tell them to keep their firearms in Kentucky. Having had ample opportunity to take measure of these Kentuckians and probably not wishing to have bloodshed on his watch, the stationmaster suggested to the deputy that it would be prudent for the deputy to distance himself from the vicinity before the Smiths returned. The deputy apparently saw the wisdom in the suggestion and got himself out of Rose Hill. Whether it was Wash's gold, an honest jury of Republicans, the decedents remark that "Republicans ought to be shot" or risking the return of mountain men invading London's streets, the trial came to quick and predictable conclusion. On November 27, 1891, the newspaper reported the following:

"When we went to press last week the case of Noble Smith for the murder of Charlie Cawood, in Harlan County, was on trial. Nine speeches were made in the

case for the Commonwealth and five for the defense. Friday the Jury came in with a verdict of acquittal, and Smith was discharged from custody."

Noble was a free man. However, the shooting had created a breach between the Cawoods and Smiths that no verdict in London, Kentucky was going to resolve. Steven Cawood and George Washington Smith continued to arrange marriage between their children in an effort to stave off violence. Both Steve and Wash had two children of compatible ages for eventual marriages with the other family. In 1897, Steve Cawood, Jr. and Laura Smith were married. In 1903 William "Willie" Worth Smith and Mary Bell Cawood were married. Even these marriages failed to assure peace from all members of these two large clans which lived on Martins Fork. One wrong word over a glass of whiskey or card game in Harlan town could cause all-out war. Thus, the exodus from Harlan County began for the Smith Family. George Washington Smith, his wife, Jerusha Unthank Smith and the majority of their twelve or so children crossed over the Cumberland from Cranks and settled on a large tract of land at White Shoals on the Powell River near Flatwoods in Lee County. Jerusha had kin across the Powell in this area up towards Newman's Ridge. Most of the children married into local families. Some of these families were: Ager King, Hall, Marsee, Farmers (2), McDowell, Cawoods (3), Carter, Graham, Spurlock, \*Nancy Charley's widow, later married Billy Rice.

Creed Fulton Smith, Wash's half-brother, and his family had no insulation whatever from the Cawoods. They lived in the vicinity of Smith, Kentucky, a crossroads community where Cranks Creek runs into Martins Fork. Most of the area is now inundated by Martins Fork Lake. George Washington Smith's mother was Nancy Ledford Smith, first wife of Noble Smith (grandfather of the Noble who shot Charley Cawood) and she died at a young age of blood poison. Mary Morgan Smith was Noble Smith's second wife and Creed Fulton's mother. Her people came from the Rose Hill area. If Creed Fulton Smith and his family had remained on their property in Harlan County, they would have had to reach Harlan town by going directly through the stronghold of the Cawoods lower down Martins Fork at Cawood, Kentucky. Sooner or later there would be bloodshed. With his brother, Wash, removing himself from the home place up on Cranks Creek, Creed Fulton Smith and his wife, Nancy Brittain Smith followed with their large family, also over a dozen children. Creed chose to settle in the

*Continued on page 7*

*The Smiths of Harlan and Lee Counties* continued from page 6

vicinity of where his mother's family and kin lived near Rose Hill, Virginia. A large home near Boone's Path which is adjacent to and east end of Rose Hill became available. This home later became known as the Crockett house, the surname of a husband of one of Creed's granddaughters. Most of the children married locally. Among the families who married into Creed Fulton Smith's family were: Gibson (3), Skidmore, Pope (2), McClellan, Beaty, Seale, Bales, Legg, Ely.

Noble Smith and his wife first went to a homestead on the White Shoals property of his father. But it was clear the Cawoods were not going to settle down as long as he was still in their reach. With Stephen Cawood's insistence and Wash's acquiescence, Noble and his family were exiled to Washington State. Noble's brothers, David, Creed (both Creed Fulton Smith and George Washington Smith named children after the other brother) and Finley followed him to Washington. David and his family stayed out west. Creed and Finley returned to Lee County, Virginia. Creed settled on and was given title to a portion of his father's farm. By 1905, most of the Smiths had removed themselves from the Cranks Creek and Martins Fork region above Cawood, Kentucky to settle in Lee County, Virginia.

Below Cawood on Catron Creek, Creed Fulton Smith's full brother, William Henry Harrison Smith, and his family remained. They had the advantage of not having to cross Cawood territory. The one family of Smiths to remain in Harlan in the valley above Cawood, Kentucky on Cranks Creek and Martins Fork was William "Willie" Worth Smith and his family. Willie, the only son of Wash's who was married to a Cawood, kept his father and

marriage to Mary Bell Cawood gave him and his family immunity from Cawood temperament. Willie and Mary Belle, while retaining title to the home place, eventually moved over to Rose Hill in order that his children have the opportunity to go to high school. Nothing was available for the children's education in the Cranks Creek area except a settlement grade school operated by the Presbyterian Church at Smith. After the opportunity for a high school education passed for the children, Willie and his family returned to the home place on Cranks Creek.

Ironically, the Cawoods even caused the loss of this last foothold in the Smith's Crank Creek holdings. In the 1920s some of Mary Bell Cawood Smith's brothers came a calling. They were investing in property in Harlan town and asked Willie to sign their bank notes. Willie did. Mary Bell's brothers let the deal fall through. The bank foreclosed and Willie and Mary Bell lost everything but their good name and the love of their family.

In 1982, the Smiths and their kin had a reunion at the home of Robert "Bob" Smith and Betty Yeary Smith in Ewing, Virginia. Charles Clyde Cawood and Frank F. Cawood, Jr., sons of "Little" Frank Cawood, the child that had crowed like a rooster on Noble's bar top, and grandsons of Charley Cawood, attended their first Smith reunion. Frank F. Cawood, Jr. was looking over the old family photographs on the wall. When he came to Noble, the man who had shot his grandfather, his eyes reflected on the image for some time. He and Charles Clyde then went into the living room and enjoyed a visit with all their father's double first cousins.

The two patriarchs from the past would have approved.



1945 - May Union Meeting at Osborne Chapel Baptist Church in Blackwater  
Courtesy of Linda Lambert

We frequently receive requests from people asking for someone to check records or do research here locally to assist them in their genealogical and other research. As a volunteer organization we are limited on how much assistance we can provide.

If you are able to do this kind of work, either as a volunteer or on a paid basis, please let Becky Jones or Judy Davidson know.

We would like to have additional contacts to provide to those requesting assistance with requests we cannot handle. Thanks!

# Old Occupations Defined

by Dan Burrows

**Accoumputant:** Accountant

**Almoner:** Giver of charity to the needy

**Amanuensis:** Secretary or stenographer

**Artificer:** Soldier mechanic who repairs

**Bailie:** Bailiff

**Baxter:** Baker

**Bluestocking:** Female writer

**Boniface:** Keeper of an inn

**Brazier:** One who works with brass

**Brewster:** Beer manufacturer

**Brightsmith:** Metal Worker

**Burgonmaster:** Mayor

**Caulker:** One who filled up cracks (in ships of windows or seems to make them watertight by using tar or oakum hemp fiber produced by taking old ropes apart.

**Chaise maker:** Carriage maker

**Chandler:** Dealer or trader; one who makes or sells candles; retailer of groceries; ship supplier

**Chiffonnier:** Wig maker

**Clark:** Clerk

**Clerk:** Clergyman, cleric

**Clicker:** The servant of a salesman who stood at the door to invite customer; one who received the matter in the galley from the compositors & arranged in the due form ready for printing; one who makes eyelet holes in boots using a machine which clicked.

**Cohen:** Priest

**Collier:** Coal miner

**Colporteur:** Peddler of books

**Cooper:** One who makes or repairs vessels made of staves & hoops such casks, barrels, tubs, etc.

**Cordwainer:** Shoemaker, originally any leather worker using leather from Cordova/Cordoba in Spain

**Costmonger:** Peddler of fruits, vegetables

**Crocker:** Potter

**Crowner:** Coroner

**Currier:** One who dresses the coat of a horse with a currycomb; one who tanned leather by incorporating oil or grease

**Docker, Stevedore:** dock worker who loads & unloads cargo

**Dowser:** One who finds water using a rod or witching stick

**Draper:** Dealer in dry goods

**Drayman:** One who drives a long strong cart without fixed sides for carrying heavy loads

**Dresser:** A surgeon's assistant in a hospital

**Drover:** One who drives cattle, sheep, etc to market; a dealer in cattle

**Duffer:** Peddler

**Factor Agent, Commission merchant:** One who acts or transacts business for another; Scottish steward of bailiff of an estate

**Farrier:** A blacksmith, one who shoes horses

**Faulkner:** Falconer

**Fell monger:** One who removes hair or wool from hides in preparation for leather making

**Fletcher:** One who made bows & arrows

**Fuller:** One who fulls cloth; one who shrinks & thickens woolen cloth by moistening, heating & pressing; one who cleans & finishes cloth

**Gaoler:** A keeper of the goal, a jailer

**Glazier:** Window glassman

**Hacker:** Maker of hoes

**Hayward:** Keeper of fences

**Haymonger:** Dealer in hay

**Higgler:** Itinerant peddler

**Hillier:** Roof tiler

**Hind:** A farm laborer

**Holster:** A groom who took care of horses, often at an inn

**Hooker:** a reaper

**Hooper:** one who made hoops for casks & barrels

**Huckster:** Sells small wares

**Husbandman:** A farmer who cultivated land

**Jagger:** Fish peddler

**Journeyman:** One who had served his apprenticeship & mastered his craft, not bound to serve a master, but hired by the day

**Joyner/joiner:** A skilled carpenter

**Keeler:** Bargeman

**Kempster:** Wool comber

**Lardner:** Keeper of the cupboard

**Lavendar:** Washer woman

**Lederer:** Leather maker

**Leech:** Physician

**Longshoreman:** Stevedore

**Larmer:** Maker of horse gear

**Malendar:** Farmer

**Malster:** Brewer

**Manciple:** A steward

**Mason:** Bricklayer

**Mintmaster:** One who issued local currency

**Monger:** Seller of goods (ale, fish)

**Muleskinner:** Teamster

**Neatherder:** Herd cows

**Ordinary Keeper:** Innkeeper with fixed prices

**Pattern maker:** A maker of clog shod with a iron ring. A clog was a wood pole with a pattern cut into the end.

**Peregrinator:** Itinerant wanderer

*Continued on page 9*

**Old Occupations Defined** *continued from page 8*

**Peruker:** A wig maker  
**Pettifogger:** A shyster lawyer  
**Pigman:** Crockery dealer  
**Plumber:** One who applied sheet lead for roofing & set lead frames for plain or stained glass windows  
**Porter:** Door keeper  
**Puddler:** Wrought iron worker  
**Quarrier:** Quarry worker  
**Rigger:** Hoist tackle worker  
**Ripper:** Seller of fish  
**Roper:** Maker of rope or nets  
**Saddler:** One who makes, repairs or sells saddles or other furnishings for horses  
**Sawbones:** Physician  
**Sawyer:** One who saws; carpenter  
**Schumacker:** Shoemaker  
**Scribler:** A minor or worthless author  
**Scrivener:** Professional or public copyist or writer; notary public  
**Scrutiner:** Election Judge  
**Shrieve:** Sheriff  
**Slater:** Roofer  
**Slopseller:** Seller of ready-made clothes in a slop shop  
**Snobscat/Snob:** One who repairs shoes  
**Sorter:** Tailor  
**Spinster:** unmarried woman  
**Spurrer:** Maker of spurs  
**Squire:** Country gentleman; farm owner; justice of peace  
**Stuff gown:** Junior barrister  
**Stuff gownsman:** Junior barrister  
**Supercargo:** Officer on merchant ship who is in charge of cargo & the commercial concerns of the ship

**Tanner:** One who tans (cures) animal hides into leather  
**Tapley:** One who puts the tap in an ale cask  
**Tasker:** Reaper  
**Teamster:** One who drives a team for hauling  
**Thatcher:** Roofer  
**Tide waiter:** Customs inspector  
**Tinker:** An itinerant tin pot & pan seller & repairman  
**Tipstaff:** Policeman  
**Travers:** Toll bridge collection  
**Tucker:** Cleaner of cloth goods  
**Turner:** A person who turns wood on a lathe into spindles  
**Victualer:** A tavern keeper or one who provides an army, navy or ship with food  
**Vulcan:** Blacksmith  
**Wagoner:** Teamster not for hire  
**Wainwright:** Wagon maker  
**Waiter:** Customs officer or tide waiter; one who waited on the tide to collect duty goods brought in  
**Waterman:** Boatman who plies for hire  
**Webster:** Operator of looms  
**Wharfinger:** Owner of a wharf  
**Wheelwright:** One who made or repaired wheels; wheeled carriages, etc.  
**Whitesmith:** Tinsmith, worker of iron who finishes or polishes the work  
**Whitewing:** Street sweeper  
**Whister:** Bleach of cloth  
**Wright:** Workman, especially a construction worker  
**Yeoman:** Farmer who owns his own land

*Compiled by Dan Burrows- [dburrows1@juno.com](mailto:dburrows1@juno.com)*



*Photo – left  
 c. 1951 – Andrew Taylor and  
 Andrea (looking through the  
 steering wheel) on a Case tractor  
 near Rose Hill, Va.*

*Courtesy of Andrea Cheak.*



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## THRICE BLESSED IS THIS FOOD *by Chester I. Bays*

My first cousin, Billie Forester Giles, daughter of my Aunt Mary Bays Forester, was a devout Christian, and so long as she maintained a household she probably never ate a meal without asking the blessing. Her husband Marshall retired from a career with the Virginia State Police and then retired as a probation and parole officer. Marshall was a good man and a practical man. A conversation with him was always pleasant, but if you were discussing an important matter or business matter he could be short and to the point.

This story describes an incident which took place after his last retirement and while he and Billie were in the process of moving from Abingdon to Hubbard Springs. Their son, Jack, a Lexington Kentucky contractor, had built them a beautiful little home just diagonally across the road from the house in which Billie was born, and, as many of us do, Billie and Marshall undertook to move the smaller items, a load at a time, while the finishing touches were being made on their new home.

In order to have more time to devote to placing the little things where they belonged, hang pictures, and take care of such tasks, Billie prepared meals sufficient for the week end and packed them in plastic bags and plastic cartons, which she placed in the new refrigerator upon arrival at their new home.

They had already made several trips, usually on weekends, and were about ready for the movers to bring down the "big stuff", and this was one of the last loads of smaller items they had brought down on a Friday afternoon.

On Friday evening they ate from the food carefully prepared by Billie in advance of leaving Abingdon. Then breakfast took care of itself as they ate bacon or sausage and eggs, then there was a noon sandwich, and then the Saturday evening meal, with the Saturday evening menu varying only slightly from the Friday evening menu. On Sunday morning they had sausage and eggs, and then Billie prepared the noon sandwich before they were to go back to Abingdon on Sunday evening. The Sunday evening meal, therefore, differed little from the Friday and the Saturday evening meals. This was essentially the same reconstituted, rearranged, and reheated food they had eaten on Friday evening and Saturday evening.

As they sat down to eat the Sunday evening meal, just before leaving, and as Marshall looked over these recycled dishes, Billie asked him to ask the blessing. Nobody knows precisely what was going through his mind, but if he were alive today, he would probably say the Devil made him do it. Marshall responded, "Bill, Honey, just pass the potatoes. This food has already been blessed three times."

