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Fred Bussey Lambert

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MS 76
BX 4
NBK 5

McComas -- Mrs. Perkins

Varnum Carl Varnum

MS 76
BX 4
NBK 5

The Huntington Advertiser
Dec. 11, 1933

(John H. Holt)
d. Dec. 10, 1933

"Funeral of Holt, 'Noted Attorney'
to be held at residence.

"Death came unexpectedly."

Came here in 1890, d. yesterday
P. M., "in a local hospital."

Rev. John Mc Carthy of St. Louis
will conduct services. He was a
former pastor of the Congregation-
al Church.

Active pall bearers will be
H. B. Crummett, Dr. Thomas Dugan,
Frank O. Renshaw, Mr. James S.
Klump, John Baxter, & Leo Knowlton
members of the Bar, and the
Tri-state region will be hono-
rary pall bearers.

Sick several weeks.
Nationally known lawyer
Active in politics

"His argument of the Va. Debt Case was acclaimed throughout the country for its brilliance"

Reid at different times the nomination for the ^{Judge of} W. Va. Supreme Court of Appeals, and for governor.

In 1924, he was selected to nominate John W. Davis for President. He was nominated but defeated.

Born at Sutton, Braxton Co.,

Aug. 10, 1860, son of Judge Homer A. Holt and Mary Byrne Holt

Came here in 1890, formed partnership with C. W. Campbell as Campbell & Holt

"His father had been a W. Va jurist for 22 yrs., Circuit Judge 16 yrs., & on Supreme Court of Appeals, 6 yrs." inspiring his son to also follow the profession of law.

He studied, at Randolph-Macon College, the University of Va., Georgetown University, Yale

where he became master of
laws.

Practiced a short time at
Little Rock, Arkansas,, then went
to Wheeling, in 1885 & practiced
in firm of Frame & Holt.

Lived here since 1890

Was with C. W. Campbell,
as Campbell & Holt, & later
was joined by Walter Campbell,
brother of C. W., as Campbell,
Holt, & Campbell.

The younger Campbell moved
to California, & H. C. Duncan
joined the firm as Campbell,
Holt & Duncan

Homer Ewing Holt a son
then added his name to the
firm, in 1912, Duncan with-
drew, in 1928, Campbell having
previously withdrawn. It was
now Holt & Holt.

— He was closely associated
with W. K. Cowden many years.

He early represented the N. & W. railway, & was counsel for many large coal companies & other interests.

"His reputation rapidly spread"
He was called before the Supreme Court of the U. S. & appeared in many cities & states.

The W. Va Debt case was probably his best known one. He reduced a previous judgment for \$20,000,000 & costs to \$12,000,000. When Henry D. Halford took office, in 1913, he and Atty-General G. A. Lilly employed Holt to take that case — "to re-open it before the Supreme Court of Appeals which had become almost openly opposed to West Virginia's continual efforts to avoid payment of the debt, to Va. which had been a political question since the creation of the newer state".

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Unclaimed in the Debt Case
However, Judge Hall was highly
successful, in the presentation of
the case, for his state, and had
the total amount of the debt
reduced from approximately
\$4,000,000, to \$1,200,000.

His work in having the
amount so materially reduced,
finally led to a final settlement
of the matter. This case also
brought about a ~~final settle~~
~~ment~~ lasting friendship between
Halfield & Judge Hall.

He had been a member of
the Masonic Lodge, Hunting
Lodge No. 313 B. P. O. Eels,
and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

He is survived by one
son, Homer Erving Hall, with
whom he is associated, in
the practice of law, three daughters
Mrs. ^{Dorcas} Helen Hall Shauls, Mrs.
Helen Hall Hall, and Miss Klea
Hall & a brother, R. B. Hall & a
sister

Census of 1870
Township, Cabell Co.

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Census of 1890

11-E. Lisha Paylor 39

John 63

Milla 49

William 31

Alvin 11

Polina McComas 17 At School.

92 - Robert Ross 55 b.O

Elizabeth 56 56

George 27

Hugh 26

Nancy 21

Robert 19

John H. 19

Waller 17

Wm 2

Hugh 2?

Hugh 14

Jessie Miller 50 (f)

Frederick 25

Lucinda 20

Jacob 18

Henry 14

James W. 8

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Code 23-280
Colored Tabs

No. 4781 SI
Code 23-281
Clear Tabs

**NATIONAL INSERTABLE-TAB INDEXES ENABLE YOU TO
MAKE YOUR OWN SUBJECT ARRANGEMENT, USING PLAIN
INSERTS ON WHICH TO WRITE YOUR OWN CAPTIONS.**

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INTERVIEW BY F. B. LAMBERT WITH MR. CARL RAYMOND VARNUM

October 27, 1939

Helen Hutchison

My grandfather, Moses Varnum, came to Marietta, Ohio, from Belfast, Maine about _____.

He was of English Descent. His ancestors came from Dracutt, England. They came here in 1632 to Massachusetts. George was the first to come over here. George Varnum is the original Varnum in America. He came here with wife, Hannah, and his children, Hannah and Samuel, *and* settled in Ipswich, Massachusetts about 1635. His grandsons, Thomas, John, and Joseph, lived with their father on land in Dracutt, Massachusetts, bought by said Samuel in 1664. Dracutt is now a part of Lowell, Massachusetts. It is believed that the Varnums came from "a hamlet called Dracutt, supposed to be in Wales", but this can not be substantiated. From this, it is assumed that the family may be Welsh. The original name may be a confounding of the names of Varnum and Farnum.

From Massachusetts, my grandfather went to Belfast, Maine. His name was Moses. Samuel was a brother to Hannah and he had three sons, Thomas, John, and Joseph. Joseph is my ancestor. He was a father of John, Jr. John, Jr. was the father of my great grandfather, Moses Varnum, who left Ipswich, Mass. and went to Belfast, Maine. There was where Moses Varnum who came to Millersport was born. He was born August 27, 1784 and died October 20, 1865. He married December 13, 1812 Sophia Stacey, daughter of Colonel William Stacey of the Revolutionary War. There were four of the Varnums under a brother-in-law by the name of Colbrun in the Revolutionary War. S.A.R. descent from John Jr. who served in the Revolutionary War.

John G. Varnum, son of my grandfather, drowned in the Ohio River in 1847. A daughter was Susan Stacey Varnum. She married Thomas Turner, son of Joseph and Lucy Nowlan Turner, of Shenandoah County. They made their home at Guyandotte in their early history. They later settled at Crossroads, just south of Huntington. They raised a large family. They had six children. They are all dead.

Another son was Anselm who married Nancy Ward. They have a son living that is more than

eighty years of age. He lives on a farm near Proctorville, Ohio on Buleah Lane back of Buleah church at Rome. There was another son, Leander Varnum who married Angelina Cole Mason who lived at Guyandotte with the family of Gerard C. Ricketts. She came from Virginia. Miss Mason was reared by the Ricketts family of Guyandotte. After her marriage to Leander Varnum, they removed their abode to Miller, Ohio, where they conducted the Old Center House Hotel for many years. To a previous marriage there was a son born by the name of George Mason who is the father of George A. Vermillion and Augusta McVey of Huntington, West Virginia. To the later marriage of Leander Varnum, there were born three children. Three male children. Gerard, John, and Leander, Jr.

Back to the descents of Moses Varnum, we have Olando, born in 1824 and died in infancy. Then came Sarah Ann Varnum, daughter of Moses. She was born in 1826 and married George Drown of Cabell County, West Virginia. They lived at Bowen. No issue to this union. Mary Ann Varnum, a daughter to Moese, married Jame Patterson and removed in 1849 to Missouri where there descendants now are located throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The last child of Moses Varnum was Moses, Jr. He was March 6, 1833 and married Mary A. Darling of Miller, Ohio, a daughter of Isaac Darling from New Hampshire. Issac was called Major. He moved from up their to Newport, Connecticut. Then he moved to a farm just above McCall Creek. He then moved to Millersport.

I still own the 100 acres of land that belonged to Isaac Darling.

My grandfather, Moese Varnum, bought a farm near Miller, Ohio, at the mouth of Farrell Creek in 1821 and brought his family by kwel boat from Rainbow, ten miles above Marietta, to live at Millersport. He was a boat builder. He had followed boat building for many years on the Muskegon River, after being married to Sophia Stacey, who was born in the old block house at Marietta. They had gone there for protection against the Indians.

J. M. Varnum, who was a Brigadier-general under George Washington in the Revolutionary War, was made just of the Northwestern territory. He was an attorney and was sent to Marietta. The other Varnums merely followed over to Marietta. Judge Varnum died and was buried in Marietta.

My father was born in 1833, and in the year of 1834, grandfather removed to Guyandotte

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West Virginia, with his family where they conducted a boat building yard on the east bank of the Guyan River the mouth, and also operated a saw mill and grist mill. He built barges for the purpose of running produce and merchandise down the Ohio River to where the goods were to be sold and the boats sold at New Orleans, etc. Granfather Darling was three years getting back from New Orleans one time. My grandfather Isaac Darling was married and lived at Newport, Connecticut with his first wife, where she died without issue to our knowledge.

My grandfather operated a saw mill at Guyandotte until the year 1848 when he sold his holdings and moved back to Millersport to his farm. All of his children except my father were married while he lived at Guyandotte. My father was married after the removal to Miller, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Mary A. Darling who was twelve years younger than he. To this marriage were born six children, four of whom are living today, three at Huntington and one at Cambridge, Ohio. These children, according to their ages, are Mrs. Nancy A. Thornburg, wife of Thomas J. Thornburg; Jennie L. Thornburg, wife of John M. Thornburg, deceased. They were the sons of John W. Thornburg; then came Carl R. Varnum, myself, born February 14, 1880 and who married Nancy A. McComas, daughter of Stephen McComas of Lawrence County, Ohio; next came Louis C. Varnum, who married Rilla Reece, daughter of George Reece and sister to Roy Reece. They live at Cambridge, Ohio.

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INTERVIEW BY F. B. LAMBERT WITH GEORGE VARNUM

October 27, 1939

Helen Hutchison.

In 1788 Moses Varnum moved to Marietta, Ohio, from Massachusetts. Moses Varnum was a cousin to James Mitchell Varnum who was a Major-general in the Revolutionary War, and they came to Marietta about the same time. James Mitchell Varnum was appointed by Washington as a first territorial judge of the Northwest territory. He was also the chief compiler of the constitution of the state of Ohio, when it was made into a separate state. At that time there was considerable talk of making Mr. Varnum first governor of the state of Ohio in place of General St. Clair who was appointed first governor of the state of Ohio. James Mitchell Varnum was a very prominent general in the Revolution, and was one of Washington's favorite generals. He was a member of the organization called the Cincinnatii comprised of the officers of Revolutionary War. It was a very exclusive club. At that time the members were required to put in something like \$1800. James Mitchell Varnum resided at Marietta until his death which was in the early part of the 18th century and his tomb is there at Marietta.

Moses Varnum was also in the Revolution. Moses was my great grandfather. He set up the first saw mill that was ever in operation at the head of Muskegon River at Marietta. He operated this saw mill until 1812 at which time he moved to Guyandotte, West Virginia, and set up what is thought to be the first saw mill that was set up in this side of the country, near the mouth of the Guyandotte river. I am told that he sawed all the old lumber that went into all the old building in Guyandotte. I have a picture of Moses Varnum and his wife of Millersport which you can get when needed.

Moses Varnum married Sophie Stacey, who was of old colonial stock. They are prominent in Marietta to this day. Moses Varnum lived at Guyandotte until 1821, at which time he purchased 630 acres of land, river bottom land, at the mouth of Federal Creek just above Miller. Mr. Varnum bought this land principally for the virgin timber that was on it. He established a boat yard at Miller.. His land fronted the Ohio River and the Federal Creek ran through this land. He floated the timber down the creek. He cut the timber into wood

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lengths to be sold to the steamboats that operated on the Ohio River, which used wood as a fuel. The mill was also used to grind meal and feed.

() There was handed down to me a story which I am sure is true and I have many times seen the graves of two original Millers who were killed by the Indians. They are located thirty steps from the Ohio River bank on the bank following Federal Creek. One time one of the old original Miller women went out into the garden to dig some potatoes, and she had in her hand a short hoe. She was attacked from the thicket by an Indian close to the garden. She killed the Indian with that hoe by a blow on the head.

Millersport was the original name of Miller, Ohio, and went by that name for many years. It was named after the original family of Millers that settled there. They were among the first settlers, if not the first. The descendants of these Millers live there to this day.

One of the sons of Moses Varnum of Millersport was named Leander, Senior. He married Angelina Cole Mason. She was brought here from Virginia at twelve years of age by Dr. Gerard C. Ricketts of Guyandotte. She married George Mason first, who was drowned in the Ohio River. Dr. Gerard C. Ricketts was probably a relative of my grandfather. He died at my grandfather's at Millerport. He came from Virginia, Dr. Gerard Ricketts, and was the original Ricketts that came here. He brought my grandmother with him. She first married George Mason. She had one child by that marriage, George. He married a Miller woman who was the parents of Mrs. Gussie McVey of Huntington, West Virginia and Mr. George Vermillion, and Miss Clara Mason of Miller, Ohio.

Leander Varnum, Senior, was my grandfather and Leander Varnum, Jr., was my father. My mother was Miss Anna M. Griffith. The Griffith family was also an old family. They moved from Scottown, Ohio. Andrew Griffith and Martha Griffith were my grandparents on my mother's side. There were five children in our family. I was the first, George Griffith Varnum, born January 15, 1880 and married Miss Genona Burcham, daughter of Fleming Burcham of Lawrence County. Nathaniel Burcham was my wife's great grandfather. He was a very distinguished justice of that time. He resided near Scottown and held his court there. There is a very interesting story connected with Nathaniel Burcham as a justice.

() My grandmother Varnum was a pioneer church worker and dry leader in our community for many years. There was an organization of women that would never allow a saloon to be

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established in Millersport. They had many difficulties in endorsing this determination and had many scrapes with local officials to prevent the establishment of saloons, but they were always successful. The powers that be at that time were determined to locate a liquor establishment near Millersport, so as they couldn't establish one within the town, they established one on a boat and tied it to the bank at Millerport and commenced to dispense their beverages and caused a great disturbance in the community. My grandmother Varnum and some women took their axes and hatches and visited this boat one day and asked the man who was operating it, by the name of George Howard, to untie his boat and leave the community and never come back. If he would do this, there would be nothing more said. He refused to move his boat and was going to continue to sell liquor to the people at Millersport. With my grandmother in the lead with an axe they boarded the boat and demolished the pictures and all the stock of wet goods and through it into the river. Mr. Howard went before Justice of the Peace Burcham and swore out a warrant for my grandmother and all the rest of the women and they were called into court. My grandmother said that they held the court out under a large oak tree. There was a large crowd. Mr. Burcham had a large dinner already prepared. He complimented the women for the work they had been doing and told them to continue that good work and that he, as an officer of the law, would stand behind them and defend them in every way he could.

My grandfather (great) Moses Senior donated the cemetery at Millersport which is located in the valley immediately back of Millersport. It is one of the nicest cemeteries in the country. My great grandfather and greatgrandmother on both sides are buried in that cemetery. My grandparents and my parents are also buried there. He also helped establish the original Methodist church at Millerport. Millersport was a well established shipping point for many years. It served the whole surrounding country. Flat boats were built there and loaded with produce and floated down the river to New Orleans, Cincinnati, and etc.

(George Mason, Jr. married Ophelia Sheppard.)

Leander Senior (Lon) Varnum, Moses Varnum, Jr. and Anselm Varnum were the sons of Moses Varnum, Senior. Aunt Sac was a daughter of Moses Varnum. She married Millard Drown, a school teacher, and moved to Beech Fork. There was no issue to this union but they raised

several children. At the present time, October 27, 1939, the only one living at Millersport of the Varnum family is Anthony Varnum, son of Anselm Varnum, who lived on Carl Varnum's farm below Millersport, and is at this time about eighty-two years of age. Anthony Varnum has a son located some place in Kentucky. The only other Varnum living at Millersport is my sister, Mrs. Vivian Garland. She has one daughter named Myrtle.

Among the early settlers were the following: The Millers, the Sheppards, the Nichols, the Bakers, and the DeVoes. The DeVoes still have relatives here in Huntington. Another early family was the Blake family, the Holshuh, and the Knights. There also the Dillions, the Chapmans, the McCowans, the Hays, the Lewis', the Trésdells, and the Clark family. Captain Bill Knight was a steam boat owner and builder and owned fleets of steam boats. The Blake family was merchants and farmers. They owned thousands acres of land and operated a branch business. They were one of the first chain store people in the United States.

Before the virgin timber was cut out of the country, barrels and staves were manufactured Barrels were for liquor, sorghum, flour, etc. Another old settler was a McClure. Swartwood family was a prominent one.. Walls were prominent store keepers. The Swains were another old family. The Told family was prominent. The Lynn family was prominent. Ellen Lynn was my aunt who married Ben Lynn. She was a Griffith. The McKnight family produced some pretty good people. John McKnight was the county treasurer of Lawrence County for many years.

I am a son of Leander Varmun, Jr. and a grandson of Leander Varnum, Senior. I am a great grandson of Moses Varnum. I ^{have} ~~am~~ the only male descendant of the Varnums at Millersport. I have three sons to carry on the name. I have four daughters also.. My children are Vernon N. Varnum, Gerard C. Varnum, George G. Varnum, Jr. These are the three sons. The daughters are Genevie P. Rice who married Edward Rice. They live at Ironton. The next daughter is Inez who married Doctor Henson at Hamlin, West Virginia. The next is Hazel Dean Varnum who married Omar Ferriss, and they live at Ashland, Kentucky. The three sons are all single and at home. Virginia Ann is at home and single.

Some of the early teachers of the Millersport school was Robert Miller, son of Andrew Miller. Another was Gerard C. Varnum. Others were Emory Hay who was a prominent attorney of Lawrence County. He studied law and got his degree and practiced law in Lawrence County.

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Ferry Dillion was also a school teacher. He brother also taught school. Dave Ward and his brother were also teachers. Originally they had a small school house in the valley in Millersport. This was before my time. The original town was down next to the river and the school house and the church were down in the low part of the town. The floods disturbed them and tore them up. They were then moved up on higher ground.