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December 2020

## **MS 76 Box 20 Notebook 11 - The Mobleys. Notes and comments on Oak Hill Church; Oak Hill School; Phoenix Slave Mill**

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### **Recommended Citation**

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MS 76  
BX 20  
NBK 11

The Mobleys.  
Notes & Comments on  
Oak Hill Church  
" " School  
Phoenix Stave Mill

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MS 76  
BX 20  
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"About 66 years ago, or say about 1872, a number of citizens met with Rev. Samuel M. Martin, in the old Deer Pen school for divine worship. Among the first members of this organization were Wash Jefferson and his wife, Angeline; Henry Jefferson and his wife, Mary Ann; Isaac Arthur attended, but probably belonged of Cabell Creek; John Arthur and his wife; Sarah Perry Arthur; John Ruder and Lizzie Jones Ryder; Jess Ferguson and Robert Grimes; Taylor Clarke and Catherine Mehling Clarke; Daniel Clarke and Harriett Simms Clark; John and Elizabeth Jefferson Blanchard; Rev. Joe Brammer (See Reb. Jefferson).

The first sermon preached on Deer Pen Hill was by Rev. S.M. Martin, in a grove, on the farm of Harrison Hagley on the point facing Nine Mile, and was the funeral of Richard Perry, who died at Harrison Hayslip's. I understand this was the first sermon he ever preached in Cabell County.

#### Oak Hill Church:

Jacob Schultz and his wife were charter members,

Rev. S.M. Marin probably came up from Jackson County at the time he came here he was sent by the U. B. Annular Conference as a Home Missionary preacher. He served here for ten to twenty years. He lived at Milton, and when he got too old to preach he moved to Huntington, where he died.

The old log school was sold to James A. Bias, who moved it and used it for his dwelling, and for which purpose various people have continued to use it. It stands almost in sight of its original location.

Rev. Martin was loved by everybody in this section. He

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was a kindly man, and practiced what he presched. When he stayed over night with his members he always called for reading of the scriptures, and prayer. His wife, Aunt Lina, usually attended the services. She was a tall, slender woman, and a great church worker.

Among the first of the Sunday School superintendents were John Ryder and Wash Jefferson. Later, Rev. Joe Brammer followed them as Syperintendent.

While ~~Samuel~~ Martin was in charge here, he organized churches at Upper Greenbottom, Lower Cabell Creek, and one at Milton. These formed the Milton Circuit. A class was later organized at Union Ridge, from which Union Chapel resulted.

The Greenbottom church was organized in the Upper Greenbottom school; the one on Cabell became the Z. Warner church.

In 1887 the Oak Hill church was organized. It was dedicated on June 30, 1895 by Rev. L.M. Carder, of Pt. Pleasant. Jacob Schultz built the house; or, at least, enclosed it. Later lumber was purchased of W.T. Cox to ceil it and face the windows.

Some of the charter members were as follows: Geo. Winters and Mary Knight Winters, his wife; Henry and Mary Ann Jefferson, his wife; J. John and Eliz. Jefferson Blanchard; W.F. (Toney) Houchin and Marinda Jefferson, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Houchin, his wife; Harve and Susan Jefferson Newman, his wife; Wes Jefferson, Laura Winters; Albert and Parthena Knight Newman.

Oak Hill Church preachers:

By Wes. J.

Rev. Chriss. He was here in 1887 when I came home from the West (Wes Jefferson) Not much of a preacher. I know little about him.

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J.M.Cullen: Was here two years, I think. He was well liked. Was a good revivalist. Industrious. He was here his first year.

La Fayette Rexrode: Served here his first year in the ministry.

E. E. Chalfont Parkersburg. First circuit rider.

J.B.M.Hart: A large man, and well liked. Good revivalist. Hart, crippled. He married a daughter of Harvey Clarke, who lived beyond the Herrenkohl farm. We joined their farm.

A. S. Riffle: Mason County: A good, industrious man. He came on horseback.

Rev. Conley: I knew nothing of him. He came on horseback. He was here on horseback. He was here two or three years. Was a splendid man, and well liked.

Michael M. Kelly: Served here the second term; three or four years, altogether.

L. M. Carder: Point Pleasant. A very able preacher. Served well. He preached Harrison H. Hagley's funeral.

W. E. Crall: About two years.

E.W Webster:

J.R.M.Knapp: Mason County. he later quit the ministry and moved to Charleston. His wife was a teacher.

#### Oak Hill Church Pastors:

1. Sam Martin

2. Wm. Casto. Preached at Deer Pen. Buolt Aunt Meck Jefferson's house. Preached in the log school. Came from Jackson County(?)

A strong preacher. Industrious. His descendants are in Mason County.

3. Jonah Slaughter: Probably from Mason County. Was a good

preacher. Traveled the circuit horseback. He had four churches in his circuit.

4. H. L. Poling: Preached in log building. On one occasion Dave Howard and Ed. Johnson were causing a disturbance. The preacher said: "Who is that young man?" Dave Howard said: "Dave Howard". "Do you think you can write it?" Poling said: "Yes, I think I can". Howard was indicted; left the country, went west, and never returned to live here. He came back on a visit and looked like a gentleman. Behaved well, and was well dressed. About Letart, Mason County.

5. Michael M. Kelly: A good man. Served the circuit several years. He lived at Milton while here and traveled on foot.

6. E.C. (Charley) Martin: Left his wife for another woman. He was here about a year.

7. A.B. Salaz: Came here as a young man. Was probably from Jackson County. He rode horseback. A good record. Probably living (in 1938).

#### Preachers

Tobe Blake.

(Ed. Perry, a policeman, who killed Tom Ball in making an arrest)

Rev. Taylor, of Mason Co.

Rev. Moore, of Milton,

Rev. Martin Edmunds, Mason County. He was a good one. All were Methodists.

John Black was a very fine one. A good revivalist. People had much confidence in him. Roland and Elisha Bias preached in our section.

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Deer Pen School.

The first building was of logs. Wash Jefferson uilt it about 70 years ago, or about 1868, right on top of the Deer Pvn Hill. It was named from a deer pen, owned by Harrison Hagley.

June Fulks, who lived on the John Kyle place; Harriett Hall of Athalia; Hugh Clark, of Athalia; Jerry Blake, from Little Guyan, near Glenwood; Emma Blake, daughter of Ike of Barboursville. She afterwards married Levi Jones. Young Mr. Anderson, be low Athalia; Henry Childers. Later a frame building was built by Jas. and George Petit. Henry Lambert taught the first school about 1899.

When the log building was moved the Deer Pen children went to upper Seven Mile, the Board having abolished it. They later built the frame.

Reb. Jefferson says: "The first school I ever attended was to Eck Miller, daughter of Peter Miller, of Athalia; she was a good woman. She taught the first two schools there, and boarded at my father's. Hence, this was about 1868-9. Born March 24, 1859 (Anse Blake).

Hugh Clark, of Athalia, probably taught the second school there. Irvin McGhee, of below Athalia taught considerably later June Fulks, Henry Childers, Jerry Blake followed.

Later the Board sold the log house to Jas. Bias; then built a school at the Al Smick place. It was used 'till about the time Jno. Greer was preaching at the Baptist Church. He held the first revival in the Seven Mile School, This house was condemned, and sold to the Baptist church. They moved it and located on the upper end of the Hugh Howard farm. It is now known as the

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Mt. Union Baptist church and is a part of the present church.  
Reb. J. says: "I went to the last school I ever attended at Seven  
Mile when I was 19. This was about 1873. I do not remember the  
teacher, but think it was June Fulks. He came from Ohio, and  
moved back there later. He lived on the present John Kyle place,  
owned by Smuggy Bias, father of Sam Bias, at Guyandotte now.

#### Oak Hill School.

I remember the following teachers: Miss Rousey,  
Hatylie McGlaughlin, Irvin Le Sage, Sidney E. Le Sage, &c. Hen-  
ry Lambert. Oak Hill was built by Jacob Schuktz and Joseph  
Le Sage, Sr, as contractors in 1877. Jos. L., Jr. and Will  
Schultz helped. Before that, school was held in the old log at  
Le Sage: It was torn down in 1936. Bill McCanna used the logs  
for stove wood at Le Sage. Teachers, continued:

Zenos White, who lived on Pres Knight's farm,  
Allen Bryant, of Bryant's Creek,  
Charlotte Wilson, of Quaker Bottom,  
Ida Maupin, Ona,  
Frank Malcolm, Ona,  
Elden McKnight, Miller, Ohio,  
John Varnum.

John Lambert, Rufus Switzer, T. Wes. Peyton, Harriett  
Hall, John Laidley, (Brother to Mrs. Burt's Ulysses Laidley, a  
brother to above. Henry Lambert followed John Lambert.

Oak Hill was built about 1876.

Bill Bias lived below Rouses. A son of Flathead Bias. The  
old Bias place was just above the Vint Winters' place.



I first attended school at the Le Sage school. That was built by my grandfather, old James McKnight, for a church house.

I was born July 20, 1855. I married young--in Gallia County, Ohio. Harriett Clark, of Athalia, taught there. She was a sister of Hugh Clark, who went to California, and there died. He married Fanny Blake, daughter of Morris Blake; a Mr. Davis taught there.

This building was old, as far as I can remember a Miss Maupin taught there, and I think her father, Chap Maupin lived on Greenbottom. He rented--on the lower end of Dr. Jenkins' farm.

Old man "Johnny" Shoemaker, sawed the lumber for Hickory Grove school. It was built by Jake Schultz and Wash Jefferson. Shoemaker was father-in-law to Wilson Cooper; he lived on the left hand fork of Nine Mile. He sawed lumber on Cabell Creek, Spurlock Creek, Davis Creek, Little Cabell, Perry Creek. He cut the finest of the timber and threw away the rest.

I walked about three miles to Le Sage school. My children went to Hickory Grove. The Mastersons, John and Ray taught there as well as Henry Lambert.

NINE MILE. By Wes and Reb. Jefferson.

The Phoenix Stave and Barrel Co. built and operated the Phoenix Mill. C. A. J. Miser had a blacksmith shop there. The company had a large store in the "Bill" Estep house. It was called the "company store". A man named Chas. McQuigg, of Ironton, was a clerk. Also Charley Shipton was clerk. He was the last one there. Henry Williams was father of Jean Johnson.

Wash Jefferson had a rifle gun, made by Thomas Kyle. "Thomas Kyle" was on it. Wash gave it to Reb J. , and he thinks Anse Blake has it, or had it.

Henry Jefferson was born Feb. 6, 1814; died July 28, 1910.

An old mill stood just above Nine Mile Bridge on the farm where Sinton Smith now lives. It was operated until about 50 years ago. This mill was built by Allen Howard. He was a good mechanic; made the dam and built the mill. He attached a bolter to bolt meal, and sometimes, flour. He also sawed lumber. He sawed part of the lumber which is yet in the Joe Wentz house.

Another water mill was a little above the present Tom Cooper house. This was years ago.

The road to the Howard mill for the people followed a road from the old Joe Wentz house up the ridge, to the right of the James Bias house, out the ridge between Seven Mile and Nine Mile and down the holl to the mill. Wes says it was there when he could first remember. It was there, probably, before the civil war. The upper mill was probably older.

People near the forks of Nine Mile went over the Oak Hill route to the mill. Abner Knight went a route back of his house, and followed the ridge with the Wash Jefferson road. Both Knight and

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jefferson kept it open for everybody. Large gates separated the fields.

Mary Johnson (Mary Smick) and Burl went to housekeeping on Rocky Branch about 1/4 mile up the creek, in a round log cabin, built by Jim Pinkerton, who married a daughter of old Joe Hagley. He was a large, tall man; his wife was "fleshy". He lived below Bill Weeds', on the same farm, at the foot of Oak Hill.

Andy Johnson built the house, about 1/2 mile up the creek. Wes built another house a quarter mile up from Andy's. Jim Pinkerton built his about one-fourth mile up.

These were the three first settlers on Rocky Branch. Andy cleared much land there.

Andy had children: Sis, Burl, John, Jim, Richard by his first wife, Lucinda White, sister to Sam White. He came here with Martha Kerns, and had Charley, Martha, White, and perhaps others after they moved to Ohio. Probably he was not married to Martha Kerns.

Wm. Knight lived at the Ab. Knight place. Ab's wife heard it from her father, Henry Knight. At the same time Wm. Knight heired a farm that John Knight lived on (first one below the Le) (Sage farm) but he moved to the river, and died there.

Phillip B. Smick lived at Forks of Nine Mile: he had a quit-claim deed. Lemuel Cornell came here about that time. Martin Cornell and his sisters had previously (?) owned this land. All were single, and lived together. Lemuel Cornell, after their death came back; offered to sell it cheap to Smick, at \$300.00, but was refused; and Cornell deeded, or sold it to Bill Weed, and Smick lost it in Court.

At our first recollection, the first house was the Wash Jefferson place, now owned by Joe Wentz.

Peter Hagley lived at the Wilson Cooper place, in a hewed log house. All was timber, above.

Wm. Newman was living in a log shanty, close to the present house where Mary V. Jefferson now lives.

Harry Jefferson had previously lived in a small, one story log house with a "cat and clay" chimney, just back of where Dink Jefferson now lives. He had a blacksmith and gun shop. Only three, or four acres of land was cleared.

In the early day only about three to four acres of land was cleared at each house.

Reb. says they kept sheep, and often had to scare the wild cats away. They would catch lambs, and would scream to make one's hair stand on end. Deer were often killed here. Wash Jefferson is said to have killed the last one killed in Cabell County--just back of the Baptist church, at foot of Deer Run hill--last we heard of.

Notes.

By Mary Jefferson.

Philip Fife lives on the home place.

Dick Knight lives near Bill Weed's house,

Joe Lykens used to live below the Bill Weed place. Some of his boys now live below Le Sage, on the river.

"Sweetie" Knight lives at 1104 or 1106, Seventh Avenue. She first married Jim Mounts, but they parted.

Mack Knight lives on Emily Herrenkohl place, near, or west of Seven Mile bridge.

Alex Taylor raised "Dink" Jefferson. Was a brother to

Frank, married second Lucretia Fife. First married Mary Bias.

Fifes: John and Nancy, had the following children:

George, Abel, Joe and Philip. John now lives at 719--31st St. in a small, stucco house "Teener, Lucretia married Frank Jefferson. Almira married Gilbert Knight. They live below Le Sage.

Burl Johnson's daughter Mabel, married a Jefferson, but she was no "kin" to us so far as we know.

Pete Newman was brother to Harvey and Bill. Fanny Newman may live in Guyandotte.

Elsie Knight, sister to "Sweetie", notes, &c.

Nine Mile Houses, Left hand forks:

1. Philip Smick lived at mouth.
2. Isaac Taylor,
3. Pres Knight lived in a modern, hewed log house about 200 yards from the creek, towards Ohio River, 1/2 mile above Taylor's, and below George Winters placefamily
4. Geo. Winters and family,
5. Mobleys: Jim, with his family: Jim, Jr., Tom, Ike, Mason and Margaret.
6. Paul Blake lived 1-1/2 mile above George Winters'.

NINE MILE .

By Dick Knight.

Road to Howard's Mill went from Ab. Knight's to Abel S. Fifes; thence around the ridge. The mill at Joe Le Sage's, was a steam mill on the site of Phoenix factory after it was torn down.

I went to school in log house at Le Sage, to Harriett Hall several terms. Alice Told taught there.

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An old graveyard was on Ab Knight's place. No stones. The Cornells were probably buried there.

Mills.

By Anse Blake.

We went to Howard's Mill. It was run by Allen Howard, father of Aaron and Hugh Howard, Sr. Aaron was father of Dave and Hugh and Eliza Howard.

Allen was a large man; he built the mill. He was a mechanic. I went there every week. Went to the Knights and up the hill and back down, back of the mill. It was about three miles from Ab Knight's. It was impassable down the creek. Sometimes the backwater shut it off, and we had to go to Barboursville.

The mill at George Winters' was constructed about 1845. Penel Blake lived on Nine Mile when the stars fell in the 40s. People were frightened. My father came from Greenbrier to Ona.. Then sold the farm and took a lease about 1840 of Holderby, where John Kyle lives. He furnished cord wood for steamers. Elias Pinkerman could cut a cord of wood in 60 minutes. He told us when he wanted us to cut wood. No coal was burned. The Winters mill was torn down before my day; I never went to mill there. Howard could saw lumber. He used a sash saw.

Rogers

Tobe Blake.

I have seen thousands of wild pigeons. They roosted in the pines, on Goff Hill. Feasted by thousands on acorns.

Mills

People often went to Howell's. My father had a water mill on Spurlock Creek, just below the Colonel Gwinn graveyard. My father was Jas Blake put it in and ground many a bushel of corn. He went to Wayne County and built a mill just above the Jim Keyser farm. He

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put up a dwelling, mill house, and other buildings. He rafted the lumber, down the Ohio from Glenwood and hauled it to Long Branch. He only stayed about a year. He needed a wheel, and went to Ironton and carried it from Ironton to Huntington and on to Long Branch on his back. It weighed 110 lbs.

#### Schools.

I went one winter to Walnut Grove and Goff Hill to set Blake Rife. Some one buried it, and we moved to an old log dwelling and sat on the sleepers. I also went to Walnut Grove, which stood just below the Goff school. The teacher was Otho Neal Gwinn (Owner of Gwinn's Mill. Two schools. Frank Herndon, Prof, Lamar, of Mud River, taught there.

Fiddlers, of Union Ridge, &c.

Tobe Blake.

Joe Pearson lived, and died on Spurlock Creek. My brother, James Isaac Blake, is a fiddler. He won all the contests he entered. For many years he worked for the B & O. railroad, and when he had retired the President of the B & O. came to his home, stayed all night and offered him \$300.00, \$400.00, and finally, \$500.00 for a fiddle which he had made for himself. He refused all offers. The President explained he wanted it in remembrance of his long service. He had thirteen children. Lives at Clifton Forge, Va.

Other fiddlers were Davy Campbell, Daniel Spurlock, son of Harvey Spurlock and his brother Levi Spurlock, and Charles Spurlock, son of Daniel Spurlock, Charles Miser, Hibbard Wallace, and Tobe and Anse Blake.

Mobley

By Anse Blake.

Jim, Thos. Ike and Bill Mobley. Jim and Tjos. were in the army. Ike married Fife, daughter of Philip Fife.

Jim married first

He married second                      Gothard, of Ohio, daughter of Riley Gothard. The Gothards lived on Goose Run. The old man was Jas Gothard, a brother to John G. Lived there seven to ten years. Jim Mobley was in cavalry. They are buried in the woods. Mace has four boys living on Goose Branch. Ike has a son, Jim Mobley. Jennie Mobley married Miles Clary.

Goose Run

By Mat Newman.

When I first came here. I was born on the ridge, toward Le Sage, about half the distance from Oak Hill to Goose Run Bridge.. The first, and only house on Goose Run was my Uncle Harvey Newman, and various renters. The land was owned by Preston Knight and by the Ansel.

Nine Mile Road

By Cliff Caldwell.

Henry Lambert took the rights of way for our branch of Nine Mile in 1921 (?). Henry Nash, Irvin Morrison, and Frank Preston were on the Court. A group of citizens gave the right of way for one dollar consideration. The road was built by Frank Peyton.

Nine Mile

By Richard Knight.

Granville Caldwell and Jim Woodrum found "Bob" Caldwell after he hung himself. Granville lives in Hibner house on Seven Mile. "Coon" Caldwell lives at Cla rksburg and runs a dairy.



Stave Mill

By Jas. Cox.

A stave mill was owned by A. Knabb & Co., of Pennsylvania, was on head of Nine Mile creek the summer after I was married (1889); hence, the date was 1890. Henry Lambert and others hauled from there to Le Sage; and the staves were shipped to Sistersville and dressed up, and then sent across the ocean. Fred Martin was the fireman and engineer. He was from Sistersville. D.H.Shank, of Pennsylvania, was general foreman. Joe Russell, of up in state, was the handy man. He had been a long time with the company. The mill stood next place above Wash Jeffersons. A number of houses were built for the men. Three houses were built of lumber; the rest were pole shanties. I moved to the ~~Jahel~~Schultz place. I think a Williams owned the Phoenix factory.

Dick Knight says: The cooper shop and stave mill stood in the bottom, at forks of Nine Mile. The Bill Estep house was torn down about 34 years ago, and rebuilt for a dwelling for a widow, Mrs.Floyd Hager, by neighbors. It was moved back. It stood in bottom across present road from stave mill. In February, 1937, Dick Knight built a little store building near the Hager house. Albert Perry owns the Hager house now---27 acres.

By Jenny Clary.

## The Mobleys

James<sup>M</sup> Mobley came to Cabell County, from Noble County, Ohio, and settled on Nine Mile Creek, on a farm later owned by William Denison.

Their children were James, Isaac, Mason, John, William, Rachel, Phebe, and Tom. They all came together, James Mobley m. Rachel Safflet?

I. James Mobley Jr.

m. 1. Della Gothard,  
dau. of                      and  
Gothard. He died and  
she m. 2. Herman Fleur.

They lived on the home place. She died in Gallia Co., near Gallipolis. James Mobley Sr., John, Bill, Tom and James Mobley Jr. were all in the Union army, and drew pensions. James Mobley Jr. had one child, and it died.

James Mobley Sr. died of T.B.,  
when I was a child, all are buried  
on the hill above Bill Denison's  
Ike, James, Tom, Mason and his  
wife, and James Mobley Sr. and  
Margaret Mobley, my mother,  
are buried at Fairview

II. Isaac Mobley 22 b. in Monroe Co.  
m. <sup>Hester</sup> Jane Fife <sup>19 Aug. 18, 1870.</sup> daughter  
of <sup>(Emil?)</sup> Abel Sargent Fife, and <sup>the b. Hall</sup>  
Nancy Howard, sister  
of "Little" Hugh Howard.  
They separated and  
he lived with Tom  
Mobley, his brother.  
James Mobley is a son.

III. Mason Mobley 22 b. in Lawrence Co.  
m. <sup>Jane</sup> Mary Berry <sup>20 Feb. 27, 1877</sup> dau.  
of "Fife" Berry of Union  
Ridge. They had several  
children.

Ezra Mobley lives in  
Arizona.

Sam Mobley lives on  
Nine Mile.

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IV. John Mobley

m. . . . . in  
Indiana. He was never  
here, but once. He had  
a large family.

V. William Mobley -

I know nothing of  
him. He evidently went  
away from here.

VI. Rachel Mobley

m. John O. Peters.  
Both are dead. They  
lived on Spurlock Creek.  
Their children live in  
Columbus, Ohio, and  
elsewhere. Marriage  
records, in Cabell Co.,  
show that Rachel  
Mobley married David  
Fuller of Lawrence Co.,  
Ohio. He was a son  
of Alex. and Mary E.  
Fuller. They were mar-  
ried Jan. 22, 1864.

VII. Phoebe Mobley  
m. John Hoops.

They are buried at  
Miller Ohio

VIII. Tom Mobley was never  
married.

Tom, James, Isaac, and  
Margaret Mobley lived in  
the same house until <sup>they were</sup> mar-  
ried. The Mobleys were  
basket makers. Jennie  
Mobley was a daughter  
of Margaret Mobley. She  
married Miles Carey.