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MS 76
BX 18
NBK 16

Joseph M. Harless
Book
1956

(Notes copies by Nannie Lambert wife of FBL)

MS 76
BX 18
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Four Mile Notes
by Joseph M. Harless.

My full name is Joseph Madison Harless. My father was Riley Harless, of Giles County, Va. He was of Dutch descent, born in Giles Co., and came here when he was 19 years old. He died Oct. 13, 1860, and is buried in Harless Cemetery on Four Mile. About 200 people are buried there, but there are no tombstones except a few with names only. It is located on Harless Fork, about a mile above the Church.

My mother was Nancy Douglas, of Giles Co., Va. Each came to Boone County before their marriage near Stonewall. They were in Boone County, and settled near the mouth of Four Mile, near Col. Branch's residence, where he used to live.

As far back as I can remember, Isaac Ray lived at the mouth of Four Mile, exactly on the site of the Company store, run by Mr. Sanford. He lived in a one-story log house, facing east. He was a coal miner. This was about five years before the War. He helped open the mines about 3 years before the War.

Aley Belcher lived in The Sherd Adkins house, which I believe was built long before this.

I am nearly 79 years old. I was born March 10, 1848 on Four Mile at the old place about three fourths of a mile above Harless Fork Church, which I built mostly. I furnished all timber, and did most of the work. Charley McCoy did most of the Carpenter work. The ceiling over head was put on at once. It was built in 1876, for the Primitive Baptists. The United Baptists helped build it, and I deeded it for the use of both.

Sherd Adkins came from Wayne County about 1857 or 1858, and swapped farms with Aley Belcher. Adkins' farm was on Beech Fork. Sherd Adkins then became owner of all the land on which Branchland now stands. Branchland was about the limit of navigation on the Guyandotte River, except by push boats, canoes, etc.

John Jack lived where Albert Chapman now lives, in a one-room log house - a very small one at that. He soon left.

Thomas Dial, an old settler, lived two miles up the main creek, at mouth of Harless Fork, on left going up. His also was a log house. He was a farmer, but he left and went west to Kansas I think. He soon died, possibly before he got there. He was about 50 yrs. old. His brother lived on Main Four Mile about a half mile above him. He also lived in a log house, - but it was a two-story pen, built by my father, who was a carpenter, and it is now known as the John W. Dial house.

John W. Dial was son of John M. Dial who was a brother to Thomas Dial.

Calvin Lucas lived and died on Harless Fork, but I think he came from Giles County.

Alexander Watson lived about a mile above the United Baptist Church, on Red River Fork. He was a farmer.

William P. Adkins at the Forks of Four Mile. He has been dead three or four years. He was about six years older than I.

Calvin Lucas lived in a cabin in the "gap" in the head of Harless Fork.

"Jiner" Diehl lived about a mile from ^{the} Thomas Dial farm on Holley Bush Fork, which flows into Four Mile about twenty-five steps above the mouth of Harless Fork.

Jim Davis lived on the main right-hand fork of Four Mile, on Sulphur Spring Fork.

Parker Lucas lived on the Branchland side of Guyan, about a mile down the river, and a short distance above Sheridan. It was a large two-story pen log house.

I think it is still standing. He kept it till about ten years after the War. He got in debt for a lot of land, and I think lost it, under a deed of trust. Avis Holley got it, I think and sold it to Lifias Spurlock.

Irvin Lusher lived where Hubball Station now is—before the War. I worked for him and his sons, Lewis and John, in the timber business—the boys followed it more than he. I believe he, also, lost his land under a deed of trust—I think to Robert Holderby, who lived below Barboursville, about three miles below, I think. It is now called the Gates farm, I think.

Jim Jeffreys lives in a log house on the other side of Guyan, the first down, and it is still standing. This was occupied before the War by Capt. John Chapman, who served under Clamhammer Witcher in the Rebel Army. He and his brother Jim, were both wounded at Gettysburg. They both died on that farm.

I think my father helped to build this house for Andy Chapman - father of John and Jim. Andy Chapman had these two boys and three daughters, Julia who married John Vaughn; Cynthia who married Lewis Lusher; Elizabeth, who married Isaac McComas Jr. son of Isaac McComas ("Dry Hoof") Jeff McComas lived at the mouth of Six Mile, on the west side of Guyan. He told many "big" stories. Old Isaac McComas died about 1866. He had three sons who went to Ohio to escape going into the army. They were Jack (Andrew J.) Jeff and Isaac.

Bal McComas died about the time of the opening of the war.

John McComas lived at the mouth of Peyton Branch. The house is still standing. He was an old man - the son of William McComas I think.

John Vaughn lived in the house at the mouth of Peyton Branch, when I was a boy, and I worked for him.

A house stood about where Greely Isaacs now lives, but I don't remember who lived in it.

Lewis Midkiff lived in the next log-house still standing. Solomon Midkiff's widow did live, and may live there yet.

Jim McComas lived in the double log house, above Bradyville.

I do not remember any wolves or bears on Four Mile Creek in my day, but I have heard my mother say the wolves used to howl around her house when they first came to Guyan River. They settled at mouth of Hart's Creek, or rather about a mile below the mouth, on this side of the river. There is where the wolves bothered her. Her chimney was built only part way up, and sometimes she was left alone, and then she carried in wood in the evening, and kept a fire all night. This kept bears and wolves away. A bear killed a hog for William Stafford, who lived on Kentucky Fork near the head.

Mrs. Stafford reported to my brother that a bear had killed a hog. He didn't believe her, but went and found a large bear, but did not have his gun loaded, so the bear was safe.

I have seen many deer on Four Mile. My father killed one near his house, before the War. He was sick with fever, and hounds ran it past his house, and he killed it. Hounds ran a deer into the river, and Sherd Adkin's daughter caught it one Sunday during War.

There were many deer in the country after the War, but they took "Black Tongue" about 1870, and most of them died. They came to water before dying. They were on Big Ugly especially. It was settled late.

My Uncle George Douglas, married the daughter of Thomas Vial and settled on Kentucky Fork, about a mile from the head.

William Prichard and Sanders Cremeans lived on Trace Fork.

Old Preacher Billy Adkins was probably the first settler on the Creek. He lived there till after the War.

Anderson Adkins and Elliot Adkins married Preacher Adkins' daughters, and William Albright married another.

No one lived on Pound Fork till after the War, when Basil Eplin settled there, and died about three years ago.

John J. Adkins was also an old settler and lived on Rock House Fork before and after the War. He died about ten or fifteen years ago.

Clayton Ellet lived on Mc Clarity Fork about where the Mc Clarity School now is about two miles from the mouth of the Creek.

Ed Parsons lived just above the mouth of Mc Clarity, on main Four Mile, before the War. He was an old settler.

Fielden Worick lived on the head of Mc Clarity Fork.

George Baker lived on the hill between Four Mile and Ten Mile. He was an old settler.

"Spence" Midkiff lived in an old log-house on the first farm below the Falls, on the other side of the river. He was a farmer and made considerable money but his sons Alex, Waldon, Albert and Mink and his daughters Jane (Mrs. John Bills) Anna? (Mrs. Spence Midkiff) Suzie (Mrs. Lon Bowden and Mary Jane (Mrs. William Thompson) ran through with it.

Thompson was from Ohio.

J. J. McComas lived in the Gap, toward Madison Creek, from West Hamlin, on the gap between Madison and Guyan, on.

ridge below and beyond the head of Long Branch.

Isaac McComas lived on the left-hand side of the hard road opposite Six Mile Creek, which is just above Hubball. The house is not standing. I think it burned down. He lived till about 1868. I have seen him often. I think he was buried near his house, in an old cemetery still used, located on the left-hand side of the road going up.

I think David McComas lived on this side of the river from West Hamlin and above where J. J. McComas lived.

Ballard Payne of Midkiff told me today he had a record of Tolly McComas's age, that she is 102 years old - that he has the Bible, and that she was a sister to his mother.

I have seen catamounts in these woods. They were rather large. About nine feet long from tip to tip. They were here about thirty to thirty-five years ago.

Guy Parsons is said to be the man who killed the eagle in October of this year, up on Four Mile.

The Sherd Adkins house was built by "Giles" John Adkins long before the Civil War my mother said about 1830. Giles Adkins was so named, because he came from Giles County, Virginia. I think these Adkinses

are of Dutch nationality. The Harlesses are of Dutch nationality. My paternal grandmother Harless was half Dutch. My father was born in Giles County, and he went back there just before the Civil War when I was about four years old. He was there on a visit to relatives and to get apple drafts, and other things, Isaac Roy came from Giles County also. I think he was Irish.

Ailey Belcher, I think came from Germany. I have heard him talk, and he and his sons used a broken brogue, which I took to be German. The Dials were Dutch also.

The Lucases, I knew came from Giles County. Parker Lucas settled at Sheridan Station. Vinson Lucas, his brother, settled on Bowen Creek. Calvin Lucas, settled on Harless Fork, formerly called Locust Rough Fork. The upper part is yet called Locust. There is no doubt but that Ailey Belcher came from overseas. His grandson said he heard his mother say so.

I think the Lucases were French. George Douglas came from Giles County and was of Dutch ancestry.

John and Reece Vaughns also Richard Vaughn were brothers, came from Giles County and were of Dutch descent I think.

Chris Collins was of Dutch and Negro descent. He settled on Mud River just below Hamlin. He showed Negro blood plainly.

The Holleys—Avis, Dave, Toke, and Warren were also at Hamlin since before the Civil War.

William Prichard came here from Kentucky.

Lafe Richard of Branchland, a grandson can probably give his nationality.

Rev. Billy Adkins came from Giles. He was a Primitive Baptist, and later a Missionary.

I knew "blind Akers" the preacher. He preached around here for twenty five yrs. He was a Campbellite or Christian Baptist. He lived until about ten years ago. Some of his relatives live on Coal River yet.

The Campbellite Church was at the Falls. It was a log building, but not so good as the Harless Fork Church.

Jim Chafin came here about 1870. He was a Campbellite, and came from Logan. He preached for about ten years, and ran for Assessor on the Democrat ticket, and was elected. Lincoln County was nearly all Democratic in those days.

Old Uncle Billy Adkins was one of the earliest preachers I remember. He was a Primitive Baptist. They practiced foot-washing. Four Mile Church still has several members, and they practice foot washing. The United Baptist also practice foot-washing. Billy Adkins' nearest relatives are Dave, Napoleon, and Henry. Sons of Elliot Adkins, who died about twenty years ago, and had lived on Trace Fork of
Four Mile.

Billy Adkinsons relatives are Dave, Napoleon and Henry sons of Elliot Adkins who died about twenty years ago, and lived on Trace Fork of Four Mile. Dave is foolish but the other boys are better. Their mother was a Meadows.

John Adkins was a grandson of Preacher Billy, and lives just below Hubball on the road.

"Fall Creek" John, was a son of Rev. Billy and lived on Fall Creek, but died about 30 years ago.

George Adkins, now 82 years old is a son of Fall Creek John, and yet lives at the head of Long Branch. He was born and raised on Fall Creek. He married Nancy Ross first, a daughter of Bobby Ross. His second wife was Mary Midkiff daughter of Lewis Midkiff. He married a Boothe the last time - a widow.

Andrew Adkins, I think, was about the best preacher I ever knew. He preached on Beech Fork, Raccoon, and Harless Fork. Andrew Adkins has five or six sons, and one daughter living. She is Tillman Childer's widow - Cynthia.

Jackson Adkins lives close to Bowen Church Butler, and Boney Adkins also live at Bowen.

The ablest preacher I knew was Samuel Smith, father of Allen Smith of Griffithoville. He was a Primitive Baptist. Allen Smith preaches once a month at Harless Fork Church. He was tall, black-haired of about 150 pounds, and a good revivalist.

Dave is foolish, but the other boys O.K.
 Their mother was a Meadows.

John Adkins was a grandson of Preacher Billy, and lives just below Hubbard on hard road.

Fall Creek John was a son of Rev Billy, and lived on Fall Creek, and died about 30 yrs. ago.

George Adkins, now 82 years old, is a son of Fall Creek John, and lives at head of Long Branch. He was raised on Fall Creek. He married Nancy Ross first, a daughter of Bobby Ross. His second wife was Mary Midkiff, daughter of Lewis Midkiff.

He married a Boothe the last time. Andrew Adkins, I think, was about the best preacher I ever knew. He preached on Beech Fork, Raccoon, and Harless Fork.

He has five or six sons and one daughter living. She is Tillman Childers' widow.

Jackson Adkins lives close to Bowen Church.

Butler Adkins and Boney Adkins live at Bowen.

The ~~oldest~~^{ablest} preacher I knew was Sam Smith, father of Allen Smith of Griffithsville. He was a Primitive Baptist.

Allan Smith preaches once a month at Harless Fork Church. He was a tall, dark complected, black-haired man of about 150 pounds, and was a great revivalist.

I knew Burwell and Stephen Spurlock and each were good preachers. Burwell preached on Beech Fork. He lived near The Falls of Twelve Pole.

Stephen was a good man, but not so able a preacher as Burwell. I have heard him Uncle Andy and Billy Adkins preach ^{together}. He was a Southern Methodist. The Spurlocks were Democrats.

Burwell Spurlock's three sons were in the Rebel Army under Col. Jimison Ferguson and possibly under General Jenkins. They belonged to the Eighth Virginia Regiment from Wayne, Lincoln and Logan Counties, and some were from the upper edge of Cabell.

I believe Hurston Spurlock, one of Burwell's sons may yet be living.

Elijah Adkins preached about fifty years ago on Beech Fork. He was a primitive Baptist, and a fairly able preacher. He died about that time. He had probably been a preacher for thirty-five years.

Rush and Lee Adkins also Hezekiah Adkins (second cousin to Squirrel Mouth) Adkins are still living near Jim Morrison's store on Beech Fork.

Rush married Sherd Adkins' daughter but she is dead. He had about eight daughters.

Kelly Elkins also preached sixty years ago. He used to preach at our house. He was a good man, but not an able preacher. He was a Methodist, and preached about fifty years ago. He was preaching when I was a child. He went West, and has no living relatives here.

William Ball, an able preacher, began before the War. He preached on Heath's Creek four or five years ago. He was ten to twenty years older than I, and was a Missionary Baptist. He was pastor of Beech Fork Church, and he sometimes preached at our house, and he preached the funeral of my father who died in 1860. and my mother, who died in 1878.

Ed Osburn, also an able preacher of the Missionary Baptist Church preached at our house, a half mile from Harless Fork Church. And on Twelve Pole, and various places I know nothing of his relatives, but he may have some on Twelve Pole.

Old Johnny Lucas, a Primitive Baptist probably lived on Fourteen of Guyan. He lived to be over 100 years old. I have heard him preach when I was a boy. He was a fairly able preacher. He expected to die on his 100th birthday, but failed to do so. I know of no relatives, unless possibly Jeff Lucas, who lives on Fourteen, may be a son. He died about 1860.

Andy Elkins preached at Fall Creek and on Fourteen, Little Hart and Cove Gap on the waters of Cove Creek, which flows into Twelve Pole and heads against Fourteen.

He was a good man, but not an able preacher. His son - Marvel Elkins, is an able preacher, but I would risk his father's Chance. He lives in Huntington. He now is pastor of Beech Fork, Cove Gap, and an Ohio Church. Possibly others.

John Brinegar, a Primitive Baptist, father of Rev. L. D. Brinegar, of Guyandotte, was an old preacher fifty years ago. He came here from Mc Dowell County, about 25 years ago, and was an able preacher. He was a Dutchman. He moved back to Mc Dowell about forty-five years ago, and he died there.

Morris Gilkerson was a Methodist preacher, and lived on Beech Fork. He was an Uncle to my wife - Evaline Adkins, daughter of Jones Adkins, who lived at forks of Beech Fork. His father Charley Adkins, lived to be 108 years old and had come from Giles County, and settled at, or about, The Forks of Beech Fork possibly twenty five years before Civil War.

Jones Adkins and several brothers Charles, Girard, Pete and himself in the 8th Virginia Regiment, mostly, but I think it belonged to the 16th - Clawhammer's Battalion.

Elisha Bias lived below West Hamlin, at the mouth of Coleman. He was a Southern Methodist. He has a son, I think, in West Hamlin. He was a son of Roland Bias, a Southern Methodist preacher. He died about three years ago. He preached at Mill's Chapel, on Beech Fork, at Bowen's Chapel, at Hamlin and at West Hamlin. After he died, possibly before, Elisha began preaching and preached at about same.

John Burnside was an able preacher of the Primitive Baptist faith. He served as clerk of the Association.

Allen Smith of Griffithsville, could probably direct you to the records. He preaches on the third Sat. and Sun. of each month. His son Col. Burnside is probably dead. He (John) had some daughters. He lived on Turkey Creek, about three miles from Griffithsville. They belonged to the ~~Potalico~~ Pocotalico Association, while Smith belongs to the Mud River Association now, but he formerly belonged to the Pocotalico. I mean Sam Smith not Allen. Allan belongs to the Mud River Association.

John D. Johnson, of Wayne Court House was a Circuit Rider on Bowen Chapel Circuit. When I was about grown, but still attending school, he was a Southern Methodist. He was a Chaplain in the Rebel Army of the 8th or possibly the 16th Virginia.

The old Churches yet standing are -
 The Harless Fork Church, built about fifty
 years ago. I owned the land and deeded
 it to the Primitive Baptists, but the United
 Baptists and others, except Mormons and
 Catholics, are permitted to preach, by
 terms of the deed.

Some Methodists also, helped on it.
 It cost about \$500 to build, besides land
 and timber. It was built about 1877 or 8.
 It took about eighteen months to finish
 it. Of course, we didn't work on it, only
 occasionally. I furnished the team, and
 most of the logs - all but five. I furnished
 the shingles, nails, stove (except \$1.25 on it)
 and paid part of carpenters bill.
 Some signed \$5.00, and paid it in work.
 Some agreed to pay, who never did pay.

Si Dickey and Brothers sawed the lumber
 on Raccoon.

Enoch Adkins (my uncle by marriage)
 and possibly Jones and Vinson Adkins
 who owned part of the land, gave us the
 timber and I hauled it, had it sawed
 and took it to the church, and worked it up.

Charley McCoy, Mormon Eaves, and Jasper
 Harless helped on the carpenter work. They
 built the seats, I helped. Some people signed
 \$2 and others up to \$10, and put it in in labor.

This run the cost to about \$500.00 as stated.
 We collected some of it from candidates.

My brother begged some of it this way—
 His name was Jasper B. Harless, Methodist.
 Joe Chilton paid about \$2½. He lived at Hamlin.
 The first members were - Johnny Dial; I and
 Green Adkins; my wife Amazetta; John Eplin.
 Russell Albright and wife Ellen; William
 P. Adkins and wife Becky; Maria Cockings
 (dead) and others. Possibly the Church book
 can be found. There were probably fifteen
 to twenty members then. Basil Eplin and wife
 (Eliza). Andrew Adkins was first preacher,
 and preached regularly, once a month,
 for fifteen or twenty years. Lamech Adkins
 is probably now clerk. His father, William
 P. Adkins, better known as "Bum" Adkins,
 used to be clerk. I was clerk for about 15 years.

I, Ellen Albright, and Susan Adkins are
 all of first congregation yet living to
 my knowledge.

Ellen Albright lives at the mouth of Pound
 Fork, about 3 miles up Four Mile. She is a
 sister of Lamech Adkins. He has been a
 member for thirty to thirty-five years.

Susan Adkins lives opposite Midkiff,
 on Stout Creek probably, with one of her sons.
 She was raised on Beech Fork. A daughter
 of old Abe Samson, a Northern Methodist
 preacher. He never was on a Circuit.

Lyfus Spurlock lived in an old log house still standing at Sheridan Station, about two hundred yards this side, and to the right, going down the railroad. He was an able preacher, a Northern Methodist, but used to preach with Andy Adkins, Billy Adkins, and Stephen Spurlock Sr. Stephen Spurlock was not as able a preacher as Burwell Spurlock. Lyfus Spurlock had a son Stephen, a preacher but had little intelligence. Rebecca Adkins lived to a ripe old age. (about 95) She was not very smart, but had a good memory. She knew everybody's age. She was Dave's mother. These are foolish and not allowed to vote. Roads were worked until about twenty five years ago by the people who lived on them - from 21 years old to 50 years.

An overseer was paid to "warm" the hands, but no wages. If hands didn't do good work, they were discharged, and the County Court collected the amount in cash.

At an early day, each man worked as much as ten days, when opening up a new road, but four to six days on an old road.

Fish were plentiful. We used to gig on Four Mile for four miles up. I went one time with my brother & cousin and caught 38 from 20 inches or more, mostly Suckers, Carp, and Salmon, white perch, sun perch, black perch were plentiful.

There were few black bass, cat fish, some were caught as large as 60 lbs. or more.

Fish came up Four Mile, maybe to lay eggs.

Almeda Dial could probably give more information about Elisha McComas than anyone else.

Elisha McComas ("Tucker Elisha"), Elijah Adkins and Andy Adkins were teachers during the war, and later. Winchester Adkins was a teacher also.

Peyton Branch took its name from John Peyton who settled there about 1840. I knew him about the time of the Civil War. He had two boys and one girl. One was John Henry. The girl's name was Virginia. She married John Gill. They each lived and died there.

Old man John McComas lived at the mouth of the branch. The John Peyton house stood about a mile from the mouth of the creek.

Sam Miner lives near his location, and could probably point it out.

A man named Lindsay Topping, now dead, lived below Miner for twenty five or thirty years, about a half mile below. Peyton lived in a single log house.

Fall Creek John Adkins was the earliest settler I knew on Fall Creek. He came there about 1835. They claimed he settled there when he married. He had grown children as far back as I can remember.

I remember one of his boys George, now eighty-two years old still lives on the low gap between Long Branch and Madison. I saw him yesterday. His last wife's name was Mary. So Mrs. Coffman told me today.

Charles Fooley was also an old settler on Fall Creek. He settled there about 1800.

He had raised his family there, and Fall Creek John Adkins married his daughter. He had grown children married when I first knew him.

Martin Petty was also an old settler there, but not so old as Tooley. I think he married Tooley's daughter. He came from Kentucky. He died before the War. Tooley also died about 1857.

Nick Messenger also lived on the creek before the War. I think he came from Ohio. I think Tooley was English. Petty was Dutch. He came from Kentucky. Messenger was a mill-wright. Petty drove an ox team, and hauled timber.

Nick Messenger had a good water mill on Fall Creek near the mouth, about 200 yards, and just above the hard road. He had a dam ten or twelve feet high which dammed the water up a half mile. It had a wooden wheel turbine. His mill house was a kind of frame, maybe twenty-five feet square. It was called Messenger's Mill. It ground flour, and had a hand bolt, also ground corn, but did no carding or sawing. Whip saws were probably used as late as forty years ago here in the hills. I have sawed many a board and oarblade to run timber with.

Albert Roe probably built the mill known as the Sammy Hunter Mill. He run it before and during the War. It was located about two and a half miles up Four Mile. A half mile above the John M. Dial house and Bill Lucas just above and across the creek from it. It stood there till about 1870 when it washed out. I think the Messenger Mill also washed out about 1880. The Hunter Mill had a log mill-house, and a three or four foot dam. Its capacity was ten to fifteen bushels a day. The Messenger Mill could grind a hundred bushels a day. People came from every direction.

Messenger also had a mill at the Falls on the east, or right side, of Guyan.

Messenger came near losing his life by drowning. My wife's father, James Adkins, pulled him out swam in - and saved his life. He never again charged him toll. Its capacity was thirty to forty bushels of corn. He had no bolt there for wheat. The

Messenger Mill was more important than the mill at the Falls.

I went during the War to the Dusenberry. Billy Turner had had a mill at the Falls before the War. The Messenger's mill was put in after the Locks and Dams went out.

Probably Turner had had a mill for twenty five years before the War. He found the Union Army and became Captain.

I did not join the Army but had three brothers - James, John and Jasper Burk Harless. My great grandmother was a Burk, a sister to the owners of Burk's garden.

My two uncles - Tom and Bill - owned it. It had about eight hundred acres of land in Jagewell or Wythe Counties. All these mills were undershot mills. There was another one up on Kentucky Fork, owned by John M. Dial. Built in the time of the War. It was small. A dam was made of loose rocks. It only ground when the water was up, and only had a capacity of about six bushels.

The Sammy ~~Hunter~~ mill was probably built ten to fifteen years before the War, possibly longer. These two mills were the only ones I knew of before the War on Four Mile. I knew of none on the opposite side of Guyan nearer than Mud River.

Squire Johnson, son of Frank Johnson had a mill eight to ten miles above Hamlin on Mud River, known as the Scites Mill. John Scites, I think, owned it before Johnson. It was the same as the others, except he had a water bolt, three or four times as large as a hand bolt, which was turned by a crank.

There was a mill on Nine Mile and one on Fourteen, about a mile up, owned by Bill Lucas, before the War.

Mile Creek, Two Mile, etc were named according to their distance above Falls.

Splash Dams were used on Four Mile and Ten Mile. There were three on Four Mile, and one at the mouth of Rock House Fork, put in by Sam Ross about 1888. The second one was at the Forks of Four Mile in 1889 or about the time my wife died in 1890. I put this one in, also a third one in about three miles from the mouth of Four Mile about 1890, on the Abbot Roe Farm, owned then by Anderson Davis. He put a mill there later.

The nearest carding machine was at the Dusenberry Mill. People came from Wayne County to Messinger's Mill. In the summer Messinger's Mill couldn't run because of low water.

Rebel Soldiers from Sheridan.

Col. John Chapman, son of Andy Chapman, who served under "Clawhammer" Vinson (Witcher) James Chapman brother of John Chapman, served under John, his brother; and they lived where Jim Jeffers now lives, about one half mile below Branchland; John, Abraham and Spencer Midkiff, sons of Lewis Midkiff who lived near the present hard road a half mile above the Falls.

They belonged to the Sixteenth Virginia under Elisha Kendrick, a captain from Wayne County between Beech Fork and Wayne Court House. William Prichard and his three sons - Lewis, John and Wesley.

They lived on the Trace Fork of Four Mile. They were brave fighters, and served under Captain Keller, of "Clawhammer" Witcher's regiment. He and some soldiers went over to Proctorville to rob a store owned by the Rays; Captain Keller was shot, but undertook to swim the Ohio river, assisted by Wesley Prichard. Keller reached home on the Ohio below Guyandotte and died of the wound. Dave Smith had his teeth shot out. Seven soldiers were in the group. Basil Eplin, Keller, Prichard, Bud Smith, Ike Miller, Dave Smith, and Milt Stephens who was captured. Stephens, the Smiths, and Ike Miller lived on Beech Fork. The others on Four Mile. Basil Eplin lived at Forks of Four Mile.

James Dial was a son of John M. Dial. His brother William was killed at Gettysburg. shot in the knee and died from the wound.

James Dial came home and raised a large family on Four Mile. He was a farmer and sold goods also. His store was located on Kentucky Fork, and I had my store on Harless Fork one half mile above the Church. Neither building now standing. My store was sold to James Lewis Jeffers and was moved to head of Harless Fork for a dwelling. He lives in it yet. It was of fine poplar logs. He married a niece of mine. I had a small store in about fifteen feet of the latter store till I built the latter. I then used the first for a ware-room.

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I then enlarged the other with a twelve feet addition. The main store at first was 20X24 feet, now 20X36. The rear being a Jenny Lind fashion.

Lumber was sawed by a steam mill on the farm. The Kentucky store was of logs.

Jim Adkins ("Double Tush") was raised on Guyan river, on the right hand going up above Six Mile, about one half mile. He married Malidda Johnson, daughter of John Johnson of Raccoon Creek. Both are dead. They lived on Six Mile when he died. He served under "Clawhammer" John Chapman. Sherd Adkins had following sons in Rebel Army: - Perry Green, Paris, Clayton and James. All belonged to Witcher.

Paris Adkins, in a close fight, saved Jim Dial's life, by killing his opponent it is said. They were in Chapman's Company.

After his brother was killed Jim Dial swapped into the Eighth Virginia in which he had three cousins from Wayne Court House - Beverly, William and John Wilkinson, sons of William Wilkinson, who was a brother to James Dial's mother.

Rafe Blankenship lived on Beech Fork just above the Fork. Jake and Hiram Adkins were sons of Hiram Adkins Sr. who lived a half mile above the Forks of Beech Fork, and served in the Eighth, possibly the Sixteenth (16th) They continued to live, and died on Beech Fork.

"Acabud" Jerry and Jim Jerry lived on Wolf Pen of Beech Fork. Their mother was Emma Jerry. They served with "Clawhammer".

Acabud went to Jagewell County, married and lived there. Jim lived on Beech Fork - may live there yet.

Sherd and Arch Adkins of Beech Fork were soldiers. They were married before they went into the army. Sherd married Parker Lucas' daughter, and Arch married Martha Pinson. They lived on a ridge whose waters run into Beech Fork. Arch died about ten years ago. Sherd died about twenty years ago. Arch was married twice. They belonged to Witcher's Company.

Sam Porter lived on Raccoon, where he died. He was a wagonmaster, and I think served under Witcher.

George Stevens served under Witcher, but was killed on the head of Dry Branch. He and Jim Adkins and Billy Trichard were together, I think, and were fired on by Yankees, who killed Stevens and captured Adkins. Trichard escaped. Dry Branch is about one half mile below Little Hart's Creek. These men were on their way to Jagewell County or coming from there.

William Adkins, son of Preacher Billy, and my uncle, served under Witcher, and were wounded at Brandy Station, Maryland and came home, was captured and died in prison, at Camp Chase, I think.

Thomas Adkins, brother to William, son of Preacher Billy, went to penitentiary at Moundsville, about close of War. He had served in army under Witcher.

Shem Childers of Madison Creek served in the Sixteenth, under Ferguson.

Thomas A. Bias also served under Ferguson. Lewis and Braden Childers of Merritts Creek belonged to the Sixteenth.

Jones Wash and Hanse Wilkinson belonged to the Eighth Virginia. They lived near the Forks of Beech Fork. Jones lived on Miller's Fork awhile. Wash lived near the head of the right hand fork of Beech Fork after the War when he married.

Richard Reese Vaughn served in the Eighth, I think. They came from Giles County. Richard married a McKeand and settled near J. J. McComas home, below the Falls, near the present State road. I think Reese went to Kansas when Charley Bowden and Alonzo Bowden went. The old man Bowden had a store at Guyandotte during the War. He had lived a half mile below the Falls, on the east side, and conducted a store there before the War. I don't think the boys served in either army, but they came back after the War, and Lon married Spencer Midkiff's daughter Puss, and Charley married a Miss McKeand, a daughter of John McKeand.

School Teachers.

Elisha McComas, I think, came from Giles County, and lived across the river where Commodore Hubball now lives, in Col. Branch's house. A log house stood on the site of this house. I went to school to him. He began teaching after my father and mother moved here in 1875.

Mr. McComas was a small man, not very tall, a very good teacher. He was called "Tucker Elisha". He was not certain whether he was the Lieut. Governor of Virginia. I think his mother was a Barrett.

Winchester Adkins taught on Raccoon before and after the War. He lived in the second house above the mouth of Raccoon and the house he taught in was about two miles above the mouth. It had a puncheon floor with a four or five foot fireplace in the end.

James Murray taught on Four Mile in a small log school house, on the John M. Dial farm. They had Sunday School in it also, sometimes. This was before the War. It stood about a half mile up Kentucky Fork, near where Ed Wellman now lives. The school was about a hundred yards below his house.

Callahill Kinnison taught on Camp Branch, before the War, in an old log house. Griff Kinnison who lived and died on the river just above the mouth of Six Mile, was a brother to him. The building stood about a half mile from the mouth of the Branch.

A man named John L. Shepherd taught near the Forks of Beech Fork before the War. After the War he taught about two miles above the building previously mentioned.

Commodore Fraley lives near the first house, the school being about one fourth mile above Fraley's.

The Second house was near Morris Wilkinson's present house - the school house was about one fourth mile to the right of his house.

Old Uncle Elijah Adkins taught before the War in a house near the mouth of Bowen's Creek on his own farm. It was a little log house, sixteen to eight-teen feet square of round logs. All these schools were about alike. He was a son of old Hezekiah Adkins, William (Sleepy Bill) and Hezekiah who was a squire in Wayne County before the War) and Elijah were brothers. There was another brother, who died before I became acquainted with them.

Andrew Adkins taught about three fourths of a mile below the mouth of Bowen's Creek. He and Uncle Elijah were both preachers of the Primitive Baptist Church. He was in the Rebel Army with his oldest son Marion Adkins. They never let him do any fighting, but had him hold horses for them. They liked him and kept him from the front because he was a preacher.

One of the first free schools was built of hewed logs, on the site of Meda Dial's home. Elisha McComas taught the first school in it, and the widow Hardwick taught the next one. McComas died about 1870 and is buried in the Chapman graveyard. Andy, John, James, Andrew, Elisha, Joe, and Sookie Chapman who married a Keenan, Melvina Chapman (a Barrett before she married John Chapman,

Andy's wife was a sister to Elisha McComas. Her name was Julia. The Chapman Graveyard is near James Jeffers' residence. Inez McComas (sister to Elisha and Andrew Chapman) and her husband Tolbert McComas, lived and died about one fourth mile below Jim Jeffers and are buried about two hundred yards below their residence - still standing.

Abe Sansom was a Methodist preacher of Wayne County, near the Forks of Beech Fork. He was a licensed exhorter. He married and had two girls and seven or eight boys. Susan married Sylvester Adkins. Rhoda married a man whom I have forgotten.

The boys were Ed, William, John, Bell, Green, Leander and Abe. Most of them are living. Green and Will and Ed are dead. He was found dead at the foot of a tree sitting up. He was on his way to visit a son on Mud River. The place where he died was at head of Feg Creek which flows into the left hand fork of Mud River, near the mouth of Big Laurel.

Store on Four Mile

Page 12

Aley Belcher lived in the Sherd Adkins house, which I believe was built long before this. I am nearly 79 years old, I was born March 16th 1848 on Four Mile at the old place about three fourths mile above Harless Fork Church, which I built mostly. I furnished all the timber, and did most of the work. Charley McCoy did most of the carpenter work. The ceiling over-head was put on at once. It was built in 1876, for the Primitive Baptists. The United Baptists also helped build it, and I deeded it for the use of both.

Sherd Adkins came from Wayne County, about 1857 or 1858, and swapped farms with Aley Belcher. The Adkins farm was on Beech Fork. He then became owner of all the land on which Branchland now stands. Branchland was about the limit of navigation of Guyandotte River, except by push boats, canoes, etc.

John Jack lived where Albert Chapman now lives, in a one-room log house - a small one at that. He soon left.

Thomas Dial, an old settler, lived two miles up the creek, at mouth of Harless Creek on left going up. His was a log house also. He was a farmer, but left and went West - to Kansas, I think. He soon died, possibly before he got there. He was about 50 years old. His brother lived on Main Four Mile, about a half mile above him. He also lived in a log house - but it was a two-story single pe built by my father, who was a carpenter. It is now known as the John W. Dial house. He was son of John M. Dial who was brother of Thos. Dial.

Calvin Lucas lived and died on Harless Fork, but I think he came from Giles County, Va.

Alexander Watson lived about a mile above the Baptist (United) Church on Red River Fork. He was a farmer.

Wm. P. Adkins lived at the Forks of Four Mile. He has been dead only three or four years, and was about six years older than I.

Calvin Lucas lived in a cabin in the "gap" in the head of Harless Fork,

Jiner Diehl lived about a mile from the Thomas Dial farm on Holley Bush Fork, which flows into Four Mile, about twenty-five steps above the mouth of Harless Fork.

Jim Davis lived on the main right hand fork of Four Mile, on the Sulphur Spring Fork.

Parker Lucas lived on the Branchland side of Guyandotte river, about a mile down, and a short distance above Sheridan. It was a large two story single pen log house. I think it is still standing. He kept it till about ten years after the War. He got in debt for a lot of land, and I think lost it under a deed of trust. Avis Holley got it, and I think, sold it to Lifius Spurlock.

Irvin Lusher lived where Hubball Station now is, before the War. I worked for him and his sons Lewis and John, in the timber business. The boys followed it more than he. I believe he also lost his land under a deed of trust, I think to Robert Holderby, who lived below Barboursville, about three miles. I think it is now called the Gates farm.

The first log house below here on the other side of Guyan, is still standing and Jim Jeffreys lives in it. This was occupied before the War by Capt. John Chapman, who served under Clawhammer Witcher in the Rebel army. He and his brother Jim were each wounded at Gettysburg. They both died on that farm. I think my father helped to build this house, for Andy Chapman, father of John and Jim. Andy Chapman had three daughters also. Julia married John Vaughn; Cynthia married Lewis Lusher; and Elizabeth married Isaac McComas Junior, son of Isaac McComas ("Dry Hoof").

Jeff McComas opposite the mouth of Six Mile, on the west side of Guyan. He told many "big" stories. Old Isaac McComas died about 1866. He had three sons who went to Ohio to escape going into the army. They were Jack (Andrew J.) Jeff and Isaac. Bal McComas died about the time of the beginning of the War.

John McComas lived at the mouth of Peyton Branch in a house still standing.

John Vaughn lived in it when I was a boy, and I worked for him.

John McComas was an old man - I think he was the son of William McComas.

A house stood about where Greeley now lives, but I don't remember who lived in it.

Lewis Midkiff lived in the next log house, still standing.

Solomon Midkiff's widow did live - and may live there yet.

Jim McComas lived in the double log house above Bradyville.

I do not remember any wolves or bears on Four Mile in my day, but I have heard my ~~father say~~ mother say The wolves used to howl around her house when they first came to Guyan river. They settled at mouth of Hart's Creek, or rather about a mile below the mouth of Hart's Creek on this side of the river.

There is where the wolves bothered her.

Her chimney was built only part way up, and sometimes she was left alone, then she carried in wood in evening and kept a fire all night. A bear was on Four Mile during the War, and killed a hog of William Stafford's, who lived on Kentucky Fork near the head.

Mrs. Stafford reported to my brother that a bear had killed a hog. He went and found a large bear, but didn't have a gun loaded.

I have seen several deer on Four Mile. My father killed one near his house, before the War. Hounds ran a deer into the river and Sherd Adkins' daughter caught it during War.

There were many deer in the country till after the War, but they took the Black Tongue about 1870 and most of them died. They came to water before dying. They were on Big Ugly especially, because it was settled late.

My Uncle George Douglas married the daughter of Thomas Dial, and settled on Kentucky Fork, a mile from the head.

William Trichard and Sanders Cremeans lived on Trace Fork. Old Preacher Billy Adkins was, probably, the first settler on the creek.

He lived there till some time after the Civil War. Anderson Adkins and Elliot Adkins married Preacher Adkins's daughters, and William Albright married another.

No one lived on Pound Fork till after the War, when Basil Eplin settled there, and died about three years ago.

John J. Adkins was also an old settler, and lived on Rock House Fork, before and after the War. He died ten or fifteen years ago.

Clayton Ellet lived on Mc Clarity Fork, about where the Mc Clarity school now is, about two miles from the mouth of the creek.

Ed Parsons lived just above the mouth of Mc Clarity on main Four Mile before the War. He was an old settler.

Fielden Worick lived on the head of Mc Clarity Fork.

George Baker lived on the hill, between Four Mile and Ten Mile. He also was an old settler.

Spence Midkiff lived in an old log house on the first farm below the Falls, on the other side of the river. He was a farmer and made considerable money, but his sons Alex, Waldon, Albert and Mink (Minkie) and daughters Jane (Mrs. John Bills) Anna? (Mrs. Spence Midkiff) Suzie (Puss) Mrs. Lon Bowden) and Mary Jane (Mrs. Wm. Thompson) ran through with it. Thompson was from Ohio.

J. J. McComas lived in the Gap toward Madison Creek from West Hamlin on the gap between Madison and Guyan, on ridge below and beyond the head of Long Branch.

Isaac McComas lived on the left hand side of the hard road opposite Six Mile Creek, which is just above Hubball. The house is not standing. I think it burned down. He lived till about 1865. I have seen him often, I think he was buried near his house in an old cemetery still used. Located on the left-hand side of the hard road.

I think David McComas lived on this side of the river from West Hamlin and above where J. J. McComas lived.

Ballard Payne of Midkiff told me today he had a record of Polly McComas's age. He said she is 102 years old—that he has the old Bible, and that she was his mother's sister.

I have seen catamounts in these woods. They were rather large, about nine feet long from tip to tip. They were here thirty to thirty five years ago.

Guy Parsons is said to be the man who killed an in October of this year, upon Four Mile.

The Sherd Adkins house was built by "Giles" John Adkins, long before the Civil War, — my mother said about 1830. "Giles" Adkins was so named because he came from Giles County, Virginia.

I think these Adkinses were of Dutch nationality. My paternal Grandmother Harless was half Dutch. My father was born in Giles County and he went back there just before the Civil War when I was about four years old, on a visit

Isaac Roy came from Giles county. I think he was Irish.

Ailey Belcher came from Germany I think I have heard him and his sons talk, and they used a broken brogue. I thought German.

The Dialo were Dutch.

The Lucases I knew, came from Giles county.

Parker Lucas settled at Sheridan Station

Vinson Lucas, his brother, settled on Bowen's Creek.

Calvin Lucas, settled on Harless Fork, formerly called Locust Rough Fork. The upper part is yet called Locust.

Ailey Belcher came from overseas, there is no doubt. His grandson, living here, says his mother said so.

Lucases were French, I think.

George Douglass came from Giles county and was of Dutch ancestry.

John, Reece and Richard Vaughn, brothers all came from Giles county, and were of Dutch descent I think.

Chris Collins was of Dutch and Negro descent. He settled on Mud River, just below Hamlin. He showed Negro blood plainly.

Avis, Dave, Labe, and Warren Holley, each showed Negro descent, and lived at Hamlin at least since before the Civil War.

William Frichard came here from Kentucky. Laze Frichard of Branchfield, a grandson, can probably give his nationality.

Rev. Billy Adkins came from Giles. He was a Primitive Baptist, and later became a Missionary Baptist.

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I furnished all the timber, and did most of the work. Charley McCoy did most of the carpenter work. The ceiling overhead was put on at once. It was built in 1876, for the Primitive Baptists, also I helped build it, and I deeded it for use by both.

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John Jack lived where Albert Chapman now lives, in a one-room log house, and a very small one at that. He soon left.

Thomas Dial, an old settler, lived two miles up the main Creek, at mouth of Harless Fork on left side, going up.

His, also was a log house. He was a farmer, but left and went West, - to Kansas, I think. He soon died - possibly before he got there. He was about fifty years old. His brother lived on Main Four Mile, about one half mile above him. The brother lived in a log house also, but it was a two-story single pen type, built by my father, who was a carpenter and it is known now as the John W. Dial house. He was a son of John M. Dial, who was brother to Thomas Dial.

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Mr. Lucas' house was a large two story single log-pen house. I think it is still standing. He kept it till about ten years after the War. He got in debt for a lot of land, and, I think lost it under a deed of trust. Avis Holley got it, and I think sold it to Lifius Spurlock.

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I think my father helped to build this house for Andy Chapman, father of John³ & Jim. Andy Chapman had these two boys and three daughters - Julia, Cynthia and Elizabeth.

76
Julia married John Vaughn,
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Elizabeth married Isaac McComas Jr.,
son of Isaac McComas ("Dry Hoof").

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J. J. McComas lived in the Gap toward Madison Creek from West Hamlin. On the Gap between Madison and Guyan on the ridge below, and beyond the head of Long Branch.

Isaac McComas lived on the left hand side of the hard road opposite Six Mile Creek, which is just above Hubball. The house is not standing. I think it burned down. He lived till about 1868. I have seen him often. I think he was buried near his house, in an old cemetery still used, located on the left hand side of the hard road, going up.

I think David McComas lived on this side of the river from West Hamlin and above where J. J. McComas lived.

Ballard Payne told me today that he had a record of Polly McComas's age and that she is one hundred and two years old. He has the Bible, and she is his mother's sister.

I have seen catamounts in these woods. They were rather large, about nine feet long from tip to tip. They were here about thirty to thirty five years ago.

Guy Parsons is said to be the man who killed the eagle in Oct. of this year, on Four Mile.

The Sherd Adkins house was built by "Giles" John Adkins long before the War. My mother said about 1830. "Giles" Adkins was so named because he came from Giles County, Virginia.

I think these Adkinsons were Dutch. The Harlesses are Dutch. My paternal grandmother Harless was half Dutch. My father was born in Giles County, and he went back there just before the Civil War when I was about four years old.

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Isaac Roy came from Giles County also. I think he was Irish.

Ailey Belcher, came from Germany, I think. The Dials were Dutch.

The Lucases I knew, came from Giles County. Parker Lucas, who settled at Sheridan Station, Vinson Lucas, his brother, settled on Bowers Creek, Calvin Lucas settled on Harless Fork, formerly called Locust Rough Fork, and the upper part is yet called Locust. Lucases were French.

There is no doubt but that Ailey Belcher came from overseas. His grandson living here says he heard his mother say so.

George Douglass came from Giles County and was Dutch.

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The Holleys — Avis, Dave, Toke and Warren lived at Hamlin since before the Civil War.

William Trichard came here from Kentucky. Lafe Trichard of Branchfield, a grandson, can probably give you his nationality.

Rev. Billy Adkins came from Giles County. He was a Primitive Baptist, and later a Missionary Baptist.

I knew "Blind" Akers, the preacher. He preached around here for twenty-five years. He was a Campbellite. He lived till about ten years ago. Some of his relatives live on Coal River yet. The Campbellite Church was at the Falls. It was a log building, but not so good as the Harless Fork Church.

Jim Chafin came here about 1870. He was a Campbellite and came from Logan, and he preached for about ten years. He ran for Assessor on the Democrat ticket and was elected. Lincoln County was mostly Democratic in those days.

(Old Uncle Billy Adkins was one of earliest preachers I remember. He was a Primitive Baptist. They practiced foot-washing. The Four Mile Church still has several members, and they practice foot-washing.

The United Baptists also practice it. Billy Adkins' nearest relatives are Dave, Napoleon and Henry, sons of Elliot Adkins. He died about twenty years ago, and lived on Trace Fork of Four Mile.

Dave is foolish, and got it from his mother. She was a Meadows.

John Adkins was a grandson of Preacher Billy and lives just below Hubball, on the hard road. Fall Creek John was a son of Rev. Billy and lived on Fall Creek and died about thirty years ago.

George Adkins, now eighty two years old, is a son of Fall Creek John. He lives at head of Long Branch. He was born and raised on Fall Creek. He married Nancy Ross, first, a daughter of Bobby Ross. His second wife was Mary Midkiff, daughter of Lewis Midkiff. His last wife was a Boothe - a widow.

Andrew Adkins was about the best preacher I thought I ever knew. He preached on Beech Fork, on Raccoon and Harless Fork. He has five sons and one daughter living. She is Tillman Childers' widow. Cynthia.

Jackson Adkins lives close to Bowen Church.

Butler and Boney Adkins live close to Bowen.

An able preacher I knew was Samuel Smith father of Allen Smith of Griffiths ville. He was a Primitive Baptist. Allen Smith preaches once a month at Harless Fork Church. He was tall, dark complected, black haired man, and was a good revivalist.

I knew Burwell and Stephen Spurlock and both were good preachers. Burwell preached on Beech Fork. He lived near Falls of Twelve Pole.

Stephen was a good man, but not so able a preacher as Burwell. I have heard him, Uncle Andy and Billy Adkins preach together. He was a Southern Methodist. Both Spurlocks were Democrats. Burwell's three sons were in the Rebel army, under Col. Jameson Ferguson and possibly General Jenkins. They belonged to the Eighth Virginia Regiment from Wayne, Lincoln and Logan Counties, and some from the upper edge of Cabell Co. I believe Hersten Spurlock, one of Burwell's sons, may be living.

Elijah Adkins preached about fifty years ago on Beech Fork. He was a Primitive Baptist. He was a fairly able preacher. He died about that time, and had probably been preaching for about thirty five years.

Rush and Lee Adkins, also Hezekiah are still living near Jim Morrison's store on Beech Fork. Rush married Sherd Adkins' daughter. She's dead. He had about eight daughters.

Kelley Elkins preached about sixty years ago. He used to preach at our house. He was a good man, but not an able preacher. He was Methodist and preached for about fifty years. He was preaching when I was a child. He went west and has no relatives here so far as I know.

William Ball was an able preacher before the War. He preached on Heath's Creek four or five years ago. He was ten or more years older than I. He was a Missionary Baptist

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He was pastor of Beech Fork Church. He sometimes preached at our house, and he preached the funeral of father who died in 1860 and of my mother who died in 1878.

Ed Osburn also was an able preacher in the Missionary Baptist Church. He too preached at our house, and on Twelve Pole at various places. I know nothing of any of his relatives, but he may have some on Twelve Pole.

Old Johnny Lucas, a Primitive Baptist probably lived up on Fourteen of Guyan.

He lived to be over one hundred years old. I heard him preach when I was a boy. He was a fairly able speaker. He expected to die on his one hundredth birthday, but lived longer. I know of no relatives, unless possibly Jeff Lucas, who lives on Fourteen, may be a son. He died about 1860.

Andy Elkins preached at Fall Creek, and on Fourteen, Little Hart, Cove Gap on the Cove Creek which flows into Twelve Pole. He was a good man, but not an able preacher. His son, Marvel Elkins, is an able preacher. He lives in Huntington, and is now pastor of Beech Fork, Cove Gap, and an Ohio Church.

John Brinnegar, a Primitive Baptist father of Rev. L. B. Brinnegar of Guyandotte was an old friend.

He came here from McDowell County about twenty five years ago. He was an able preacher and a Dutchman. He moved back to McDowell about forty-five years ago and died.

Morris Gilkerson was a Methodist preacher who lived on Beech Fork. He was my wife's uncle. Evaline Adkins daughter of Jones Adkins, who lived at the forks of Beech Fork. Jones Adkins' father lived to be ~~108~~, one hundred and eight years old. His name was Charles Adkins. He came from Giles County, and settled at or near the forks of Beech Fork, possibly twenty-five years before the Civil War.

Jones Adkins and several brothers, Charles, Girard, Pete were in the Eighth Virginia Regiment and I think it belonged to the Sixteenth — Clawhammer's Battallion.

Elisha Bias lived below West Hamlin, at the mouth of Coleman. He was a Southern Methodist. I think he has a son in West Hamlin. He died about three years ago, and he lived near the mouth of Coleman. Elisha was a son of Roland Bias, a Southern Methodist preacher, and preached at Mill's Chapel, at Bowen's Chapel, at Hamlin, and at West Hamlin.

John Burnside was an able preacher of the Primitive Baptist, and served as clerk of the Association. Allen Smith of Griffithsville, could probably direct you to the record. He preaches on the third Saturdays and Sundays of each month.

His son, Col. Burnside, probably is dead. He also had daughters. He lived on Turkey Creek, about three miles from Griffithsville. They belonged to the Pocotalico Association while Smith belongs to the Mud River Association. I mean Sam Smith. Allen belongs to Mud River.

John D. Johnson of Wayne Court House was Circuit Rider on the Bowen Chapel Circuit when I was about grown. He was Southern Methodist. He was Chaplain in the Rebel Army of the Eighth Virginia, or possibly the Sixteenth.

The old churches yet standing are Harless Fork, built about fifty years ago. I owned the land and deeded it to the Primitive Baptists, but others except the Mormons and Catholics, are permitted to use it, by terms of the deed.

Some Methodists helped also. It cost about \$500.00 to build, not counting land and timber. It was built about 1877-8.

It took about eighteen months to finish it. Of course we only worked occasionally on it. I furnished the team and all but five of the logs. I furnished shingles, nail stove (except \$1.25) and paid some of the

I knew "Blind" Akers, the Preacher. He preached around here for twenty five years. He was a Campbellite or Christian Baptist. He lived till about ten years ago. Some of his relatives live on Coal River yet. The Campbellite Church was at the Falls. It was a log building, but not so good as the Harless Fork Church.

Jim Chafin came here about 1870. He was a Campbellite, and came from Logan. He preached for about ten years, and ran for assessor on the Democrat ticket, and was elected. Lincoln County was nearly all Democratic in those days.

Uncle Billy Adkins was one of the earliest preachers I remember. He was a primitive Baptist. They practiced foot-washing. Four Mile Church still has several members, and they practice foot-washing.

The United Baptists also practice it.

Billy Adkins' nearest relatives are Dave, Napoleon, and Henry sons of Elliot Adkins, who died about twenty years ago, and lived on Trace Fork of Four Mile. Dave is foolish but the other boys are slightly better. They got this from their mother, who was a Meadows.

John Adkins was a grandson of Preacher Billy, and lives just below Hubball, on hard road. "Fall Creek" John was a son of Rev. Billy and lived on Fall Creek, but died about thirty years ago.

George Adkins, now eighty-two years old is a son of Fall Creek John yet lives at the head of Long Branch. He was born and raised on Fall Creek. He married Nancy Ross first, a daughter of Bobby Ross.

His second wife was Mary Midkiff, daughter of Lewis Midkiff. He married a Boothe the last time - a widow.

Andrew Adkins, I think, was about the best preacher I ever knew. He preached on Beech Fork, Raccoon and Harless Fork. He has five or six sons and one daughter. She is Tillman Childers's widow, Cynthia.

Jackson Adkins lives close to Bowen Church. Butler Adkins and Boney Adkins live at Bowen.

Samuel Smith was the ablest preacher I knew. He was father of Allan Smith of Griffiths-ville in Lincoln County. He was primitive Baptist.

Allan Smith preaches once a month at Harless Fork church. He was a tall, dark, black haired man of about a hundred and fifty pounds, and is a good revivalist.

Burwell and Stephen Spurlock I knew. They were good preachers. Burwell preached on Beech Fork, and lived near the Falls of Twelve Pole.

Stephen Spurlock was a good man, but not so able a preacher as Burwell.

I have heard him, Uncle Andy and Billy Adkins preach together. He was a Southern Methodist. Both Spurlocks were Democrats.

Burwell Spurlock's three sons were in the Rebel Army, under Col. Jameson Ferguson, and possibly General Jenkins. They belonged to the Eighth Virginia Regiment from Wayne, Lincoln, Logan and some from the upper edge of Cabell.

I believe Hersten Spurlock, one of Burwell's sons, may yet be living.

Elijah Adkins preached about fifty years ago, on Beech Fork. He was a Primitive Baptist and a fairly able preacher. He died about that time, and had preached for about thirty five years.

Rush and Lee Adkins, also Hezekiah Adkins, are still living near Jim Morrison's store on Beech Fork.

Rush married Sherd Adkins' girl, but she is dead. He had about eight daughters.

Kelly Elkins also preached about sixty years ago. He used to preach at our house. He was a good man, but not a very able preacher. He was a Methodist, and preached about fifty years. He was preaching when I was a child. He went west. He has no living relatives here that I know of.

William Ball, an able preacher, began preaching before the war. He preached on Heath's Creek four or five years ago. He was ten to twenty years older than I, and a Missionary Baptist. He was pastor of the Beech Fork Church, and sometimes preached at our house. He preached the funeral of my father, who died in 1860, and of my mother who died in 1878.

Ed Osburn, was an able Missionary ^{Baptist} preacher, and he preached at our house, and on Twelve Pole at various places. I know nothing of his relatives, but he may have some on Twelve Pole.

Old Johnny Lucas, a Primitive Baptist probably lived up on Fourteen of Guyan.

He lived to be over one hundred years old. I have heard him preach when I was a boy. He was a fairly able preacher. He expected to die on his one hundredth birth day, but failed to do so. I know of no relatives, unless possibly Jeff Lucas, who lives up on Fourteen, may be a son. He died about 1860.

Andy Elkins preached at Fall Creek and on Fourteen, Little Hart and Cove Gap on the waters of Cove Creek which flows into Twelve Pole and heads against Fourteen. He was a good man but not an able preacher.

Marvel Elkins is an able preacher, but I would risk his father's chance. He lives in Huntington. He is now pastor of Beech Fork Cove Gap, and an Ohio Church. Possibly others.

Jake Brinegar a Primitive Baptist, father of Rev. L. D. Brinegar of Guyandotte, was an old preacher fifty years ago. He came here from McDowell County about twenty-five years ago. He was an able preacher and a Dutchman. He moved back to McDowell about twenty-five years ago and died.

Morris Gilkerson was a Methodist preacher and lived on Beech Fork. He was an uncle to my wife Evaline Adkins, daughter of Jones Adkins who lived at the forks of Beech Fork. Jones Adkins father lived to be one hundred and eight years old. His name was Charley Adkins.

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Page 4

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The old Churches yet standing are Harless Fork Church, built about fifty years ago. I owned the land and deeded it to the Primitive Baptists. The United Baptists, and others except Mormons and Catholics, are permitted to preach by terms of the deed.

Some Methodists also, helped on it. It cost about \$500⁰⁰ to build it, besides land and timber. It was built about 1877 or 1878. It took about eighteen months to finish it. Of course we didn't work on it constantly—only occasionally. I furnished the team to haul all but five of the logs. I also furnished shingles, nails, stove, (except \$125-) and paid part of carpenters.

Some signed \$5⁰⁰, and paid it in work, some agreed to pay, but never did.

Si Dickey and brothers sawed the lumber on Raccoon.

Enoch Adkins, my uncle by marriage, and possibly Jones and Vinson Adkins who owned part of the land, gave us the timber and I hauled it, had it sawed, took it to the church and worked it.

Charley McCoy, Mormon Eaves, and Jasper Harless helped on the carpenter work. They built the seats—or rather Mormon Eaves, Dan Watson and I built them. We collected some money from candidates. My brother begged some this way. His name was Jasper
R. H. ... M. ...

58

Joe Chilton paid about \$2 $\frac{1}{2}$. He lived at Hamlin. The first members were: John Dial Perry Green Adkins; My wife Amagetta; John Eplin Russell Albright; and wife Ellen; William P. Adkins and wife Beckie; Mariah Beckings (dead) I and others possibly. The church book can be found. There were probably fifteen to twenty members, then.

Basil Eplin and wife Eliza belonged.

Andrew Adkins was the first preacher, and he preached regularly once a month, for from fifteen to twenty years. Lamech Adkins is probably clerk now; His father William T. Adkins, better known as "Bum" Adkins used to be clerk. I was clerk for about fifteen years.

Ellen Albright, Susan Adkins and I are all of the first congregation yet living to my knowledge.

Ellen Albright lives at the mouth of Pound Fork about three miles up Four Mile. She is a sister to Lamech Adkins. He has been a member thirty to thirty five years.

Susan Adkins lives opposite Midkiff, on Stout Creek, probably with one of her sons. She was raised on Beech Fork, a daughter of old Abe Sanson, a Northern Methodist preacher. He was never on a circuit.

Lyfus Spurlock lived in an old log house, still standing at Sheridan station about two hundred yards this side and to the right, going down the railroad. He was an able preacher, a Northern Methodist.

Lyfius Spurlock lived in an old log house, still standing at Sheridan station about two hundred yards this side and to the right going down the railroad. He was an able preacher, a Northern Methodist, but he used to preach with Andy Adkins, Billy Adkins, and Stephen Spurlock Sr. and he was not as able as Burwell. Lyfius Spurlock had a son Stephen — a preacher, but with less intelligence.

Rebecca Adkins lived to a ripe old age — about ninety-five. She had a good memory, and knew everybody's age. She was mother of Dave (a foolish man) etc. All three are foolish, and not allowed to vote.

Roads were worked by the people who lived on the roads, until about twenty five years ago. Men from twenty one to fifty had to.

An overseer was paid to "warn" the hands, but then got no wages. If hands didn't do satisfactory work, they were discharged, and the County Court collected the cash.

At an earlier day, each man worked as much as ten days, when opening up new roads, and four to six days on old roads.

Fish were plentiful. We used to "gig" on Four Mile for four miles up. I went one time with my brother, and a cousin, and caught thirty eight, from twenty inches or more, mostly suckers, carp and salmon.

White perch, sun perch, and black perch were plentiful.

There were a few black bass and many cat fish. Some of which were caught as large as sixty pounds, or more. Fish came up Four Mile in May, to shoal and lay eggs.

Almeda Dial could probably give more information about Elisha McComas than anyone. Elisha McComas ("Tucker Elisha"), Elijah Adkins and Andy Adkins were teachers during the War, and later. Winchester Adkins also.

Peyton Branch took its name from John Peyton who settled there about 1840. I knew him, about the time of the War. He had two boys and one girl. One boy was John Henry, the girl was Virginia. She married John Hill. They both lived and died there.

Old man John McComas lived at mouth of the Branch. The John Peyton house stood about a mile from the mouth of the creek.

Sam Minor lives near his location, and could probably point it out.

Lindsey Topping, now dead, lived below Minor for twenty five or thirty years and about one half mile below. Peyton lived in single log house.

John Adkins was the earliest settler I knew on Fall Creek. He came there about 1835. They said he came there when he married, and he had grown children as far back as I can remember.

One of his boys, George Adkins, now eighty-two still lives in the low gap between Long Branch and Madison. I saw him yesterday. His last wife's name was Mary, so Mrs. Coffman told me today. Charles Tooley was also an old settler on Fall Creek. He must have settled there about 1800. He raised his family there, and Fall Creek John Adkins married his daughter. He had grown children married when I first knew him.

Martin Pettry was also an old settler, but not so old as Tooley. I think he married Tooley's daughter. He came from Ky. and he died before the War. Tooley died about 1857.

Nick Messenger also lived on the Creek before the War. I think he came from Ohio.

I think Tooley was English. Pettry was Dutch, but came from Ky. He hauled timber with oxen.

Messenger was a mill wright, and had a good water mill on Fall Creek, near the mouth and just above the hard road. He had a dam ten or twelve feet high, which dammed the water up a half mile. It had a wooden wheel turbine. His mill-house was frame, probably twenty-five feet square, called the Messenger Mill.

It had a hand bolt and ground flour. A frame covered with Swiss cloth, and it was twelve feet long, and about two feet in diameter turned by hand. Ground corn also. Did no carding or sawing. Whipsaws were probably used as late as forty years ago. I have sawed many a board and oarblade to run timber with here in these hills.

Albert Roe probably built the mill known as the Sammy Hunter Mill. He run it before and during the War. It was located about two and a half miles up Four Mile — a half mile above the John M. Dial house, and Bill Lucas just above and across the creek from it.

It stood there till about 1870 when it was washed out. I think the Messenger Mill also washed out, about 1880. The Hunter Mill had a log mill house and a three or four foot dam. Its capacity was ten to fifteen bushels a day.

The Messenger Mill ground a hundred bu. a day. People came to it from every direction. Messenger also had a mill at the Falls, on the east or right side of the Guyandotte R. Messenger came near losing his life by drowning.

My wife's father, Jones Adkins, pulled him out — swam to him and pulled him out. He never again charged him toll. His mill's capacity was thirty to forty bushels of corn. He had no bolt at that mill for wheat. This mill was more important than the mill at the Falls. I went to Dusenberry's during the War.

Billy Turner had had a mill at the Falls before the War. The Messenger Mill was put in after the locks and dam went out. The Turner Mill had probably been there twenty or twenty five years before the War. He joined the Union Army and became a Captain.

I did not join the army but had three brothers James, John and Jasper Burk Harless. My great grandmother Burk a sister to the owners of Burk's Garden. My two uncles Tom and Bill owned it. It had about eight hundred acres of land in Jagewell or Wythe County. All these mills were undershot mills. There was another one up on Kentucky Fork, owned by John M. Dial, built during the War. It was small. A dam was made of loose rocks. It only ground when water was up, and had capacity of only about a bushel.

The Sammy Hunter Mill was probably built ten to fifteen years before the Civil War. These mills were the only ones I knew of before the War on Four Mile. I knew of no mills on the opposite side of the Guyan nearer than Mud River.

Squire Johnson, son of Frank Johnson, had a mill eight or ten miles above Hamlin on Mud River, known as the Scites Mill. John Scites, I think, owned it before Johnson. It was the same as the others, except he had a water bolt, three or four times as large as a hand bolt, that was turned by a crank. There was a mill on Nine Mile, and one on Fourteen about a mile up, owned by Bill Lucas before the War.

Mile Creek, Two Mile, etc were named according to their distance above the Falls.

Splash dams were used on Four Mile and Ten Mile. There were three on Four Mile and one at the mouth of Rock House Fork, put in by Sam Ross about 1888. The second one was at the Forks of Four Mile in about 1889 or 90. My wife died in 1890. I put this one in, also a third one about three miles from the mouth of Four Mile put in in 1890 on the Albert Roe farm, owned then by Anderson Davis. He put a mill there later.

The nearest carding machine was at the Dusenberry Mill.

People came from Wayne County to Messinger's Mill. In the summer his mill on Fall Creek couldn't run on account of low water.

Rebel Soldiers from Sheridan.

Col. John Chapman, son of Andy Chapman served under "Clawhammer" Vinson Witcher. James Chapman brother of John Chapman, served under John Chapman his brother. They lived where Jim Jeffers now lives, about a half mile below Branchland.

Abraham, John and Spencer Midkiff, sons of Lewis Midkiff, who lived near the present hard road, a half mile above the Falls. They belonged to the Sixteenth Virginia Regiment, under Elisha Kendrick, a Captain of Wayne County, between Beech Fork and Wayne Court House.

William Prichard and his three sons Lewis, John and Wesley. They lived on Trace Fork of Four Mile. They were brave fighters and served under Capt. Keller of Clawhammer Witcher's Regiment.

He and some soldiers went over to Proctorsville to rob a store owned by The Bayes. Capt. Keller was shot, but undertook to swim the Ohio River, assisted by Wesley Trichard, Keller reached home on the Ohio, below Guyandotte, and died of the wound.

Dave Smith had his teeth shot out. Seven soldiers were in the group, Basil Epling, Keller, Trichard, "Bud" Smith, Ike Miller, Dave Smith, and Milt Stephens who was captured.

Milt Stevens, Bud and Dave Smith and Ike Miller lived on Beech Fork. The others on Four Mile. Basil Eplin lived at the Forks of Four Mile.

James Dial was a son of John M. Dial. His brother William was killed at Gettysburg. Died from a wound in the knee. James Dial came home and raised a large family on Four Mile. He farmed and sold goods. His store was located on Kentucky Fork, and I had my store on Harless Fork, one half mile above the church. His store was about one half mile from the mouth of Kentucky. Neither building standing now. My store was purchased by James Lewis Jeffers and moved to head of Harless Fork for a dwelling. He lives in it yet. It was of fine poplar logs. He married a niece of mine. I had a small store in about fifteen feet of latter store, until I built the latter, then I used the first for a ware room, and enlarged the other by a twelve ft. addition. The main store at first was 20x24, now it was 20x36. The rear being a jenny Lind fashion of lumber saved by a steam mill on the farm. The Kentucky store was of logs also.

Jim Adkins ("Double Tush") was raised on the Guyan River, on the right hand going up above Six Mile, about one half mile. He married Malidda Johnson, daughter of John Johnson, of Raccoon Creek. Both are dead. They lived on Six Mile. He served under John Chapman's Company. Sherd Adkins had following sons in Army (The Rebel Army), Perry Green, Paris, Clayton and James Adkins. All belonged to Witcher's Army.

Paris Adkins in a close fight, saved Jim Dial's life, by killing his opponent it is said. They were in Chapman's Company.

After his brother was killed Jim Dial swapped into the Eighth Virginia in which he had three cousins from Wayne C.H. Beverley, William and John Wilkinson, sons of William Wilkinson, who was a brother to James Dial's mother.

Rafe Blankenship lived on Beech Fork just above the Fork.

Jake and Hiram Adkins were sons of Hiram Adkins Sr. who lived a half mile above the Forks of Beech Fork, and served in the Eighth, possibly the Sixteenth. They continued to live on, and died on Beech Fork.

"Acabud" Jerry and Jim Jerry lived on Wolf Pen of Beech Fork. They served with "Clawhammer". Acabud went to Tazewell County and married and lived there. Jim used to live on Beech Fork, and he may be living yet.

Sherd and Arch Adkins of Beech Fork were soldiers. They were married. Sherd married Parker Lucas' daughter and Arch married Martha Pinson. They lived on a ridge running into Beech Fork. Arch died about ten years ago. Sherd died twenty years ago.

Arch was married twice. They belonged to Witcher's Company, and each were married before joining army.

Sam Porter lived on Raccoon, where he died. He was a wagonmaster, and I think, he served under Witcher.

George Stevens served under Witcher, but was killed on the head of Dry Branch. He and Jim Adkins and Billy Prichard were together I think, and were fired on by Yankees, who killed Stevens and captured Adkins. Prichard escaped. Dry Branch is about a half mile below Little Hart's Creek. These men were on their way to Jagwell County, or coming from there.

William Adkins, son of Preacher Billy Adkins and my Uncle, served under Witcher, was wounded at Brandy Station, Maryland, came home, was captured and died in prison, at Camp Chase, I think.

Thomas Adkins, brother to William, son of Preacher Billy went to the penitentiary at Moundsville, about the close of the War. He had served in the Army under Witcher.

Shem Childers of Madison Creek served in the Sixteenth under Ferguson.

Thomas A. Bias also served under Ferguson.

Lewis and Braden Childers belonged to the Sixteenth. They lived on Merritt's Creek.

Jones, Wash and Hanse Wilkinson belonged to the Eighth Virginia. They lived near the Fork of Beech Fork. Jones lived on Miller's Fork a while. Wash lived near the head of the right hand fork of Beech Fork, after the War when he married.

Richard and Reese Vaughn served in the Eighth I think. They came from Giles County. Richard married a McKaind and settled near J. J. McComas below the Falls near present State road. I think Reese went to Kansas when Charley and Alongo Bowden went there. The old man Bowden had a store at Guyandotte during the War. He had lived a half mile below the Falls, on the east side, and conducted a store there before the War. I don't think the boys served in either army, but they came back after the War and Lon married Spencer Midkiff's daughter "Puss". Charley married a Miss McKaind, daughter of John McKaind.

School Teachers.

Elisha McComas, I think came from Giles County, and lived across the river where Commodore Hubball now lives in Col. Branch house. A log house stood on the site of this house. I went to school to him. He began teaching after my father and mother moved here. 1825. He was a small man - not very tall - and a very good teacher. He was called "Uncle Elisha". He was not certain whether he was the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. I think his mother was a Barrett.

Winchester Adkins taught on Raccoon, before and after the War. He lived in second above mouth of Raccoon. The house he taught in was about two miles above the mouth. It had a puncheon floor, and a small fireplace in the end.

James Murray taught on Four Mile, in a small log school house on the John M. Dial farm. They had Sunday school in it sometimes. This was before the War. It stood about a half mile up Kentucky Fork, near where Ed Wellman now lives. The school was about a hundred yards below this house.

Callahill Kinnison taught on Camp Branch before the War in an old log house.

Griff Kinnison who lived and died on the River, just above the mouth of Six Mile, was a brother to him. The house stood about a half mile from the mouth of the Branch.

John L. Shepherd taught near the Forks of Beech Fork before the War. After the War he taught about two miles above this.

Commodore Fraley lives near the first house - The school house being about one fourth mile above Fraley's. The second house was near Morris Gilkinson's present house. The school was about one fourth mile to the right of his house.

Old Uncle Elijah Adkins taught before the War, in a house near the mouth of Bowen Creek on his own farm. It was a little log house - sixteen to eighteen feet square of round logs. All these schools were about alike. He was a son of Hezekiah Adkins.

Elijah, William and another brother, who died before I became acquainted with him.

Andrew Adkins taught about three fourths of a mile below the mouth of Bowen's Creek. He and Uncle Elijah were both preachers of the Primitive Baptist Church. He was in the Rebel Army with his oldest son Marion Adkins. They never let him do any fighting, but they had him hold horses. They liked him and kept him out, because he was a preacher.

One of the first free schools was built of hewed logs on the site of Meda Dial's house her present home. Elisha McComas taught the first school in it, and the Widow Hardwick taught the next one. Teacher McComas died about 1870 and is buried in the Chapman Cemetery.

Andy, John, James, Andrew, Elisha, Joe ^{and} Sookie Chapman, who married a Mr. Keenan, Melvina (was a Barrett before marriage) wife of John Chapman, Andy's wife was a sister to Elisha McComas, and her name was Julia. The Chapman Graveyard is near James Jeffers' residence. Inez McComas, (Sister to Elisha ^{and} Andrew Chapman) and her husband Tolbert McComas, lived and died about a fourth of a mile below Jim Jeffers, and are buried ^{about} two hundred yards below. Their log residence is still standing.

Abe Sanson was a Methodist preacher of Wayne Co. near the Forks of Beech Fork. He married and had two girls and seven or eight boys. They were Ed, William, John, Bell, Green, Leander, and Ab. His girls were Susan (Mrs. Sylvester Adkins) Rhoda, Green, Will and Ed are dead. The father was found dead at the bottom of a tree on the Forks of Beech Fork.

Store on Four Mile.

I kept store three miles from the mouth of Four Mile, a mile up Harless Fork - at Forks of the creek. I began in 1875, and kept till about 1900. I sold dry goods, groceries, hardware, drugs, in fact everything used in the country.

I bought the largest bill of queensware ever brought here up to that time. I paid \$40⁰⁰ freight to George Godby (of Godby Brothers). They run the Guyandotte Hustler, purchased of Pomp Wentz. This boat run for about fifteen years, and carried passengers, as well as freight. It ran when water was high enough. It went up the river as far as the water would permit, and often went to Logan.

After the Railroad was completed to Midkiff, they ran from there to Logan, to carry the freight on up to Logan. They had a contract with the Railroad Company, so I have understood.

George Godby lives just above Midkiff and has an apple and peach orchard. When they had much freight, they used push-boats. Sometimes they towed them. One sunk at Guyandotte just as it was starting. It ran against a raft of timber. I swam out into the edge of the Ohio river for a box of boots. I also held a box of dry goods. I lost a barrel of sugar. A larger steamboat, also ran up here, for a year or two. This boat was from Big Sandy. It was about one hundred and twenty feet long. I don't think it went above here very often.

I bought nuts, and all kinds of farm products. Yellow root 20¢ to 50¢ lb; ginseng 1⁰⁰ lb. bloodroot 2¢, May apple 1½¢, lady slipper 15¢, wild ginger 20¢, snake root 50¢. I often handled as much as 100-150 lbs. of senq in a month, and 1000 lbs. in a season.

Yellow root in double these quantities. I purchased the large lot of Queensware at Liverpool, Ohio, but did most of my buying in Portsmouth, Ohio. Later I bought in Huntington, W. Va. I also bought in Charleston W. Va. in Hallipolis and Cincinnati. Drummers often came from Bristol, Tenn. from John Dickey and Company on the Tennessee Virginia line. They came once a month for most lines. I bought some goods at Cattleburg. Hardware of Ben Williams, Dry-goods of a Mr. Carpenter, and groceries of a Mr. Prichard.

Women wove for their own use. They often sold "Coverlids" for about \$5⁰⁰. Lonnie McComas' mother used to weave them.

They also sold carpets - till about twenty years ago. They sold them at about \$1⁰⁰ a yard.

I have hauled as much as 50 bu. Chestnuts. My store was twenty by twenty-four feet, and I had them piled six inches deep in the loft. I also had a store at Man, W. Va. about five years ago. I had a store for nearly a year where Mack Johnson keeps. I rented of him, and he bought me out. I kept about two years back of the depot.

I sold in Wayne two years, at the Forks of Beech Fork. I handled goods for about forty two years. Jeans sold at from twenty five cents to a dollar a yard. Not much was brought to the store. Sometimes I would get enough for a suit. I sold much factory made jeans.

I bought furs — mostly opossum & coon skins, fox and a few wild-cats, pole cats and minks. A man lived during the War at the end of the bridge, near Sanford's store named Jess ("Beaver") McComas. He was Polly McComas' husband, and was said to have caught beavers. He helped run a sugar orchard where Almeda Dial now lives in the Trace Fork Bottom.

John Chapman's wife, Melvina, helped him during the War. She lived in the same house, I think, where Jim Jeffers, now lives. Chapman was in the Rebel Army as Captain. Polly McComas had two grown girls at the end of the War.

Ballard Payne's mother was a sister to Polly and her name was Anna. He lives at Midkiff and has the record of their ages.

The Mary Belle was the name of the second boat. She run for about two years, on this river at the same time the Hustler ran, and then went back to Sandy. Her Captain was from Cattlesburg, Ky. She made at least one trip to Logan, and a few times she went to Midkiff, but she went mostly to the Falls or here. She could hardly turn around in the river.

The boat season was from Dec. 1st to June except in freezing weather. I came to Branch land about 1898. The river froze enough to support teams the year I came here, and we got ice from the river to fill an ice-house.

Since the War Bob Hollandsworth, Lorenzo D. Brinegar, Sam McClellan, Reuben Isaacs, Roland (Roe) Dean, Sam Smith dec'd, Allen Smith of Griffithsville, Pastor at Four Mile; John Burns side dec'd; John Miller of Myra, W. Ch. Wm. Black of Myra, were the principal preachers of this section since the War.

Slavery.

Spencer Midkiff Sr. lived on west side of Guyan below the Falls, one half mile. He raised his family in a log house still standing. He owned Nigger Abe, said to be one hundred and fifteen years old, when he died on the poor farm. Abe was a good cook & farmer. There were two young Spence Midkiffs.

My wife's grandfather, Merritt Johnson, had a Negro girl Rachel, for which he paid \$400.00 when she was about four years old. She was about fourteen at close of War. She went down about Huntington and, I think is dead. My wife's grandfather lived on Raccoon.

My last wife's grandfather, Blind Charley Adkins, owned a Negro at forks of Beech Fork. He died about 25 years ago. The slave's name was Cynthia. She had two children Mary Ann, and Aube. Mary Ann lives at Wayne Court House.

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During the War, Leander Gilkerson's wife went to Jagewell County and took Cynthia with her. Gilkerson was a blacksmith in the Rebel Army. "Sleepy" Billy Adkins had Ader (a girl) who was a fine cook. I boarded there and went to school one winter to Elisha McComas. Ader went with the other Negroes to Huntington.

Rev. Elijah Adkins, a brother to "Sleepy Billy" had a slave named John.

John, Ader, Cynthia and Margaret, who belonged to Aunt Polly Adkins, (a mile below the mouth of Raccoon) were of one family — brother and sisters.

Jeff Bowen had a Negro named Dick, who went with the others. He came back and married and lived there a good many years. This Jeff Bowen lived at the mouth of Long Branch near Bowen Chapel. Another Jeff Bowen was Doc Bowen's son, and there was still a third one — a son of Alderson Bowen. He died about twenty-five years ago.

Harless Fork was named from me and my three brothers, who lived on that creek. James H. Harless lived there first — a mile above the church. John A. and Jasper B. were the others — all are dead but me and my sister Cynthia. Before this the creek was called Locust Rough Fork of Four Mile.

Dusenberry's Mill had a carding machine, a cash saw, wheat burho, a water bolt, and corn burho. It was a two story building, and had fifteen to twenty windows. The roof sloped two ways only.

Parker Lucas built the old log house at Sheridan Station. Alie Booth used to live in it I staid in it before the War.

Stephen Spurlock helped build this house and sawed himself off while putting on a top plate. He was a licensed preacher, but was not of much consequence. He was not the famous Wayne preacher of the same name.

I have often heard him preach with Andy Adkins on Beech Fork near Bowen.

Interview with Rev. Marvil Elkins of 1618, 12th Ave. Huntington, W. Va. Member of United Baptist Church at Charleston Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington. Pastor at present at East Linn, Coal Gap, and Beech Fork all of Wayne Co., and Branchland and Lynnville, Lawrence Co., Ohio Churches.

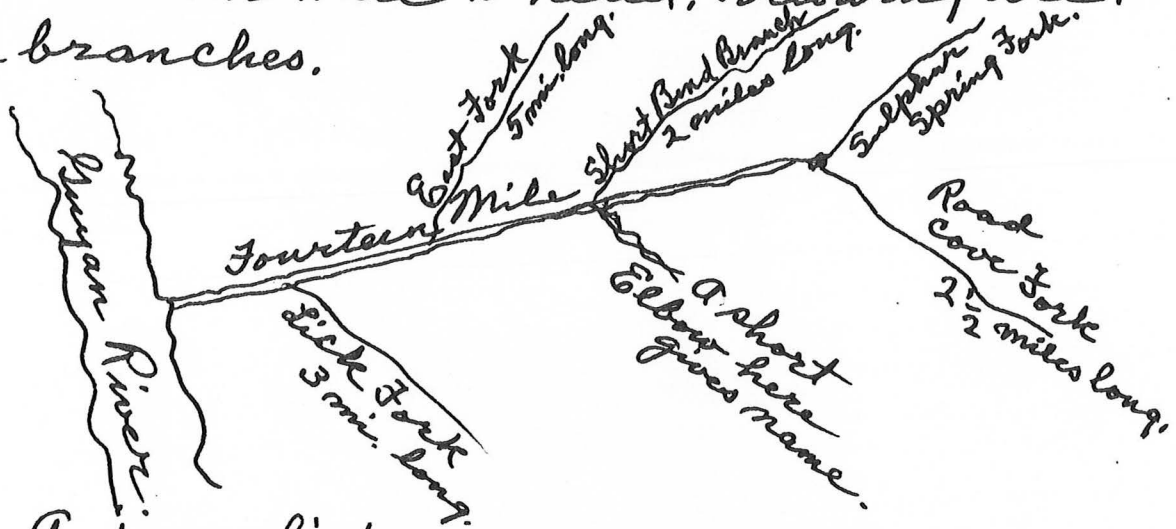
Born May 18, 1866 on Little Hart's Creek, in Lincoln County, W. Va. Raised on Fourteen Mile Creek and East Fork thereof in Lincoln Co.

My father was Andrew Elkins, who was raised in Logan Co., W. Va. His father was Marvil Elkins, who also was raised in Logan County. His father was Richard Elkins from James River Country in Virginia and was German extraction. My mother was an Elkins. She was Elizabeth, daughter of Harvey Elkins, son of old Richard Elkins. Her mother was Betsy May, daughter of Jacob May, whose father was an Englishman, who came here before one of the Wars with England. His brother Wm. May came during the War, and I have heard my mother say that Jacob May fought on the American side, and met his brother William in a battle where they recognized each other as enemies. William being a British soldier. I think Jacob May enlisted from Old Virginia.

I began preaching in 1892, licensed for two years. Ordained in 1892 at Ranger, Lincoln Co., W. Va.

I have done most of my preaching in Lincoln and Wayne, but have preached in all the surrounding Counties, and following states —

Ohio, Kentucky, Nebraska and South Dakota. I went to So. Dakota on a vacation deer-hunt and preached two weeks because of bad hunting weather. It is about seven miles from mouth of Fourteen Mile to head. Following are names of branches.



A deer lick is about one half mile up Lick Fork. Road Fork Creek was so named from main road (Logan to Louisa, Ky.) which left Guyan River at mouth of Dry Branch and passed to East Fork Creek. Down it and up Main Creek to Road Fork and up it to head of Cove Creek, a tributary of Twelve Pole, and down it to Rich Creek. Up Rich Creek and across Dividing Ridge, down Mill Creek to Forks of Big Sandy. It can be traveled, but is no longer a leading road on account of the new road.

My schooling was very limited. We had school of three or four months only, each year and had a new teacher each month. I went to one six weeks school, and learned more than in all the balance.

Interview with Calvary Lunsford,
August 23, 1927 at H.V. High School.

Richard Lunsford, my father, was born
Oct. 8, 1821, on Buckeye Creek, Lawrence
County, Ohio, near Greasy Ridge.

His father was John Lunsford from
Virginia. (Of English descent, I've heard)
His mother was Pally (?) Hudson of Virginia.
Richard Lunsford married in West Virginia.
He lived on Lower Tom's Creek, four miles
east of Barboursville, on the road to Salt Rock
in the Pomp Wentz house, from the time I
was five years old until I was thirty-one.

I am seventy-four years old now. I
was born in 1853, in the old "white house"
built by my father, after I was born he
sold it and moved to the Wentz place.

This was originally a one-room house
but my father built an additional log
room, and it became a double log house.
I don't know who built the first one. It
was old when I first saw it.

Deer were plentiful when I was a boy.
I have seen over twenty grazing around
and we would run them off. My father
killed a deer just below F.B. L's barn.

I have seen squads of four or five
acres (seemingly) of pigeons in the sky.
They were going east.

Richard Lunsford served as Justice of
the Peace once.

My mother was Nancy Peyton, daughter of Henry Peyton (the Younger). I remember hearing them say he was in the War of 1812.

At ^a place on Big Ugly, ~~there~~ was a pigeon roost, and it is so called today. Folks went in and slew them with clubs.

My father said that where he lived when a boy, wolves and panthers were plentiful, and they would frighten them away with firebrands.

My wife's name was Salina Staten, the daughter of Killus Staten from Ohio.

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Interview with Mrs. Emmer Sloan.
on Feb. 8, 1928.

I am a daughter of "Young Spence" Midkiff who lived most of the time where Jeff Triplett now lives — on Mill Branch. It is this side of Fall Creek. "Old Spence" Midkiff was an Uncle to my father. He lived where "Jermie" Covey now lives. This was his old home place. "Old Spence" Midkiff was a cousin to my mother. They married and he was my grandfather.

My mother was Julia Ann Midkiff. She had nine children — Albert, (Billy), I; Ellen; Bennet Vinson; Anna; Jennie; Herbert; Inez; Jesse. All are living. Father and mother are dead. I have my father's picture and some of my sisters have mother's. All live near here.

21

John Messinger

My grandfather was an early settler on Fall Creek. His name was Nickolas Messinger. John Adkins also was an old settler. He married Nancy Tooley, daughter of old Charles Tooley. He was a good old man. Some one asked Nancy, (when she married him) how they would make a living, she just reached out her hands (a token she'd work). She did and they made a very good living. They bought their farm of my grandfather Spence Midkiff. It was the farm now owned by June Messinger. My grandfather owned nearly all the land on Fall Creek, up Long Branch, down to the J. J. McComas farm, all from Peyton Branch, except the New Midkiff farm and much of Peyton Branch and the Parker Lucas farm, at Sheridan Station. He also had land scattered elsewhere.

He gave the George Adkins' farm at the head of Long Branch to my mother, and she sold it.

Old John Booth, father of Crocket Booth, who lives about Branchland, was an early settler, that I remember on Long Branch.

He lived most of his time where Belle Ross now lives, in a log house, (now torn down).

Nat Booth lived out from Walter Messinger's, about a half mile. Also, he lived out on the hill where George (Comber) Rios, now lives.

"Abe" my grandfather's old darkey, was the oldest of all the "Midkiffs". He died in the "poorhouse," at Hamlin, about fifteen years ago. Some of the grandchildren used to have his picture. He staid a long time with me and Woodrow. We hired him to work. He originally belonged to Jake Adkins, but grandfather bought him. Later Jake offered \$1100⁰⁰ for him and grandfather agreed to let him go, but Abe cried and said Jake would sell him again. Then Uncle Alex Midkiff got a paling, and swore he would kill Jake, and so he run Jake off, and Abe was not sold. He was trusty.

During the War, when my father came back from the Rebel Army, Abe would carry his meals to him, where he was hiding in a rockcliff. He was at home on a furlough. At that time father lived a short distance from where Covey now lives - up the little branch.

Sherd Adkins, on one occasion on Beech Fork (where "Abe" then lived with Jake Adkins) was playing "Hide and Seek" with his boys, he climbed a large hollow sycamore tree, with the top broken off. He climbed (partly) into the hollow. The wood was rotten, and he slipped down inside and disappeared. "Abe", badly frightened, cut him out, for which Sherd was truly thankful.

Abe was a great story teller, and told many Indian stories, and probably he never saw an Indian. He went to every show that came to Huntington. Grandfather furnished him a horse, or rather, he bought a horse for "Abe", with money Abe had earned, cooking for men in shanties. Grandfather kept "Abe's" horse for him.

Will Damron wrote this history about two years ago, and published it in the Lincoln Democrat: —

Spencer Midkiff's father died in Virginia, probably in Giles County, leaving him to support his mother, brothers and sisters. He came here when quite young. His mother followed later, riding a stallion.

A panther tried to attack her on the road, probably the Kanawha River road. (route) She threw down some provisions, which enabled her to escape, and the horse was foaming at the mouth.

An old slave woman, Mary, lived at Bobby Ross's for awhile, and then at my grandfather's for awhile. There was a row of houses, on the Fall's farm. Mary got out one night and found the bank breaking in. The houses, mostly, were destroyed, but Mary probably saved some lives.

8
Jacob Mors (Morris?) is said to have owned
the Falls farm early - about five hundred acres.

Peyton Branch was first called "Mackey"
Branch, probably for some of the Mc Comas's.

Next it was called McComas Branch, after
John McComas, who lived at mouth of Peyton Branch.
He made a survey of two hundred acres there
and his brother Thomas McComas, surveyed
our (Woodrow's) farm - two hundred acres.

This branch was named Peyton Branch
after old Uncle John Peyton.

My father's mother was part Irish.

Rebel soldiers, around here, John, Spence Jr.
Abraham (father of Newton), Gordon Midkiff,
John Chapman Sr. and several of the Richards,
were Rebels.

Doctor Damron, Adam Scites, Henry Scites,
Thomas Scites were in the Union Army.