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
December 2020

MS 76 Box 6 Notebook 13 - Bannon, "Stories old and often told" four chapters

Fred Bussey Lambert

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MS 76
BX 6
NBK 13

The Merritt Family
Final Form, but
not completed.

Elmwood Baptist Church Hist. --
Part only.

Judge James H. Ferguson.

MS 76
BX 6
NBK 13

We have Bible records. No picture so far as I know. Martin married Lucy Maloney, Hinton W. Va. May have Bible

Children:

1. Mahala, married Wm.H.Douglas. They did live in Poor's Hill, near the new school. It was an old, two story frame. Stooe 100 to 300 feet west of school. Their children are all dead but Mattie, who married first, E.K.Shepherd, of Barboursville; second, Jos. Hinchman, who married Minnie Adams, Children: Mattie Cora, Alberta, and Robert. Cora married Ed Yates. Lived at Major McKendree farm. She died there. She was a beautiful girl. He is living. Alberta, single. Died. Robert died single.
2. Mary married Wm. Merritt. Lived up Blake Hollow. Their children
 1. Cassius, married Jennie Blake. Two children:

Angie, born 1885. Died Feb.28,1897; died young.

Lee, born about 1887; died July 3, 1903.

Cassius died 1929.

Jennie died Dec.4, 1909. She was the daughter of Isaac B.
 2. Joseph. Married first Hattie Burge. Divorced in about two years. Several years she married Lyçurgas Handley. No children. Married second, Elizabeth Shepherd. Born at Rush, Boyd Co., Ky. Children: Eddie, Blanche, Charles, Laura, Harry and Mary. Eddie and Blanche are dead. Harry and Laura live at Montgomery. Charles lives on farm.
 3. Olga, married Wm. Baumgardner, son of John B. Baumgardner (Fatty) who sold whiskey at hotel.

2

Children:

1. Florence, married Elza Willis. They live on Charleston Avenue.
2. Mary, died young
3. John, married 6 6 66. Lives in this city
4. Craven, married Lives in the city.

Wm. Baumgardner died, and Olga married Marion Swann, son of Ben Swann. May or swann is a son.

4. William R. (Will) Died single, at about 64, in 1927. He had no home; died at Joe's. Above is all the family.
3. Joseph Allen: Record already on cards,
4. Hattie married, first Baxter Anderson, of Rockbridge County, Va. There were two children:

Coma, who died young, at about 8 years;

Winnie, born July 1, 1873: died Nov. 4, 1903.

She married James C. Thacker, and they had two
Children: Forest, married

Garnet, married Wm. Snead. Both live in
Charleston. Jas. T. came from Kentucky

Hattie Anderson married second, James McClung. They lived in the Ferrell house on Water Street, beyond Blume's store (a well was on the corner) There were no children. Married third, Geo McComas, Jim's father. Both dead.

5. Thomas, married Jennie Doss. I have record. Molly married Edmunds. They live near East High School.
Walter lives at Belle, W. Va.
Newton lives at Russell, Ky.

6. Emily married James F. Adams.

7. Nannie, married John H. Holroyd. Was born about 1840; died 1908. Two children:

1. Thos. Elmer, not married. Born 1869; died Nov. 27, 1904.
2. Ollie, married Jim Thacker. She was born Oct. 17, 1872, dying Aug. 19, 1899. He died in 1930, at the age of 70 years. Ollie had one son, James, who married Alice Adkins, daughter of Ras and lives with Mrs. Ras Adkins, Barboursville, I think.
8. Martha, married Marshall Stewart. Lived at Rush, Ky. A large family. Frank (J.F.) Stewart, an attorney, lives in Ashland. Prominent.

Melchor Merritt was a Baptist preacher. He lived in an old house about 1/2 mile east of Barboursville, on Main turnpike, on the left, going east. The C & O double tracked and moved it to other side of railroad and pike. It soon burned down. It was a large, two story frame. Geo. D. Perry bought the farm. He sold it for a brick yard. They still own it, the company. Bob Kyle was the first Superintendant. The one up Guyan was the oldest, built in 1903. The above was built about 1917.

Hattie Anderson owned about 80 acres including the brick yard over to Blake school and adjoining Jas. A. Merritt. She kept boarding house there. Lincoln timber men came down Mud, and Guyan timber men from Logan went back, walking up Blake Hollow, and stayed with her. They came by way of Blake Hollow, Mill Branch, across to Mill Branch school, and followed the pike. Later, she kept in the F.M. Ferrell house, on Water St.

After passing brick yard, there was a two-story frame house, owned by Aunt Peggy Hodge, wife of Matthew Lusher. She was Margaret Blake, sister to Isaac, and John W. Blake, who lived mostly, in Indianapolis. He was Ike's only brother, and was a carpenter.

Margaret Lusher married, second, Charles Hodge (said to have colored blood). She had only one son, Charles Hodge, who married Mary Suiter, a school teacher. She came from Ohio, and lives in Barboursville yet--on the corner, this side of Ray Toler.

Margaret and Matthew had James M. (Bub) Lusher, who married, first, Fanny Strupe, mother of John and Bill Strupe, and a daughter who married Otto Guthrie. Fanny and James M. Lusher were divorced; and he married, second, Thomas, on Big Fudge. There was one son only, called "Bub". He runs a store below Susanna church.

2. Matthew Lusher, Jr. (Coon) married Louisa Le Sage. Insane.

Children::

Bessie, married John Adams (no kin here). Lives 1700 on Dalton Ave. (Cor. house).

Clyde, a R. R. man (See family).

3. Tolliver Lusher, married Hurd. Lives with his children Now with Grace, at Ashland.

4. Sarah, married Wm.H.Seamonds, father of George S., James Hatfield's wife Jack, Willie Randolph, &c. Lena married Wm. Tinsley; they separated.

5. Mollie Lusher, married Gibson. Lived in Covington Ky. "Peggy" Hodge lived across Mud River, above Mollory's (a ford and John boat crossing, hewed out of poplar, and belonged to her. Peggy Hodge owned it, then Charles Allen, her son; ~~the~~ then Charles A. Hodge sold to Jim Thacker (107) acres); Thacker sold to Henry J. Baumgardner, who lived on it. All above lived on it. Henry Baumgardner sold to W.F.Ferrell 1901. Jarrell to Anthony Kuhn. He owns part of it. He divided it. Several of his children

live on it, yet.

Joseph A. Merritt built next house where I now live, in 1871, and he lived and died in the same house. Prepared first meal in it. It is a five room, one story, with porches, cut nails, and old fashioned weather boarding. There is a cellar under the house.

Wm. H. Seamonds lived above Jos. A. Merritt's house in Rece's Creek, about 1/2 mile.

Joseph Merritt, brother to Cassius built above the Seamonds house in 1894 (Bert Smith, a carpenter, built it, and also Bill Hash's house just over the ridge (Tom's Creek ridge road) E.W. Blume owned the farm. Jos. A. Merritt also owned 24 acres above the Seamond's farm and joining the Tom Edwards (old Watson place), on east. A house stood on it, owned at one time by Isaac Thompson, who died June 1, 1896. He was born Oct. 16, 1835 (Same day as Jos. A. Merritt and Sam Gideon). Sam sometimes came up to celebrate. He had two sons and a daughter, James McClellan T., and Wilson and Minnie, who married Wm. Abbott, a daughter of James and Poll Abbott. I don't know any more of him. The old house stood on old pike about a quarter mile ~~above~~ the junction of Rece Creek road and James River pike, and on Rece Creek side. It was a good, three room log house, with loft upstirs. After Ike's death McClellan Thompson lived there. All are dead.

We next cross to others of the old pike. Hiram G. Burgess lives there now--a small, three room Jenny Lind house. James Nipps, a brother to Morris and George Nipps lived George lives yet, on Big Cabell. George Thornburg owned it at that time. It has since been owned by Elijah Adkins, who lived there, but couldn't pay

for it. George T. took it back and sold to Sam Brown, who lived there, a C & O. engineer who lived there several years. His wife, after his death, sold to Hiram Burgess.

The Jim Joy place once belonged to Joseph C. Kilgore. It was sold for debt in 1892, and Jim Joy bought it for \$1100.00. Joe Kolgore lived a long time in the Jim Joy house; his wife was a relative of Alex. Everett's mother. After Jim's death Richard (Dick) Mallory, Claude Miller and Hal Beckett bought it for speculation. Howard Schoew now owns it; he lives there, now.

We next come to the Sophia Peyton, Watson, Tom Edward's farm. He got it for about \$200.00---264 acres. It extends to Mud River, 24 acres on south side of C & O. R.R. now owned by Dave Gideon (speculation). He also bought the Jim Diehl place, a one room log shack on top of hill on Cyrus Creek--the old Charles Sumerson place.

Jim Diehl (?) came from Fayette County. He died there about three or four years ago (about 1937), during the cold winter. It was not far from the J.W. Roffe place, near mouth of creek. The house stood west, and on the hill from J.W. Roffe. Sumerson was there before I can remember. I think the farm contained about sixty-five acres. Diehl sold it to Dave Gideon.

Diehl had a bad cold. It was last Sunday, in January, 1937. Mr. Armstrong, of a filling station, got Tom Cyrus and another boy to go up and see about him. They knocked on the door, and he was so weak, door barred, no fire. They knocked, but he didn't answer. He came to the door and let them in. They started a fire, but he died before they could get it going. They hauled him on an icy sled to Joe Cyruses. Heck came for him. He was not married, but belonged to Mud River Baptist church. He was a good citizen. Lived there

1905--1937.

Now, we go out back of Tom Edward's place, on Mud River. Jonathan Turley, Elijah Turley, and Turley?, (father of Ed. at Ona) owned three farms there. I think the three all married sisters, Dundases, daughters of John Dundas.

Green Harrison lived at the Falls (House burned), a large two-story frame, a good one.

Leaving the road at Edward's house and turning at right angles to the river. Green Harrison lived about 1--1/2 miles up Mud, ~~with~~ on north side. David Harshbarger once owned it and had a mill there. They ground wheat and corn, undershot wheel. The Green Harrison farm is nearly opposite Ona, (above Blue Sulphur).

George A. Floding built the Blue Sulphur Hotel. Now, Don Chafin may own it. A beer garden is there now, run by a Mr. Brown, of Huntington. August Willke, father of Chas. Willke lived there. He had two children, only: Charles and Rosie, who married Gyles Bly-bon. Charles married Ella Childers, sister of Henry and Oscar Childers, of Cyrus Creek.

The Turley farms were opposite the Jim Dundas place and ~~the~~ the Strank place. Emil Strank was the owner (N. side of Mud), and all in the bend below Blue Sulphur.

CYRUS CREEK.

The old Elijah Cyrus house stood where J.W. Roffe lived. He had lived in the Elijah Cyrus house. Elijah Cyrus' children were: John, Joe, Frank and Jim; Jennie, Sarah, Mrs. J.W. Roffe. Moving up the creek, Mike Smith house was next, a weatherboarded log house. Henry Childer's house, now owned by his son, Henry. Up the left

hand prong, above Smiths, lived Jesse Ford, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Lizzie (Frank) Burk's wife. No other houses are on the left hand fork. It heads against Little Fudge.

Alman Burks was a brother to Frank and Bill, who lives back of the M.E.Church, at Barboursville.

John Merritt, the miller, married first Margaret Dundas, and second, married Frances Dundas, two sisters. His children:

George Small, married Kate Simon,

Thomas, married Nellie Hatfield,

Garland, died at about 18,

John, married Lucy Woods, of Lawrence County, Ohio,

Lucy, " S.G. Johnston, Supt. at old brick yard; brother to the undertaker.

Susie, married John Wheeler. Lived at Barboursville, Milton.

Sallie, single. She is only one living. May be living at Huntington, at Georgg's place.

Jennie, married Fred Baumgardner, of Pea Ridge road.

John, Jr. lived on the Tolliver-Lusher place, on main road between our place and the Seamond's place.

Lucy lived with Sally in the old Merritt house while he was at brick yard, six to seven years. John, at one time, owned the mill. His heirs later owned it.

9

John Merritt, the miller,

Married, first, Margaret Dundas, second, Francis Dundas, sisters of Lucy.

Children:

1. George, Small, married Kate Simon
2. Thomas, married Nettie Hatfield,
2. Garland, the baby, died at 22 or 23.
1. John, married Lucy Woods, of Ohio, Lawrence County.
2. Lucy, married S.G. Johnston, Sup't at old brick yard.
Brother to the undertaker. 1 older than Tom.
1. Susie, married John Wheeler. Lived at Barboursville
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James E. Shelton married America Gwinn, sister to, Lue Gwinn,
who married Peter White.

(Note by F.B.L. Peter White married first Black-
wood.)

Wm. Thomas Edwards, the C & O. engineer, was killed at South
Caperton, this side of Thurmond, W. Va. Jan. 7, 1909. His fireman,
Pete Trent, was also killed. They were running too fast on pas-
senger train No. 1, coming in home. His regular run was East on

10
No.2. Leaving Huntington at 5:30 P.M. No.1 was late when he left Hinton, 30 minutes. He was probably trying to "make up" time. He had two sons, one being killed on the railroad. The other was James, now retired as an engineer about two years ago.

Daughters:

Laura, married John W. Boit, and lived at Hinton. He was an engineer on the C & O. She lives at 1676, Dalton Avenue.

Hattie, married Walter W. Clark, son of Harvey Clark. He died April 1, 1906. She lives with Laura. Her son, Hollace, lives with them. He married _____

Maggie, married Luther Arthur, a blacksmith, at Barboursville, at a shop occupied by Bill Herndon, this side of Thacker, and across from the tanyard. He lives next to Thomas Thornburg, and between him and Wm. May. She has two daughters living.

B.F.Childers run a blacksmith shop on the bank of Guyand River where Green Harrison kept.

Mr.Wilson, father of Nannie Turner (no relation to other Wilsons) was a blacksmith at the same shop. Wilson came to Barboursville in 1901 and built a large, two-story house, at foot of the hill out towards the brick yard. Nannie Turner's brother, Augustus, (Gus), D.Wilson, an engineer, lives at Peach Creek. He did live at Russell, Ky.

I was at Mrs. Edwards (who was a Parrish) when No.1 failed to come in. She said: "I am so afraid something has happened". He should have come in on No.14 that morning, but word soon came to her of the accident. I got the news at noon. I attended the funeral at Milton, where he was buried. Matthew L. Wood preached the

11

funeral at Baptist church. Mr. Edwards belonged to Mud River Baptist church. The President of the road, George W. Stevens, sent most beautiful flowers, and a special train carrying everybody free of charge, both ways.

The accident occurred Jan. 7, 1909. The train hit a switch engine, was reversed, and headed back towards Hinton. Several persons, baggage master and mail clerk were slightly injured, but no passengers.

Harry Edwards married Anna Grinner, but they separated. No children. She is the operator at Scott. He was killed on the C & O. of Indiana, near Peru, Indiana.

A head on collision of two freight engines. Both engineers were killed. It was on the second track.

James Edwards, #802 -- 2nd St., West. He married Gertie Gross, a Catholic woman.

No. 1 was derailed about 3 A.M. that morning.

Mr. Edwards, Walter Clark, James Edwards, Harry Edwards and Jim Boit were all engineers.

Pat Maloney married _____ Parrish, a sister to Tom Edwards' wife. His sons, Marin and Tom, were engineers.

Martin married Lucy Merritt, my sister.

Tom married Estelle Toney, and lived at Guyandotte. Martin now lives at Hinton. He is the second oldest engineer out of Hinton.

12
145
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Hubert Ellis was b. July 6, 1887.
Son of John Franklin Ellis m.
Grace Cornelia Shank, dau. of
^(Mrs. Buss's sister)
Thomas Mitchell Shank and
b. Sept. 5, 1842 d. Nov. 8, 1932, at 90
m. Sarah Susannah Turner
b. Oct. 28, 1841 ~~1842~~
d. July 24, 1899.

Dau. of Dr. David
Fetthum Turner of England
(London) Buried at
South Point, Ohio. Dr.
Turner was Physician to
General Logan in the
Union Army (Mrs. Logan
wrote the Memoirs of
Gen. Logan, and in it
she mentioned Dr. Turner
and gave his picture.
He was a fine looking
man. He lived in
Barboursville where he
married ~~Olivia~~ Mary
Elizabeth Merrill, daughter
of Capt. John Merrill

J. H. Ferguson.

*Son of James Ferguson
and Mary Harvey*

Barboursville can boast of no more distinguished citizen than James Hervey Ferguson. He was born April 14, 1814, in Augusta County, Virginia, and died at the age of 83 at Charleston, West Virginia June 21, 1897. His mother was Mary Harvey. Of his father nothing is now known. He was married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth Dirton, grand-daughter of Capt. William Merritt, a Revolutionary soldier. *She was dau. of Peter and Elizabeth Merritt Dirton*

He was left an orphan at about nine years of age. He had but one relative in the world, an Uncle of his father. His father was a Scotchman named James Ferguson. When his father died, the boy left home and wandered, all alone to Barboursville, where he apprenticed himself to John^{J.} Miller to learn the shoe trade. While working at this business he saved the little pieces of candles left from store lights and used them to study by. It was in this way, that he learned ed law. When a young man, he taught school for awhile at Barboursville. Then he went to Logan, where his six children were born: Elizabeth Virginia, married Alexander Pratt, of Indiana; Ann Brook Lawson, married L.A. Martin, of Kanawha County, who died in 1913; William Alexander; Helen Marr; Alfred Hanse; Mary Yanthus, married Walter Shelton, son of Thomas Shelton, of Barboursville. She is the only surviving member of the family and now lives in Huntington.

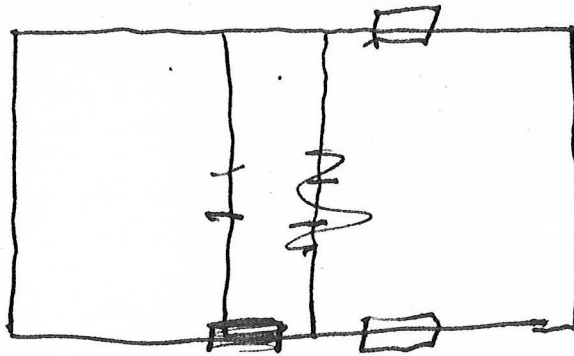
Judge Ferguson was a fine conversationalist. He was a type of the self-made man. It is said that he never went to school six months in his life; yet he was a great Bible scholar and a great reader in general. He was also a student of Greek and Latin. U. S. Senator Joe Chilton and his brother Will were intimately acquainted

with him, and knew of his scholarship. He is said to have had something to do in starting them in public life. His second wife was Elizabeth Ong, a daughter of John W. Ong, one of the old citizens of Guyandotte. His third wife was Lizzie Creel, of Parkersburg, West Virginia with whom he lived about twenty-three years, but had no children. His residence was on the hill of what is known as South Side at Charleston. He was tall square built, straight, fine-looking man. He was large, having an average weight of two hundred, fifty pounds, and stood 6 ft. 2 in.

About 1852 he disappeared from Barboursville until 1859, when he returned; but soon went away and was no more seen until 1863. No one ever knew his whereabouts. Some have claimed that he went West and joined the Mormons and that he took part in the massacre of Meadow Mountain. Others think that he became legal advisor to Brigham Young; but the secret of this "man of mystery", as he may be called will probably never be known. On his return he became a central figure in the community, and was regarded as the most brilliant legal light in Southern West Virginia.

I was b. June 14, 1862, dau. of Thos. Barnett (only one living) and Nancy Blake, dau. of Peter Blake.

The house was a ~~two~~ two story, new-lewed house, rather large. It had 3 rooms up stairs & two down stairs. Oak logs, pine floor. I judge the front room was one used by the court. The door



Early in morning
(of March 6, 1899,
the mill went
out, a total loss
by a flood, higher
ever known, in
Mud River. Flour
and grist mill by
George Merrill

It had an entry between the house & the log kitchen. There was a basement under the kitchen. A very large cut stone chimney stood at each end. I was about 10 yrs. old when the house fell down.

There were 3 bed rooms up stairs.

Thos. Barnett bought it & paid for it all but \$100.

John Merrill b. Feb. 19, 1852 d. Sept.

Is buried back of the old
Merrill home place. I never saw
my grandmother

My grandmother was
Margaret Dundas, dau of
(John? Dundas)

Children

George ~~Fredrick~~ Merrill
b. Feb. 19, 1852
m. Kate Simonds, (b. 1852)

dau. Fredrick and
Julia Simonds of
Barboursville.

They came from
Germany to New
York, then Pittsburg,
then to Pomerooy & Mason
City, then to B'ville

Swen's Index for

William Merrill 38V. 387
34V. 169

On Merrill vs. Edmunds

(I don't know whether he
was the Cabell Co. man.)

15V. 394.

First Interview with
Mrs. M. S. Bias,

Hubert S. Ellis was born July 6,
1887, at Hurricane.

His father John Franklin Ellis
b. Oct. 28, 1858.

He m. Grace C. Shank, dau.
of Thomas Mitchell Shank
and Sarah Susanna Turner
was a dau. of Mr. David
Phetthou Turner, and
Mary Elizabeth Ann
Merrill.

Grace C. Shank was a sister
of Mrs. Marine Sanford Bias.

Captain John Merritt (See Stone
in old Bill
Cemetery.)

m. 1. Sally Wentz 1812
m. 2. Jane McCormick, dau of James McC.

Children: ~~the~~

I-2 William Merritt

m.

Had 10-12 children
All dead.

Mary Merritt

m. 1. Felix Bluffin

m. 2. Miller Thornburg.

Miller Uriah Thornburg

My gr. mother
Merritt was.

(Joe)
Margerite Shiveley lives
on 12th Ave. & Hubert
S. Ellis are my only rel-
atives living.

I was Sept. 14, 1869 - now 82-10-16-52.

I had 3 broos & 1 sister
Albert m. Manda Reynolds?
Grace m. Ellis
Walter m.
Orren? Shank?
m.

2 Mary Elizabeth Ann
Merritt David Pielth
m. 1 Mr. Turner
of England.
3 daus. & 1 son.

m. 2. Jim Ballar
of Lincoln Co.
Large
family of and
No ch. b.

John Merrill I

3-2 "Peggy" (Margaret)

m. Octavius Church,

a lawyer from
London, England

Polly (Mary) Morris married
Alfred Ellis great grandfather
of Hubert S. Ellis. She died
about 64 yrs. ago - about 1883
& is buried in Teay's Valley
Cemetery at Mt. Vernon place.
She was nearly 100 years old
when I saw her on her death
bed. John Ellis was born in
1858

Census of 1850

The Merrill Families

39 - Margaret Merrill 86 b. Va.
 George W. 68 (Her son - F.B.L.)
 John 21, Miller b. Va.
 Margaret 21 (Dundas)

(Margaret Sr., above, was
 the widow of William
 Merrill Sr., who died
 about 1819. - F.B.L.)

156 - William Merrill 37 - Farmer
 Leborah (Baumgardner) 35

John F. 16

Sarah E. 15

Thos. J. 12

Mary M. 10

Eliza V. 8

Theresa 7

James J. 6

Philip N. 4

24
950- John Merrill 61 Farmer 2500
Jane (McCormick 45 (Second wife)
F.B.L. b. Va.
Mary Dick 13

990- Elizabeth Turner 33

Octavia 12
Mary Elizabeth Ann Merrill Susan 9 (Sarah S. Sannah)
dan. of John Merrill David 5
and first wife Eliza 1

957 - Melcher Merrill 40 All b. Va.
Mary " 43

1. Mahala A. 18
2. Mary M. 16
3. Joseph A. 14
4. Harriet F. 13
5. Nancy J. 11
6. Thos. H. 8
7. Emily E. 4
8. Martha J. 1

964 - Thomas Merrill 38 Farmer
Margaret " 35

John 25

William 13

Thomas 8

Margaret 6

Sarah 4 months

966 - Eliza Merrill 10

With Harrison before 35

(Ona section?)

(I don't know whose were
parents - E. of Eliza - F. B. L.)

The Church Family

155- Octavius Church 35 Farmer

\$4000

B. England

Margaret (Merrill)

35

John W. 8

Henry L. 6

George 4

All.

197 David Turner 40 School Teacher
er. b. Eng.

Ellenopine 12 -- b. England

With Daniel Spurlock

65. b. Va.

21

Ages of the Merritts as
shown by the Census of
1850 in Cabell County, but
see the old Merritt Bible records,
written.

Geo. W. Merritt 68, hence,

b. 1782 1782

1 John Merritt 61 b. 1788

2 Melcher 40

3 Thomas 38

4 William 37

5 Margaret (Strupe) 51

6 Ann 43

7 Mary (Polly) 49

8 William Jr. 52 (Estimated)

(William Merritt Sr. b. About 1764)

Margaret Merritt Sr.
b. 1764, in Virginia.

m. About 1781.

Geo. W. b. 1782

John b. 1788 - Feb. 16

{ Margaret 1799

{ William b. 1798

Mary b. 1801

Ann b. 1807

Melcher b. 1810

Thomas b. 1812

Error? — (William b. 1813) (Estimated)

20
John Merrill 1788

b. Feb. 16, 1788

d. Feb. 16, 1855, at ex-
actly 67 yrs. of age.

The old Guyandotte Her-
ald had a paragraph
on his death, as follows:

"Died

"On the 16th inst. Mr.
John Merrill aged 66 years,
and closed his eyes on his
67th anniversary.

~ Mr. Merrill was an old
citizen, a man of a warm
and generous heart. The poor
were not turned unfed from
his door. But he sleepeth, -
Peace to his dust.

Communicated."

John Merrill served as
a private in Captain John
Simmons' Company, in the
War of 1812. Promoted Nov. 1812
to corporal. Recd \$7 33 a month.

Mrs. M. J. ... Old Ladies Home

Capt. John Merrill

m. 1. (Sally) Wentz, who was the mother of her 3 children. She d. when her children were young.

1-2 Mary Elizabeth Merrill buried in Lincoln Co. a stone m. Mr. Turner. 3 children:

Sarah Sumner

— Octavia m.

Hardwick, of ...

Eliza m. Mel Plumley.

Lived out from Hamlin

Octavius b. 1815 \$4000

Church, a lawyer who with David Turner, from England. They moved to Minnesota

They had 9 sons, of whom Billy Church the oldest, m.

a B'ville woman and both d. there

moved to Minnesota & on their return Hardwick d. of Asiatic Cholera on a boat returning from Minnesota. near Miller, O. She returned to B'ville. Margaret b. about 1816

Census 1850 gives David Turner as a sch. Teacher with a dau. Ellen. opine 12. He b. in England 1810. Liv. ing, at that time with Daniel Spur. look 65

Census shows: John W. Church 8 Henry L. " 6 George " 4

3-2 Billy (Wm) Merrill. Lived & d. in B'ville. Buried in the old Cemetery He m. Deborah Baumgardner. (I saw her when I was about 11 - 21 - 18)

My grandmother, Mary
Elizabeth Merrill m. Dr. Turner
by whom she had 3 children
all b. before the Civil War.
Her father, Capt. John Merrill,
was opposed to the marriage
to Dr. Turner, and they ran
off when she was probably
about 19. He opposed it
because Turner was English.
He disappeared after they
separated long before the
Civil War, when my mother
was a small girl. Rufus
Switzer found grandfather
Turner's grave at South
Point, Q. Some letters had
come from England asking
for the heirs of Dr. Turner.
at B'ville. Billy Church
was P. M. & he brought
the letters to mother at
Hurricane. My father got
Rufus Switzer to investigate
& learned that Dr. Turner
d. here some where

51
Capt John Merrill (See Tombstone)
b. 1789

m. Sally Wentz, July 2, 1812

d. Between Dec. 1 (?), 1854 &

Jan. 23, 1855.

m. 1 Sally Wentz 1812

m. 2. Jane (McCormick), 1805

John F. Ellis was a son of
George Ellis m. Mary Summers
of Gallipolis, O

Geo. Ellis was son of
Alfred Ellis m. Polly Morris
also of Gallipolis
(Polly Morris)

I saw her, when she
was nearly 100 yrs. old.
She came from Gallipolis,
but she was related to the
Pulnam & Cabell Co. Morris
I saw her on her death bed
when I was about 15 yrs.

I was Mary Virginia Shank
da. of Thos. Mitchell Shank &
sister to Hubert's mother. I
was b. Sept. 14, 1869, m. Dr. M. S.
B. (Marine San. & B. ...)

Sally Wentz
m. John Merrill,
July 2, 1812.

Polly Merrill m. Joseph Wentz
^{daugh. of}
^{Wm. Sh.} Feb. 10, 1820,
John Morris

Will Bk 2 p. 190 Probated
John Merrill's Will Jan. 23, 1855
Dec. 1 or 7?, 1854
(in presence of Dr Henry
B. Maupin, John Samuels
and Henry B. Maupin
just debts and funeral
expenses to be paid.
"The portion of ~~my~~ estate
that descends to my dau-
ghter, Elizabeth Turner"
he wills to his son,
William Merrill, in
trust for his dau. Eliz-
abeth Turner and her
children as necessities
may require. Because
he

one fifth of my estate because
of expense he had been for
her and her children for
the last five or six years.
H. J. Samuels To be executor, etc

Wm. Merrill Sr's estate
was settled Sept. 28, 1819.
He made no will.

See Deed Bk 3 p. 57

Deed Bk 3 p. 231-

A Chancery Case
Nov. 1819. Margaret Merrill
applied for her dower, in
the estate of Wm. Merrill, Sen.
deceased.

Deed Bk 3 p. 514-

March 13, 1822, The
Wm. Merrill Sr. make
a deed To Cuff Caldwell, for
\$30 paid to Wm. Merrill, in
his lifetime, the S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 16

in the town of Boile
Signed by

John Merrill
George "

William Stroop

Joseph Wenz

Elizabeth Hurling (Hurling)

Wm. Merrill Jr. had been
an heir but died about
1818.

Some of the heirs didn't
sign this deed. See this
deed itself for list. It adds
(Age) Margaret Stroop & (Williams)

Polly Wenz (& Joseph W)

Ann Merrill

Jacob "

Melcher "

Thos. "

(Wm. Merrill, deed)

with the ones above
who signed the deed -
There were nine in all.
See other deeds.

Merritts Mill
The Huntington Advertiser
March 6, 1899:

"Old Land Mark Washed Away"

Merritts Mill at Barboursville
Now a Total Wreck.

Mud River is the highest
ever known and considerable
damage is the result along
the upper waters of that stream.
Early this morning the old
flour and grist mill, owned
by George Merritt, and opera-
ted by ~~steam~~^{water} power was
washed from its foundation
just above the mouth of
Mud River, and the building
upset into midstream. It
was washed down the stream
and lodged against the C. &
O. R. R. bridge, where it
now rests upside down.
This mill is an old land
mark, and has been in
steady operation for more
than half a century. It
will be a T. D. N. "

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON MERRITT HOME

OR

FIRST CABELL COUNTY COURT

In keeping with the idea of the Commission on Historic and Scenic Markers, I respectfully submit the following:

After diligent search for authentic information with reference to the First Court held in Cabell County, I find that it was held in the home of William Merritt, located on the left bank of Mud River, about one-eighth mile from its mouth, on rural route 60 at the same point.

This court was held in the aforementioned home, on the Second Monday after the Fourth Monday in April 1809.

Officers of the Court were:

Judge John Coulter, of the 12th Judicial Circuit
Edwin Morris, Clerk
James Wilson, Prosecuting Attorney

Bondsmen for the Clerk were:

Thomas Buffington
Gerimah Ward
John Russell
Jesse Spurlock

Amount of bond was the sum of \$10,000.

To authenticate the fact that the Merritt Home has been definitely located, I incorporate herein a statement made to me by Mrs. Cashius Merritt, of 916- 24th Street, Huntington, West Virginia, wherein she states: -

"I was born in 1862, in the old Merritt Home, on the bank of Mud River, on the hill just above the old mill.

"My husband, Cashius Merritt, was born in the two-room house just above. My parents were Thomas and Nancy Barnette, who purchased part of the stock from a Mr. Merritt and a Mr. Miller.

"The house has been replaced by a new one, but I remember the original house. It was made of double-hewed logs, two large rooms upstairs, with an out-kitchen.

"And there was a cellar under the kitchen. I remember my mother telling me that the County Court met there. I also remember the big fireplaces of stone. They would hold a great big log. I also remember when

the kitchen was torn down it was so
tottery it was liable to fall.

"When the new house was built, all of the
stone in the chimneys was used for the
foundation, and the home is now called the
"Barnette" home.

"My mother was Nancy Blake, and was born the
daughter of Peter and Sarah Blake, on the
24th day of September, 1824."

There can be no question but that this home site is correct, and
so that future generations may know where our first court was held,
I recommend a fitting Marker be placed thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Commission on Historic and Scenic Markers

By R. B. Walker, Research Worker.

*Swen's Index has the following
references to*

William Merrill

38 U. 387

34 U. 169

Merrill vs. Edmunds
15 U. 374.

William Strupe

13 U. 169

By John Merrell. Oct. 24, 1946.

I knew the tailor F. M. Ferrell who died about 1894. He is buried in the old B'ville Cemetery. My aunt Hattie Merrell who m. 1.

m. 1. Baxter Anderson and had two children, Coma and Winnie.

Coma d. at about 6 yrs.

Winnie m. Jim Thacker 1895.
Raised in Ky. about Maysville.
She d. 1902. They

lived in the John G. Miller brick. They had two children:

Forest Thacker, now living in Charleston.
Garnett m. Willie Sneed and lives in Charleston.

m. 2. S. O. McClung of Virginia
no children.

m. 3. George R. McComas, father of Jim McComas.

F. M. Ferrell had at least two sons Billy and Walter. Billy bought and shipped cattle.

John Merrill

Melcher Merrill's children: Joseph
m. Polly Rice, dau. of Addison Rice.
and Mary Rice
Children:

1. Mahala m. Wm. H. Douglas

They had 3 girls & 1 boy.

Cora m. Ed Gales' bro
to John Gales, Cal,
William, Vergil, etc.

Mattie m. 1 E. K. Shepherd
Large family.

m. 2. Joe Hindman.
husband of Minnie
Adams. She is
still living in
Missouri.

Bertie - died at about 45
Single

Robert - never m. died
at about 1896.

All buried in the
Merritt graveyard.

2 Mary m. William Merrill, son
of Jacob Merrill.

Three sons: Cash, Joseph
and Willie (d. Sing.
at about 75.)

Two daus - Olga, Emma
Olga m. [unclear]

Baumgardner, son of Fatty
Baumgardner. (John William Baum-
gardner.)

Cash Merritt m. Jennie Blake,
daugh. of Isaac Blake.

Two children: Angie & Lee

Angie d. single, Feb. 1897,
at 16. She was going
to college and had
to quit

Lee d. of malarial
fever, at about 20.

m. 2 Ellen ^(Barnett) Angle. No
children. She had
previously m. Steve
Barnett, and had
two sons, Charley
and Isaac Newton
Angle (decd) Charley
lives in Huntington.
and Frank lives with
Charley. Frank m.
Lucy Turner, sister to
Andy, Joe, Mat, & Lee,
Jenny, Lucy, & Ada Turner.
Their father, old man
Turner lived on Big
Cabell

Joseph Merrill

m. 1. Hattie Burge

No children.

They separated

m. 2. Lizzie Shepherd,
of Rush, Ky.

Children:

Edward,

Blauchem. Pearle

Hensley

Charley,

Laura m. Bill Fanning
Harvey, ^{Separated.}

Mary m. Homer

Perry. 10

Children living
5 dead.

Joseph Allen Merrill

m. Edney Blake, dau. of

John W. Blake and

Nancy Kinard his first
wife - Two sons,

Albert and Fred Blake
and a dau. Edney.

Fred d. young

Albert went to Indian-
apolis Ind. married
a movie star but
separated. No children
He lived & d. There

Hattie Anderson (see elsewhere)

Tom Merrill m. Jennie Bloss, dau.
of Jess Bloss, and a cousin?
to Harvey Bloss.

Emily m. Frank Adams
3 boys & 3 girls -
Shardy died young about
1891.

Martha m. Marshall Stewart.
Lived at Rush, Ky.
Large family. A son
Jas Frank ^{Stewart} Stewart is a
lawyer in Ashland.

Nancy m. John H. Holroyd.
Two children

Thomas - d. single about
1904, at 35.

Ollie m. Jim Thacker
as second wife
He m. E. Ella Keyser
One son by Ollie -
James Thacker Jr.
now of Huntington

New England which later developed
much of the prejudice of abolitionists
did not hesitate to profit indirectly
by the slave trade.

William and Margaret Merrill were
the parents of ^{ten} ~~more~~ children:

^{Elizabeth,}
John, Margaret, Polly, Ann, George,
Melcher, Thomas, Jacob, and William Jr.

I John Merrill married ~~Jane Sarah~~

1. Sarah Wentz, daughter of
~~Joseph?~~ and ~~Polly?~~ Wentz.

July 2, 1812.

He was born Jan. 16, 1789,
died Jan. 16, 1855, at 6 P.M.

Sarah Wentz was born Sept. 13,
1789, and died Feb. 29, 1836, at 3 A.M.

They had four children:

1. William Merrill born Dec. 12,
1812, died Feb. 3, 1878, at 10 A.M.

He married Deborah Baum-
gardner, dau. of Philip and
Elizabeth Baumgardner

She was born Jan. 28, 1815,
and died

2. Elizabeth M. Merrill was born
July 19, 1816. m. David Turner
She died. Four children

3. Margaret born March 10, 1819,

4. Louisa born April 30, 1825.
died July 30, 1827.

He m. 2. Jane (Mc Cormick?), dau. of
James Mc Cormick?

Mrs. Felix Huffer, in an interview with the writer, said

"Captain William Merrill had his beautiful home near the mill, and almost on the same ~~same~~ site as the present Barnett house. There was plenty of everything and his many grandchildren delighted to go there. Everything was home-like and domestic. His epauletts worn during the Revolutionary War were made into silver spoons by his heirs. Lucy Dundas, daughter of Ann Merrill Dundas has some of his things yet. The old home has remained in the family. After my mother's death, it was deeded to me. John Merrill purchased the Merrill Hotel and kept there before his son William Merrill did. He deeded it to William in 1852.

I have understood that Captain William Merrill came from the Shenandoah Valley. ^(Jefferson Co. - J.B.F.) He was of German descent. Harriet McComas has his old German Bible. It has wooden lids. She was a daughter of Melcher Merrill, hence a granddaughter of the Captain!! (note by the writer. Capt. William Merrill ^{brought his farm} from a man in Jefferson County, W. Va., and his son Jacob moved to Jefferson County, in 1850.)

The Merritts.

William Merritt Sr. was one of the very early settlers of Cabell County. He came here shortly after 1800, and settled on the site of the present Barnett home. In the year 1801, he applied to the County Court of Kanawha County, for a writ of "ad quod damnum" for the establishment of a mill. Whether he did so at that time is not certain, but it is very likely that he did. He also ran a ferry just below the mill. It is not known exactly where he came from, but it is believed that he originally came from Germany, and came here direct from some place in Virginia. ^{Henry Childers told the writer that} he married two Turley sisters and ^{came here from Loudon Co., Va.} His relatives have consistently claimed that he was a soldier, and even a captain in the Revolutionary War, but of this I have seen no proof. However, this is not strange, in view of the fact that we do not know where he came from. His ~~de~~ will shows that he died ~~about~~ in 818, and but few pensions had been allowed at that time, a pension law was made that year. His wife's name was ~~Elizabeth~~ Margaret but it is not now known who she was before her marriage to him.

William Merrill, son of John Merrill and Sarah Merrill was born \pm d. 2/3/73. He married Deborah Baumgardner, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Baumgardner. They ran the old Merrill hotel for several years before the Civil War.

They had the following children:

1. Mary M. Merrill born about 1834 d.

She married Felix Huffin, a Railroad contractor who came here to work on the ~~Covington~~ ^{Chattanooga} & Va. R.R., May 29, 1855. He was born in 1820, at Belfast Ireland. Son of Henry and Mary Huffin. He died in Tennessee. Rev. Walter Shuman.

2. Sarah E. Merrill m. Jonathan Davis, Nov. 18, 1856. He 28, She 21. He b. in Monongalia County, She in Barboursville. He son of Ananias and H. Davis. She dau. of William and Deborah Merrill. He was a great miller especially of wheat flour. Rev. Wm. H. Fennell.

40
William Merrill

Children Cont.

3. Theodore Merrill b. Sept. 2, 1854, in the old hotel.

m. Willa Grace Wilson, dau.
of Andrew and Grace Wilson
of Ashland, Ky.

4. ^{Wm} Henry Merrill. Never married
a R. R. Contractor. Died &
was buried at Camellsville,
Ky.

5. Philip Merrill m. Pennell
Lived on the Pennell farm up
Water Street & toward Ben Swann's
and toward the hill.

6. Waller Merrill
Single. Died at about 35.

7. Thomas, at one time was deputy
county clerk.

8. Fred - oldest brother. d at 19.

Barboursville, W. Va.,
May 2, 1942.

Gentlemen: -

Do you have any of your
best grade white honey of
the 1941 crop left? If so, at
what price, and is it in
first class condition?

Very truly,
F. B. Lambert.

Copy from the William Merrill Bible.
By F. B. Lambert.

I am not certain just where I obtained this copy, but, I think, from Mrs. U. M. Thornburg, who had previously married a Mr. Felix. She was second wife of U. M. Thornburg.

"John William Merrill, 1785; (Evidently this was William Merrill Jr., who died single about 1817-8.) has been written down the same"

"On Sept. 20, 1764, the son, William Merrill, was born, the son of George Merrill. (This was William Merrill, Sr.)

Also, the wife of William Merrill was born the 25th day of October, 1764, and her name is Margaret

John William, 1784 (birth?)
— married To Rob — (mutilated.) Feb 7, 1789. (Latter date is probably the date of William and Margaret's marriage, but I can't tell what is referred to by John William, 1784.)

"On Nov. 2, 1794, the child called William was born in the morning between one and

two o'clock."

"On Jan. 10, 1789, was born one boy at 12 o'clock, at night; was christened the 30th, and had his name John Merrill."

"On Dec. 17, 1790, one daughter was born; was christened Jan. 7; named Susannah."

"On Sept. 16th, 1792, was born one daughter, named Maria." A Bible dated 1760.

Merrill Graveyard, up G. V. R. R., back of Alex. Everett's. Only a few stones are found here. No doubt, some have been destroyed.

"John Merrill born 1827, but died in 1908."

"Frances (Merrill), his wife, born 1836, died 1873."

"Garland (Merrill) born 1870, died 1893."

The old William Merrill Bible, according to Lucy Lundas, his gr. dau., was a German Bible. The above, no doubt, was a copy translated into English, and became badly mutilated by age.

51

NOTES.
By Lucy Dundas.

Capt. William Merritt came from Hagerstown, Maryland (?). His wife was Margaret Merritt. They left Germany during religious wars. Sons of Capt. William Merritt were: George, John, Jacob, Thomas, and Melchor. Daughters, four: Elizabeth (Dirton), Margaret Strupe, Mary, (Mrs. Jas. Wentz). My mother's name was Ann, and she married John Dundas.

William Strupe,

Jes. Wentz,

John Dundas,

Peter Dirton.

William Strupe lived on the Altizer farm where the oil salt farm was bored. The Wentz's lived above the Strupe's. Peter Dirton lived on the site of Ayer's residence. My mother lived on Mud River, opposite Blue Sulphur Church, on the opposite side; and later opposite to where Sampson Handley lived at the Falls of Mud.

The Dundases came from Alexandria, Virginia. George Merritt lived across the Mud River on the Barboursville side and opposite his mill.

The old Merritt homestead stood on the site of Barnett house. The jail was in a room upstairs in this house, which has a log two-story house, with a single story porch in front. North side of the river to where Thacker farm was and crossed by ferry, the old ferry, at the present ford.

George Merritt had one son, John Merritt. His wife, Levina Turkey died, but he never re-married, but moved to the home of his mother, Margaret Merritt and lived with her.

John Merritt, who kept the hotel, was twice married, his last wife being a "McCormick" (See Phil Merritt or Mary Duffin). John Merritt had three children: Elizabeth, married _____ Dr. David Turner; Margaret, married Odavus Church; William Merritt, ^(Merritt) father of Mary Duffin. Jacob Merritt moved to Harper's Ferry, Virginia; and Thomas Merritt moved to Missouri.

Melcher lived, and died above Barboursville in a large frame house on Mud River in sight of, and just above the Barboursville depot. (See Mrs. Anderson). It was a two-story house. It is still standing, but has been moved across the road.

Thomas Merritt owned the farm and lived where Mrs. Brady now resides. He lived in the Brady house. His family: John Thomas, William, Frank, and _____, boys. The girls: Eliza, Margaret, and Sarah. (*One buried in old cemetery.*)

Melchor Merritt's family: Mahala, who married William Merritt, of Harper's Ferry, Va.; Harriett, who married Baxter Anderson; Emily, who married Frank Adams; Martha, who married Marshall Stewart; Joseph, Sr., and Thomas (Long Tom); Joseph, who married Edna Blake; and Thomas, who married Jennie Dodd.

Margaret Strupe's children all died young.

Lewis Wentz could give history of the Wentz's.

Ann Merritt was mother of nine children.

Agnes, married Elijah Turley, (*She was Agnes Dundas*)

*all
lives* { Margaret, married John Merritt as 1st wife. Her sister Frances
Eliza, married Jonathan Turley, *Mr. John Merritt after Margaret died*
Mary, married William Dirton,
Anna Maria, married Jos. Turley,

Sarah, married Napoleon B. Johnson,

Neither Lucy, nor Thomas married.

Frances married John Merritt, her brother-in-law.

There was a "Thomas" in nearly all the families.

Cash Merritt is Mary Merritt's son.

John Dundas was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Above taken from an old Bible owned by Lucy Dundas.

Agnes Hepburn was born October 19, 1770 at 12:30, midnight
in Creighton parish of Guyan, two miles from Glasgow, and died the
24th of May, 1820, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, in the Town of
Alexandria, District of Columbia. She was my great Grandmother.

The Dundases were Scotch; The Merritts, German.

Letter from T. J. Merritt from Barboursville Cabell Courthouse, Virginia to his sister, Letter dated July 24, 1855.

"I am still going to school. I will be done with my Algebra, Grammar and Philosophy in one week and I will take a higher class of studies."

"Elizabeth Furgeson and old Sylvia died on the same night with the flux."

"I do a good deal of waltzing now. The Fermas give a party every two weeks, and they are beautiful dancers. Pop sometimes jumps out in the middle of the floor and throws his legs around as if he was doing great things."

"We have a very fine singing school here at present. We are improving very much. We drown old Thomas Hatfield's voice every time we go to meeting."

"Albert Moore and Eugene are still courting" "Aunt Peggy and Uncle Church are well."

"It has been raining here for three days steady and the water is about four feet deep over Tanyard bridge." Mr. Baker and Mr. Westhoof has suffered a great loss, as all their hides have washed out of the vats. The like was never known here before. The streets are nothing but branches."

Page # 1

Letter dated September 6, 1855, from T. J. Merritt to his brother:

"Barboursville has been very unhealthy this summer and many with whom you were well acquainted have passed to that land from which no traveller returns."

"I have been very busy for two months posting my father's books. I think I'll get done in about two weeks and then I intend going to see the girls. While I and Miss Agnes get along first rate I give you to understand, we are well posted on the "goose question."

"Mr. Rodgers and Miss Emma Shelton to get married. Mr. Kirk Patrick and his lady accompanied them to Cincinnati."

"Times are very dull here, duller than ever known. There is nothing going on but drinking whiskey, loafing, and playing marbles."

"I see the know-nothings are carrying on scandalous in Louisville, Kentucky."

"The Superior Court commences on the 8th." I am very busy preparing for it."

"Give my respects to Mr. Galpin Roberts, Mr. Hagen, and the ladies especially."

Letter dated October 19, 1855, from Barboursville, Cabell Courthouse, Virginia by T. J. Merritt to his sister:

"Barboursville is regaining its health. The Flux has been raging here this summer, sweeping the aged parent and the blooming youth from the earth."

"There was a panaroma showed here yesterday. It was a very good one, it took us clear to New York and back again."

"What I said, I was going to tell you was the case of Thomas Merritt. Eliza, his daughter has given birth ^{to} a fine son. Hell itself is to good for a man who will seduce his own daughter. Thomas is going away the 30th of this month, and John, his son is going with him."

"Uncle Will has learned the art of taking pictures. He is going to travel and see what he can do with it."

"Old Mrs. Kile has lost her youngest girl."

"I've got my horse very fat. I think I'll put him on the track at the fair for the premium. When you come homw I'll take you a nice buggy riding."

"There was a wedding in Guyandotte on the 16th Mr. Charles Shipe was married to Miss Ellen Butcher. They were married at the Eagle Hotel."

Letter dated 11/12--1855, from T. J. Merritt to his sister;

"Barboursville has gained its health again. I don't believe there is a case of sickness in town. We were all sick during last summer."

"Old Phil is as he always was he hoes off in the morning and we never see him till night. Mr. and Mrs. Foster has taken up school this morning. We have sent Eliza Theresa and Henry to them. Miss Parella Clark is at Jacob Bumgardener's. She is going to teach Music there, if they can get a piano."

"Mr. and Mrs. Poteel has moved to Guyandotte. Irven Slusher's oldest son was married to Miss Chapman, a sister of John Chapman."

"Old Colonel John Everett was married to the widow Russell last week. His wife hasn't been dead now, more than five months."

"Mary, I want you to come home. I haven't heard any good music for sometime. I want to hear "Ella Lu" once more before I leave. I don't know of any person that plays it but you."

Letter written January 30, 1857, from Belle Prairie, Hamilton County, Illinois, by T. J. Merritt to his sister, M. M. Duffin, Berlin, Michigan.

"Oh! Mary I can imagine your feelings on leaving Barboursville, the land of your childhood."

Letter dated, Barboursville, Cabell County, Virginia. September 25, 1850, by T. J. Merritt to his sister.

Barboursville is no place for a young man. The quicker a young man leaves this place the better it is for him."

"Aunt Peggy Shoope died about two weeks ago."

,"John Keller has come back to Barboursville."

"Dr. Manpin's case was tried this court. He has obtained a divorce. He proved that his wife was insane before he married her and she made an application to change her name back to her maiden name."

"Ella Lee and Tilly Dale were two popular songs sang and played in Barboursville, Virginia!"

Letter from T. J. Merritt from Barboursville, Virginia, to his sister
Dated June 3, 1857.

"Well I've been very busy waiting on the ladies"
I've been here almost six weeks and have done nothing. This place is perfectly dead."

Page # 2

Letter from T. J. Merrit to his sister. Dated June 3, 1857.

"Gallatin Jenkins is elected to congress with a majority of about 1200. And what do you think, Moses Thornburg and Mary Samuels are married at last. They have gone to Wheeling on their wedding tour."

"Miss Paroles is still giving Music lessons in this place."

"Uncle Church has quit grocery keeping."

"The 'Floaling Palace' is to be at Guyandotte on the 6th of this month."

"George McKendree has come home he is the same old George. Moses Thornburg has just returned from Wheeling" "He looks very much worn out."

Letter dated May 2, 1857, from T. J. Merritt to his
brother Felix:

"I am here in Barboursville doing nothing but
"killing time." I am perfectly sick of the place for
there is no business of any kind going on. The town is
perfectly dead and money is entirely out of the question.
Times will be harder here than they were in forty. I am n
not going to stay here any longer than I can help."

Letter dated June 6th, 1860, from T. J. Merritt to his sister;

"Should my health again be restored I would exert every nerve to gain a footing in the world. I pledge you my honor I would not go into business blindly as I did the last three years. No man ever will again get to poke his fingers in my face and laugh at my credulity."

"Our little babe is one of the finest little fellows you ever saw. He has never been sick one moment since he was born."

"My health gets no better. I sometimes get better for a few days, then, I get worse."

"I think if my health gets better in a few days I'll start out on foot for the south. I would get well there. A great many people have consumption here and I fear my disease will run into it."

"I attended a burial yesterday. It was a poor old man of a large family. No person knew what was the matter with him. It made my heart ache to see how brutally he was buried. His coffin was nothing but a rude box. He was returned to mother earth without a shroud upon him. He left a wife and eight small children to mourn his loss."

Page # 2

Letter dated June 6, 1860, from T. J. Merritt to his sister:

"I know I'll never receive one cent of the money I earned in Michigan."

"I have never seen a person I know since I came here". "There is no railroading going on in any of these states."

"The Black Republicans are having a great time here of the nomination of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois for the presidency. They are in high spirits and think there is no doubt as to his election, but I think their feathers will fall on the 4th day of November."

"I am teeth and toe nails against the Black Republicans. I would like to see a know-nothing president or a Democrat, I don't know which."

"I hope you will not make fun of this letter for I have a quill pen and a bad one at that."

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Letter dated August 24, 1860, from T. J. Merritt, Kilbourn City,
Wisconsin to his sister:

"I wrote to father ten days ago giving an account of
our baby's death."

"I am greatly alarmed about my health. I am growing
weaker every day and I can hardly walk."

"In one month's time, if I am any better I am starting
south if on foot, and I thank you for the few dollars you sent me."

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Letter dated 12/29, and 1/1-1860 from Thomas J. Merritt,
Kilbourne City, Wisconsin, to his sister:

"I've been very sick for nearly three months. I was affected by something like the pleurisy. I am going about a little now. I have a very bad cough and a wheezing. I feel like giving up."

"I came to this place about the 1st of November and taken up and taught school, had taught one week when I took sick." "There is not a town of any size in this state that I've not been in looking for work."

"I think of trying to go south in the spring. I don't know, only God does when I'll be permitted to see my kind parents, sister and brothers."

"They must be pretty hard up for schools in Barboursville, when they employ Edward Vertegans as teacher."

"My wife has been very unwell for some time. She is very anxious to see all the family. I know you would like her if you could see her."

The Merritt Family.

William Merritt came to what is now Cabell County, at a very early date. His wife's name was Margaret, but no record has been found showing her maiden name. William Merritt was of German descent. He was a son of George and _____ Merritt, of Jefferson County, Virginia. His father's will is found on record, in Wall Book. _____ County.

dated _____ 17. The old Family Bible of William and Margaret Merritt was among some of the relatives of Barboursville, ^{Lucy Dundas, I believe,} until a few years ago. I have a partial, rather a mutilated copy of the records from it, but the original seems now to be lost. This Bible shows that William Merritt, son of George Merritt, was born, on Sept. 20, 1764. Also the "wife of William Merritt was born the 26th day of October, 1764. He died in 1818, she 1856 or 7.

Lucy Dundas, a grand daughter, stated that the old Merritt Bible was a German Bible with wooden covers, and that he and his wife left Germany during the religious wars. This tradition, no doubt,

referred to the parents, George and
Merrill. Lucy further stated
that her grandparents came from
Hagerstown, Maryland. On a recent
trip through Southern Pennsylvania,
Maryland, and the Valley of Virginia,
I found this to be true, as records
at Hagerstown plainly showed that
they had lived there.

Lucy Dundas told me that
Captain William Merrill served in
the Revolutionary War, and that
his epaulettes and sword had
been preserved to her day. From
one of the books, on Virginia
in the Revolution, William Merrill
is listed as a Revolutionary
soldier of the Second Virginia
Regiment Continental Line.

One of the interesting land
marks was the old mill. On
p. 5 of the September, 1801 Court of
Kanawha County is this statement

"On the mo. of William Merrill
It is ordered that a writ of
~~ad quod damnum~~ ~~ta. q. d.~~
an "ad q. d. Issue to con-
demn one acre of land,

on the bank of Mud River whereto
about the Dam for a Water Grist
Mill and that the same be
carried into execution on the
20th of October," etc., etc. It
is probably that this was car-
ried out as intended, but for
some reason, on April 11, 1806,
William Merrill again asked
the Kanawha County Court for
a writ of Ad Quod Damnum
for April 21, 1806, for a jury
of twelve men to view the lands
for a mill, to have due regards
for the interests of the claimants,
and to lay off one acre, and
to examine the lands above
and below, the property of others,
which may probably be overflowed,
and say to what damage it will
be to the several proprietors,
and whether the Mansion House
of any such proprietors, Curtilages,
and gardens thereto immediately
belonging, or Orchard will be
overflowed, whether fish of
passage or ordinary naviga-
tion will be obstructed or the
Health of the neighbors will be

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amoyed by the stagnation of the waters."

The following men were on the jury which reported favorably:

Thos. Ward, Thomas Kilgore, Joseph Hilliard, James Jordan, John Morris Jr., Edmund Mc Ginnis, Abia Rees (Rece), Jeremiah Ward, and Manoah Postick. Nearly every one of these men were large landowners, and very prominent in the affairs of the county.

One acre was set off for the mill seat. It extended above and below the mill and on both sides of Mud River. The mill itself was on the same side as the Merrill home, and a little below the falls. It may be worth noting that, at this time, William Merrill had no deed for the land, but he held a title bond for it from John Morrow and John Mark. Hence, the jury decided that the land belonged solely to Merrill.

They put a valuation of \$112.91, on the land, and having examined it above and below said no damage would result, and that Nature hath fixed a barrier to these, in the formation of the second falls of Mud River, and that the dam water was not more than four feet high."

After the death of William Merrill, John Morrow of Jefferson County, Virginia, made a deed to the Merrill heirs, for 708 acres of land. This land extended for about half a mile down Guyandotte River, below the mouth of Mud River, and up Mud, on the upper side of Mud, for about half a mile, and included all the land, on which Barboursville was built. It went up Merritts Creek to the James Baumgardner farm. Merrill, in his life time had paid \$2360, for this land. The road from Guyandotte came up on the northern side of the Guyandotte river, and on to the second falls, a few miles or so up Mud, to

the place where Green Harrison lived and died. There people crossed in a ferry. There was no bridge across Mud river, at Barboursville for several years, but William Merrill had a ferry, at or near his mill.

At a meeting of the Superior Court in 1814, "on the motion of William Merrill, it is ordered that all the acting justices be summoned to attend next January Court, for the purpose of increasing the rates of said William Merrill's ferry across Mud River, at or near his mill."

After the death of Mr. Merrill the heirs made partition deeds to each other.

These deeds show that there were nine living heirs, but the old Bible record gave the names of two daughters:

"On Dec. 17, 1790, one daughter was born; was christened Jan. 7; named Susannah."

On Sept. 16, 1792, was born one daughter named Maria.
A Bible dated 1790

These children must have died early, as they were never listed among the heirs.

At the November Court 1819 (Dead Bk. 3 p. 231), Margaret Merrill, the widow, brought a chancery suit against the heirs, to have her dower set off in land, at the mouth of Mud River, 224 acres. This gave her all the land on the upper side of Mud river for half a mile and down Guyan about the same distance, and up Merrills Creek to the land of James Baumgardner — the only exception being the one ^{"grist and lumber"} acre set off for the mill. Her dower included the "man sion house". This was a two-story log house ^{with a porch in front.} This house stood till about 1872, when it fell down. It stood very near the site of the old Thomas Barnett house. The lower right hand corner of the Barnett house stood exactly on the site of one of the corners

of this old log house. It was here
that the first ~~court~~ Superior Court
of Law and Chancery was held.
The jail was in one of the
two up stairs rooms

Sept. 18, 1824, Elizabeth Durling,
for \$100, deeded to George
Merrill, the "one undivided ninth
part of a certain lot of land",
in Cabell County, "on both sides
of Mud River, it being the seal
upon which William Merrill,
father of the said Elizabeth
Durling, in his life-time,
erected a saw and grist
mill" — Two acres, and was
laid off for the erection of
the mill aforesaid, and the
establishment of a ferry, and
one-ninth part of the saw mill,
grist mill, and ferry, the lot
to extend from the center of
the river, to high water mark,
on both lands, and the length
so laid off by condemnation
for building said mill and
a ferry.

July 5, 1814, the court ordered
to appear at next court to
show cause, if any he can, why
he should not enter into bond
and security, for the well-being
of his ferry across Mud river.

Nov. 3, 1814, he applied for
an increase in ferry rates,
on his ferry across Mud River.

On June 24, 1818, William
Merritt served on a jury, but
on Oct 27th of the same year,
George and Margaret Merritt
qualified as administrators of
his estate.

On Jan. 26, 1857, William
Merritt, son of Jacob Merritt,
qualified as administrator of
the estate of Margaret Merritt,
decd. This places her death
as approximately that time.

William and Margaret
Merritt were, according to
early residents and relatives,
buried in the Merritt Cemetery,
which was located a short
distance behind the old
"mansion house". Many graves

are found in this old cemetery, but no tombstones have been found for them. The Barnett barn seems to have been built very near, if not over some of the graves. It is inconceivable that the graves of these pioneer citizens should be so neglected, as not to erect monuments to their memory, especially, in view of the fact that their many heirs were prosperous farmers. It is only fair to assume that the monuments have been destroyed or buried in the mud.

The appraisement of the estate of William Merritt showed that he had much personal property, such as cattle, sheep, horses, farming tools, the usual household furniture, "one still, a worm, and tub", a rifle gun and shot pouch, hackle, loom, spinning wheel, and a boat worth \$10⁰⁰.

William Merritt may be called the founder of Barboursville, as the town was laid off entirely on his land.

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Elmwood

It was a great day. Many of the descendants of the early members were present, dinner was served, and a pageant was presented trying to revive the memories of pioneer days. Now, all are gone to their reward, and a younger generation must carry on.

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In August, 1919, H.E. Love and his family removed to Barboursville, and received letters of dismissal from the church, to unite with the Barboursville Baptist church.

YOUNG PREACHERS

In 1920, the church granted license to Vergil Miller to preach the Gospel, and recommended that he attend Alderson Academy the ensuing year.

Among others, who sprang from this church, were B.V. "Bert" King, who was granted license Sept. 1, 1929. He was ordained March 7, 1933. He has been carrying the mail for several years and only preaches occasionally, although he has served a few churches as regular pastor, among them being the First Baptist Church, of Guyandotte. He was Assistant Pastor, at Elmwood, to succeed Charles G. Bowles, who was attending school.

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October 4, 1950, on motion of Fred L. Love, he was elected Pastor for ninety days, to succeed Rev. G.C. Hutchinson. The church was then in the midst of a repair program, and he donated his entire salary of Eighty Dollars per month until that project was finished. On ~~April 25, 1951~~, he was elected Pastor for a year. He is now Assistant Pastor of Grace Gospel church, in the City of Huntington. This organization was formerly known as the Cross Tabernacle. This is a well deserved promotion for Mr. Blankenship.

Jack Trump and Wendel Wickline both originated, in this church. Mr. Wickline has been pastor at Olie Church on Little Seven Mile and at other places, and has been very successful.

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REVIVALS

There have been many successful revivals, in this church. J.A. Smith conducted a revival in 1924. Among the more recent ones was the one by Dr. McMurray, pastor of the Baptist Temple, in Huntington. It was quite successful. He was followed by Rev. William Fox, Pastor of the Twentieth Street Baptist church, in 1946.

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80

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CHURCH CLERKS AND SUPERINTENDANTS.

Edgar Swann served as Clerk for many years, until his death.

He was succeeded by E.V. King, Nov. 7, 1937. He resigned, and was succeeded by Vivian Gothard, in September, 1938; and he was followed, by Mrs. Roy Browning, who had served faithfully since April 26, 1939. Mr. Swann had also served as Sunday School Superintendent. Harry King had also been Sunday School Superintendent, but resigned.

DEACONS.

On September 8, 1916, Fred L. Love and Sam Davidson were chosen Deacons. They were ordained, on the 4th Sunday in October, 1916. Dr M.L. Wood, of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church and Rev. J.J. Cook, of the Twentieth Street Baptist church of Huntington, assisting.

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TRUETEES

The following have served as Trustees:

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Charles R. Morris,

Earl Langdon,
L. E. Browning,
Joe Mays,
and others.

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Earl Morrison,
W.H. Buchanna,
Fred L. Love.

In June, 1926, Earl Langdon and L.E. Browning were made Trustees.
August 4, 1948. Joe Mays resigned as trustee.
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1916, C.S. Love and John A. Davidson having left the state.

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On April 26, 1939, Vivian Gothard resigned as Treasurer, and was succeeded by W. H. Buchannan, who served for about twelve years. June 7, 1950, Mr. Buckhannan resigned, but stated that he wished to continue as Treasurer of the Memorial Fund for Harry Meehling, until the church decides what it wishes to do about this. This was accepted. Vivian Gothard was then elected Treasurer, but refused to serve, Carl Estfield was then elected, but served only a short time, and was succeeded by Miss Gertrude Gothard, a teacher, in the local public school.

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In recent years, many improvements have been made. A number of Sunday School rooms have been added to the rear of the church.

This was early in 1938. The various organizations have been quite active, and very helpful in raising much needed funds, at bake sales, and, in other ways, such as in purchasing an organ, &c.

The Woman's Missionary Circle was organized many years ago, but was re-organized in 1951. Mrs. Goldie Blankenship was the President.

The Fellowship class, composed of young married couples, was organized with Mrs. Anna Gothard as Teacher. Mrs. Raymond Shoemaker was a charter member of this class.

The Four H Club planted shrubbery on the church lawn, in November, 1950.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR .

A grim reminder of the great conflict- The First World War- is found in Resolutions ordered to be published, in the Baptist Banner, March 9, 1918, expressing the "sincere gratitude and best wishes to the soldier boys of the church and Sunday School", and praying for their safe return"--but one never returned, Harold Meehling, husband of Joan Buckhannan. He was killed when his ship struck a mine as they were going ashore, on the coast of Africa. He was blown to pieces. Several other boys, Eustace Morrison, Joe Morrison, Paul E. Love, Earl Morrison, Dick Kelley, Ellis Smallridge, and Alvin Davis, returned safely. Mr. Meehling had been quite prominent, in the affairs of the church, and his loss was much regretted. He was a young man of great promise. He had married Joan Buckhannan, and they had a daughter who will never see her father.

June 7, 1950, W.H. Buckhannan made a report showing that

83

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YOUNG PREACHERS

In 1920 the church granted license to Vergil Miller to preach the Gospel, and recommended that he attend Alderson Academy the ensuing year.

Among others who sprang from this church were E. V. "Bart" King, who was granted license Sept. 1, 1929. He was ordained March 7, 1933. He has been carrying the mail for several years and only preaches occasionally, although he has served a few churches as regular pastor, among them being the First Baptist church, of Guyandotte. He was Assistant Pastor at Elmwood to succeed Charles G. Bowles, who was attending school.

On Sept. 3, 1939, Stanley Blankenship was licensed to preach

October 4, 1950, on motion of Fred L. Love, he was elected Pastor for ninety days, to succeed Rev. G.C. Hutchinson. The church was then in the midst of a repair program, and he donated his entire salary of Eighty Dollars per month until that project was finished. On April 28, 1951 he was elected Pastor for a year. He is now Assistant Pastor of Grace Gospel church, in the City of Huntington. This organization was formerly known as the Cross Tabernacle. This is a well deserved promotion for Mr. Blankenship.

Jack Trump and Wendel Wickline both originated in this church. Mr. Wickline has been pastor at Clie Church on Little Seven Mile and at other places, and has been very successful.

Rev. Jack Trump has been preaching for about twelve years. For the last nine years he has been pastor of the Mud River Baptist church, which is the oldest Baptist church in Cabell County, the organization of which was about 1807, according to best authorities, , but it was probably about the year 1805. Mr. Trump was licensed to preach October 15, 1940. He was called as pastor to the Elmwood church December 1, 1940, and was ordained in 1941. He resigned Aug. 15, 1943, and has been pastor at Mud River Baptist church ever since that date.

REVIVALS

There have been many successful revivals, in this church. J. I. Smith conducted a revival in 1924. Among the more recent ones was the one by Mr. McMurray, pastor of the Baptist Temple, in Huntington. It was quite successful. He was followed by Rev. William Fox, Pastor of the Twentieth Street Baptist church, in 1946.

In November, 1953, Rev. Carl Midkiff conducted a revival, in which several members were saved and re-vivified.

Rev. J. Wilmer Garrett held a revival about 1951. Large crowds attended this revival and much good was accomplished.

Rev. Stanely Blankenship conducted a revival last fall (1951), and a number were saved, or reclaimed, and the church was revived.

CHURCH CLERKS AND SUPERINTENDANTS.

Edgar Swann served as Clerk for many years, until his death.

He was succeeded by E.V.King, Nov. 7, 1937. He resigned, and was succeeded by Vivian Gothard, in September, 1938; and he was followed by Mrs. Roy Browning, who had served faithfully since April 26, 1939. Mr. Swann had also served as Sunday School Superintendent. Harry King had also been Sunday School Superintendent, but resigned.

DEACONS.

On September 8, 1916, Fred L. Love and Tom Davidson were chosen Deacons. They were ordained on the 4th Sunday in October, 1916. Dr M.L.Wood, of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church and Rev. J.J.Cook, of the Twentieth Street Baptist church of Huntington assisting, others who werved as Deacons in recent years, were J.W.Holley, Eura Gothard, W.F.Buckhanra, and Alfred Browning. The latter three were elected March 3, 1934, and ordained March 30, 1934. On the same day Tom Brown was elected Janitor, to succeed Robert L.L.Chomcher, deceased, as Janitor. Mr.Chomcher, "Bob" as he was called had served in this capacity for many years.

TRUSTEES

The following have served as Trustees:

C.S.Love,

John A. Davidson,

Charles R. Morris,

Earl Langdon,
L. E. Browning,
Joe Mays,
and others.

The present, (1952) Trustees are:

J.W. Halley,
Eura Gothard,
Earl Morrison,
W.H. Buchanna,
Fred L. Love.

In June, 1926, Earl Langdon and L.E. Browning were made Trustees. H.E. "Ed" Love and Charles R. Morris were chosen Trustees in 1916, C.S. Love and John A. Davidson having left the state.

TREASURERS

On April 26, 1939, Vivian Gothard resigned as Treasurer, and was succeeded by W. H. Buchannan, who served for about twelve years. June 7, 1950 Mr. Buckhannan resigned, but stated that he wished to continue as Treasurer of the Memorial Fund for Harry Meehling, until the church decides what it wishes to do about this. This was accepted. Vivian Gothard was then elected Treasurer, but refused to serve, Carl Estfield was then elected, but served only a short time, and was succeeded by Miss Gertrude Bothard, a teacher in the local public school.

CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS

In recent years many improvements have been made. A number of Sunday School rooms have been added to the rear of the church.

This was early in 1938. The various organizations have been quite active, and very helpful in raising much needed funds, at bake sales, and in other ways such as in purchasing an organ, &c.

The Woman's Missionary Circle was organized many years ago, but was re-organized in 1951. Mrs. Goldie Blankenship was the President.

The Fellowship class, composed of young married couples, was organized with Mrs. Anna Gothard as Teacher. Mrs. Raymond Shoemaker was a charter member of this class.

The Four H Club planted shrubbery on the church lawn in November, 1950.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

A grim reminder of the great conflict- The First World War- is found in Resolutions ordered to be published in the Baptist Banner, March 9, 1918, expressing the "sincere gratitude and best wishes to the soldier boys of the church and Sunday School" and praying for their safe return"--but one never returned, Harold Meehling, husband of Joan Buckhannan. He was killed when his ship struck a mine as they were going ashore, on the coast of Africa. He was blown to pieces. Several other boys, Eustace Morrison, Joe Morrison, Paul E. Love, Earl Morrison, Dick Holley, Ellis Mallridge, and Alvin Davis, returned safely. Mr. Meehling had been quite prominent in the affairs of the church, and his loss was much regretted. He was a young man of great promise. He had married Joan Buckhannan, and they had a daughter who will never see her father.

June 7, 1950, W.H. Buckhannan made a report showing that

\$277.00 had been paid into a Memorial Building Fund, and that Mrs. Joan Buckhannon Meehling has paid \$150.00 of this amount. The purpose of this fund was to build a belfry and to purchase a bell for the church. Let us hope that this worthy project will not be forgotten.

I would like to give sketches of the lives of the older preachers, but that is hardly possible, as they left few, if any records, and most of those who knew anything about them have passed away.

Rev. John Carter Willie Hicks each served several years, but were well liked. Both are deceased.

Rev. G.C. "Cleve" Hutchinson served longer than any other pastor, with the exception of Rev. John Calvin Reese. He was succeeded by Rev. Stanley Blankenship, in 1930. The church is now (1952) without a pastor.

Rev. Hutchinson was an orphan boy, and a cousin to Rev. James Lewis, now deceased. Neither was highly educated, but it is doubtful whether any two men have ever done so much unselfish work, for the churches of this section.