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MS 76
BX 14
NBK 3

McComas

Mrs. Henderson's
Letters from St. Albans

MS 76
BX 14
NBK 3

(Copy)

St. Albans, W. Va.

March 17, 1947.

Mr. S.H. Drawn,

Kenova, Route #1.

My dear Mr. Drawn:

Seeing that you are a reader of Wiatt Smith's column, "Your friends and Mine" encourages me to take the liberty of addressing you in regard to the information contained in your letter in the Colm Feb. 19, 1947.

I have been corresponding for more than a year with Mr. Fred Lambert, of Barboursville, whom I know only through the colm. I, also, have supplied some history items to the Colm.

I was especially interested in the statement that your father was a brother-in-law of Judge Evermont Ward; also that your Grandfather, B.F. Drawn, was reared in Cabell County. Was a soldier in the War of 1812, and served as Sheriff of Cabell County when it comprised Lincoln and Wayne Counties.

Thomas Ward, as of course you know, was the first Sheriff of Cabell County. He was my great grandfather, on my mother's side. His wife was Mildred Walden, daughter of Lord Walden of Ravenswood Castle, England. Their daughter, Mildred Ward, married Mildred McComas, and their daughter, Irene Octavia McComas, who married Major George McIndree, of Barboursville, was my mother.

My twin sister, Mary Alice (who became the wife of Geo. Wm. Johnson of Parkersburg) and I were born in Barboursville in 1876 and were reared in Cabell County--living either in Barboursville or Huntington. As you know, there was a close relationship between Judge Evermont Ward and Judge Wm. McComas' family. Mother was with Judge Ward when he died.

Was there a "Pearl Drown"? It seems to me I've heard my mother and father call that name.

I have been collecting family history for a number of years, and am always interested in an angle, or connection.

So, when you said that your father was a brother-in-law of Judge Ward it makes me intensely interested in learning of this connection; and if it is not asking too great a favor, will you give me this line, and I will be only too happy to exchange notes with you, if you so desire.

Trusting I am not asking too much of you, and with great anticipation, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Mildred Lee Henderson,
(Mrs. G.A.) #822 Kanawha Terrace,
St. Albans, W. Va.

Saint Albans, W. Va.

March 26, 1947.

My. Dear Mr.Drown:

Your interesting letter of March 19th was duly received. Within the past few days, I've talked with my cousin, Mrs. Lulu (McDermott) Price, of Parkersburg, and she told me of receiving a letter from Co. Geo. S. Wallace asking for information about Judge Evermont Ward, that she had answered the letter, and saying that Judge Ward married a Hensley, &c Now, she is confused about the Wards; and I told her last night that the Ward who married Miss Alice Hensley, was one of the Wm.Wards, and they have descendants living in St.Albans at the present time. Another Wm.Ward married Miss Rose Fuller (of the pioneer Fuller family.)

The names of John Ward and Samuel Ward are in the first Land Book of Kanawha County, 1790, when taxes were charged in English money. There is a "Ward" line, leading from New York, where Samuel Ward married Julia RUSH, a name still in our region.

The first Baptist Church within the limits of Cabell County, "The Mud River Baptist Church", at Blue Sulphur Springs, organized in 1807--Jeremiah Ward and his wife, Margareth--among the first names on the church roll. Thomas Ward, whose wife was Mildred Walden was a large land holder in Kanawha County, was in the Va. Legislature and prominent before Cabell County was founded--in 1809.

The first Court House for Cabell County was to have been at the mouth of Guyan River (where Guyandotte was established in 1810) and land was set aside for the "Public Buildings", but for some reason, the first Court was held in the house of Wm.Merritt

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on Ward's plantation. The controversy that arose over this, between Edmund Morris, Thomas Ward, and others is recorded in history. The reason for the change is still an unsettled question. Perhaps it was because the lands around the mouth of Guyan River were included in the Savage grant, and the lands above were not in question. Virginia records show that the Wm. Merritt house was on Ward's plantation. Thomas Ward became the first Sheriff of Cabell County. Elisha McComas was Foreman of the first Grand Jury, and he was a Trustee of Guyandotte, 1810, and of Barboursville in 1813.

"Barboursville, made a town by Act of Assembly passed Jan. 14, 1813. Trustees were Edmund Morris, Elisha McComas, Sampson Sanders, Thomas Hatfield, Edmund McGinnis, and Manoah Bostick". All histories record the important part that the Wards and McComas' played in pioneer times. There is a woeful "mix-up" however on account of the similarity of given names, which makes it hard to "spot" the right ones to follow down to the present.

In 1812 Wm. McComas (Son of Elisha and Anne French McComas and Mildred Ward, daughter of Thomas and Mildred Walden Ward, were married. Thomas Ward gave them land. These things established by Wills and Deed in Barboursville. The Elisha McComas settlement was in the Salt Rock region, along with some of Thomas Ward's holdings, which were lost. It has been stated that many records were lost, or not recorded, during the period immediately following the War of 1812.

The land up the Guyan River and back of Barboursville was McComas land. A road from Barboursville, along the river bank,

and through the Wm. McComas land , cutting off a big bend, ran directly by the Wm. McComas homestead, as it stands today. This road led to a ford across across Guyand, and over to Thornburg land.

Thornburgs came some time after 1812, and Thomas Thornburg is of that family. What I am trying to explain is about the land across Guyan and in the section which was mostly peopled by Ward and McComas connections. After crossing the ford at Wm. McComas' homestead, the farms of Wards, Morrisons, Fullers, and others, connections were located.

Wm. and Mildred (Ward) McComas had fifteen children. Seven lived to be grown. (All this recorded in the McComas Bible in my possession).

Thomas Ward had a son. John Ward, who lived in the "Over the River section". There were large families. Evermont Ward (our subject) grew up with the Wm. McComas boys, and Judge Wm. McComas sent him to College (perhaps, Marietta), where some of the McComas' sons were educated, and he was regarded with deep affection by the McComas family. That's why my mother was with him when he died-1882- on his farm between Guyandotte and Barboursville. He was a brilliant, well educated, energetic young man.

In 1839 James H. Ferguson was Cabell County jailer.

Sept. 4, 1840 James and Evermont Ward were admitted to practice law in Cabell County.

WAYNE COUNTY

Formed from Cabell by Act of Assembly of Virginia Jan. 18, 1842. The first Court was held April 11, 1842, at the home of

Absalom Trout, Sr.

Hugh Bowen elected first Clerk of the Court.

John Laidley, Wm. McComas, Joseph J. Mansfield, James H. Ferguson, and Elisha Wesley McComas, Attorneys of the State of Virginia, were granted permission to practice in the Courts of the County. John Laidley elected Commonwealth Attorney.

- First Circuit Superior Court -

Commenced on May 6th, Judge Lewis Summers, presiding. John Laidley appointed in behalf of the Commonwealth, to prosecute. John Laidley, Henry T. Fishers, Joseph J. Mansfield, J.H. Ferguson, Elisha Wesley McComas, Evermont Ward, and James H. Brenen, all practitioners in the Courts of the Commonwealth, were granted licenses to practice in the Courts of the County.

There was no mystery about Judge Evermont Ward, except what occurred in many cases. His mother was a Ward, and Judge Wm. McComas was responsible for his education. Judge Ward was an illustrious man in his day and he prospered in business: His patent medicines became famous. His "Hair restorer" was the subject of many jokes during his public life (At a session of the Legislature, he presented each of his colleagues with a bottle of "Hair Restorer").

1861, May 28th (Kanawha Valley Star).

"The circuit court of this county yesterday held its spring session, The Hon. ^{Evermont} Edmund Ward, Judge of the Judicial Circuit, presiding. Grand jury impanelled. His Honor's charge to the Grand Jury, was listened to with profound interest by all present.

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The charge opened the eyes of many of our people who had been deluded by demagogues, into opposition to Virginia, and caused considerable fluttering among the leaders."

In 1872, he defeated Judge James H. Ferguson for Delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

At the time of his death he was living on his farm between Guyandotte and Barboursville. This was no part of the original Ward lands: It was his own, and being a lawyer, his actions must have been legal. His widow married the man who lived with them as a farm hand, and questions were raised about what became of Judge Ward's assets, as he was considered well-to-do, financially. I know nothing about this angle. I always heard that his Patent Medicines were ~~manufactured~~ manufactured in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I knew the Martins, of Barboursville. Judge Ward's wife (nee Martin), had a daughter, Pearl McDermitt, by a former marriage who was a first cousin of Geo. Mc^Aendree and Mrs. Lulu (McDermott) Price, of Parkersburg. Geo. Lulu, and Ora McDermit were children of my father's sister, Elvira. They were orphaned. My parents reared Geo. in Cabell County. Mr. and Mrs. James Hanna (nee Lucinda Mc^Aendree), reared Lulu in Mason County. Robert Ora was raised by an Aunt on the McDermit side.

'Twas Mrs. Lulu Price who told me of receiving the letter from Geo. S. Wallace, and she evidently made some mistakes about Judge Ward, which I hope will be corrected before it goes into history. Our histories are so full of errors, such as that, and it is difficult to get a true history at this late date, and after all the old persons have passed away. In reading the "John Brown" letters, taken by the State at the time of the Harper's Ferry episode I was struck by references in some of the letters to Fort

Scott, Kansas, and having Goodlander's history of the "Early Days of Ft. Scott," (1900), I made comparisons, and found many familiar names. Some of these people were there during the bloody days before the Civil War, when the Carder fights were going on, and John Brown was the leader of the "Jay Hawkers gang of murderers. Ft. Scott was near the Mo.--Kan. line border.

Just before the war Elisha Wesley McComas, who was Lt. Governor of Virginia, with Gov. Henry F. Wise left Charleston, going first to Cincinnati, O., where his wife had "Lake" relations; then to Chicago, where he edited the Chicago Times and practiced law during the Civil War period. His wife was a daughter of James Holderby, who owned the land where Marshall College now stands. After the war, he moved with his family, to Fort Scott, Kan. which was just beginning to grow. His eldest daughter, Alice Lane McComas married Wm. R. Reid, in Chicago, and they, too, settled in Ft. Scott. My Uncle Judge H. C. McComas, who by the way, was an officer in the Union Army, also settled there; and later, my mother, Irene A. McComas, only living sister, joined them. Her father, Judge Wm. McComas having died just at the ending of the war. Uncle B. F. McComas (of Confederate Army the youngest of Wm. McComas' sons, who married Martha Hackaday, of Greenup, Ky. took possession of the Wm. McComas Homestead, near Barboursville, where he lived until 1894. After his death my mother and father bought the home place, as it had never been out of the family, and it is where the McComas cemetery is located, that was destroyed in 1925.

We lived there for a time, father driving to his office in Huntington, found it too great an inconvenience. So, they sold it to Mr. "Billy" Miller, who was a brother-in-law of Geo. J. McComas, uncle B. J.'s only son, and our families friends of long standing. However,

grave yard was reserved in the Deed, also other reservations as to roads, &c. This is where Mrs. Thomas Ward, nee Mildred Walden, and Mrs. Elisha M. McComas, nee Anne French (and, I believe, Gen. x * Elisha McComas, Judge Wm. and Mildred (Ward) McComas, a number of their children and grand children and relatives lie buried.

No. 1
Gould
his
about
Sall
J. H. L.

I hope I am not taxing your strength. It is hard to know ~~where~~ where to stop when one gets on the subject of geneology, the names are so closely interwoven.

Mr. "Billy" Miller was a brother of Mr. Joseph S. Miller who was with the parties who started to develop Kenova, during the boom of the early nineties. You perhaps, remember, those hectic boom days. Many people went "broke"; my father never fully recovered from that venture. He was Vice-President and Engineer of the "Huntington & Kenova Land Development Co."

You said in your letter to Wiatt Smith that you would write about the Huntington Bank robbery, which occurred in 1875. I would be interested in hearing that, for having grown up in the midst of the people of Cabell County, having known and loved so many of them, and having had so much talk, every item is of interest to me. I have lived long enough, though, to ~~try~~ to be cautious in telling some of the stories I have heard; for, after all, much is based on "hear-say" and cannot be verified after the people have passed on.

One must know conditions as they existed at the time happened to understand the tales that are told about these old people who faught their way through the wilde rness and hewed the path for future generations. Tragedy, Comedy, Pathos, Courage and Determination are written in the lives of our forebears. I think great care should be taken in history writing lest a name be sullied of one

who is not present to protest it.

You ask if "Billy" McKendree was a relation of mine. Yes, Geo. Wm. McKendree (Billy) was a double first cousin to Maj. Geo. McKendree, my father.

Robert McKendree his wife Mary(Grubb)and family of 3 children (George, their only son, an infant) came from Eastern Virginia 1837, in a covered wagon. Aaron Flood, (brother of Robert) and Catherine Grubb (Sister of Mary), came with them. The party stopped at Malden, Kan. Co. for awhile, where Aaron Flood and Catherine Grubb were married. Soon, thereafter, all came to Cabell County and settled around Cabell Court House, where they became property holders and prominent in affairs of the County. Robert McKendree (my frandfather) was known as a "scribe". Their daughters were born in Cabell County: Mary, who married Wm. Hensley; Lucinda, who married James Hanna, of Kanawha County, and Elvira, who married James McDermit.

Aaron Flood, as shown by records, was Jailer in 1840, following James H. Ferguson. He became "Keeper of the Farm" soon after the Civil War; and after his death, "Billy" continued to keep it until 1927 or 1928, when the County Court established the Farm near Blue Sulphur. The two KcKendrees were the "Keepers" for 58 years. Many old timers found shelter there during lean years.

The story of the "Poor Farm" is an unusual and interesting chapter in Cabell County history.

I was glad to know that you expect Mr. Lambert to visit you. I hope he has entirely recovered from his recent illness and will continue his valuable history work. We need it.

I am wondering, too, why Judge Evermont Ward's picture is to be presented to the Wayne County Court. He was a Cabell County man.

At the August term of Circuit Court of Wayne County, 1879, he presided, and pronounced the death sentence on Labon T. Walker for the murder of "Pat" Walen. This sentence has become a "classic". It was the first legal hanging in West Virginia. Judge Ward was on the bench in Cabell County 1876 at the time of the Mehling murder. The man was lynched in the front yard of the Court House in Barboursville and Mrs. Mehling was sentenced to life in prison.

It seems to me that Judge Evermont's life is well covered in history and that no evidence of "mystery" is shown.

I must ask your pardon for writing such a voluminous letter, and I sincerely hope that I have not imposed upon your kindness and patience.

Thanking you again for the information contained in your letter, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) (Mrs. G. A.) Mildred Lee McKendree.

Abstract of Pension Application of

Va. Service
Rev. War

JOHN McCOMAS,
Wid. Catharine

W.18496

Cabell Co., Va.)^{ss} Personally appeared in open Court, JOHN McCOMAS, a resident
Oct. 28, 1833) of said County, aged 76 years on 15th instant, makes appli-
cation for pension under Act of June 7, 1832:

That he enlisted as private in Militia, in April, 1778, under Captain Robert Cravens; marched to Augusta Co., and on to Westfall Fort in Randolph Co., (now); on to Fort on Buckhannon River; then to West Station on west fork of Monongahala River; to Nutter's Fort; to Powers' Fort, then to Koon's Fort or Station which had been set afire by Indians a few hours before arrival; returned to Nutter's Fort; to Augusta and discharged, completing 8 months' tour, though he only vol. for 6 mos, but compelled to serve two more by commanding officer.

Dec., 1778, again enlisted as private; marched to Rockingham Co., under Capt. McKiel (Michael) Coger, crossed the Blue Ridge to Richmond which had been burned a few days before arrival; thence down the James River below Williamsburgh; crossed to south side to MacKye's Mills, which had been set on fire sometime before; on to Gen. Gregory's Camp in N. C., and discharged having served 3 months.

He was born in North Carolina, Oct. 15, 1757 as recorded in father's Bible and doesn't know what has become of it; lived in Augusta Co., Va. during War, (which he amended stating he lived in Rockingham Co., Va. during war) later moving to Greenbrier, then to Montgomery Co., then to Kanawha Co., and resided on the Guyandott River for 35 years, and now resides in Cabell, formed out of Kanawha.

Officers named: Capt. Robert Cravens, Ens. George Mollow, Lieut. Michael Trout, Capt. Michael Coger, Lieut. Michael Robuck, Major Guy Hamilton, Ensign George Null, Capt. Noll, Col. William Noll, Col. Sampson Matthews.

Character witnesses: Andrew Barrett, Esq., Andrew Hatfield, Esq., John Samuels, clerk of Cabell Co., Ct. Rev. Stephen Spurlock and John Lardly testified to character.

Pension allowed - Richmond Agency - Act June 7, 1832.
\$36.66 from March 4, 1836 to Mch. 31, 1837,
the day of his death.

Cabell Co., Va.)^{ss} personally appeared in open Ct., CATHARINE McCOMAS, resident
Oct. 25, 1840) aged 81 years, widow of JOHN McCOMAS; asks pension under Act
July 7, 1838; produces an affidavit of her sister-in-law,
Catharine McComas, taken Oct. 5, 1840 in Logan Co., Va., who states the marriage
took place Feb., 1786, that John McComas died March 31, 1837; marriage took place
in Montgomery Co., Va., by a Baptist Minister. Catharine McComas b. Apr. 7, 1772.

The marriage bond (copy) is produced showing that John McComas and Isaac Hatfield are held and finally bound unto his excellency Patrick Henry, Governor of Va., for 50 pounds, Va. currency, Feb. 21, 1786; this day obtained license to marry Catharine Hatfield, daughter of Andrew Hatfield of this (Montgomery) County.

Pension allowed - Richmond Agency - Act of July 7, 1838
\$36.66 per annum.

(no date of her death shown in Acc't Book).

Cemetery on R. R. above Salt Rock
Elisha McComas died Nov. 12, 1849
aged 74 yrs. 7 mos. 19 days
Stones "rubbed"
Elisha, son of J. & A. McComas died
May 4, 1848? aged 4 yrs. 8 mos. 24 days

Statement of Stephen Spurlock, Clergyman,
as given in the pension application
of John McComas - W. 18496
Revolutionary War Soldier, Virginia Service.

Explanation - The U. S. Pension Commission furnished a certain number of questions that each applicant replied to. The Court before the applicant appeared presented them or rather read them to him. Many of these copies of the forms instructing the Court as to procedure are contained in the jackets along with the original papers of application deposited with the National Archives. The following is one of the set questions which concerns Stephen Spurlock, Clergyman; one of the character witnesses was required to be a clergyman, if one was living in the applicant's neighborhood. If none, the applicant so stated to the Court.

"State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can testify as to your veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier of the Revolution."

Answer - "Andrew Barrett, Esq., ANDREW HATFIELD, Esq., and John Samuels, Clerk of Cabell County."

"We, Stephen Spurlock, a Clergyman, residing in the County of Cabell, and John Laidly, residing in the same County, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John McComas who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and we believe him to be 76 years of age, that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

(Signed) Stephen Spurlock
John Laidly.

and the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states, and the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Stephen Spurlock, who has signed the preceding Certificate is a Clergyman, resident of Cabell County, and that John Laidley who has also signed the same, is a resident in the County of Cabell and is a credible person and that their statement is entitled to credit.

(Signed) John Samuels,
Clerk of Court."

GENERAL ELISHA MCCOMAS AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

MARY MCKENDREE JOHNSON.

Before Cabell County, Virginia was organized, the McComas family was represented in that region. Its members have not only been closely identified with the civil and political life of western Virginia but have given a fine accounting in all wars which have been fought in defense of our country.

Of Scotch-Irish origin, the immigrant ancestor, Daniel McComas settled in Anne Arundel, Maryland, long before the close of the seventeenth century. Daniel McComas, a planter, chose his home on a plantation, "Brown's Chance", near the head of the Severn River, where he and his wife Elizabeth resided until his death in 1699. He had accumulated property in Baltimore County, and his sons removed to that county, their lands being later included in Harford County, when it was organized.

It was from Harford County that John the Elder, migrated to become the head of the Virginia McComas family. According to tradition, John McComas married a Napier. He settled first in North Carolina, where his son, John, the Revolutionary soldier, was born in 1757. From here, the family removed to Augusta County, Virginia, living in both Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties. John McComas, a surveyor, located for a brief time in Greenbrier, and finally came to rest in Montgomery County, Virginia, first at Ripplemede, and then near Pearisburg. This location was later included in Giles County, when that county was created. Here, John McComas built Fort Branch and assisted in its defense against the Indians.

The family of John McComas was a large one, and his descendants are scattered from coast to coast. Among his children were: (1) John, b 1757 m Catherine Hatfield, of the family which figured in the early settlement of Cabell County. The date of the marriage of John and Catherine was Feb. 21, 1786. John died in Cabell County and was a pensioner of the Revolutionary War. (2) Mary m John Hatfield 1788. (3) Stephen m Sarah Certain 1787. (4) David m Chloe Bailey, Jan. 11, 1787. His descendants established the Mercer County branch of this family. (5) William m (2) Dicey Chapman 1797. (6) Jesse m Judith Napier Feb. 17, 1789. (7) Thomas m Mary Aldrich Feb. 12, 1799. (8) Moses m Lucy Napier Feb. 5, 1793. (9) Elijah m Mary French Jan. 3, 1792. (10) Catherine. (11) ELISHA b 1770 m Jul. 3, 1792 Annie French daughter of Matthew French, Revolutionary soldier. All the above marriages occurred in Montgomery County, Virginia and are there recorded.

The following sons of John McComas the Elder—Jesse, John, David, William, Moses, and Thomas, with their families, migrated to Kanawha County, Virginia, about 1798. This region was included in Cabell when it was organized in 1809. The majority of these brothers settled in Sheridan, District of Cabell, to become the first white settlers of Lincoln County, as now set up. Stephen and Sarah Certain McComas went on to Ohio, settling within the present boundaries of Lawrence County. ELISHA, one of the younger sons of John McComas, the Elder, came later with his wife, Annie, and older children, locating on the Guyandotte River, near Salt Rock about 1808. He and his wife are buried in a

family cemetery in that vicinity. It is a regrettable fact that the exact site of their graves is unknown to the writer of this sketch. (J. F. B. Lambert located this grave on the upper end of the Godfrey Sciles farm)

Cabell County pioneer, Elisha McComas gave a laudable account of himself in his long and active life in his wilderness home on the western frontier. He was intimately identified with the civil, the political, and the military life of Cabell County for many years. A member of the Virginia Assembly, he served thirteen terms in the House of Delegates, covering a period from 1809 - 1833. He was Gentleman Justice of Cabell County, a member of its first court, and a trustee of both Barbourville and Guyandotte, when they were created.

Elisha McComas rose in the military life of Virginia from Captain of Militia to Brigadier-General of the 22nd Brigade. His commission as Brigadier-General was certified on the minute books of Cabell County in 1822.

During the War of 1812, Elisha McComas served as Colonel of the 120th Regiment, Thirteenth Brigade, Third Division. While his regiment was not called into service under his command, recruits were drawn from it, both for infantry and cavalry service. Detachments from the 120th Regiment saw active service in the defense of Fort Meigs in Ohio, and along the Atlantic sea-board.

Elisha and Annie French McComas reared their family in Cabell County. Their children include: (1) David b 1795 in Giles County, where he married Cynthia French; (2) James b 1801 d in Cabell County, 1865, married Emily McComas, daughter of Jesse and Judith. James and Emily had, - Thomas E., Elisha K., and David; (3) William b in Giles County 1793 died in Cabell County 1865. He married (1) Mildred Ward, Feb. 24, 1812, daughter of Thomas and Mildred Walden Ward. Thomas Ward was a Colonel of the Virginia Militia, and his father, John Ward was a major in the Revolution. (4) Sarah m John Shelton, the first wedding of a white woman in Lincoln County. (5) Rebecca m Patrick Keenan. (6) America m John McKeand. (7) Elvira m 1828 John Henderson of Colonial and Revolutionary stock.

David, the second son of Elisha and Annie McComas, was a brilliant jurist. A member of the Whig Party, he was selected to the Virginia State Senate in 1830, serving for five sessions. On March 28, 1831, he made a speech in the Senate upholding the right of South Carolina to secede from the Union. This was said to be the first outright secessionist speech delivered in Virginia. It was republished and given wide publicity in 1860 during the period immediately preceding the Civil War.

David McComas was appointed Judge of the General Court of the State of Virginia Jan. 8, 1844, and was Judge of the 18th Circuit, which included Cabell County. He served until 1851, and was reappointed to serve the unexpired term of Judge George W. Summers, who resigned. This term expired in 1861. David McComas spent his declining days in Giles County, Virginia, where he died in 1864, leaving no issue.

William, eldest son of General Elisha McComas, was well represented by his descendants in Cabell County. He was born in Giles County, Virginia, near Pearisburg in 1793, and died in Cabell County in 1865. He was educated in private schools and Emory and Henry College. A lawyer by profession, he was also an ordained Methodist minister. He was a member of the Virginia State Senate 1830 - 33; was elected as a Whig as a representative to the 23rd and 24th Congresses. He served as a delegate to the Virginia State Secession Convention and opposing his brother David, a fiery secessionist, he voted against the ordinance. He was a Judge of the U.S. District Court during the Civil War. After the death of his wife Mildred in 1853, William McComas married (2) Sarah

Wentz Dirton in 1859. Of this second marriage there was no issue.

The children of William and Mildred Ward McComas were: James Madison b Dec. 2, 1812; Valeria b O. 14, 1814; Rizpah b Dec. 7, 1816; Henrietta C b O. 21, 1821; Elisha W b Jan. 21, 1823; William Wirt b O. 16, 1826; Eliza A b Mar. 25, 1828; Hamilton C b Nov. 9, 1831; Rufus French, b Feb. 14, 1833; Benjamin Jefferson b May 28, 1835; Irene O b Oct. 17, 1843 (The last named the late Mrs McKendree of Cabell County).

Elisha Wesley, son of William and Mildred McComas was an eminent lawyer and journalist. He served as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia under Governor Henry A. Wise; was president of the Virginia State Senate; served several terms in the Virginia Assembly; was editor of the Chicago Times, owned by Cyrus McCormick. He practiced law in Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, and Kansas. He died in Fort Scott, Kansas in 1890. He married in 1843 Arianna Holderby of Cabell County. The only surviving descendants in the male line are his grandsons, sons of Gordon McComas, the youngest son of Elisha and Arianna McComas, now living in Oklahoma City.

During the Mexican War, Elisha W. McComas raised a company of volunteers, - Co. C Eleventh U.S. Infantry, and with his men saw active service, in 1847. In his company were two of his brothers, James Madison, and Hamilton C.

Hamilton C. McComas, son of William and Mildred, was a brilliant member of the bar and jurist. He was the only one of this immediate family to enlist on the side of the Union in the Civil War. He was Lieut-Colonel of the 107 Illinois Infantry, and served with distinction during this conflict.

At one time in Illinois, as a young lawyer, he was the partner of Abraham Lincoln. He practiced law in Illinois, Kansas, and served on the bench after moving to Missouri, where he lived at St. Louis, at the time of his death. In 1881, with his wife Juniata, and little son Charles, he was massacred by Geronimo and his band of Apaches, while visiting his silver mine investments in New Mexico. No descendants survive.

William Wirt McComas, son of William and Mildred, was a physician and practiced his profession in Cabell County, when he enlisted with the Confederates, raising a company from Giles County. He was killed in action at South Mills in 1862, and left a posthumous son not living, and only one grandson, survives, Frederick McComas of St. Albans, W. Va.

Rufus French McComas, son of William and Mildred McComas d 1892. As a young man, he left Cabell County going across the plains with Stephen B. Elkins. He located in Nebraska, where he became a successful banker. He has two surviving sons living in Chicago, Duke and Rufus French Jr. There are no male descendants in the second generation, except the son of his daughter Mrs. William Lyford. This grandson, Calhoun Lyford served with distinction during the World War over-seas.

Benjamin Jefferson McComas, youngest son of William and Mildred McComas was born in Cabell County, 1835, and there in 1894. He was an honored member of the Cabell County Bar. He saw active service with the confederate forces under General Early and was captured at Cedar Creek and held prisoner until the close of the war. He was twice married and his last surviving son was the late George J. McComas, eminent lawyer of Huntington, who died in 1921. Two daughters of Jefferson McComas first marriage Margaret and Martha survive. They are residents of Texas. Two grandsons, Captain B. Curtis McComas, and Paul Love served in the World War from Cabell County.

This brief and concise summary does not attempt to set forth in attractive form, and all inclusively the record of General Elisha McComas and his West Virginia descendants. It aims merely to point out the highlights of achievements both civil and military of Elisha McComas, a Colonel in the War of 1812, together with the activities of some of his male descendants who have helped preserve their country in times of stress and war. From the original Maryland stock, which figured in Colonial military history, through the Virginia line, fighting the savages, in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the recent World War, Elisha McComas' family has given a good accounting.

This brief record, while not the annals of an ancestry of noble or royal lineage, is one of sturdy, staunch patriotism and of a high conception of public duty. Its recital warms the cockles of the heart of at least one humble descendant, the writer, who feels a surge of pride in reviewing the achievements of this sturdy Scotch-Irish forbear, Elisha McComas, who having so little, gave so much of himself and his posterity to the development and protection of our own Cabell County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A Brief History
of
Certain McComas and Shelton
Families

Judge David McComas was the son of General Elisha and Anna French McComas. He was born in Giles County, Virginia, about 1795, and died there in 1864. He married Cynthia T. French, daughter of Captain David French, and his wife, Mary Dingess. They had no children. He was a distinguished lawyer, a Judge of the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, a member of the General Court of Virginia, state senator from the Kanawha District, and is said to have been a Judge in one of the central West Virginia counties. He was a candidate for Congress, in 1839, but was defeated.

While Circuit Judge of the Kanawha District, he lived in Charleston. His home was said to be in what is now Lincoln County, about where Guyan Valley High School now stands. He was opposed to Secession, and is said to have made the first speech ever made against it at Richmond.

The Cabell County census of 1850 gives his age as 56 years and that of his wife, Cynthia, as 47 years. This would indicate that he was born about 1794, and his wife about 1803. A good authority, however, states that he was born about 1795, and that he died in Giles County, Virginia, in 1864. The census of 1850 lists him and his wife and does not list any children. This corresponds to information which I have received for years, from old citizens who knew him personally, and from printed authority.

He served as Circuit Judge of Cabell County from 1843 to

The docia called Docia wife of David H. McComas was sister of Henderson Drake. Their parents were James and Nancy Adkins Drake.

As Lambert ins't sure who David H. McComas called "Little David" parents were I will comment on same.

David H. McComas born 4/21/1801, died 12/30/1872. David H. was my mother's grandfather. David H. sister Christina was my father's grandmother. Mother and father was second cousins. Mother and dad's sister Viola Franklin Midkiff told us this. Aunt Viola told how the Franklin's land where cemetery is today. David and Edward traded land so David's sister Christina could be on high ground as she had consumption (T.B.). She died T.B. May 1863. Edward and David had several tracts of land on Upper Two Mile Creek, even had one tract they had bought 100 acres together.

Lambert thinks that maby David H. father was Thomas sr. because Thomas said in his will that he had son David. The will seems to say that Thomas's son David was dead. David H. didn't die until 1872. My mother born Aug. 23, 1868 told me she was 4 years old when her grandfather died she and one sister and one brother was living with their grandparents as they had lost their own parents in 1871. In 1820 census Thomas does't have a son in the 18/26 age group. We all know Thomas had a daughter Elizabeth born 1802 that married Wm. McComas (9 mile Wm.) in 1818. They were first cousins.

David and Docia children listed here, Henderson the oldest named after Docia's brother Henderson Drake who was head of his sisters and mothers home and had with David put up the bond so she could marry David H. McComas. I have copy of marriage bond. The second son is Lewis but it is John Lewis McComas mother told me. Next is Dyke (Little Dyke). Mother took me with her when she visit him. Dyke lived till he was 90 years old. He died in 1931.

I and others think that David H. father was John McComas that was married to Cathern Hatfield daughter of Capt. Andrew Hatfield. Christina McComas Franklin born 1796 said she named two of her sons after her brothers and on after her father. Her oldest son was John L. Franklin. She had son David and one name William, these after her brother and John after her father.

In 1820 census John has two males in his home in 18/26 age group. David H. would be 19 and Andrew born 1799 would be 21. Andrew turn in his father's death in to the Cabell Co. death records, when he died in 1837.

Lambert says in notes a David died 4/20/1874 may be David H., the court records says this David is son of James and Emily McComas. This James is son of Gen. Elisha McComas. The David is David French McComas died at age 41.

Lambert says in death records for 1889 a Joseph Burger reported death of D. McComas, age 90. Says maby this was David H. This was Docia David's wife and Joe. Burgers Mother in Law. I have copy from family bible saying Docia died 7/14/1889. Docia lived with Joe Burger above Milton in Cabell when she died. She was only 79 when she died.

In the 1870 census that Lambert has listed of Lewis family the Luvera is my mother her name was Luverna and later in life married my father Oscar Finton Franklin born 4/30/1863.

In 1850, 1860 David's family lived on Upper Two Mile creek, Sheridan District. When the Civil War broke out David H. took his sons wife, his wife and the children to Get-A-Way, Ohio for safety as they were for the north and most everyone in these parts were for the south. There was a union garrison at Get-A-Way, Ohio. Mother told me her brother Albert that Lambert has listed his grandfather turned in death in 1865, was born in Get-A-Way as was Henderson's son Charlie McComas. Albert and Charlie was born in 1864.

When the war was over David and family moved to McComas Ridge between 6 and 9 mile in Lincoln county, because they were persecuted for being for the Union side. David H. died there in 1872 and is buried on the farm where he lived. There is at least 15 graves there but only two has tombstones that has data on them, David H. and Woodson McComas his grandson, son of Henderson. My grandfather John Lewis McComas and his son Albert are buried there. Docia David's wife is buried in cemetery next to Milton, Cabell County.

As Mr. Lambert says he wasn't sure who David's father was I got permission to insert this data and maby it will clarify these questions.

HoBERT OSCAR FRANKLIN June 26, 1981.

HoBERT OSCAR FRANKLIN

I forgot to say Christina said her father was in Revolution war. John McComas was only one of the 9 brothers in Rev. War. S.O.F.

1852, when he was defeated for re-election by George W. Summers of Kanawha County. Judge Summers afterward resigned and Judge McComas succeeded him and served from 1858 to 1862, when he joined the Confederate Army. After the war, he lived in Giles County until his death in 1864.

One of the original McComas settlers was David McComas, Senior. Since that time there have been a number of David McComases, but, in most cases, they are easy to distinguish. David McComas, Senior, died about 1821. Others are definitely too young to be confused with the Judge.

Little David McComas is the only one of the Davids that was born at a date approximating that of the Judge. Fortunately, Little David is also listed in the Cabell County census for 1850. This gave his wife's name as Endocia, and stated that she was born in Tennessee. At that time, he was 49 and she was 38, hence, he was born about 1801 and she about 1812. They had four children:

Henderson G.	15,	born about 1835.
Lewis	10,	born about 1840.
Dyke	8,	born about 1842.
Arminda	4,	born about 1846.

This is all the children Little Dave and his wife ever had. They lived in the vicinity of McComas Ridge. Dyke was often called Little Dyke after his father, Little Dave, who was given that title because of his small size. He only weighed about a hundred pounds. Endocia was generally known as 'Dooia. Before her marriage she was 'Dooia Drake, and was probably a sister to Henderson Drake. All accounts agree that the Drakes came here from Tennessee, and this is borne out by the records.

It has been very difficult to ascertain, with certainty, the parentage of Little David McComas. However, after careful consideration, it seems probable that he was the son Thomas McComas, Senior, who was one of the original brothers who first came to this section, and, hence, a brother to General Elisha McComas. If so, Judge David McComas and Little David were first cousins. It is a moral certainty that Little David McComas was a son of one of these original settlers, as not a single one of the second generation McComases was old enough to have been the father of Little David. James McComas, brother to the Judge, was born about 1801, thus being about the same age as Little David, both being listed in the 1850 census, as being 49 years old. James McComas had a son, David, 16 years old in 1850, hence, he is eliminated, as he must have been born 1834.

A David McComas was reported to have died April 20, 1874. His age at that time was given as 41 years, 9 months, and 4 days. This indicates his birth date as being 1832. It is very probable that this was the same man.

In the death record for 1889, Joseph Burger (Berger) reported the death of D. McComas at 90 years of age. Mr. Berger was a son-in-law of Little David McComas. This would make the birthday of D. McComas, who was probably David McComas, 1799. Little David, according to the census report given above was born about 1801. The age of old people, when reported by their relatives after their death, quite frequently varies a few years. I have been told that Little David McComas died much earlier than this. However that may be, it is very possible, in fact probable, that Little David McComas was living until 1889.

Lewis McComas, son of Little David, married Minerva Adkins, daughter of Anderson Adkins, who lived at the mouth of Big Laurel Creek until the Civil War, when they and several others moved to Simms Creek, Ohio. Lewis had six children, one of whom, Albert, died in infancy in 1865. The others were Leota, George Ellis, Luvera, Alamander ("Sunny"), and Mary.

Little Dyke married Elizabeth Lawrence, January 19, 1865. He was 24 years old, she 21. Both single. He was the son of David and 'Docia McComas. She daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Lawrence.

Arinda married Joseph K. Berger, February 2, 1867. He, 26, she 21. He was the son of David Berger and was born Botetort County, Virginia.

Henderson G. married Cynthia Cummings. They lived in various places--McComas Ridge, Ohio, Elk River, Charleston, and McComas Ridge.

Regardless of when Little David McComas died, he was an entirely different individual from Judge David McComas, who married Cynthia T. French, and is definitely and positively known to have had no children.

As stated above, it seems probable that Thomas McComas and his wife, Mary, were the parents of Little David McComas. They were living in 1850 and gave their ages in the census as 71 years each. This means that they were born in 1779. Being old people they reported no children, as their family had, no doubt, separated long before. This ^{was} probably Thomas McComas, Senior. He and his wife would have been about 22 years old when Little David was born. Thomas McComas, Senior, made his will August 19, 1854, in which he made certain Bequests, and said:

"If anything is left, \$50.00 to go to the heirs of my son David McComas." This does not necessarily mean that David Mc-

Comas was dead. He was known to have lived many years after that date.

Another old McComas, N. McComas, 76 years old, listed neither wife nor children. No doubt she was dead, and his children married and gone. (This "N" may have been a mistake for "M", meaning Moses McComas. N. McComas was born about 1774, hence, was about 25 years old when Little David was born and could have been his father. Note, however, that Thomas McComas, Senior, did have a son, David, and so far as known, Moses McComas had no David in his family.

James McComas (Deed Bk. D. P. 25), during his life deeded one hundred acres of land to a son, David F. McComas, October 26, 1871. This land was afterwards deeded to Peter D. Jordan. James McComas' wife was named Sarah. This David who was probably David, the younger, died about 1875. The land was sold and Godfrey Sites purchased two hundred acres of it for \$2300.

Another David McComas was a son of Thomas J. McComas and his wife, *Katherine*. The census of 1850 gave his age as 2 years, hence, he was born about 1848. The father, Thomas McComas, was 32 years old, hence was born about 1818. *Gerome*

*J*erome Shelton was shown by the census of 1850 to be 29 years of age at that time. He was born about 1821. He married Malinda Messinger, daughter of Nicholas Messinger, April 29, 1843. He was a blacksmith. At that time *they* had three children: Suzanna, 6 years old, Eliza, 4 years old, and Suzan, 2 years old. Several other children were born after that date. There is no question as to who was the father of *J*erome Shelton.

Hardesty says: "The first marriage (in Lincoln County, Sheridan District) was that of John Shelton and Sally (Sarah) McComas, the parents of *J*erome Shelton, for many years, a resident here but recently deceased."

This shows that Jerome Shelton died some time about the early 1880's.

The first Shelton known to be in this section was Stephen Shelton who settled on "Bare" Creek about the close of the year 1811. John Shelton came the next fall, 1812. John Shelton married Sarah (Sallie) McComas, a sister of Judge David McComas. He made a will July 4, 1846, showing his wife, Sarah, and five children:

Henrietta, Elisha, Jerome, David, and Emily.

His property was appraised for \$150.74, by John McKeand, Alexander McComas, and Christopher A. Seiz (Scites, as now spelled), September 29, 1846. It sold for \$134.50 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Stephen Shelton stayed on "Bare" Creek a few years, and disappeared from the records.

It is not known who the parents of John Shelton were, but business dealings indicate a close relationship to those of Barboursville. It is probable he and Stephen were brothers.

Stephen lived several years on "Bare" Creek, and then, either died or left the country, as no further record is found of him. Records for them will have to be sought in another state.

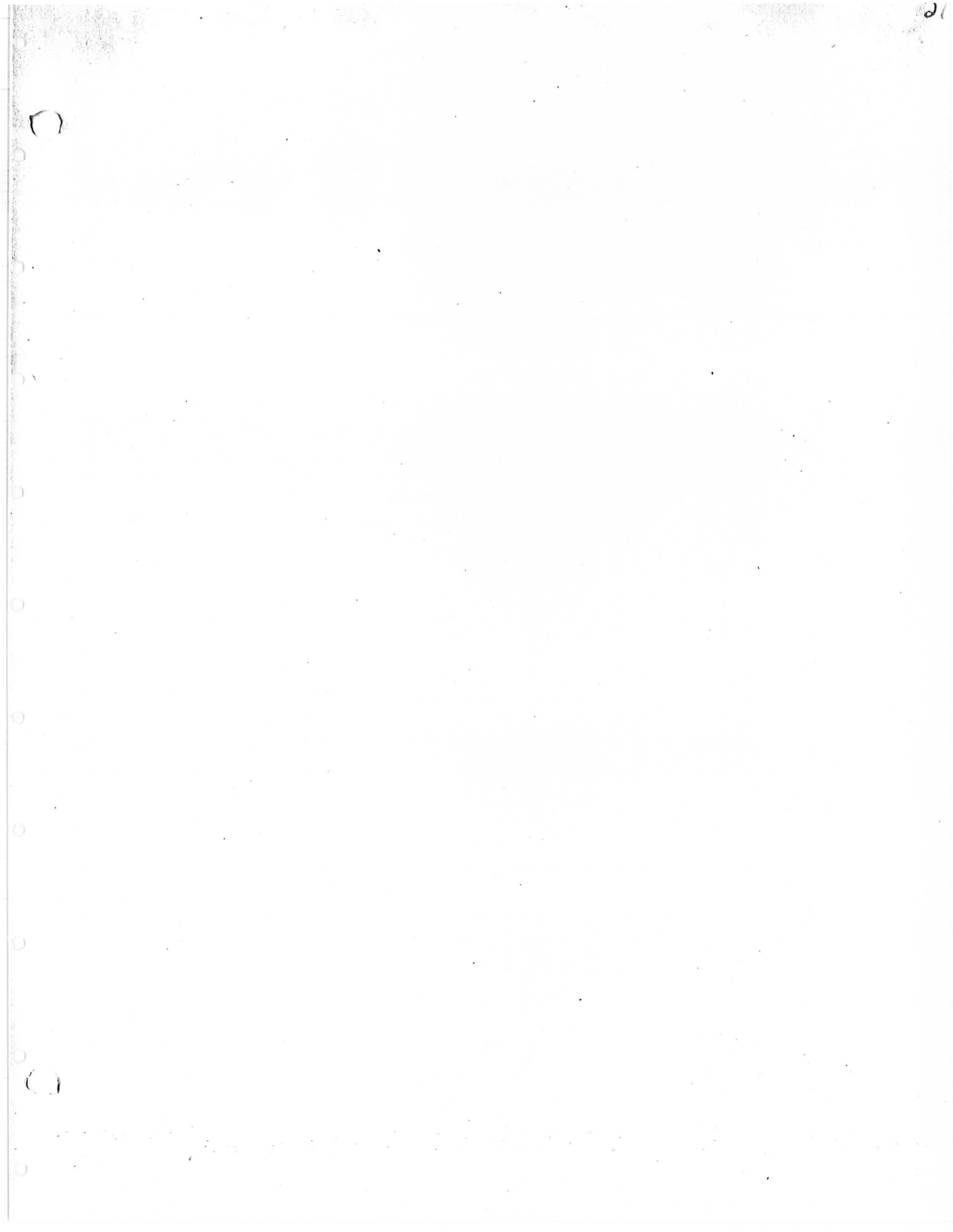
It has been very difficult to ascertain with certainty

McComas Marriages

James W. McComas m. Oct. 31, 1853.
Susannah Turner 25 & 16.
She dau. of Wm. Turner.
No other information
Wm. Adkins
(2-1)

Elisha E. McComas m. Roxalina Douglas,
Nov 10, 1854. He 27 She 19
Both single. He b. Cabell,
She Logan Co. He son of
John and Polly McComas.
She dau. Anna Douglas
(2-2) Wm. Adkins

James McComas m. Emily Messenger
(2-3), Feb. 4, 1856, at Falls
Mill. He 21. She 16. Both
single. He son of Jesse
and ^{Armintha?} Amanda McComas.
She dau. Nick. and
Mary Messenger
Benj. Hager
Both b. & resided in
Cabell County.



Mary A. McComas m. Godfrey Sciles (2-3)
Feb. 26, 1856, at home of
Thos. J. McComas. He 31, she 21,
Both single, b. in Cabell Co.
He son of Thos. J. and Cl. McComas
Benj. L. Perry.

Sarah Ann McComas m. David J. Lucas
(2-3) Jan. 24, 1856, He 21, she 19,
Both single. B. & resided in
Cabell Co. He son of Parker
and Chloe Lucas. She dau.
of John and Polly McComas.
A farmer. Wm. Adkins

William McComas m. Sarah Hirtou
1857, (2-5) 63 & 46. Both
widowed. He son of
Elisha and Ann McComas
She dau. of Philip &
Elizabeth Wentz
Lewis G. Wood (?)
at home of Wm. McComas

John Mc Comas m. Eliza Newman

April 1, 1858 (2-6) 20 & 22.

Both single, b. in Cabell Co.

He son of John and Sally
Mc Comas. She dau. Abe
and E. Newman. Farmer

Wm. Mc Comas

Victory Mc Comas m. James H. Roy

May 13, 1858 (2-6) 19 & 18

He b. Kanawha Co. She Cumber-

land(?) Co. Va. He son of Isaac
and Betsy Roy. She dau. of

Joiner & Susannah Meadows

Frances P. Mc Comas m. ^{Wm. Adkins} Joseph
Gill. (2-8) 23 & 26.

Feb. 10, 1859. He b. England

She Cabell Co. He son of
Joseph & M. Gill. She

dau. of James and Emily
Mc Comas. Farmer

Wm. Mc Comas.

Mary Mc Comas m. Geo. P. Brown

March 17, 1859, on Main

road, at Joseph Brown's.

He 21. She 19. Both single

b. in Cabell Co. He son of
Thos. & Mary Brown. She

dau. Andrew & S. Mc Comas

Farmer. John M. Jordan

Thos. S. Brown m. Synthia McComas,
on Main Mud, March 17, 1859,
He 20, she 18, both b. on
Mud River and resided there
He son of Geo. W. & A. Brown
She dau. of Andrew & S.
McComas. He a blacksmith
John M. Jordan.

Thos. S. McComas m. Elvira McComas,
June 7, 1860, (2-9) 24 & 17, Single
He son of Thos. J. & Emily C.
McComas. She dau. James
& Emily McComas. A farmer
Wm. McComas.

Payton N. McComas (2-12)
m. Lucretia Brown
Dec. 1, 1863. 22 & 21. Single
& Cabell Co. He son of
Andrew & Sarah McComas.
She dau. of George and
C. ? ? Brown
Sanford Scott

George R. McComas (2-12)

m. Matilda Cyrus

1863

He 28 & widowed.

She 22 & single. He b.

Lawrence Co., O. She Cabell

He son of John & Edith

She dau. James & Sarah Cyrus.

Dyke McComas m. Elizabeth

Lawrence (2-13)

1864.

Alex. M. McComas m. Amanda Cardwell

March 15, 1866 (2-15) 22 & 18. b.

Cabell Co. He son of James
and Polly McComas. She dau.

Mr. N. & Sally Cardwell. Farmer

Melcher Merrill.

Amanda McComas m. Joseph K. Berger

1867 (2-19)

Julia Ann Mc Comas m. Wm. P. Bryan,
March 28 1867 (2-17) 21 & 16.

He son of Lawrence & Mary E.
Bryan. She dau, Tolivar &
Malinda C. Wallace.

Thos. Hawkins.

Mary Jane Mc Comas m. Wm. Henry
Houchins (2-17)

April 18 1867. He 27. She 18.

He b. Kanawha County.

Son of Henry A. & Elizabeth
Houchins. She dau. John &
Lucinda Mc Comas. Farmer

Thos. Hawkins.

David Mc Comas m. Sarah (Beas) Shelton
1869 (2-20)

Henry J. Mc Comas m. S. A. Lefler (2-20)
1869

John Wesley Mc Comas m. Sarah ^{Ellen} ~~Ann~~
Davis 2-23
1870,

J. J. Mc Comas m. Kansas Adkins
Feb. 21, 1872 (2-26) 25 & 20.
He widowed. b. in Cabell Co.
Resided in Wayne. Son of
M. & M. Mc Comas. She dau.
of G. L. & Anna Adkins. Farmer
Wm. Adkins.

Paulina Mc Comas m. Wm. H. Peyton
Oct. 30, 1873 (2-29) 33 & 20.
Single. He son of C. & J.
Peyton. She dau. M. &
S. E. Mc Comas Farmer,
S. E. Steel.

Andrew J. Mc Comas m. Sarah M. Brown
March 26 1874 (2-30) 33 & 18
both b. Cabell.

No other information
Rev. Fletcher Golden

Q. P. Mc Comas m. Sarah C. Cyrus,
1875 (2-33)

Sarah Mc Comas m. Newton Smoot
1876 (2-35)

William H. Mc Comas m. Lucetta D.
Braley. 1876 (2-36)

Columbus Mc Comas m. Geneva Arthur,
1877 (2-37)

Job Mc Comas m. Emily Ball
1877 (2-37)
(to m 25)

Children of Wm. and Mildred (Ward) McComas

(Copies from Family Record)

1. James Madison, b. Dec.2nd, 1812. D. 1860.
2. Valeria b. Oct.14, 1814 " 1823.
3. Rispah B Dec.7, 1816 " 1819.
4. Henrietta b. Oct.21, 1821 " 1829
- 5 Elisha Wesley b. Jan. 21,1823 " March 11, 1890
6. Wm. West b. Oct.11, 1826 " 1862,
7. Eliza b. ^{ma}arch 25, 1828 " 1845.
8. Hamilton C. b. Nov.9, 1831 " 1883,
9. Rufus French b. Feb. 14, 1833 " 1892,
10. Benjamin J. b. May 28, 1835 " Dec.2, 1894,
11. Irene O., b. Oct.17, 1843 " Mar. 20, 1913.

Two sets of twins, unnamed, d. soon after borth.

X X X X X X X X X X X X

Eliza C. b. 1828; died 1845. M. Judge Fulkinson. Lived at Louisa, Ky. Had one son, Wm. called "Billy Button", Eliza never recoverec after the birth of her son. Her mother, Mrs. Mildred (Ward) McComas left the home place on Guyan in a skiff rowed by a strong, negro slave. They rowed down the Guyand and the Ohio, and up the Big Sandy river. A bed was made in the end of boat for Aunt Eliza and her baby, and they rowed down the ~~xx~~ Big Sandy, up the Ohio, and up the Guyan, to the home place. They stopped with friends at night, along the river, and it took a number of days to make the trip. Aunt Eliza died, and was buried up on the hill. I saw her tombstone in 1927, at the time I brought the tombstone of Mildred (Ward) McComas (My grandmother) home (St.Albans) with me, and we still have it. Also,

"Billy Button" was buried beside his mother, and there was a stone over his grave, and I believe the name on the stone was "Billy Button".

x x x x x x x x

James Madison, b. ~~Dec. 2~~^d, 1860, died from effects of illness contracted in the Mexican War, at the McComas momestead, and was buried up on the hill.

x x x x x x x x

Mrs. Thomas Ward, nee Mildred, lived with her daughter Mildred and her son-in-law, Wm. McComas after Maj. Thomas Ward went away. She is also buried on the hill in the McComas grave yard.

x x x x x x x x x x

Mrs. Annie (French) McComas, wife of General Elisha McComas, died there, also. She died suddenly, with a heart spell while sitting at the breakfast table.

x x x x x x x x x x

Gen. Elisha McComas d. in 1848, Nov.12th. I am not certain, but I believe he died there, and is buried on the hill; if so, there should be a tombstone. It has been many years since I was in the grave-yard, (1896), until 1927, after the destruction. So, I do not remember about that. If he as not buried there, he would have been laid at rest in the McComas grave-yard, at the "Frying Pan", where Uncle James, called "Nibbie" was buried.

Laidley says in one of his histories that James lived at the Poor Farm--which may be true, as Cabell County's Poor Farm has an interesting, and unusual history: I've many stories about the people.

Aaron Flood Mc^Kendree, and later, his son, Geo. Wm. Mc^Kendree kept the poor farm for (58) years Aaron Flood Mc^Aendree was a brother of Robert Mc^Kendree, whose only son, George Mc^Kendree, was my father. An item from the Huntington Advertiser, Oct. 10, 1890: "Died; "Mad" Bryan, of poor farm, lived in Barboursville, 85 years of age." x x x x

From History: Elizabeth Lillard, wife of Wm.P.Yates, was a sister of Nancy (Lillard) Bryan, grandmother of Wm. Jennings Bryan. W.P.Yates and John Bryan family later moved to Mason County, after the death of John and Nancy (Lillard) Bryan, buried in Yates graveyard, at Ona. Several of their children moved west. Among them was Silas L. Bryan, father of Wm.Jennings Bryan." Judge Jeff Bryan, of Barboursville, later of Huntington, was of the family. Grand people..

x x x x x x x

From "Cabell Co. Annals and Families" Geo.S.Wallace, 1935.

Gen. Elisha McComas died Nov. 12, 1848. The Court made the following order: "Whereas, it being represented to the Court that Gen.Elisha McComas, the Presiding justice of the County, departed this life at his residence in the county, on the 2nd instant, the following testimony is ordered to be placed upon the Order Book of the Court

"That the members of this Court have heard with deep regret of the death of the said Presiding Justice, and take good pleasure in bearing testimony to the uniform, independent, and gentlemanly deportment of the deceased upon the bench; and his kind, courteous, and affable conduct in all the various relations of life; and that the past public service of the deceased, as Representative for the County in the Legislature of

the State, and other public stations, have been characterized by faithfulness and efficiency; and, further, that we condole with the bereaved, and beg to mingle our sorrow with their's..

The deceased having been a member of this Court from the organization of the County, for a period of (40) years.

The Press and the Bar, and the citizens of the County now present, upon motion, are included in the foregoing testimonials of respect, and add their regrets and condolences to that of the Court."

(NOTE. M.L.H): I've heard that some of the family slaves were laid to rest on the hill. x x x

The second wife of Wm. McComas, Sallie (Wintz) Dirton, McComas, died in Mother's house, about 1879-80, and she was buried in the Church Yard at Blue Sulphur Springs (I have a photograph of her M.L.H)

x x x x x x x

(From History): "John McComas had a large family. The descendants are scattered from Coast to Coast. His children:

- 1. John, B. 1757 M. Catherine Hatfield, of the family which figured in early settlement of Cabell Co. Date of marriage of John McComas and Catherine Hatfield, Feb.21,1786. John McComas died in Cabell Co. He was a pensioner of the Revolutionary war.
- 2. Mary m. John Hatfield 1788.
- 3. Stephen M. Sarah Certain 1787 (Sometimes called "Sartin"),
- 4. David M. Chloe Bailey Jan.1, 1787 (His descendants established the Mercer County branch of the family).
- 5. Wm. m. Dicy Chapman 1797.
- 6. Jessie M. Judith Napier Feb.17,1789 (Often called "Napper", for (Napier)).

7. Thomas M. Mary Aldrich Feb.12, 1799,
8. Moses M. Lucy Napier Feb.6, 1793,
- (9)Elijah m. Mary French Jan.3, 1792,
10. Catherine
11. Elisha, b. 1770 M. July, 1792 Annie Frence, daughter of Matthew French, Revolutionary soldier. All thhese marriages occurred in Montgomery Co. and are recorded there.

The following sons of John McComas, the Elder: Jessie, John, David, William, Moses, and Thomas, with their families, migrated to Kanawha County, Va. about 1798 This region was included in Cabell County when it was organized, in 1809. The majority of these brothers settled in Sheridan District of Cabell County, to become the first white settlers in Lincoln County as now set up."

(From History): "Early Settlers Coal, Guyandotte and Sandy Valleys":

The first settlers in Lincoln County were four men named McComas, who arrived from beyond the mountains in 1799 and, after raising a crop in the fall, returned for their families, built cabins, &c."

Stephen and Sarah(Certain) McComas went on to Ohio, settling within the present boundaries of Lawrence Co. x x

Elisha, one of the younger sons of John McComas, the elder, came with his wife, Annie, (French) McComas, and older children, locating on the Guyandotte river, near Salt Rock x x Led long and active life on the frontier).

NOTE, by M.L.H.: "About the year 1894, or 1895, a McComas we called "Cousin Rush"), came from California, on a

visit to his McComas relations--we were then living on Washington Ave. & 12th St., Central City, now Huntington, and mother (Irene McK) was the only member of the Wm. McComas family living. He was an educated, cultured gentleman, and evidently, prosperous. I believe he was from San Francisco.

x x x x

- WARD -

Moses Ward. "The Navy Ordinance Plant and Chemical Plants west of Charleston are located on what was formerly "ard land". The house in which Moses ~~Wrd xxxxxxx~~ (known to us as Cousin Moses) lived, was standing as late as 1911, between the railroad and the Kanawha River, about where some of these plants are now located. The house was not far from the railroad. Also, from the train could be seen a graveyard. Moses Ward, wealthy land owner and slave holder, M. Ellen Donnelly, of the pioneer Donnelly family. She was very young and very beautiful so I was told by my mother who often visited them in their country home. She said that Cousin Moses was much older than his child wife--who carried her dolls with her when she went, as a bride, to the then lonely farm house (Kanawha County records should show dates)). After Moses Ward died his widow m. the second time--Jim Kasner, and they lived for many years in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1888, Cousin Ellen Donnelly-Ward Kasner spent the summer with us at our farm home in Clover Valley (now owned by the State). Although her hair was snowy white, and she must have been far along in years, she was still beautiful. Her sister was the wife of Bishop Onderdonk, of New York. My mother was in correspondence with Mrs. Onderdonk after 1890. (Read Biog, of Henry Onderdonk Ale-shire, of Huntington).

Elisha Wesley McComas, Son of Wm. McComas and Mildred "ard
 McComas, Grandson of Gen. Elisha McComas--

(Copy of letter to Mrs. N.E.Reviere, Taylor, Texas Box 306)
 From M.L.H. June 1926).

My dear Mrs. Reviere:

I have before me now, the Taylor newspapers and the copies of the photographs found on the old gentleman, giving the name of "Fulton".

Your kindness and efforts have led to the identity of this gentleman, as being a McComas: He's either Walter McComas or Gordon McComas Both were sons of Gov. E.W.McComas, of Fort Scott, Kan.

My mother, Mrs. Geo. Mc^Kendree was the only sister of Gov.McComas. Among the old photographs in the trunk that belonged to her, which are in my possession, are the duplicates of all the "cuts" sent from Taylor. We do not recognize the more modern ones, but the old ones taken in Cincinnati, Chicago, and Charleston. The one published in the paper, and thought to have been a picture of the man, taken at "about the age of 40" is in fact, one of his father, Gov. Elisha Wesley McComas, taken when he was about 40. A large picture of Gov. E.W.McComas hung in the Capitol Annex, in Charleston. Two of the photographs were of Mrs. E.W.McComas, his mother and we have the duplicate. One of Mrs. W.R.Reid of Ft. Scott, and one of Mrs.Ella Upjohn, his sister. We also have duplicates of these. Mrs. Reid has been dead about 30 years, but she has a son living--Kenneth Reid, I believe in St.Louis. The Gazette wired to the Ft.Scott paper and received information that Gordon and his son were both with a newspaper in Oklahoma City, Okla., and have wired there for information.

I am sure the trail will end there; for we are positive the man is either Walter--who has not been heard of for many years-- or Gordon

The members of the family who live here are very grateful to you, and to all who were so kind to the "Stranger within your gates."

We will keep you informed of any information, until we positively identify him. Would you give me the names of some of the good Methodist people who saw that he had a Christian burial. I can not tell you of my gratitude to you, and to them for having him buried so. His grandfather, Wm. McComas, was a Methodist minister.

It seems sad that he should have considered himself friendless, when he has so many relations, and all are well to do, and many wealthy and prominent. He has a first cousin living in Fort Worth, and several first cousins living in Colorado City who are wealthy; so he need not have felt as he did. We are at a loss to know why he should have felt so

One of the Editors of the Gazette was here last evening and said they were sending you the paper from here. They are to have a story in next Sunday Gazette, and then expect to have all information, and positive identification by the following Sunday. Had it not been for your efforts in the matter, I am certain we would never have known x x x xxx(Sig)xxxMildredLxxHender

(Sig) Mildred L. Henderson

Highlawn, St.Albans, W.Va. Jan. 4, 1936

x x x x x x x

(Copy Letter to M.L.H., From Gordon McComas.)

Yukon, Okla. June 29, 1926.

Dear Cousin Mildred:

Pardon me for the delay in answering your letter. Have had so many letters to write to Texas, Mrs. Reviere, and others, that it has kept me busy, outside of work hours.

My firm belief is that Walter was temporarily insane when he took his own life. In fact, he made the statement when in the hospital "that he didn't know why he did it, only that he lost himself for a few minutes. He was in poor health, and unable to work, and out of money. If he had only done as I asked him years ago; to come live with me if he got unable to work and was sick, all would have come out right; but he chose otherwise. I did not know where he was located--not for eight years or more. Walter was more or less temperamental, being extremely high strung. He had tremendous physical courage: I never knew a man more so. He could appear in a company of strangers and make everybody love him: he was a delightful conversationalist, and kept himself well informed. He could repeat poetry from all the major poets, and do so with dramatic effect. He was known to be the best traveling salesman in Oklahoma, and made "write-ups" of neatly all the larger towns and cities in the state. He took great pride in the family name; and in his effects he left with me some years ago, for safe keeping, I find bundles of letters he had received from father and mother.

The details of his death present a harrowing tale.

Standing before the glass, he cut his throat three times, and stood and caught the blood in a wash pan, so as to keep from soiling the floor; and afterward, becoming weak, fell to the floor: and while there, with trembling hand, wrote a note to the landlady, asking forgiveness for soiling the rug and putting her to so much trouble. Could an entirely sane man do such a thing as this. I am told he never lost his nerves, although He lived for nine hours, and was polite, and gentlemanly through it all. Excuse me for recounting this, as it is not a pleasant revelation.

I think Aunt Sarah Holderby's family record is at fault My father, Elisha Wesley McComas, died at my house, on a farm close to Fort Scott, Kansas, on the 11th day of March, 1890. My mother preceded him by exactly five years, having died in Fort Scott on the 11th day of March, 1885. Her maiden name was Arizona Holderby. Henry, my oldest brother, and the oldest of the children, died at Topeka, Kansas, in the year 1902. Sister Alice, Mrs. W. R. Peck, died in Fort Scott; and Sister Ella, next oldest to me, died in La Platte, Neb. I have not the dates of Henry and Alice's deaths, but am going to get them.

Have been out of touch with relations for years; but Walter's death has brought letters from all of them. I received a letter today from Mrs. Fred Rhoring, of South Omaha, Neb. She is my niece, being Sister Ella's daughter. Have had several letters from Kenneth Reid, of St. Louis.

On another sheet is a typewritten list of births which I found in letters written by Mother to Walter.

I am the "baby" of Elisha A. McComas' family, and the only one living.

There has been lots of tragedy in the McComas family. Uncle Hamilton, or Ham, as we called him, was killed, together with his wife, by Apache Indians. Uncle Ruff dropped dead while climbing a mountain in New Mexico, Will McComas, Uncle Ham's youngest son, killed a woman in Los Angeles, California. I think occurred in the year 1908, or 1909; but the latest tragedy is Walter's death.

Please tell me French's father's given name. I was under the impression it was "David". (Dr. Wm. Wirt McComas was G. French McC's father, killed in battle. M.L.H.)

I wrote to Aunt Sarah Holderby; but have had no answer; perhaps, she is too old. I am almost 67, myself, and in poor health. I can easily visualize your mother, Aunt Irene: I went to school to her. As I remember her, she was tall and slender; but I understand that she afterward took on weight, and became quite heavy. I remember her pupils had to "walk pretty straight" as she was very "handy" with the switch, and I, myself, had a taste of it several times--which did me good.

I remember your father. He came to Fort Scott to get your mother. NOTE: Error: My mother was then in Nebraska City Neb. with her brother, Rufus French McComas and his wife, Aunt Bettie (Simpson) McComas, and was married in their home on December 28, 1874, after which they made a visit to relations in Fort Scott before coming back to West Virginia. (See letter. M.L.H.) I remember, he wore a beard.

Did Uncle Ham's son, , Will McComas, ever visit you? He was extraordinarily bright, a mining engineer, and I have heard he was a very rich man. As it is getting late, and to-morrow is another "work day", I will close for this time.

As I said elsewhere in this letter, you will find, accompanying, a list of births in my immediate family.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gordon McComas.

Address of Mrs. Fred Rohring 2212 F. St. South, Omaha, Neb
(List enclosed)

Alice McComas Reid: Born Aug. 8, 1843; d. July 4th, 1896.

Henry McComas " July 20, 1845. D. Nov. 11, 1902
at Topeka, Kansas.

Walter McComas born May 25, 1850. D. Apr. 18, 1926, at Taylor Kan.

Ella (McComas) Upjohn born June 16, 1853.

Gordon McComas born Jan. 10, 1860.

Gordon McComas' children:

Clarence Wesley McComas

Eugene Wilson McComas

Florence Wilma~~y~~ McComas

Robert Lee McComas.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

(Copy)

St. Albans, W. Va. Sept. 23, '46.

1.

My dear Mr. Lambert:

I am enclosing some information which I hope will be helpful in getting a reliable history recorded before it is too late. A well known author has said: "The most heroic figure in history is the American pioneer", and our pioneer history has been too long neglected. I have a book that, I think, is valuable as a key, and taken in connection with Government records, gives a picture of conditions leading to the Civil War. It is: "Memoirs and Recollections of C. W. Goodlander, of the Early Days of Fort Scott".

From April 29, 1853 to Jan. 1, 1870, covering the time prior to the advent of the railroad, and during the days of the ox team and stage transportation

And biographies of Col. H. T. Wilson and Geo. A. Crawford the father of Fort Scott

Fort Scott, Kansas,
Monitor Printing Co.,
1900.

In this book, he tells of the operations of the "Jay Hawker" gangs under John Brown and his followers, Montgomery, Jenison, and others, as well as other events of the times.

The most amazing thing about the book is that many puzzling questions are ANSWERED, unknowingly perhaps, by Mr. Goodlander, when the book is read in connection with history, and official records. An example: In one of the John Brown letters, now published officially, it speaks of going into Fort Scott, Kan. and robbing a store and killing one man".

In Mr. Goodlander's book, , he tells of this fight, gives the name of the store that was robbed and the name of the man who was killed, by whom, &c., and all the details of the raid, and names of those in the fight. Mr. Goodlander participated in the defense of the Fort town. It is intensely interesting to Virginians.

Ft. Scott is where Elisha Wesley McComas and H.C. McComas located after the war, and they are buried there. My mother went to them after the death (1865) of her father, Wm. McComas, and taught school and music in Ft. Scott; and Uncle B.J. McComas came back from a Union prison to the old McComas homestead and lived there until 1894, when he died. I have stacks of letters passing between the Fort Scott McComas's and the Virginia McComas. Rufus French McComas, who was in the transportation business in the stage coach and wagon train days, settled in Nebraska City, Neb, became a banker and manufacturer, died in 1892, in New Mexico, on a trip to the silver mines where H.C. McComas and wife were murdered by Indians in 1883.

Mr. C.W. Goodlander was a carpenter of Pa. who followed Horace Greely's advice: "Go west, young man", and he says he didn't know where he was going when he started. His book is full of humor, and enjoyable reading for anyone but becomes immensely so when read in connection with events of history.

I am enclosing part of a letter written by me to my sister, Mrs. P. C. Manley, Staunton, Va. She sent me the October issue of "True Magazine", which carried the story "The White Apache", claiming him to have been Charley McComas. It makes me heart sick, and more anxious to get our true history on record

I hope I am not piling this onto you too fast. I realize I am impatient; but time seems shorter each day and life is very uncertain, and history is being made at such a rapid pace, it is almost overwhelming.

I hope you are progressing satisfactorily with your history work, and that you had a successful trip to Richmond. I am,

Very truly,

Mildred Lee Henderson

(Mrs. G. A.).

(Cop).

St. Albans, W. Va. Aug. 7, 1946.

My dear Mr. Lambert:

Replying to your letter of Aug. 2nd, in which you say:

- "1. You state that Wm. and Mildred Ward McComas had fifteen children. I never knew that. Do you have a complete list, &c?
 2. Do you know anything about the descendants of Elisha Wesley McComas?
 3. You speak of the fortune of Judge David McComas. Just a few years ago some folks got the idea of recovering some of his property from gas companies &c. &c One of these parties tried to get me to get up data to prove that "Little David" McComas was the Judge. I went into it pretty thoroughly, and found this not to be true x x xI exploded the idea, however,&c.
- Lastly. I wonder if it would be possible to somewhat restore the McComas cemetery from memory, and records in your possession x x"

I've tried to answer these questions, but I find it quite hard to hold myself down to a limited account from the vast amount of history data I've accumulated, and which I am eager to impart to anyone interested enough to listen. I am,

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Mrs. G.A.H.

Mildred Lee Henderson.

Ancestry of Mary and Mildred, twins, and Georgiana McKendree

Mary, b. Nov.24,1876, Barboursville. M. Geo.W.Johnson (W. Va).

Mildred b." 24, " " M Geo.A.Henderson, of
Georgia.
M. Percy C.Manley, W. Va.

George Anna C. Oct 27, 1885." "

Lieut. Col. Walter Chiles -- Was emigrant, coming to Jamestown 1638
from England with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons Walter
and William. Died in 1653.

Burgess 1642-43 Charles City.

" 1648-46, 49-52, James City.

Speaker 1649--52.

Member Colonial Council, James City.

Grants in Charles City.

Land Office Records: W. and M. Quar.--Vol I pp 16,152.
153, 285.

Northumberland Records. Merchant and Indian trader.

Walter Chiles --- II.

Born England. M. (1) Mary Page. Issue, John and Eliza-
beth M. (2) Susanna. Issue, Henry. Died 1673. Will re-
corded Nov.25, 1673. Mentioned in deed of James City mar.
20, 1649, as eldest son of Col. Walter Chiles. Second
marriage mentioned in Tyler's Cradle of the Republic
Deed of Rev.James Waddy, 2nd hus'and of Susannah Chiles.
See Ludwell Mss May 15, 1672.

Council Journal M. S S W. and M. Quar.Vol.1 p 17.

Burgess James City 16598-59 (Henning 1,p 238,p 232).

App. with Si Wm. Berkely as Com. to act during recess of
Assembly 1660-61.

Warden of Jamestown Par. (Meade)

Owned "Kempe House".

Grants in James City 1685-66

Land Office Records.

See note on first marriage (Caralorum), p.232.)

Henry Chiles III. In St.Peters Parish, New Kent 1699.

M. Margaret (Littlepage?). Issue Henry, James, Walter, Richard, Valentine, (Daniel?), others perhaps. Vestryman St.Peter's Parish Reg. New Kent p. 73.

M. before 1718 (See Will of Paul Harrelson, filed in Hanover County, Va. Apr. 1, 1734.)

Wife: Anna Harrelson, dau. of Paul and Rebekah Harrelson.

Will of Henry Chiles recorded in Amelia County., Mar. 20, 1746. Issue: Paul, Henry, John, ANN Ward, Susanna and Elizabeth.

Lived in King William County. Had lands in Hanover. Brucswick, Goochland Counties. Removed to Amelia County. Commissioner of the Peace. (See Early's Complete Chronicles p. 367.)

Anna Chiles WARD V: Dau, of Henry and Anna Harrelson Chiles
Amelia M. Circa, 1743 (second child b. 1645) to Maj.
John Ward. Issue: Wm. b. 1745, Agatha, Anna, John,
Henry, Jeremiah, Thomas.
Maj. Ward M. (2) Mrs.Sarah Clark Lynch, 1766.

John Ward, Maj. of Mil. Bedford Co. 1778. Lived in Albermarle, Halifax, Bedford, and Campbell Counties. Died there 1816. (See Early's Complete Chronicles). Clementi History of Pittsylvania, W. and M. Quar. Vol. 16, p. 285. W. and M/ Quar Vol. 27, P. 19--18 Records in above named Counties. Had lands in Albermarle, Halifax, Bedford, and Campbell Co's Took up lands with brother, Jeremiah, in Kanawha County, Va. (Later Cabell).

Thomas Ward VI. Bedford Co., Va. Circa 1764, youngest son of John and Anna (Chiles) Ward. Died after 1832 in Mississippi (See Cabell Co. Va., writ D.B. 5, p 93 Transfers property to son John and son-in-law Wm. McCOMAS). Married Mildred Walden, Pittsylvania Co., Mar. 1, 1791. Marriage recorded in Pittsylvania records. Wife: Dau. of Richard Walden proved July 19, 1790, Pittsylvania Co Reference of dau. "Milly". Mildred Walden Ward died at home of Wm. and Mildred (Ward) McComas, Cabell Co., Va. Circa 1832). Buried in family grave yard. Destroyed in 1925-26 E to H. Issue: Anny m. (1) Noah Scales. m. (2) Patrick Morrison, Cabell Co., May 6, 1819 Birth of Anny, Pittsylvania County Ref. in will of Mourning Walden, sister of Mildred (Walden) Ward, proved Feb. 17, 1794, mentioning sister, "Milly Ward" and first born, Anny. Second child of Thomas and Mildred Walden Ward, John C. Pittsylvania Co. died in Cabell Co. Third child ~~of~~ Mildred born Pittsylvania County., 1797. Thomas and Mildred Walden Ward migrated to Kanawha Co.,

Va., later Cabell) in 1800. Ref. to marriage and descent of Thomas Ward in Early's Campbell Chronicles p. 524. Will of Mourning Walden recorded in Pittsylvania Co Will Book p 9, p. 509. Date 1794.

Col. Thomas Ward was Gentleman Justice of Kanawha County 1801-1909 until Cabell Co. was formed. First Sheriff of Cabell Co., Va. 1809. Represented Cabell Co. in Va. Assembly 1811-12 Col. of Virginia Militia Apr. 19, 1809 (Mil. recommendations, Cabell Co., Va. State Archives. Cabell Records, last for that year.

Thomas Ward VI. See reference to Thomas and Milly Ward, Cabell Records. D/B 1, Ps 142-143. D.B. 2, 186-187, 230, 275, and others. He left his wife in Cabell County and went to Mississippi dying there after 1830 when he assigned property to his son, John, and son-in-law Wm. McComas Cabell County D.B. 5, p. 93). Mildred Walden Ward died at home of Wm. and Mildred Ward Ward McComas Crica 1822 (Stones in cemetery not legible) Cabell Co., Va.

Mildred Ward McComas VII. Born Pittsylvania Co., 1797 (Her Bible descended to dau. Irene, now in possession of her daughter Mary McKendree Johnson.) M.M.J.

NOTE: Mildred Ward McComas Bible is now in possession of Mildred Lee (McKendree) Henderson, of St. Albans, W. Va., 1946 My mother gave me the Bible years ago, because I had the name "Mildred" in 1930. I was in a sanitarium in Asheville N. C. for more than a year recovering from shock caused by the illness and death of my husband, Geo. & Asa Henderson, and business troubles, &c. During my absence the Bible was taken away. After my recovery, it was

returned to me, several years ago, and it is now in my possession. I also have the tombstone of Mildred (Ward) McComas, in my possession. It was recovered in 1927, from a pile of tombstones taken from the graves when the McComas Graveyard was destroyed, and planted in tobacco See letters, records, and other proofs)

(Signed) Mildred Lee Henderson Sept 13, 1946.

All births, deaths, and marriages recorded in this Bible from birth of Mildred Ward, married in Kentucky (Greenup Co.) 1812, to Wm. McComas, son of Gen. Elisha and Anna (French) McComas. See Cabell Co. Death Reg No.1 "Mildred McComas died Aug. 3, 1853 (56) years at "Mulberry Grove" Dau. of Thomas and Mildred Ward, Husband William McComas". Wm. McComas m. (2) 1857, Cabell Co. Mrs. Sarah Wintz ^u D^uerton. Issue of Wm. and Mildred (Ward) McComas; James Madison, Valeria, Rizpeh, Henrietta, Elisha, Wesley, William Wirt, Eliza, Hamilton C., Rufus French, Benjamin Jefferson. Irene Octavia, b. 1843; d. March 20, 1913. Wm. McComas, lawyer, Representative in 24th Congress. Member of Virginia secession convention 1861. Judge of Va. District Court. Ordained Methodist minister.

Irene Octavia (McComas) McKendree VIII. Born Cabell Co., Va Oct. 17, 1843. Dau. of Wm. and Mildred Ward McComas D. in Cabell County March 20, 1913. Buried at Huntington, W.Va. (Cabell). Married Dec. 28, 1874, at Nebraska City, Neb. at home of brother, Rufus French McComas to Major George M. McKendree, b. Jan.28,1835; d. Aug.27,1908 in Cabell Co.

Buried in Huntington. Issue: Mary, Alice, and Mildred Lee, twins, born Nov. 24, 1876 (Barboursville, Cabell Co. W. Va.) Living.

George Anna, b. Oct.27,1885 (Barboursville,) Living.

Major George McKendree, Civil Engineer, Confederate service Major in Gen. Echols Brigade.

Mary Alice McKendree Johnson IX. Born Cabell Co. Nov.24,1876 M. June 25, 1902, Geo. Wm.Johnson, b. Nov.10,1869, Jefferson County, W. Va. (Marriage in Cabell County). Issue: Mildred Elizabeth born Nov. 17,1904, Wood Co., W. Va. George McKendree Johnson B. Wood Co., W. Va. Oct.5,1906 Geo. Wm.Johnson, lawyer. Member of Congress, Fourth Congressional District, West Va. 1922-24, 1932-1942.

Mildred Lee (McKendree) Henderson. Born Nov. 24, '76 (Barboursville, W.Va.) m. Geo. A. Henderson b. Apr. 25,1885, at Columbus Ga.) Issue:

- Irene McComas b. Jan. 30, 1899, at Barboursville
- Mary Eloise b. Sept. 15, 1900 "
- Geo. McKendree b. Apr. 4,1902 "
- John Goulding b. Dec.14, 1903 New Brighton Staten Island, N.Y
- Mildred Ewing b. Feb.25,1908 at Barboursville

George Anna (McKendree) Manley. George Anna b. Oct.27,1885 at ~~xx~~ Barboursville. M. Percy C.Manley 1915, at Parkersburg Wood Co., W. Va. Issue: George McKendree Manley B1917

Copy of parts of a letter written to my sister, Mrs.C.P.
Manley, Staunton, Va. the former George Anna McKendree, of
Barboursville, M. L. H.

St. Albans, Sept. 19, '46.

My dear Jan:

Thanks for the magazine It is certainly an interest-
ing article You ask what became of the picture of Aunt Janie
Uncle Ham, Ada, and Mary, Mrs.Lucas, and another lady taken in
the Silver mine Silver City, New Mexico.

I am convinced in my own mind THAT is the picture in
the magazine, and the story by Paul T. Wellman, embellished
fiction, taken from our research work, and this is why I think
so. In 1939, I did a lot of reading, and writing, too, for the
West Virginia Review". Sister told me she had written to Mary
Johnson and asked her to write the story of the McComas Massacre
for the "Review". Mary wrote that she would do so, and added:
"I am waiting on a picture, which I am expecting." Well, in the
meantime, I had spent days going over old records--I wish to
add here, they were put away and were not among G.A.Es patent
records and papers that were burned and scorched, and stolen in
the fight over "Henderson Patents." I have a bundle of let-
ters from our Western relatives, letters and telegrams from
Mr.Wright (Uncle Ham's law partner in Silver City), telegrams
from General Crook, and ~~xxxxxx~~ letters and telegrams from Capt.
Emmett Crawford, Capt. 3rd Cavalry, who was in command of
Apache scouts of the U. S. Army, and who was killed in the
charge after Geronimo's ^{Apache} murderers--but I am going too fast In
these personal letters are names and reports of many who are
now in History. I had the Mine picture, and others of the
family in Silver City in 1882-'83 - - - - I made copies in my

own handwriting, of important letters, telegrams, news-papers, clippings and items, &c.

In 1925 Mary wrote for Mother's scrap book. I have her letters; also P. O. Receipt for mailing the book to her, in my files. So, she has that. She was working in hat line; I was not, and I was glad to send it to her; but I DID get sore when Grandmother Mildred's Bible was taken away while I was confined in the sanitarium in Asheville, for that Bible was given to me by my blessed Mother, with the request to keep it sacred. I have it now - - - - - These copies I made, and the pictures of Aunt Junie, Uncle Ham and little Charley, and the mine picture, I turned over to the W. Va. Review, as I understood they were awaiting the story Mary was to send--and the information I worked up was supplemental to her expected story. Then "Chaos" you know, a and we were in the agonies of war. In 1940 I was sent to the Library in the State House on Historical Research Work. While there I had access to little known books and records, and, in addition to my prescribed work, I made an exhaustive study of those Indian wars and history. I found many names of persons that were mentioned in those old letters, and I worked up an historical account, proven by records, giving references, dates, page numbers, names, &c. that goes into a history of the Indian war with that last band of murderers under Geronimo. I took this to the State Historian, who at that time was Bess ~~Kennedxxxxxxx~~ Harrison, (a cousin of Senator Harley Kilgore), put it into her hands, explaining the importance from an historical view-point--to be used for the "State Historical Magazine. They were supposed to have appointed Editors of this, and, by the way, my story "The Find of the "Sister Cities" is mentioned, as condensed history in that. By this time the "W.Va. Review" had changed

hands. I went there a number of times, trying to get the 'photos back. I was always promised a search would be made, &c. but I never got them back.

I understand the "State Historical Magazine was not published during the war--have heard absolutely nothing further until this brazen story in "True", written by Paul I. Wellman, is published. It is horrible, and criminal, to claim the dear, little long dead Charley McComas, to be the "red bearded 'white apache' leader of a gang of murderers. I went down into the city yesterday afternoon, and bought a "True" Magazine at Park's Drug Store: they had several numbers I went out to Min McComas: she has a scrap book that Cousin Gussie had made. We went over that, and there was nothing I could find in it to add to my record. There are news-paper clippings about what is contained in Mother's Scrap Book that Mary has. I have duplicates of the pictures of Uncle Ham, Aunt Junie, little Charley, and others; but the "mine" picture was the only one we had.

By the way, in one of Mr. Wright's letters to Mother, he speaks of having the pictures made, and of sending them to her newspapers carried them, posters, offers of reward, and such.

(In Wellman's story in the Oct. No. of "True" on page 41 is the picture taken inside the mine--a short time before the murder. He says: "An early photo of the McComas family--Charley is at the left, seated next to his father.")--a glaring lie The child seated next to Judge McComas is "Mary" aged 8 years, and Ada, 11 years of age.

Charley was NOT in the picture, and it is easy to see by comparing the photos of Charley with the child--his sister Mary in the mine picture--seated next to her father, Judge H. C. McComas).

I've been in correspondence with Mr. Lambert of Barboursville, who is writing a History of Cabell, Wayne, and those southern counties. - - - - -

I have heard nothing further about the restoration of Mr. McComas' grave yard--another criminal act--or "what you may call it"

George Wallace is to publish his History of Huntington - - - - - . I hope we get awake to the importance of keeping

our history clear and true; it has been shamefully neglected, and will be entirely lost unless we "Oldsters" hang on long enough to save the inheritance that our wonderful ancestors carried out for us, with "blood, and sweat, and tears," quoting a well known Englishman who is partly American--which makes him "legal"--as Harem would say--"

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From a record taken from Insurance Policy, Geo. W. McKendree Jan. 28, 1889.

Father -- Robert, Died age 58
Mother, Mary " age 68.
Sisters -- 6.

- 1, Age 4, died of Diptheria
- 2, " 20, " " Childbirth,
- 3, 21, " " "
- 4, " 27 " " "

Geo. McKendree's mother's mother -- 90 yrs. old.

Geo. McKendree had a fall in 1869 at White Sulphur Springs

NOTE: He was lame the rest of his life. Mr. Henley, father of Mrs. Clara (Henley) Jarrett, wife of "Less Jarrett of St. Albans, 1946), was one of the men who reached father after his fall and helped to carry him into a cottage, where he lay for weeks with his leg strapped to the ceiling. Dr. Cankney Lake, the Dr. and Aunt Lucinda (McKendree) Hanna, nursed him. He walked out of a "French Window" in the dark, instead of the door. M. L. H. 1946).

HISTORY OF THE MCKENDREE FAMILY BY MRS. LUCINDA HANNA.

My father was Robert McKendree. He came from Loudon County, Va. to Malden, Va. in 1839, and spent the winter there. He then moved to Cabell County, living on Pea Ridge for some time; then moved to Barboursville about 1845. He owned, and lived in what is known as the Farrell property, on Water St., and later, the property known as the E.W. Blume property, on the corner of Water St. and Main St. He died in the summer of 1859, and was buried in the cemetery at Barboursville.

My brother, George and my sisters, Caroline and Evaline, were born in (Eastern) Va; and my sisters, Harriett, Mary, Elvira, and I, were born in Cabell County.

Harriett died in infancy; Mary m. Wm. Hensley of Cabell Co. They had one child, Willie, who married Oscar Wigal, and they now live in Arkansas (NOTE-1946) Willie Hensley Wigal, 85 years old, now living in Georgetown, Pa. with her daughter, Mrs. George Board, nee Essie Wigal. I have a "tin type" of Willie Hensley, taken when she was a little girl. (M.L.H.).

Elvira m. James G. McDermitt, of Mason Co. She died in the spring of 1874 and he in the fall of 1874. They left the following children: George McKendree, Lulu, and Robert L. Their oldest child, John, died in infancy; and their youngest, Charles, died within a few days after the death of his mother (NOTE 1946: Geo. (McKendree) McDermit was raised by my father, Maj. Geo. M. McKendree, m. Lucy Stovall, dau. of Dr. Stovall, at Grayson, Ky. 1895. Both Geo. McDermit and his wife died in St. Albans since 1940 two sons and two daughters now living in St. Albans. Cornelius m. Mary Sharp--3 children. Robert m. Cra Wentz; Mary m. Wilbur Badie, and have one son, George Badie. Irene (Octavia), m. Harry White, and they have two adopted children, Emma (Ashe) M. Arthur Gaugh, and they have two sons. Live in Huntington. (M. L. H.) Evaline m. E.W. Blume, of North Carolina, and they had the following children: George, Ida, Jack, Henry, Claude, Lake, James, Fred, Ralph, Walter and Josephine. Both she and her husband died in Barboursville.

I m. James Hanna. We had no children We had an adopted daughter, Kate, who m. John Harner (Hartford City, Mason Co). and we raised my niece, Lulu McDermit, who m. Dr. H.D. Price and

lives in Parkersburg W. Va.

George McKendree m. Irene A. McComas, and they had the following children: Mary and Mildred, twins, and Gerge Anna. Mary m. Geo. W. Johnson, a lawyer, and they live in Parkeesburg.

Mildred m. Geo. A. Henderson, and they live in St. Albans. They have the following children: Irene, Mary, Eloise, G. M. (Major), Jack and Mildred.

My grand-father, on my father's side was Aaron F. McKendree. My mother was Mary Ann Grubb, and her father was Elizabeth Grubb. My mother's mother was Mary Ann Saunders. I think they were from Bedford County, Va. My father's brother, A. F. McKendree came to what is now west Virginia with my father. Two of my mother's sisters, Aunt Addie, or Adaline, and Aunt Arabella, married descendants of Thomas Jefferson. I do not remember the names of Aunt Arabella's husband. Aunt Rebecca and Aunt Jane m. Adkines. Aunt Jane's daughter was Will Yates' mother. NOTE: Will Yates, in Cabell Co., in 1890s, was working for C & O railroad, but was killed in St. Albans when a car overturned on what was called the "Short Line", which ran through St. Albans to Bowman's Mill before the Coal River railroad was built. M.L.H. 1946. Aunt Joanna m. a Walker.

My grandfather, Elijah Grubb, was in the revolution. Major Grubb was a son of Jesse. The correct name--or rather, the original name of this family was Kruppf. This is the way it is written in an old book brought over from Holland about 1700 by my great grand-father, Jesse ~~Andrew~~ ^{Andreas} Grubb, or Kruppf. NOTE: Could that be "Krupps"? The letter "S" was made like the letter "f". M.L.H.). I think they all lived in Pittsylvania Cpunty, Va. Jesse Grubb was my mother's Uncle.

Margaret McKendree, daughter of A. F. (Uncle Flood) McKendree, M. Frank Saunders, father of R. L. Saunders. My mother had the following sisters and brothers: Joanna Walker, Caroline, who went West, Rebecca Adkins,

Jane Adkins, Louisa Tate; Arabella (Belle) Jefferson, Adaline Jefferson, a brother who went to North Carolina,, whose name I do not remember. Leonard was killed in the Confexerate army; De Baron was drowned in a spring when a child; and Aunt Caroli ne. Aunt Catherine, mother's sister, M. A.F.McKendree. She came out here with my father and mother. They were engaged at the time. My father and his party came out here in covered wagons. I think Aunt Catherine and Uncle Flood were m. in Malden. My father's mother was a St.Clair, commonly called "Sinkler".

I was married Dec.12th, 1865 to James Wm. Hanna, who was raised near Malden. He, and James~~S~~^E. McDermit were in the same regiment during the war between the States. My husband was in Company "D", and James S. McDermit was in Company "B", 13th Infantry. Elvira, my sister, m. him on March 27, 1866, at Barboursville

My sister, Evaline and E.W.Blume were m. either in Ohio, or ^{Lawrence Co.} Kentucky. They ran off; I do not remember the date. They married when I was very small.

My Aunt Caroline m. Elijah C. Smith, at Barboursville; He was from Vermont. They had one daughter, Mary Ann, who m. Robert Sturgill. They lived in Chattanooga, Tenn. when I last heard from them. My brother George's first wife was Jennie Stalnaker, of Lewisburg, W. Va. They had no children.

Uncle Flood's children were: Margaret Saunders, Charley, Fannie, (Mrs. Joe Morris, Milton), Robert, Sudie, who m. Henry Nelson; Emma, who m. a McClary, and died soon after her marriage; Wm., Lydia, and Ella (I remember Cousin Sam, a son of Uncle Flood's).

My mother told me that Bishop McKendree was my father's Uncle. Mrs.Lucinda Hanna.

Huntington Advertiser Nov. 14, 188 5, marriage licenses;

"George Wm. McKendree to Mary C. Perry".

NOTE: Cousin Billy", son of Aaron Flood. McKendree M. H.)