December 2020

MS 76A Box 1 Notebook 9 - Manners and customs, by F. B. Lambert and others.

Fred Bussey Lambert

Manners and Customs
By F. B. Lambert
& others

MS 76 A
BX 1
NBK 9

Manners and Customs.

By F. B. Lambert

As previously stated, there were no Indians, in this section, at the time of the coming of our first permanent settlers. However, they were not very far away, and, although they had been decisively beaten at Point Pleasant, and other places, the pioneers of Cabell, Wayne, and Lincoln counties never rested easy, for many years after the first settlers moved in.

The Shawnee Indians were still at Old Chillecothe, and a small colony of them lived just below Portsmouth, Ohio, both, in easy reach of this section. Others of the Shabnee and Delaware tribes were in the Allegheny Valley, as early as 1792, not far from where General Anthony Wayne was organizing his army, for the conquest of the Ohio Valley. By this time, Ohio was being rapidly settled, and these settlers formed a barrier to our settlements.

Why They Came.

There were many reasons why settlers left their homes, and came west, to an unknown country, where they would find few of the comforts of life and face the dangers and hardships of the forests. There were no roads, except paths made by roving Indians, and no homes to serve as shelters from the cold of winter, or the heat of summer. In many cases, the lands, in the east, according to custom, descended, or was inherited, by the older sons, leaving the younger ones to shift ~~for~~ for themselves. As a result, they went west where land was cheap, and independence assured.

In many cases, were intrigued by the tales of land speculators, who praised the country beyond all truth, only to be disapointed after it was too late.

Indentured servants seeking freedom, often found it beyond the mountains.

Pioneer Troubles.

Those who ventured far into the unknown, soon found that life there was not all roses. Usually, the husband and father came along, and selected a place for a home, then returned to the east and brought his family with him, in the spring, in order that they might raise a crop of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and other vegetables, for use in the long winter following. Land had to be cleared, by cutting down the timber and burning the brush. Seed had to be brought from the east. Fences must be built to protect the crops, from the stock and the wild deer. Wolves often killed their hogs, sheep, chickens, etc.

Frosts and freezes killed their early crops, as well as the late ones.

High waters often ruined crops that were planted, on ground that was too low.

Crows often dug up and devoured the seed after it was too late to go east for more.

Crows, squirrels, and coons were plen-
tiful as pests, and were ready,
at all times, to devour what was
left of the precious corn and other
crops, on which these people were
dependent, in the long winter month
ahead, with famine staring them in the
face. Men and women alike grew
old with hardships.

We have stated that there were
few roads. Of course, there were
Indian trails up the Ohio river,
the Kanawha, and the Big Sandy.
The old state road came down
the New river, and the Kanawha,
to the present site of Scary,
and on past old Hurricane, down
Teays Valley, past Barboursville
Pea Ridge, and the present site
of Norway Avenue, and through
the present site of
Huntington, and on, to Big
Sandy. Leading off, at angles, from
these main roads, were mere paths.

Settlers came down the Ohio river
on rafts, or boats of various types
from Pennsylvania, and some went
on, to Kentucky, or [illegible]

Those from the east came over the Old State Road which, generally speaking was the present Route 60. Few of them came in wagons. Some came on foot, but most of them had horses, and often brought along a cow or two, and some hogs, or other animals. Little furniture, or clothing, only what was absolutely necessary.

Most of the early furniture was homemade. It was almost practically impossible to bring manufactured furniture from the east. The roads were bad and the expense was prohibitive.

For beds, holes were bored in the side walls, and timbers shaped in such a way, that one end could be driven into these holes. The other end was supported, by upright timbers cut to fit.

Instead of springs, such as now are in common use, a kind of frame work was placed over these timbers, such as rough boards, or leather thongs might be used

Then a bedtick was filled with leaves, grasses, or straw, and over this, when geese, or ducks were introduced, a feather bed was placed. Bear or deer skins were used for quilts. Later, when cotton or other cloth was available, quilts were made for the purpose. They were often very elaborate.

Quite often, small clearings made by early explorers, or possibly by Indians, on which they had pitched their rude huts, or wigwams. Here they often built their cabins, and planted their gardens, or corn patches, for their substainance during the months to come. At other times they cleared a small piece of land, and built their log cabins on it. The cleared spots were often found to be very poor and unproductive land, with the result that many families were impoverished from the beginning.

Many of these early families lived in caves, or rock houses until such time as they could build a cabin.

7.

Sometimes the first logs were laid, on a foundation made of loose stones gathered, for the purpose. At other times, they were laid on the ground, the inside of which served for a floor. Sometimes floors were made of puncheons, or split logs hewed on one side, to serve as boards.

The roof was made of clap boards held in place, by long poles. The cabins varied in size, many of them being as small as twelve by sixteen feet, and one story in height.

A large chimney stood, at one end of the house. This was often made of flat stones held together with mud made from clay. The upper part was often made of sticks and clay, but grill often, the chimney did not extend more than half way up the end of the house. There were often called "cat and clay" chimneys. Somewhat

chimneys of large chunks of hewed, or cut stone. Many chimneys, in those days, extended only half way up the house. Flat rocks were used for hearths.

Cooking Utensils.

Bread was often baked, in live coals. It was first rolled into a round cake, and flattened, then covered with ashes, and then coals and baked. It was considered delicious. Later, skillets and lids, and Dutch ovens were used, and meals could be cooked either way. Water was heated in pots or teakettles hung, on an iron crane, which could be swung around in such a way, as to bring the vessel over the fire, or ~~remove it~~ removing it from the fire.

The crane was anchored in the walls of the chimney.

In most places, there was no coal, and wood was used almost entirely for fuel. Gas was unknown.

The chimneys were very large sometimes seven or eight feet across.

Great logs were dragged in and cut into proper lengths. Large pieces were rolled into the house, by the men and boys; and a backlog was put in the fireplace first. Then a ~~front~~ smaller log or stick was put on in front, and finer pieces were piled in the middle. There were no matches, and fire was often carried for miles, on a shovel, or between two boards. In case the fire went out, it was rekindled by striking a piece of metal on a flint rock. The sparks were allowed to make a blaze, in "punk", or other combustible material. A backlog often lasted a week, but had to be renewed, at intervals. Much time was consumed, in this way, by the men folks, especially in the winter.

Food.

The rivers and the forests supplied much of the food. Fish and game of all kinds, were plentiful such as squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, strawberries, butternuts, hazelnuts, crab apples, wild plums, There were game birds, such as pheasants, partridges, wild pigeons, ducks, geese, turkeys, etc.

There were wild blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries, in the Summer, crab apples, wild plums

Other Foods.

Of all foods cultivated by the early settlers, Indian corn was, perhaps, the most important. From it, corn meal was made into "Johnnie" cake", or "Corn pone" was baked, in the ~~ash~~ hot ashes, and soft corn was sometimes grilled into a kind of meal, and, when baked, made most excellent bread. A griller could easily be made from a piece of tin obtained from a large tin can, by heating it, in the fire, so the solder would melt, and allow both ends to drop out. The can could then be unrolled and small holes punched in it, with an awl, or a sharpened nail.

It was then fastened to a board about three feet long, and eight or nine inches wide, with nails driven in at each corner. A small piece of lumber about an inch square was then driven in lengthwise, under the middle of the lid to leave room for the meal to drop through, and run down into a large pan or other container. It was then ready to be made into bread. The sharp edges of the holes was the essential part of the grater

Salt

Salt was one of the necessities, and men were known to travel for days, to obtain small supplies of it. A book was published a few years ago giving the history of the salt industry. The author speaks of it as the "fifth element". The nearest source of salt, in large quantities, was in the Kanawha Valley, east of Charleston. However some salt was made, in both Cabell, and Wayne counties. Thomas Ward [illegible]

it, in limited quantities, just above the mouth of Swamp Branch, in the vicinity of what was later known as Dusenbury Dam, and now as Martha. This was about two and a half miles above Barboursville. Her and the McComases also made salt below the present Salt Rock, and that is how Salt Rock got its name. Tom Ward also made salt, in the Big Sandy Valley.

About 1820, the Catletts of Catlettsburg, and many other citizens purchased a large body of land, above the forks of Sandy, presumably for this purpose; but the Kanawha salt was of better grade, and salt making here was found to be unprofitable. ~~Colo~~ Col. Charles Ruffner who lived here, for a while, was also interested in salt making.

Tree Sugar.

Sugar maple trees were abundant, in many places, throughout this section, and were a source of sugar, at a time, when its importation would have been well-nigh impossible. Nearly every land owner had his "orchard". February was the usual time for tapping the trees. The proper way to do this was simply to bore an upward slanting hole, in the trunk of the tree, about three feet above the ground, and then drive a hollow tube, such as an elderberry stem, into it, and then set a bucket, or other vessel under this tube, to collect the sap as it ran out. This procedure was followed with the other trees throughout the orchard, after which, the sap was carried to larger vessels, and hauled or carried to large kettles where it was boiled and evaporated to a syrup, or sugar. This

Drinks

Coffe and tea and ordinary sugar were scarce. They had to be brought over the mountains, over bad roads, hence, were expensive. For this reason, most pioneers used substitutes, such as sassafras, peppermint, and, sometimes spicewood tea. Most families had cows, hence, there was an abundance of cheap milk. The cows ran in the woods, and subsisted on wild cane, and other grasses, which, in most places, were plentiful.

Early Crops.

Some one has stated that "Maise, wheat, rye, flax, and Irish Potatoes", in order were the most important crops, also buckwheat, millet, oats, barley, hay, peas, tobacco, and melons, in fact, about the same crops, as grown to-day.

15.

Clothing

Women's clothing was usually made of linsey or linen cloth. It usually consisted ~~usually~~, of two pieces - a short body-filling basque, and a long full skirt. Solid colors - blue, red, green, or grey were used.

Imported goods of all kinds, however, were obtainable, at stores in Guyandotte, within a few years after the first settlements. This was also probably true of stores, in ~~Gua~~ Barboursville, and Logan, before the Civil War. (See ads.) The only thing that prevented a more general use of such goods, was the scarcity of money.

For Sunday, or special occasions, the men wore a hunting shirt made of tanned deer hide, or jeans. Attached to it, was a cape. Both shirt and cape were ornamented with a brightly colored fringe.

16.

The women and girls wore a gown of flannel cloth, or linsey, and a skirt made of the same material, but of a different color.

For headwear, ladies wore a hood made of flannel and shaped to fit. For church, or special occasions, they wore leghorn bonnets, which were rather expensive.

Instead of shoes such as worn to-day, both sexes wore moccasins. These could be very simple, or elaborate. They were comfortable in dry weather, but were easily soaked, in wet weather, and, in order to withstand cold, were filled with fur, or hair.

~~Men wore leggings made of bearskin~~.

Moccasins were easily made of deerskin, usually of a single piece large enough to furnish a flap to reach nearly to the knees. It was bent around the ankles and foot, and sewed with thongs, or small strips of deer

to cover the whole foot. They were uncomfortable, in cold weather, and had to be stuffed with fur, or cloth, to keep the feet warm.

Most people went barefooted in the summer, and children often went to school that way.

Breeches and leggings were made of jeans, or linsey, as hides easily absorbed water and became heavy and cold, especially, in wet or windy weather. Leather garments were used, in warm weather. Women and girls often went barefooted, on their way to and from church. They carried their shoes and stockings, on their way to church, and would put them on, as they neared the church, and remove them a short time after the services were over. This custom persisted in rural sections until comparatively recent years.

Because of the times and conditions "materials and methods immediately available were used."

18.

The hunting shirt extended almost to the knees, with a cape often of a different color, and made of jeans or linsey, both of cotton chain, and wool filling, with highly colored fringes. Red color was made, mostly, of copperas. Sometimes, hunting shirts were made of dressed deer skins. The shirt lapped, in front, and had a belt tied behind. By not lapping so much, the hunter could use the extra room for storing necessities — meal, for bread, tow for his gun, and dried venison, for meals.

The powder horn hung by a strap suspended over the shoulders, and protected, by a piece of deerskin.

19.

Bedding.

The first beds were made as follows:- Short posts of forked timber were driven into the ground. Timbers extended from these posts to the walls where they were fastened, by being driven into the cracks between the logs, or laid on other timbers fastened lengthwise, to the logs, by wooden pins. The end timbers were then fastened by pegs, to these timbers. Other small timbers were laid crosswise, thus forming a support for the bedding which consisted of a kind of mattress filled with grasses, and, after the settlers began to raise wheat, stuffed with straw. Feather beds came into use, after the introduction of geese and ducks. Pillows were made in the same way as mattress

Some years later, when furniture makers came into the country, bedsteads were turned from timbers, and were

so constructed as to be more comfortable. Istead of modern springs, ropes made of cotton or hemp, were used.

Bearskins, or skins of deer or elk, were often used, instead of quilts. Many huts were provided with a kind of ladder made against the wall, in a corner of the living room. When bedtime came, the children climbed into the loft, or into the trundle bed, and slept on a tick of leaves, or straw. The trundle bed was placed under the bed occupied by the parents. It could be drawn out from under the upper bed and then shoved under it. The children, if not too many, slept in this bed. If there were more children another bed was required, and large families might have three or four such beds.

The Ashhopper.

Every country home had an ash hopper. This was made by driving four stakes into the ground, near each other, then spreading them apart, and supporting them, at the top, with small timbers extending in the form of a square. The ends of these were tied to the stakes, each being about three to four feet apart, thus providing a vessel shaped like a "V", the top being about three or four feet square, and the bottom coming to a point. This was then lined with clapboards, exactly like those used to roof a house, and ashes were piled into this hopper. These were then dampened until they "ripened." Water was then poured into the hopper, in sufficient amounts, to cause the lye to run ~~out~~ into a vessel of stone, so ~~that lye~~ it would not eat a hole in it, and thus cause the lye to escape. It was caught into a vessel, and used to make hominy, or soap.

There were in use, until as late as 1890, and in rare cases, even yet.

Dishes

Dishes were made of pewter, or wood. The hunting knife was about the only one they had. Wooden bowls were made at an expense of time and effort that is difficult to imagine.

Brooms.

Brooms were made in various ways. A small hickory stick was peeled and smoothed carefully, with a pocket knife, or other knife. This served as a handle. Tough branches, or even fine branches of cedar, or pine, were tied around this handle to complete the broom. Others made split brooms, by using a longer hickory stick, and splitting about eighteen inches of the larger end, in splints or splits, about eighteen inches, in length. This was carefully tied at the upper end, and made a very good broom, if too much was not expected of it.

Lights.

Many early cabin homes had no other light, except that furnished from the fireplace, or ~~fire~~ torches mine made from pine knots split into strips. These were tied together, with a string, or a piece of hickory bark, or a leather thong, and used as a torch. Later, every family had candle molds, by which candles were made of tallow, or other fats. These fats were melted, and poured into these molds, and allowed to cool, and contract, when they were easly pushed out. Each candle had a cord in the center. These furnished sufficient light to enable the women to go about their household duties, but little more. Quite often the only lights available were dishes filled with grease, or tallow, and a long rag with one end extending over the edge. This was lighted, and continued to burn slowly until the grease was exhausted

Matches were very scarce. Fires were carefully nursed to prevent going out during the night. Men two generations ago could easily remember making sparks, by the use of flint and steel. These were caught in tinder - a small portion of rough flax, or tow string, or powder of rough flax, and blown into a flame. If no tow was available, it would be necessary to carry fire, on a shovel, from a neighbor's house, sometimes miles away

Neighbors

27.

Pioneer days were lonesome days. Those who came west seeking lands were not content with small acreages. Land was cheap, and could be had, at a ~~reasonable, or~~ nominal sum. Large land grants often included thousands of acres. This was true in Cabell, Wayne and Lincoln counties, as well as many others. Ordinary farms consisted of from one, to several hundred acres. Every one wanted elbow room. People were friendlier with transient travelers than they were with prospective neighbors.

28.

Early Pioneers.

Settlers began to pour into the section now embraced in Cabell and Lincoln counties, about 1800, and, in some parts of Wayne county even sooner than this. Some of the McComas families were said to have come over the mountains, and down Guyandotte river, from Giles County, Virginia, about 1799. Thomas Buffington came to Guyandotte, possibly, at an earlier date, and Captain William Merrill settled near the mouth of Mud River, about 1801 or 1802. From this time on, the settlement was quite rapid

Let us imagine a family coming west. The Indian wars had just ended, and there was no longer any fear of them. Greenbrier county was settled long before this section. William Morris was probably

the earliest settler, in the Kanawha valley. He came to the mouth of Cabin Creek, before the Revolutionary War, and settled about the mouth of Cabin Creek, in Kanawha County. The Clendenins came to Charleston, about 1789.

Economic conditions were only part of the relentless force causing people to leave the comforts of home, and seek a haven, in an unknown country. Many had no definite idea of exactly where they were going. They had heard of a place of cheap and fertile lands where game was plentiful, and life was secure. Driven by an unconquerable spirit of adventure, they gathered up a few necessities from among their belongings, and with a horse and, sometimes, a cow, turned their faces toward the setting sun. There must have been many affecting scenes.

30.

Parents and relatives were left behind. Home ties were broken never to be re-united. The journey begins. The few necessary belongings, such as bedding, cooking untensils — skillets, pots, pans, etc., are carefully ~~gathered~~ tied, on the horse. The husband mounts the saddle, the wife gets on behind him. The cow is led, by a long rope

If there are children, she takes the baby, if any, ~~and~~ in her lap. Larger children walk with the father, who, now, ~~has~~ has dismounted, and leads the cow. They start on their long trek, but their troubles are not over. Those, from the southern counties of Virginia, come from Giles, Tazewell, Montgomery, or other counties, into the Guyandotte, or Big Sandy valleys. Those coming from farther north, come down the valley of Virginia

from points above Staunton, or from southern sections, toward Staunton, or Lexington, and over the mountains to the Greenbrier, or New River, and down the Kanawha, to ~~Bay~~ Teays Valley, and on to Mud and Guyandotte rivers, over the old State Road.

Others, from western Pennsylvania, come down the Ohio, on Kentucky boats, keelboats, barges, and even rafts.

The road was long and wearisome. After several days travel, they were only well started through the mountains. Night is coming on. Strange sounds are in the air: the stillness is broken, by the sound of wolves, the screech of owls, or other strange noises. They gather wood and build a camp fire, and draw upon their scanty supply of food, for their evening meal.

There may be no danger from Indians, except possibly, roving bands, but they have already heard so much about their atrocities, that they can not wholly dismiss them from their minds. There are still Indians, in Ohio, and what, if some of them should be lurking in these woods? But hope leads them on. Day after day, they press forward. Finally, they reach the waters of Mud River, and some decide to make their homes there. Others press on, and only stop when they reach streams flowing into the Guyandotte, Four Pole, Twelve Pole, or Big Sandy. They have, at last reached the "west".

A Day's Work.

People rose early. The day's work was long and arduous. Every home was a manufactory. During the long days of winter when the father was not hunting, he found plenty of work about the house. Shoes had to be made, for the family. This meant that every ~~family~~ many, was to a certain extent, a tanner and shoemaker. Skins had to be prepared, and then soaked, in a vat containing extract from oak bark to tan the leather. Wooden pegs had to be made, from small cross sections of well-seasoned hickory. After the leather was thus prepared, shoes were made, for every member of the family.

Farming tools, such as crude shovels, for plow-points, tongs, shovels, hoes, mattocks, frows, and other tools.

These, and the making of all kinds of furniture provided plenty of work, for father and boys.

A Day's Work.

It is said that

"Man's work's from sun to sun,
But woman's work is never done!"

This was literally true, in pioneer days. It was one thing for a man to make a spinning wheel, or loom, but quite another to be a woman, and have to use them day and night, the year round, and this was what the pioneer woman had to do. The eight hour day was not even an idle dream. Daylight, or earlier found the family astir. Breakfast over, the loom and spinning wheel began to be heard, or, perhaps, the women were busy quilting.

The loom was used for weaving ~~baskets~~ blankets; linsey, for women's dresses; linen, for [illegible]

sheets, coverlids, table cloths,
sacks, carpets, rugs, and other
Things

Amusements.

When people gathered for amusement, it was nearly always, in connection with their daily tasks. There were clearings to prepare the land for future crops. It was hard work but pioneer folk turned it into play. Great trees were to be felled, and rolled into log heaps, and burned, in order to clear the land for future crops. Flax, cotton, and wool had to be spun into clothyarn, or linen thread. All these were woven into various kinds of cloth. Hemp was used for rope. Flax had to be "pulled", before it was spun.

There were apple peelings and other tasks usually performed, by women. All these gave opportunity, for many parties of women and girls. There was much knitting to be done.

"Corn shuckings" came, in the fall, or late winter. It had to be cut, in early September, and put in the shocks to

After a few weeks, it was ready to shuck. It was an opportunity, for young and old to gather, and spend a day, at work, in the name of play. Of course, the women and girls prepared the noon meal, and sometimes even the supper. When night came on, the labors of the day were followed, by a dance, which of all pioneer amusements, was king.

Shooting matches, with rifles wrestling matches, foot races, fist fights between neighborhood bullies, or to settle old sores.

It was not uncommon, for contestants to engage in "gouging", as a natural sequence of a fist fight. Weapons were banned, but many a man lost an eye, by having it gouged out.

There were many forms of amusements. One of these was a "house-raising". When settlers became more or less numerous in the

custom for neighbors to gather from miles around, to assist in "house raisings". This was a festive occasion. Whole families came afoot, or, on horseback, to assist, in the labor, for the day, and to enjoy the fun, at night. The woods afforded an abundance of logs, of all sizes. Experienced woodsmen selected the straightest, and finest trees, for the purpose. Several wood chopper cut down the trees, and trimmed them into logs, and cut them the proper length They were then hauled, or dragged to the spot selected for the new dwelling.

For the more elaborate houses, the logs were carefully hewed, with a broad axe, by the aid of "chalk and line". For ordinary cabins whichever far in excess, round logs were used.

Experienced men were

placed, at each of the four corners. Each log was then rolled up, and notched, in ~~its~~ its regular position. After a proper fit was secured, it was placed properly, and this was repeated until the last log was in its proper place, forming a kind of pen, with no entrance. The gable ends might then be built up, in somewhat the same way, by using shorter and shorter logs, and cutting the ends, in such a way as to provide, for the slope of the roof.

Other logs were placed lengthwise, to form a support for the clapboards, which were used, on the roof, to turn the ~~water~~ rain. These boards were "rived", from the finest and straightest grained white or red oaks obtainable. As a rule, they were not trimmed, or smoothed, in any way. They were "rived" by aid of a frow. The

log was first sawed into lengths of approximately four feet, although some were made shorter. Then they were split into halves and quarter

The heart was then removed from each quarter or piece. The billets, as the remaining parts were called, were then rived into boards of the proper thickness. If properly done these boards should have been made in the winter time, and thoroughly dried, before being placed on the roofs, in order to prevent cupping or warping. They were either nailed on, or weighted down with poles extending lengthwise the building, across each row of boards, which were overlappi to shed the water.

Puncheons.

Smaller logs were split in halves to make puncheons for floors, and, in some cases to make seats, or benches, by boring holes, at each corner, and putting in round rods of timber, for legs. These were smoothed with a broadaxe, and edged with an ordinary ax. It usually took from two to three days to finish a house. After a house was ~~completed~~ raised, and the roof was placed, openings were made for a chimney and windows, and doors, by cutting, or sawing out logs. Puncheons or timbers were nailed to the square ends of the logs which had been sawed, or cut through. This held them in place. Doors were then hung, and window sash placed, if any such were available. The jambs for windows, doors, and chimney were secured, by nails, when available, or by wooden pegs, driven into holes

previously bored into the logs, as well as through the punch-eons.

Clap boards were placed on the roof, in rows, each overlapping the other exactly as shingles, in a modern house.

This did not finish the house. Between the logs were large large cracks. These were first filled by aid of the timber hearts left from the board chunks Mud or mortar was then dashed in, to fill the remaining cracks.

Many conveniences, for household use, were made by the settler himself, from materials, at hand. ~~Goods~~ wds were used, for dippers. Spoons, knives and forks, and other utensils were brought from the east, or made from wood, or, in some cases, as previously told, were moulded, by pouring melted metal into a spoon, or a home made mould, or ~~another one~~ another, depending on what was wanted.

43.

These moulds were often brought from the east, and the author has in his possession, a bullet mould and a spoon mould brought here, from Amherst County, Virginia, by Henry Peyton, a Revolutionary soldier about 1803. He was the great grandfather of the author's wife. He lived and died, on the waters of Tom's Creek, a little beyond the present residence of Homer Adams, but on the opposite side of the road.

44.

The Fur Trade

It has been said that eight thousand bear skins, were sold in Guyandotte, in one year, but the last bear that was killed in this section, on Bear Creek, in 1816.

Personal Recollections

"People often speak of pioneer days, as though they were remote. The fact is that people living yet have seen this country go from Barbarism to Civiliization.. When the writer was a boy, say 1883 to 1884. I lived, on the head of Federal Creek, in Lawrence County, Ohio, a few miles, from Millersport. My Uncle, Alfred Swartwood was a cooper, and made barrels both Tight barrels, and apple tubs, churns, buckets, or vessels of any kind* or flour barrels, He went into the woods, some times two or three miles away, and sawed his timber, and rived it into staves, and, after hauling them home, shaved them into proper shape, for barrels. Then they were hauled to Millersport. by my grandfather, Earl Swartwood— usually, by oxen. Then they were shipped, by boat, to Cincinnati, and sold. Some of the tight barrels were used

* Some of these vessels were quite fancy, in appearance and were made of red and white cedar alternating.

46.

for cider, or molasses. My grandparents, uncles, and we, ourselves, lived in log cabins, almost as primitive, as any ever erected in this section. I have seen the same conditions, in many parts of Cabell, and Lincoln counties, A few of these primitive houses are still in use not only in Lincoln county, but in Cabell and Wayne. My people had given up the use of looms and spinning wheels, but they were in use, in some places, even after 1900.

There was no gas, or electricity here, in those days, although both had been in use many years before, in some places. There were no electric devices, no automobiles, no refrigerators, or household conveniences, which we now regard as absolute

Amusements were simpler than they are now. There were theatres, in cities like Huntington, show boats, on the Ohio river, etc.

Occasionally, there were shooting matches, and horse racing. My Uncle Ben Swartwood lived in a ~~house~~ log cabin, as primitive as one could imagine. It had puncheon floors, and a puncheon ceiling. I have slept many a night, in this "loft", with my cousins, Ed and Al. We ate biscuits and corn bread baked on the hearth, in a skillet and lid, the heat being supplied by hot coals under the skillet, and over the lid. I have also eaten corn "pone" baked in the ashes, not only there, but, in Cabell, and Lincoln counties. Later, No. 7 step stoves were quite common everywhere here. Good stoves did not reach the rural sections, until the early 1890's

Snakes.

48.

There were many more snakes, in the early days, than now. Rattle snakes and copper heads were about the deadliest enemies the settlers had to contend with. The woods and fields were filled with them. When a person was bit, by one of these, it quite often proved fatal. Many people used liberal quantities of whiskey, as a remedy; others, with more success, immediately used their hunting knives, by cutting open the wound, and letting the blood carry away the deadly venom.

49.

Peddlers.

After a few years, peddlers appeared, and many household and other conveniences were purchased from them.

50.

Wild Animals

The coming of white men made many changes, in the forests. Wolves were numerous, and I have heard many old men tell about them howling around their cabins, at night. For some reason, they soon became almost

Dr. Doddridge thinks they died of hydrophobia, introduced by dogs. Eagles and buzzards were numerous. The eagles were killed out many years ago, but buzzards may yet be seen, at times, although they are now quite scarce. There were many gray and black squirrels, and they seemed to increase, for a time, and were quite destructive to early corn, and other seed crops. They migrated every few years, from west to east, but no one seemed to know why. At first, there were no rats, but they soon followed. Possums and ground squirrels came later.

There were calamounts, wild cats, panthers (called painters), rattlesnakes and copperheads.

Great herds of buffaloes swam the Big Sandy river, from Kentucky, and were, probabably, responsible for the so-called Indian trail, which extended east through Teays Valley, to the Kanawha river. This old trail was mentioned as passing the present site of the International Nickel Plant, in 1802 (See a deed to John Russell.)

Superstitions.

With little to attract attention, the pioneer was given to using his imagination. There were plenty of ill omens. Newspapers were scarce, and there were few books. People brooded over anything that might be considered a bad omen. The crowing of a hen, a rooster crowing in the door, a four-leaf clover, or a black cat in the night.

Resourcefulness.

There were many things to contend with, but people, in those days, were very resourceful. There were few tools and most of them were made, at home. Every man was his own blacksmith, his own shoemaker, his own carpenter, and all around mechanic. Later there were blacksmiths, tinners, chair-makers, stone masons, hat makers, tailors. The women made their rugs, wove their carpets, and the cloth, from which clothes, for the whole family, was made. and they made spinning wheels, as well. There were no doctors, and if any one became ill, wild roots, leaves, and herbs, or bark, furnished a remedy. Every neighborhood had its midwife.

There were squatters, thieves, and swindlers, but the pioneer usually was able to cope with them.

They often worried about relatives or friends back home.

There was great fear of starvation, but usually there were potatoes, turnips, or corn to help when other things failed.

The Feud Spirit

Our pioneers are often accused of being lawless, and there is a best of truth in the charge, especially, in those parts of the country remote from the towns. There was less protection, for the individual, and slower punishment for the aggressor. The result was that they often took the law into their own hands. Justice was either too slow, or the folks had no confidence in it. In many cases, the soil was poor, and living was hard. The better lands were owned, by a few people. The others had to eke out a living as best they could.

Liquor was a contributing factor. There was much drinking.

Aside from timber, there was little income, hence, money was scarce. Moonshining became an established custom. "Revenuers" were unpopular, and all strangers were considered "revenuers," until they proved [illegible]

55.

Iron

Many early utensils were made of wood. Iron, however, was almost a necessity, but, in the absence of good roads, it was very heavy, and, therefore, expensive to bring over the mountains, on horseback, or even by wagons.

In the better homes, andirons were placed in front of the backlog, to support the front stick. A large bar of iron, or crane, was fastened inside the chimney. It swung over the fire, and supported the pots, or teakettle, by the aid of pot hooks.

There were long iron spits to turn the roasts, or pots. There were shovels, for removing ashes, or, for handling live coals. There were skillets and lids, or Dutch ovens, which were very similar, both used for baking bread, or roasting meats. There were also shovels, pokers, and other utensils.

There were hatchets, axes, adzes, saws, hoes, mallocks, etc., just as there to-day.

57.

Importations.

After the settlers were able to establish themselves, they sometimes made trips, on horseback, to the East, and brought back with them, many luxuries, to which they had not been accustomed.

The stores, in places like Barbourville, and Guyandotte, as early as the 1820's, carried large stocks of goods available to those who had money to buy them, or produce, such as eggs, chickens, deer hams, or other game, ginseng, yellow root, ~~etc~~ mayapple, etc.

There were advertisements in the Charleston papers, of these local merchants, one of whose store stood, on the corner of what was then Guyandotte, and Ohio streets. This was on the corner fronting on the Guyandotte and Ohio rivers. The Ohio street has since been washed away.

The Well Bucket

Most people got their water from a spring, some of which never went dry. Sometimes a house was built over a spring, and served as a refrigerator. Pots or pans were placed in the cool water, and thus cooled the milk, and kept it cool. Fresh meats were also kept the same way, but this was not long effective like a modern deep freeze.

All foods were derived from home products — corn meal, hominy, pork, sausage, vegitables, and game of all kinds. No sugar was imported, and none was available except that derived from the sugar maple.

Dishes were carved from wood, or made from gourds. Kitchen utensils consisted of a few pans, pewter spoons, and hunting knives or knives made from pewter.

Firearms were scarce, and even on muster days, substitutes such as axes, or corncutters were used. Salt and nails were scarce.

59.

Drinks

Tea and coffee were scarce, and had to be brought from the east, but, for this reason, most people used substitutes - mountain tea, peppermint, sassafras, and sourwood sage

Sanitation.

Mosquitoes and houseflies swarmed in the ~~woods~~ weeds. Wolves often had hydrophobia, and gave it to the dogs, and these passed it on to men and stock.

Fever and ague and rheumatism were prevalent, among all classes, because of exposure.

Sanitation was poor, as there were no bath tubs, and water must be carried from springs, and then heated.

The "Seven Year Itch" was well-known.

60.

By Sam Bias.

Schools

There was an old frame building in the Kyle Graveyard, used both for school and church. It was the only school between Seven Mile and Barboursville. The benches were puncheons made by splitting logs, and smoothing them with a foot adze, and making legs, for them, of wooden pegs. The building was probably built of whip sawed lumber.

An old man named Tucker McComas, taught in a log cabin where Berry Bias lived, on ~~Toms~~ Merritts Creek, about a mile up from Mud River Bridge. It was an old dwelling. The benches were like those described above, made from round logs, split, and having round pegs. They had no backs, and pupils often became tired and restless.

Jerome Shelton taught school just after the Civil War, at the lower end of West Hamlin

- MANNERS AND CUSTOMS -

-1-

When people first came into this section they had to bring their bread along. This was either wheat flour or corn meal. They did not suffer for meat because there was plenty of wild game. Salt was expensive and had to be brought from the East until such time as they could get it from the salt works east of Charleston. Even this was very impure. Grain was pounded by some folks in a mortar made by digging s hole in a log or stump.

There were mills quite early, such as the one by Joel Estes and William Merritt. Meal was very coarse, and was not bolted, as it is now. There were wild strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, equal in quality to the cultivated varieties. Ammunition was scarce; hency the hunters, wherever possible, used traps or snares. I have had description of a bear trap given me by very old hunters. Wuld turkeys were caught in traps, also. These were pens wiyl part of one side laft open at the bottom. Birds would ener from the bottom, and then look up.

Meat wzs sometimes cooked before the fire by putting it on a spit and roasting it. There were no stoves; hence the cooking was done on the hearth, or, in some cases, out of doors. There were not many quails, but there was plenty of fish. Quails followed civilization, just as the honey bee did.

There were large tanneries at Barboursville before 1816; but many farmers tanned their own skins from which they made clothing and shoes, or moccasins. The hair was removed by the aid of ashes and water; they then rubbed the skins with home-made soap or lye to remove the fat from the inside of the skins. These skins were left a few days in a vat, then were stretched on a wide board; or in some ca es, on the side of a house until they dried; after which they were scraped with a knife. Bear skins made excellent cloaks, and were often spread on the floor for beds.

There were wolves and panthers, as well as buffalo, and other wild animals. Hogs were fattened on the "mast" of the oak, beech and hickory trees. Since they could find plenty of pasture in the summer time, they were a very cheap form of meat.

Coffe and tea was scarce, but there was a number of excellent substitutes such as the bark from sassafras roots, spice wood, or sage. Parched grain was often used as a substitute for coffee. Meal was made into astiff dough and rolled into a kind of bar which was afterwards flattened and cooked on the hearth by first covering it with ashes; and then a shovel full of coals This was called "Johhny cake". Hoe cake was put on the board or into an iron pan and set before the hot blaze. "Corn pone" was baked in a Dutch Oven. Corn, soaked in lye, was made into hominy. When taken from the lye, it was washed in cold water. Boiled meal was called mush; and a bowl of it, covered with milk, was not a bad meal.

Clearing the ground covered with hugh forest trees and virgin timber was not an easy job. Much of this timber was wasted by the early pioneers; the logs were rooled together in piles, and then burned. They were sometimes deadened by "girdling". This was done when they were not in a hurry to use the land for crops.

Both oxen and horses swere used for plowing. Compared with present plows, these e arly plows were made of wood, each of which was bound by strips of iron. Harrows were made of brush or by drags with wooden teeth. Grain was threshed with a scythe or a cycle and pounded out with a flail. This was a pole of which the end had been flattened by pounding with a pole-ax or heavy mallet. The grain was cleaned by running through a fanning mill made by hand. Corn was often shucked at what was known as corn huskings. Neighbors gathered in for these and g reat meals were served; and the workers after supper then sometimes had dances which lasted all night.

Some of the cabins were surrounded with flowers such as holly-hobks, morning glorys, sun flowers, &c. These were followed by rose bushes and snow balls. There were not as many vegetables used in those days as now. There were no tomatoes, sweet corn cauliflower, head lettuce or rhubarb ; but there were such vegetables as peas, and beans, mustard and kale, turnips, potatoes, beets, cabbage, squashes, melons and cucumbers.

Among the diseases of those early days, consumption, or what we now call tuberculosis was very common. Patients were often bled and were given heavy doses of calomel. There was no quinine. Apparently, typhoid fever was very common, and there were epidemics of cholera. Druggists carried a supply of medicines in their saddle bags; and they often rode as far as one hundred miles to take care of a patient. People had the idea that their blood had to be purified every spring; hence, tonics, and other concocktions made of sassafras bark, and other roots and herbs, were very common. Wild cherry was often used as a tonic, however, as well as whiskies and wines even by people who believed in temperance. We have an idea that people were healthier in those days than now; but this is not correct; yet many people lived to be very old, but they were the "exception" and not the rule.

The schools were very rude; yet, somehow, many men were trained in them for leaders. Not many newspapers were in circulation. I have not found the record of a single newspaper in Cabell County until after 1850. There were newspapers in Charleston, W. Va. as early as 1820--and perhaps, earlier. These were sent out by mail; and as the rural districts were not supplied with letter carriers, the people had to go to the Post Office for them. Sometimes mail did not even reach the Post Office for six weeks, or more; and when a newspaper arrived people gathered from far and near to hear the news read. Most of these papers were weekly papers.

We have no legal statistics showing accounts of floods in the early days; but it is thought that they were not as destructive as they are now, although there were exceptions. There was a flood in the Guyandotte Valley in 1861, the memory of which exists to the present day. The seasons were undoubtedly earlier in those days.

The stock depended upon wild grasses at first; but later, Timothy, and other grasses were planted. There was little machinery for farming; hence, most of it had to be done by hand. Many crop pests that we have now were unheard of in those days; the bean bugs, peach borers, and other pests were unknown.

Even the potato bug is a new arrival. We have a greater variety of fruit today with a better quality than it was formerly. We also have many modern inventions which the pioneers did not have.

Methodist preachers came into this territory at an early date. Jeremiah Lambert is said to have been the first one west of the mountains. He traveled on the Holston Circuit in 1783. He died in 1786.

By Sam Bias.

Manners and Customs.

Cattle, Sheep, and hogs would stay out on the mast all winter. All clothing was made on the looms

I remember the first one who came around selling a ball of broadcloth. Peddlers brought silk etc. One of my aunts ('my aunt) cut hoop poles, and sold them to buy a silk dress. All flour barrels were made, by hand, by the Jefferson boys, at Cox's Landing Boats staid there a half day to load tanbark, hoop poles etc., for Cincinnati. Tanbark was peeled from Chestnut oaks, which were also used to make Staves.

About September, one could sit on the river bank, and kill as many squirrels as he wished with a stick, as they crossed the river. They were migrating from Ohio, to get the mast-various nuts, etc., that were abundant in our woods.

Manners and Customs

A family named Bailey ran a mill, at Harts Creek. They had seven or eight children — all half naked. This was during the Civil War. Such mills ground slowly, and people got hungry waiting for their grists. Mr. Bailey furnished a skillet where folks could parch corn when hungry.

Food, in those days, was either secured from the forests, or produced on the farms. It consisted of corn bread, ~~no~~ molasses, bacon, pickled pork, and a few vegetables produced in the gardens. Hogs were often kept, before being killed, till they weighed as much as ~~the~~ five or six hundred pounds, or more. There were no canned goods. We often fished, at night, and had fish next day, fried in bacon grease. We used a hook and line. We had guns and often killed ducks. I killed a bald eagle just above the Falls. It ~~weighed~~ measured seven feet from tip to tip of their wings. It had been catching Lewis Medcuffs geese.

By Sam Bias
1942

Women were very modest, and wore long dresses. People were scarce. They often lived five or six miles apart.

Comber Bias, from the Forks of Two Mile bear hunted, at Harts Creek He got a bear shortly after the war, and I ate some of it.

We had spinning wheels and looms. I can remember when my mother made jeans, and knit socks, for us.

There was much fighting among the early pioneers, when they met at the court houses, or around the Taverns.

In the Cabell County Court records for June 24, 1817, we find indictments for assault against the following well-known early settlers:

Elisha McComas, George Spears, William Merrill, John Hoover, Jesse Smith, Henry Peyton, Thomas Ward, John Ward, Samuel Bulcher, Charles Wilson, Jacob Hite, and Henry Spears.

At the same time, an indictment was made against Edward Pauley for not keeping the road in repair. He had evidently been employed, for that purpose.

The Taverns, and even the grocery stores, sold liquor, and they usually usually "loaded" up with an ample supply, as a preliminary to the fighting which followed.

Manners & Customs by Charley Thomas.

When I came here - the Sweetlands - I. V. and his wife's father, Lewis P. John S. Mrs. Love, the two Mrs. Oxleys etc. Marine Sanford father of M. W. Sanford, L. M. Sanford (Kanawha City) Van Sanford now deceased etc. J. W. Holt, The Latins - Charles the father, and D. C. Latin the blacksmith (son). C. M. Wysong, B. F. Curry, Dr. J. J. Hale father of Will Hale and Mrs. Will Curry. moved to Atlanta, Ga. and died a year or two ago. James A. Holley was the elder and father of D. S. Holley W. D., Dr. E. W., Mrs. Julia Holley, Mrs. Maggie Jaynes mother of John Logan and Bern Jaynes.

Curry

Gen. James A. Holley Jr., son of Jas. A. Sr. He died in Florida a year or two ago. Joel Holley Sheriff here some years ago, and Mrs. Minnie McClung mother of Dr. McClung, and wife of F. H. McClung.

Corn was planted by hand and covered by hoes. The first threshing machines, mowing machines, and corn planters were introduced.

Wagons were scarce and loaned from one to another. Buggies and spring wagons came in my day. The first suit I ever wore was a hand-woven blue drilling suit. Some flax was grown, no cotton to any extent, sheep ran wild, hogs ran in the woods, pea vine grew to a considerable extent, and was eagerly devoured by cattle. It requires rich ground.

I. V. Sweetland and Marine Sanford kept the largest country store here. C. M. Wysong and Son had another one. They bought ginseng yellow-root, furs, eggs etc. J. C. Reynolds kept at Griffithsville, and Maxwell Johnson kept at or below the Falls about 1½ miles above West Hamlin.

Maxwell Johnson was afterward twice elected Sheriff. The mill at Hamlin just above the present wooden bridge was owned and run by Chas. Latin.

It was a three story frame building of lumber framed and weatherboard. They sawed lumber here by an "up and down" saw. This mill run by water. An undershot wheel. They made meal and flour here and bolted it.

There was also a steam mill owned by S.A. Johnson who was jailor.

It stood (the mill) on this side of Mud River just across from the Odd Fellow's building on the same side of the street, and just below the Odd Fellows building on upper side of Banks Store.

Porter's mill seven miles below here. Smallridge's mill was about 5 miles above here. Both were water-mills, I think, and still in use.

Both undershots and frames — 1 story each. J.W. Porter owned Porter's Mill. (Jim or John) Smallridge owned the upper mill.

If a man got out of bacon, one didn't have to go to a store, he went to J.W. Ballard on Middle Fork at the C.J. McGhee place. Philip Powell where Henry Powell now lives (his grandfather) A.J. Powell across Mud where Jim Powell now lives about a mile below Hamlin. B.F. Curry at the Dr. Thacker place, Robert Madden lived just above Ames Church on Mud, James A. Holley who lived on Mud across from Weston (New Hamlin) W.A. Carroll where his son W.W. Carroll now lives, William A. Mahone across from Ames Church where Eliza Mahone now lives.

J.W. Holt and Jos. Mays were the only resident lawyers. Jerome Shelton was Prosecuting Attorney. He lived on and owned the site of West Hamlin.

Manners & Customs by J. V. Wenty:

Wild Animals.

Coon skins and fox hides were sold.

Not much market for butter & eggs, everybody had their own.

Soap making

Tree Sugar.

There were gun smiths, taylors etc, in Barboursville, Josiah Swann was a gunsmith, also Isaac Taylor, whose first wife was a Lawrence.

Guyandotte had many artisans, Tinsmiths, blacksmiths, etc.

Iron manufacturing was attempted at an early date, at the Shoals of Buffalo, on Twelve Pole, in Wayne Co but it was not a success and was soon abandoned to places down the river about Ashland and Ironton.

Nails were made by hand by blacksmiths, as well as all kinds of bolts. When the old log county jail at Barboursville, was torn down, a few years ago, many nails of this kind were found among the timbers, by William C. Miller and others. Mr. Miller gave me a few of them, but nails and other hardware could be [illegible] or other markets.

Manners & Customs. by Billy McKendree.

Wild Animals.

Deer existed in the woods when I was a boy. He tells of tan-bark being sent to market on flat boats. Staves were a leading industry.

Bill Peyton tells of finding 6 coons in 1 tree!

Mrs. Dillon of Hamlin says there were many deer.

Charley Thomas tells of deer being killed and that sheep and hogs ran wild. Owners would drive the herds into pens, while the young still followed the mothers, and mark the young with the same mark the mother had thus knowing their own by the mark

Charley said the pea vine grew extensively in the woods and was a source of good food for them

Ward Fry speaks of the wild pea vine, and says deer were plentiful when he was a boy. and that his mother spoke of bear.

Court Records of 1814 in Cabell Co., says—

Wolves plentiful. Old scalps worth $2.00, but some brought $4.00

Samuel Short brought in 14 scalps and recd $56
Peter Dingess " " 3 " " " $12
Isom Garrett " $40
Wm. Fullerton " $16

76 wolf scalps brought in this Court (May 1814)

At a session of Court in 1821 it was recorded that $148.00 had been paid for wolf scalps.

→ Mr. J. T. Wentz says that the Dusenberrys at what is Martha, Cabell Co. now, bought deer, and bear skins, also rafts carried bears for sale at Guyandotte or perhaps to go on to Cin. There were plenty wild turkeys here then

Manners & Customs by Billy McKendree

Preachers.

Roland Bias — was a good revivalist & preacher his two sons Roland and Elisha were preachers.
Burwell Chambers was a great mountain preacher.
John Perry - a good revivalist
Benjamin Perry, father of John Perry, a good preacher preached before the War.
Two other Perry preachers - J. H. Perry & Elijah Perry
John D. Carter was one of the best preachers of this section. his father was a preacher before him.
Later James Lewis one of the most spiritual & earnest
→ Mr. Ward Fry says that Rev. Dyke Garrett is probably oldest living preacher in Lincoln Co. He was a soldier in the Civil War.
Rev. Gib Moore, another old preacher.
Rev. Jim Chafin had only one leg, yet he preached all through the mountains.
Rev. Elkins was a preacher here, also Rev. Wirt Adkins, and Rev. Burwell Chambers.

This is what Mr. Fry says about Rev. Dyke Garrett: — a great worker, a great preacher, a great singer, a great fiddler. He is a member of the Christian Church.

Mr. Tilly Chambers says that Rev. Burwell Spurlock was a preacher, blacksmith, stone-mason and a free mason. He was a member of the M. E. South Church. He was a good preacher Rev. Dyke Barrett preached his funeral to about 1500 people at the mouth of Camp Creek in a grove, They had a basket dinner for all.

Manners and Customs cont'd by Bill Peyton.

Mills.

The Holt mill, about 6 mi. above Hamlin on Mud.
" Likens Mill at Hamlin.
Josh Adkins mill on Mud above Big Creek.
Preston Lovejoy mill on Mud - Left Hand Fork.
Robinson Spurlock mill above Lovejoy mill.
Nick Messinger mill at Falls.
Jim (?) Granger a steam mill belonged to him
by Billy Powers.
Bob Lewis had a grist mill and saw mill on
Upper Two Mile.

Lumber was sawed early by a whip saw. They dug a pit, placed a log over the pit, that had been squared and marked with a line, then used the whip saw.

→ Mr. Billy McKendree tells of going to mill to the Porter Mill. The site is now called Portersville on Mud River. Other mills were Howell's Mill, Dusenberry's Mill at what is now Martha, W.Va. Merrill's Mill near, but n. w. of Barboursville. There was a mill at Hurricane owned by a man named Morris. This was a steam mill.

Mr. Chas. Thomas says Chas. Latin owned and run a mill near the wooden bridge at Hamlin. A three story frame, weatherboarded. Run by water - an "under-shot" wheel. They made and bolted both meal and flour. Another mill was one owned by S.A. Johnson. The Smallridge's mill was about 5 miles above Hamlin.

Manners and Customs by Elisha Peyton Mills.

A man named Pulp Smick of Nine Mile Creek near Lesage had a saw mill on Tom's Creek, Cabell Co. about 4½ miles east of Barboursville, on what is now the Tom Merritt farm.

Mills.

Mr. Ward Fry says that Peck's Mill was main water mill, It was at mouth of Mill Creek.

Burbus C. Toney had a mill at Musk Rat Shoal Lambert's Mill was about 2½ miles below Hart's. He says his mother came to Howell's Mill to get carding done.

Hiram Scites had a mill above the mouth of Big Laurel, Mark Adkins had a mill below the mouth of Parsner Creek.

At Dusenberry's Mill, they had a bull-wheel to pull boats through the "shute". Where there was no bull-wheel to "pull" with, the boats must be unloaded, the boat then pulled-empty-over the falls, then reloaded to proceed with the load.

Debtors

I am under the impression that the laws of Virginia, permitted people to be imprisoned for debt.

Tithables — See dictionary

Prices — See newspapers, and store books, for different periods

Sugar trees were usually tapped in February.

Stills were found on many farms, and in many homes, and brandy, whiskey, etc., were plentiful

Manners and Customs by Charley Thomas.

Stores.

I. V. Sweetland and Marine Sanford kept the largest country store It was opened 1868. C.M. Wysong kept one in partnership with his Son W.M. They bought ginseng, yellow-root, furs, eggs. J.C. Reynolds kept a store at Griffithsville and Maxwell Johnson kept one at the Falls, about 1½ mi. above West Hamlin.

Ward Fry stated that his father kept store as a side line only.

Someone kept store at mouth of Hart's Creek, and another one was at Chapmansville.

Ward's father bought good for his store twice a year — took them up on push boat — 6 or 7 day trip. also his father kept the post office. The mail was carried, one trip a week, on horseback from Barboursville to Logan C.H.

Salt was hauled from Kanawha by ox cart or by push-boat.

It had to be brought in from the Kanawha Salines, by packhorses, or wagons. Some salt was made quite early up Sandy River. Tom Ward made it, about the mouth of Swamp Branch. William McComas, and I believe Elisha McComas. Many barrels of salt were brought down the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, by boats, and sold to merchants at Guyandotte, Barboursville, etc.

Manners and Customs. by Bill Peyton.

Fiddlers. — Uncle John Spears was the oldest I knew. He lived near the head of Nine Mile Creek in Lincoln Co., W.Va. and he was a good one.

Some of the old tunes were: — Mayville, Rebel Raid, Dalton Road, Sourwood Mountain, Getting off the Raft, Shelvini Rock, Dover, The Coquette, Leather Breeches, Betsey Walker, Frosty Morning, Rollin Down the Sheets, The Grand Spy, Daniel Boone, Capt. Johnson, Cincinnati Belle, Rose in the Mountain, The Blue Rooster, The Morning Star, The Butterfly, Tinpot Alley, Bonapart Crossing the Alps, Butcher's Row, The Brush Creek, Peach Tree, Waynesburg, The Basket, Nancy Poland, The Arkansaw Traveler, ~~Johnny Dalton~~, Cumberland Gap.

A blacksmith - Johnny Dalton came from East Va. and settled at the Falls, was a fiddler. He did your work and then played you a tune. He went to Mud River and died.

Some of the other fiddlers were Jack McComas of Laurel Hill, Jim Franklin of Two Mile, just above the Falls, in Sheridan District. Tom Cooper lived on Mud River, above Hamlin. Morris Wentz and Ben France who lived in Cabell Co., often came to Lincoln County. Rev. Dick Garrett plays the fiddle.

Manners and Customs continued.

Tom Peyton, my brother, and Henry Peyton my father, Mig Sturgeon. And Henry Pauley came from Boone Co., and settled on Parsoner Creek, then removed to 4 Mile Creek of Guyan. He was well liked.

My father was a good canoe maker. He made them from poplar trees by digging out and shaping them, at $12 to $25 according to size. Pirogues (a kind of boat) were used on river. I don't know the difference.

I remember bear and deer were plentiful in my day— panthers were gone. I have seen them in Pocahontas County. I have lain by trees with my brother Lewis where six coons were, until day light, and my father would come and shoot them.

Eli Spurlock, Robinson Spurlock, John Spurlock, Lifus Spurlock, Seth Spurlock, all brothers, Their father Charley Spurlock settled early in Lincoln Co., and all were farmers and hunters.

John was a blacksmith and made guns. They were old when I was a boy. They lived on Mud River. Robinson on left fork of Mud in Jefferson Dist. John on Parsoner Creek, Seth on Big Creek, Eli and Lifus on Bear Branch of Mud.

Manners and Customs, Cont'd by Bill Peyton.

The old Holt Mill was about 6 miles above Hamlin on Mud River

Likens Mill was on Mud River at Hamlin.

Josh Adkins had a water mill on Mud above Big Creek.

Preston Lovejoy had a mill at the mouth of the left hand fork of Mud, and Robinson Spurlock on left hand fork, above Lovejoy Mill.

On the Guyan Dick Messinger had a mill at Falls. After the war ended a steam mill on Falls farm belonged to Jim(?) Granger and Billy Powers. Later Bob Lewis had a grist mill and saw mill on Upper Two Mile.

Henry Peyton, my father, Wallace Lewis, Bob Lewis and Dick Cremeans took a big barge of lumber to Cincinnati.

Lumber was sawed early by a whip-saw. They dug a pit, placed a log over the top after it was squared, marked it with a line. Then used the whip saw.

Manners and Customs cont'd by Bill Peyton.
John Darin (?) came from old Virginia.
John Mc Dilde also from the east (?)

Darin settled across the River from Hubble at Pay Branch. Mc Dilde lived with his daughter on Mud River. Harrison Hill and Brad Hill, father-in-law of Godfrey Scites Jr. and Harrison Hill was father-in-law of Hiram Scites.

Squire Jim Adkins and Andy Adkins lived on Big Laurel. Anderson Adkins (Long Anderson) settled on Big Laurel of Mud. and he and Addison Cummings married each others sisters. Both lived near each other on Big Laurel.

Lewis Marshall came from Washington to Tazewell Co. and then to Lincoln Co. Later died in Wayne Co. His wife was a native of North Carolina. Her name was Betsey Duggins.

Push boats took salt up Guyan river to Logan, Elk and other places. Little salt was produced here. It could not compete with Ohio salt.

Tom Ward also made salt, about Salt Rock - probably a couple miles below, on Two Mile Cr.

Manners & Customs by Billy Mc Kendree

Teachers.

Dangerfield Bryant, a perfect gentleman

_____ Beckley, taught at Swamp Branch

A Canadian – Billy Bramblett, " near Enon Church historian

Michael Loller, walked with crutches.

Seton Rousey, father of Arch & John Rousey, taught at Enon before the War.

George Kaiser, an ex-county Supt. of Lincoln Co.

Billy Mc Kendree taught 8 Terms or years, of 4 mos. each

Manners and Customs.

by Lewis R. Sweetland.

About every dwelling house was built of logs. Isaac Van Meter (his father) lived in a double log house.

Much hand weaving and carding was done. Cane molasses and tree sugar were made on the farm

Manners and Customs cont'd by Bill Peyton

Boats.

A steam-boat named the Favorite ran from Huntington to Laurel Hill

Pomp Wentz and Morris Wentz ran the Hustler since the War (civil) and the Major Adrian, Louisa and Lindsey ran before the Civil War.

My father was a good canoe maker. He hollowed out and shaped them from poplar trees. Sold them from 12 to 25 dollars each.

→ Billy McKendree says that flat boats were used to carry tan bark, staves etc to market.

Ward Fry said his father built a flat boat out of walnut entirely.

Manners and Customs by Bill Peyton.

Blacksmiths.

Johnny Dalton was a blacksmith. Came from Va. settled at Falls. Did your work, then played you a tune on his fiddle.

John Spurlock was a blacksmith and made guns.

Manners & Customs by Mr. Billy McKendree

Shoemakers-

My father was a Shoemaker. His name was Aaron Flood McKendree b. in Franklin Co, Va. in 1805. He was a partner with Judge Ferguson in shoemaking & mending.

Dangerfield Bryant was a shoemaker by trade as well as fiddler, teacher of singing & instrumental music

Manners & Customs by Bill Peyton

Crops grown.

Much flax and cotton grown. I have helped picked cotton many times. Out of flax and cotton, substantial cloth for different purposes was made. Sacks, towels, suspenders for the men, ticking for straw beds, small rugs made from flax, all were very lasting.

Flax stalks had to go through a process of rotting, so the thread could be separated from the pith, and was a rather long and tedious task. Its wearing qualities paid for the patient labor bestowed.

Hand-made facilities produced the good thread, that, when woven on the looms by the good women-folk kept the needs supplied.

The cotton was prepared for the loom, but not in same way as flax, but many things were made from it. Shirts, dresses, sheets, etc. Used indigo & copperas for coloring blue and yellow.

Charley Thomas tells of flax, cotton, corn. All planted and cultivated by hand.

- THE FOREST HOMES -

The pioneers began to reach this country about the year 1800. They came by foot or on horses over the mountains bringing with them their few belongings. Those who came from Giles County, and other counties in the southern part of the Valley of Virginia came by way of the Guyandotte River. Others came across the mountains and followed the road leading down the Kanawha Valley and across the Kana wha River at Charleston, and by the way of Teay's Valley to what is now Barboursville and Guyandotte. Others came down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh or Wheeling and points farther east by flat boats, and sometimes by steam boat (after the boats began running).

As above stated, they brought with them very little furniture, and then only of the most necessary kind. Their houses were very simple, indeed. The first ones were made of logs almost invariably and were usually quite small. They were made of small or medium size round logs cut in 12' to 14' lengths, notched at the ends and laid upon each other to a height of 7' or 8'. The first onesof these cabins had dirt floors. Chimneys were made of flat rocks, daubed with mud or cl clay. The windows were small, and in some cases there were no windows at all. Later, they made floors of puncheons, these being made by splitting round logs and laying them with the round side on other logs, or poles called "sleepers". The flat sides of these puncheons and the ends were smoothed as much as possible by their axes; or, if they had them, by adzes, a description of which will be found in another place. Roofs were usually made of clap-boards. These were easily made from the large, oak trees. They were of various lengths Many of them were made as long as 2½' or 3' in those days, as it did not take so much time to make the longer lengths. Some however, were made shorter. Nails were scarce; so it was often found necessary to hold these boards in place by long poles extending acros the roof; and the roofs usually sloped in two directions jjust as those of the ordinary box houses of to-day.

These houses often consisted of only a single room, from 12' to 16' square.

and they were used to fill all the requirements of the home. In other words, they served as bed rooms, kitchen, sitting rooms and dining rooms, all at the same time. The doors and windows were often hung on wooden hinges.

Some of these houses had a 2nd story, or "loft" as it was called. The cracks between the logs were sometimes chinked and daubed. A piece of timber 2½' to 3' long was split in such a way as to leave it in a tri angular shape. These pieces were driven into the cracks, and then daubed with mud. A loft floor was made in about the same way as the floors--that is, of puncheons laid on sleepers. A rough ladder was placed in one corner and an opening left in such a manner so part, or all of the children, could climb into the loft and sleep. As a rule, windows had no glass. Greased paper was sometimes used as a substitute. If there was a kitchen, it was joined to the main room in "Ell" or "Tee" fashion. It was usually built in exactly the same way that the main part of the house was constructed. It was placed in such a way as to join the main part of the house; and a door cut through the logs leading from one to the other. There was usually one door in the front of the main house, and one door leading out from the "L" or "T". Rude porches might be constructed in front of the house on one, or both sides of the kitchen. Often the kitchen had an extension chimney.

A BETTER HOUSE.

Some families, who had been accustomed to better houses in the East constructed a better type of house by using larger logs. These were hewed on the sides by the use of a broad axe. Men became very skilful in hewing these logs in such a way as to leave the logs smooth and straight inside and outside.

The first houses of this type were usually chinked and doubed just as the others were. Whip saws were used to saw lumber for floors or "lofts", as well as for the frames, doors and windows. In some cases this lumber was planed and smoothed by hand, making very excellent floors, &c. Chimneys for these houses might be made in "Cat and Clay" fasion of large rocks collected along the creeks;

and later, hewed stones might be used for the chimneys.

In some cases these better dwellings were made full two stories in height, and rude stair-ways were built to connect the lower story to the upper one.

But there was still a better building than the ones above described; it was simply two of these log houses set end to end with a very large stone chimney between them. This provided a fire-place for each building. Sometimes there was a door leading from one room to the other in each story of the house. One of these doors was used to connect the two down-stairs rooms, and the other the upstairs rooms. The kitchen and dining room were often built in the same way and attached to the rear of one, or both of the log buildings. A door, or entrance, lead from one to the other.

The making of clap boards was an interesting operation. The log, or cut, was quartered and the "heart" removed by the aid of an ax and a wooden wedge. Iron wedges were in use, later.

Each piece was in turn split by the use of a "frow" and wooden maul. The division continued until all was split into boards. The first boards were 3 ft. or more in length. Later, they were made shorter. The making of good boards required c considerable skill. A small, forked tree was used to make a kind of lever. By turning the timber over from time to time and regulating the pressure, it is possible to split the boards very evenly.

The gable ends of the houses were built-up with logs; and instead of rafters, long poles were laid length-wise to furnish support for the boards. The boards were laid on so as to over-lap and were at first held in position by poles, or weights. Later, when maufactured nails were brought in, they were nailed on. The first nails were made by black-smiths; and were not only cumbersome, but expensiv as well. But our forefathers were equal to every occasion and were able to build and equip their homes without the use of iron in any form. Board trees today are very scarce, and the making of "clap-boards" is almost a forgotten art.

Another type of home was the double house. This was simply two log cabins built end to end, but separated far enough to permit a large chimney between them. This chimney was doubled so as to furnish a fire-place for either room.

These double houses, of necessity followed the more primitive type and provided room for the large families, which were the order of the day. The picture of the Jerome Shelton house shown elsewhere will give some idea of their construction. This house was located in West Hamlin.

Life and Customs among the Early Pioneers of Cabell County.

Even before the Revolutionary War, settlers came in considerable numbers to what is now Cabell County. Here and there in ~~old~~ early deeds are found statements of "old houses". These are found in the very early deeds of dates as early as 1802. One of these deeds speaks of an "old house" in what is now the town of Barboursville as early as 1802. This was in a deed to Thomas Clap, and the house was located on Guyandotte River about half a mile ~~above~~ the junction of Mud and Guyandotte rivers.

As early as 1802, John Russell took a deed for land above the Nickel Plant, and about opposite the mouth of Russel Creek. Here he found an old house, and a buffalo trail.

Many old land grants were taken about the time of the Revolutionary War, or shortly after. This even before certainly indicated that people were pretty thoroughly acquainted with this section long before the real settlement began.

Court minutes in Kanawha County

as known all these early settlers were afraid of Indian raids, and went back to the east.

The title to all the land, along the Ohio River, including western Pennsylvania, Western Virginia, and Kentucky, was obtained from by purchase from the Indians at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, in 1768.

After the French and Indian Wars, the better lands, along the Ohio River, were given by the King, to the officers and soldiers, who took part in that unhappy conflict.

It is a strange fact, that Ohio became a State at a date earlier than most sections of Cabell County (as known now) were even sparsely settled. Marietta was founded in 1788, and Cincinnati the next year. Most of southern Ohio was settled about 1800.

There were no Indians in Cabell County, at the time of its permanent settlement by white men. The Treaty of Greenville made by Gen. Anthony Wayne, in 1795, forever broke the power of the Indians, and our early settlers were never molested by them.

The main road leading from the east to the west was built about 1787.(?) It was at first a mere passage way for people traveling on foot, or by pack horses. Over this early trail, goods were brought by pack horses. We may be sure that only the most necessary things were carried in this way. There were a few pots and pans, a rifle some bedding, and a small supply of food. Pack horses and mules brought freight across the mountains, and over the Old State Road which later became the Kanawha Road, and this is practically what is now known as Route 60. Wagons sometimes crossed the mountains over this route, but in a few years, and until the road was improved there was much traffic from Pittsburg and other places down the river by canoe or flat boat. There were many points of landing along the river. Even farmers often had landing places as the Jenkines of Green Bottom

Sixteenth Street, Huntington, etc. Of course there were landings at all the river towns. Roads were laid out in almost every direction and to all parts of the county, but they were very crude.

Every home became a manufacturing plant where the women were kept busy carding and spinning, and weaving into wool for making blankets, and clothing for both men and women. Flax was grown for linen, and even though cotton is a southern plant, much of it was grown here by the early farmers, and the women wove it into all kinds of linen and cotton goods. Shoemakers were often employed in the homes to make shoes and boots for the family. After this, they would go to another home and remain until their needs were provided for.

Manufacturing in Towns.

After the ~~so~~ country was fairly well settled, towns as Barboursville and Guyandotte were established

and tradesmen of all kinds established themselves. There were hatters, taylors, harness makers, blacksmiths, and mechanics such as carpenters, cabinet makers, etc., millers, and lumbermen

The Cabin homes

The first houses were of round logs, chinked with split timbers, and daubed with mud or clay. The roofs were of clap boards rived from straight timber by the aid of a frs. These boards, at first, were held on by poles extending length-wise across the roof. Later nails made by blacksmiths were used. The poles were often fastened by pins. The floors were made of puncheons. These were split from logs, and placed on heavy poles extending across the building They were notched into the logs on the side and served as sleepers. ~~Rafs~~

Windows, at first, were made by cutting out sections of logs, and nailing a board vertically on each side, to the ~~so~~ ends of the logs after the opening had been made

These were covered with greased paper, at first. Later eight by ten ~~glass~~ panes of glass were inserted to let in the light and keep out the cold. Birds often pecked this full of holes in the winter.

Doors were made of boards split from logs, and very similar to puncheons. These were held together by strips securely nailed or sometimes fastened with pins. They were hung on wooden hinges, and fastened with wooden latches. which were supported with thongs of leather or rawhide passed through a small hole in the door. Any one pulling this string from the outside could raise the latch and open the door.

At one end of the room there was a large fire place, sometimes so large as to extend nearly the entire ~~length~~ width of the room. When the weather was cold, it was necessary to use a great pile of wood, and keep a huge fire, in order to keep the room comfortable. Chimneys were made of flat ~~sticks~~ rocks picked up in the fields or along

the creeks. After reaching a certain height, the chimney was contracted to a smaller size and finished out with sticks, built up somewhat like the logs of the house by laying them on each other at the ends and daubing them with mud. These were called "cat-and clay" chimneys, but why they were so-called is unknown to this writer. I have a theory of my own, that because they were largely built of clay, and because the cats and dogs often slept on the hearth, or even in the ashes, they were so called.

The hearths were made of large flat stones laidd in front of the fire-place.

There were more commodious types of houses built of logs. These are described elsewhere.

Cooking.

Cooking utensils were few and very simple. There were a few pots and pans, one or two Dutch ovens, or "skillets and lids." Cooking was even done on the hearth stones, by putting a shovel full of ashes

on the hearth, then pulling in the bread in small rolls, or potatoes sweet potatoes, or other food on these ashes, and covering first with ashes, and then with live coals. Meat was often cooked this way, and any food so cooked was often more palatable than one would suppose.

The Dutch oven, or modified form of "skillet and lid" was a more advanced method of cooking almost any kind of food – bread, pies, cakes, vegetables like potatoes, etc., Coals were placed under and over the Dutch over, and kept up a good baking heat.

A little later the No. 7 cook stove was introduced, but only the more prosperous families could afford it. This stove had four lids on top. The two front lids were lower than those in the rear. The fuel was usually of stove wood. There was a side door to put in the wood which must not be too long to allow the door to shut. There was an oven just back of the fire box, and a large door opened to it from

To

It will thus be seen that it was possible to boil or stew one or more foods on top of the stove, and to bake bread or other dishes in the oven.

The ~~F~~ood

There was no scarcity of food, but the varieties were not so great as at present. Good hunters could generally find plenty of wild game such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, or fish. Bear was plentiful in the very early day only, but could be found in what is now Logan County, at a far later date. A bear was killed on Bear Creek, in Lincoln County, just above Salt Rock, in 1816. This was the last one that the writer has any knowledge of. Yet they were plentiful in mountainous sections, about the time the county was formed, in 180 , an old report states that 8000 bear skins were brought down the Guyandotte River to Guyandotte.

There were pumpkins and roasting ears, beans, etc., ~~in splendy back woods~~ a plenty.

Tomatoes were not used for food until a much later date. They were called love apples.

By Nannie Lambert

It was necessary that straight grained wood or timber be used in making clap-boards (p. 17) Wooden pins were driven through holes bored with a hand augur to keep these boards or lumbels in place.

Sometimes an entry or porch (enclosure?) was built between the two cabins, in the double log structure, and to store fire wood in the winter time.

Generally this entry was closed with clap boards which not only kept out the weather but kept out intruders of either animal or human kind. This entry also answered many other purposes.

The spinning wheels were often stored there in the summer time. In those days, a spinning wheel was almost a necessity. In the winter this wheel was moved into the living room near the fireplace. Long strings of dried vegetables and fruit hung on the walls or from the rafters.

There were no matches in those days, hence, it was necessary to keep coals of fire alive. In case fires were allowed to go out entirely, it became necessary to make long trips to distant neighbors and bring back coals between two boards, or on shovels. The writer distinctly remembers seeing his Uncle Alfred Swarlwood, who was a lumber man carry fire, in this way, or on shovels, for a distance of two to four miles. Rotten wood or punk as it was called when coming in contact with a few sparks could easily be blown into a flame. Live coals were often covered with ashes before going to bed and after preparing the evening meal.

In the early days, people became adept in getting fire from flint and steel. The flint was struck by a piece of steel until the sparks began to fly. Then the rotten wood was held in a position to catch the sparks, and a fire soon started.

The beds were made of "ticks" filled with straw or shucks. Feather beds were not in use until the population increased somewhat. Instead of bed springs the ticks were supported by ropes extending both ways across the bed, at intervals of five or six inches. There were no windows, as a rule, in the lofts and very few below. Sometimes children slept on a trundle bed. This could be pulled out ~~in the de~~ from under the large bed at night, and put back after the children arose next day. Rain and snow frequently beat in through the cracks, or under the boards of the roof, and it was not uncommon for the beds or "bunks" to be covered with snow in the mornings. Skins or home made blankets or quilts served as covers

The Spring House

In locating a cabin, the most essential thing was to make certain that a spring could be found that was near enough that water could easily be carried for use of the family, and persistent enough that a constant supply could be depended on.

Over the spring was usually constructed a spring house. Since the spring was usually located in the side of a hill, this building was protected by a bank of earth thrown against the sides and sometimes over it. This served as insulation for the summer heat or winter cold.

The Loft.

In these early cabins, ~~room~~ there was hardly room for the few household necessities, hence a rude ladder was fastened against the wall, in one corner. An opening in the ceiling, or upper floor permitted the children or others to sleep in this loft.

The Houses:

How built — Round logs, etc.

The House Raising

Description

Furniture

Clothing:

Materials — Flax, wool: carding, weaving, spinning into yarn, ~~the loom~~, the spinning wheels, jeans, (men's clothing), Linsey (of wool), Flax (linen).

Bonnets of linen or cotton, men wore caps of skin of wild animals. No hats.

Furniture — Cooking on fireplace, iron skillet, pots, etc. Roasted meat on sticks. Drank from gourds, no early coffee. Made tea of birch bark tea

Medicine — Yellow root,

Sugar - From sugar maples, sugar or syrup.

Coloring for Cloth - Oak bark, copperas,

Food — Wild meat - bear, deer, opossum, raccoon, wild pigeons turkey, wild hogs, squirrel, rabbits, beef.

Singing schools — Dangerfield Bryant, said William McKendree, was not only a school teacher, but was a singing school teacher, and a perfect gentleman, as well.

The early settlers crossed the mountains to get possession of cheap land. The eastern land was owned by large land owners, and by the law of primogenture, descended to the oldest son. The others were paid in money, horses, etc., and left the State to go "west." Most of our early settlers came down the Valley from Maryland, to Virginia, and from there across the mountains, to the Kanawha Valley, and then to Cabell County, and what is now Wayne and Lincoln counties. Others went further south to Montgomery, and Tazewell County, and over the mountains, to Guyan river, where they settled in Logan County, and on down to the Ohio river.

Others came by way of Bedford and Fort Legionier, over the military ~~road from to Pa~~ road, to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, then down the Ohio river, to this section, on rafts, and boats of every type, to this section, and on further west.

Many people came to this section, carrying their worldly goods, on horseback.

People were able to get land from the State of Virginia, by building a cabin and raising a small crop, without any additional cost. Many people simply moved onto land, by selecting a site near a spring, and erecting a cabin, and claimed the land, by what was known, as a "tomahawk right." They cut their initials on a tree near the spring. Many settlers came in the spring, took possession of a tract of land, and then went back, in the fall, and brought their families.

Food.

When the first settlers came over, they brought a supply of meal with them. But this gave out, before the new corn came in, and people had to do without bread for several weeks. They tried to live on lean meat of deer and wild turkeys, as a substitute for bread, but it was not a very good substitute, but when young potatoes, and roasting ears came in, their troubles of this kind, were over. The corn soon hardened enough to be ground into a soft meal, on a tin grater. This was made of a flat piece of tin, punched with a nail, so as to leave small holes, with pieces of sharp tin which stood to tear the corn into meal. The tin was nailed on a board, and the center part of it was loose enough to permit a corn cob, or a small piece of timber to be shoved under it. The corn was then pushed up and down, over this grater,

and the meal went through the holes, and dropped down on a cloth, or into a pan. It made delicious corn bread.

Very little wheat was grown here, as the early mills were not equipped to grind it, and it took a lot of work, to "thresh" the grain, with a flail. This was a piece of a small pole pounded almost flat, with a pole ax, leaving the upper part round. This was then used to pound out the grain. The bran was left in the flour as mills could not bolt it, and sieves could hardly separate it from the white flour.

Meat of every kind was plentiful, but much of the time of the father and sons was given to hunting and trapping. The woods were full of wild turkeys, bear, deer, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, coons, raccoons, quail, grouse, and at times, wild geese, and ducks.

Pioneer Days.

Virginia was a land of great plantations supported by negro slavery. Under the law of primogeniture, the landed estates descended from the father to the eldest son. This could only be changed by a will, by contract, or by deeds made before the owner's death. The daughters and younger sons were usually taken care of by a division of the personal property, or by cash payments made by the elder son. Virginia pride would not permit the division of the landed estates beyond a reasonable amount. The result was that the younger children sought land elsewhere. That elsewhere was the "west"; and any place in the direction of the setting sun was "west".

There were three important routes over the mountains.

The National Road leading through the northern part of west

Virginia, ~~to~~ and through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the Mississippi river. The vast majority of people travelling this western Pennsylvania route, went to Ohio, and other places beyond our state. Ohio became a State in 1803, when this section of West Virginia had only a few scattering inhabitants

2. The old State Road along which the Kanawha Road was built, at a later date was second in importance only to the National Road.
3. The Cumberland Gap Road which crossed the Alleghenies through the Cumberland Gap. This is the route followed by the early Kentuckians

All these routes followed old Indian and buffalo trails, but so far as the settlement of Cabell, Wayne, or Lincoln counties were concerned, these were of no practical ~~importance~~ importance, for the reason that only a

few settlers were in this section before 1800.

A second reason for settlers coming to this section was the great numbers of wild animals This was a hunting paradise second only to Kentucky. Great herds of buffaloes & deer, ~~and other animals were here~~ wended their way ~~to~~ over the old trails to the Kanawha salines, or gathered at the numerous "licks" found ~~in this section~~ here. There were squirrels, partriges, wild turkeys, wild geese, wild ducks, pigeons by the millions.

A third reason was to escape what they regarded as oppressive laws, economic insecurity, and other similar reasons. Here a man was "lord of all he surveyed." Land was cheap and could be had almost for nothing — rarely more than the cost of surveying and recording the grants at Richmond.

There were a few necessities that had to be carried from the east. These were usually brought, on horseback, and la on in carts or wagons. Aft steamboats began running o the Ohio river, many such a ticles were brought down an sold in stores at Guyandot or Barboursville.

Drinking water being a necessity, the seller usually chose a site for his cabin near a good spring. He soon cleared a patch of ground, on which he could grow corn, potatoes, or garden vegetables for his daily food. To the seller, the most useful tools were his ax and his auger. In construct ing a house, wooden pins took the place of nails, and these re quired holes made by an auger. With these tools benches and three legged stools could easily be con structed from split timbers hewed to a proper thickness and shape.

The household furniture was simple and usually home made. Before the construction of wagon roads, it was quite difficult to bring these over the mountains, hence, the seller depended on his own ingenuity. Tables were constructed of slabs under which legs were secured with wooden pegs.

We have no difficulty in ascertaining exactly what was found in the homes of the more prosperous families. Immediately after a man's death, appraisers were appointed by the court to appraise his property. They listed separately every item found. Let us examine one such early appraisal.

Rude shelves were attached to the inside walls. These were constructed of hewed timbers, supported by wooden pins. They served ~~to~~ as storage places for cooking utensils and other household articles.

Bedding.

"Bedsteads" were made in a similar manner as shelves, exept that they were supported by heavy posts, or in some cases by poles fastened in the walls, and they in turn supported on posts on which roughboards were laid to support straw ticks, or ticks filled with leaves or moss. Skins of deer, bear, or, in some cases, buffaloes served as quilts or covers to keep warm.

- THE FOREST HOMES -

The pioneers began to reach this country about the year 1800. They came by foot or on horses over the mountains bringing with them their few belongings. Those who came from Giles County, and other counties in the southern part of the Valley of Virginia came by way of the Guyandotte River. Others came across the mountains and followed the road leading down the Kanawha Valley and across the Kana wha River at Charleston, and by the way of Teay's Valley to what is now Barboursville and Guyandotte. Others came down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh or Wheeling and points farther east by flat boats, and sometimes by steam boat (after the boats began running).

As above stated, they brought with them very little furniture, and then only of the most necessary kind. Their houses were very simple, indeed. The first ones were made of logs almost invariably and were usually quite small. They were made of small or medium size round logs cut in 12' to 14' lengths, notched at the ends and laid upon each other to a height of 7' or 8'. The first onesof these cabins had dirt floors. Chimneys were made of flat rocks, daubed with mud or ola clay. The windows were small, and in some cases there were no windows at all. Later, they made floors of puncheons, these being made by splitting round logs and laying them with the round side on other logs, or poles called "sleepers". The flat sides of these puncheons and the ends were smoothed as much as possible by their axes; or, if they had them, by adzes, a description of which will be found in another place. Roofs were usually made of clap-boards. These were easily made from the large, oak trees. They were of various lengths Many of them were made as long as $2\frac{1}{2}$' or 3' in those days, as it did not take so much time to make the longer lengths. Some however, were mad shorter. Nails were scarce; so it was often found necessary to hold these boards in place by long poles extending across the roof; and the roofs usually sloped in two directions just as those of the ordinary box houses of to-day.

These houses often consisted of only a single room, from 12' to 16' square square.

and they were used to fill all the requirements of the home. In other words, they served as bed rooms, kitchen, sitting rooms and dining rooms, all at the same time. The doors and windows were often hung on wooden hinges.

Some of these houses had a 2nd story, or "loft" as it was called. The cracks between the logs were sometimes chinked and daubed. A piece of timber 2½' to 3' long was split in such a way as to leave it in a tri angular shape. These pieces were driven into the cracks, and then daubed with mud. A loft floor was made in about the same way as the floors--that is, of puncheons laid on sleepers. A rough ladder was placed in one corner and an opening left in such a manner so part, or all of the children, could climb into the loft and sleep. As a rule, windows had no glass. Greased paper was sometimes used as a substitute. If there was a kitchen, it was joined to the main room in "Ell" or "Tee" fashion. It was usually built in exactly the same way that the main part of the house was constructed. It was placed in such a way as to join the main part of the house; and a door cut through the logs leading from one to the other. There was usually one door in the front of the main house, and one door leading out from the "L" or "T". Rude porches might be constructed in front of the house on one, or both sides of the kitchen. Often the kitchen had an extension chimney.

A BETTER HOUSE.

Some families, who had been accustomed to better houses in the East constructed a better type of house by using larger logs. These were hewed on the sides by the use of a broad axe. Men became very skilful in hewing these logs in such a way as to leave the logs smooth and straight inside and outside.

The first houses of this type were usually chinked and daubed just as the others were. Whip saws were used to saw lumber for floors or "lofts", as well as for the frames, doors and windows. In some cases this lumber was planed and smoothed by hand, making very excellent floors, &c. Chimneys for those houses might be made in "Cat and Claw" fasion of large rocks collected along the creeks;

and later, hewed stones might be used for the chimneys.

In some cases these better dwellings were made full two stories in height, and rude stair-ways were built to connect the lower story to the upper one.

But there was still a better building than the ones above described; it was simply two of these log houses set end to end with a very large stone chimney between them. This provided a fire-place for each building. Sometimes there was a door leading from one room to the other in each story of the house. One of these doors was used to connect the two down-stairs rooms, and the other the upstairs rooms. The kitchen and dining room were often built in the same way and attached to the rear of one, or both of the log buildings. A door, or entrance, lead from one to the other.

The making of clap boards was an interesting operation. The log, or cut was quartered and the "heart" removed by the aid of an ax and a wooden wedge. Iron wedges were in use, later.

Each piece was in turn split by the use of a "frow" and wooden maul. The division continued until all was split into boards. The first boards were 3 ft. or more in length. later, they were made shorter. The nmaking of good boards required considerable skill. A small, forked tree was used to make a kind of lever. By turning the timber over from time to time and regulating the pressure, it is possible to split the boards very evenly.

The gable ends of the houses were built-up with logs; and instead of rafters, long poles were laid length-wise to furnish support for the boards. The boards were laid on so as to over-lap and were at first held in position by poles, or weights. Later, when manufactured nails were brought in, they were nailed on. The first nails were made by black-smiths; and were not only cumbersome, but expensive as well. But our forefathers were equal to every occasion and were able to build and equip their homes without the use of iron in any form. Board trees today are very scarce, and the making of "clap-boards" is almost a forgotten art.

Another type of home was the double house. This was simply two log cabins built end to end, but separated far enough to permit a large chimney between them. This chimney was doubled so as to furnish a fire-place for either room.

These double houses, of necessity followed the more primitive type and provided room for the large families, which were the order of the day. The picture of the Jerome Shelton house shown elsewhere will give some idea of their construction. This house was located in West Hamlin.

m.u.

By Nannie Lambert

The Pioneer days in W.Va.

Agriculture was the chief industry, for much depended on the products of the corn field. so the bag of seed was carefully cared for.

Land had to be cleared, therefore the ax was a main tool, then the plow and hoe. The plow (except the shop-made point that he carried along) the rake, handles for tools were hand made by the pioneer.

The land being fertile, good crops were raised. Of course wild animals destroyed much of it. Methods of farming were crude, and farming carried on with ax, rake, hoe and sometimes a scythe. Women and children had to do their part. Seeds were all planted by hand. Threshing was done with a flail, or tramped by oxen or horses. Five or six bushels of grain saved this way, was a good day's work! The wind separated the chaff from the grain (wheat, rye and oats). The people had their truck patches and roasting ears, beans, punpkins, potatoes, cabbage etc were raised. These were saved in different ways for winter food. Turnips were wholesome food, both raw and cooked, and were easily raised and saved. Flax was very important.

Rats destroyed much, the year around, and were a source of much annoyance.

Tools could be made at night by the bright light of fire in the big fire-place; or mended.

Weaving soon became an important occupation for the women, especially in the winter time. The goods made from flax were very durable, and so flax was a very important part of the crop raised. Shirts dresses, aprons, bed ticking, sheets, towels, table-cloths, etc were made from the thread. Wool was made into such articles too. So we find that the pioneer home, was, of necessity an industrious one, if all went well in that home. Something for each member to do. "Linsey" was made from wool and flax thread. The flax thread was the "chain" and wool was the "filling."

Soap was a home-made article. An ash-hopper was a necessity. Just any shaped container that would hold the ashes from the wood burned in the fire-place, was set on a solid surface that was slanted. Water was poured on the ashes in small like quantities, to rot the ashes. Then when sufficiently rotted, a bigger quantity of water was poured on, so there could be a surplus of water on the ashes. Then the surplus was allowed to drain off into a container that would "hold" the "lye". This lye was then used to make soap by pouring the lye over scrap meat, or animal fat, and boiled down until all fats were "eaten up" by the lye, and it was "done" when it spun a thread when poured

Sugar making from the sap of the sugar-maple was an important time in the spring when the "sap" began to run. The sugar-maple tree was tapped and the sugar water or "sap" was carried to a bucket, or other container, by a small trough that had been pushed into the tap, or hole, made in the body of the tree, by either the ax or auger.

The sap was boiled down and the result was maple-sugar, as fine a sugar as man ever ate!

Other big trees of the forest helped supply food for the pioneer family, and much relished by everyone. The hickory-nuts, the walnuts, the chestnuts, butter-nuts, hazel-nuts were all relished by the family on long, cold winter nights. These nuts were sometimes roasted in the ashes.

The cabin room was lighted by the big fire in the big fireplace, and pine knots were kept to be added, more for the light than for warmth. It truly was a cheery sight to see. We cannot blame these pioneers for staying in "the land of the free", after once getting a taste of such freedom. Of course it took a stout heart, a stout back, and willing mind to begin with, but the reward of freedom and peace was worth much. A pioneer, forced to live in a crowded city, such as we have today, would be a miserable man or woman.

We realize the work was hard, the returns from hard work were sometimes very meager, but freedom made up for all that was lacking.

The big iron kettle was in nearly every pioneer's yard. It answered so many purposes that the family could hardly get along without a "big iron kettle". It was hung on a pole that reached from two posts, well sunk into the ground to keep them steady, that had a fork at the top end of each, to lay the pole in, that the big kettle was swung from.

In this kettle, the water was heated to scald and loosen the hair on hogs, on butchering day. It was in use for heating water on "wash day" also the white clothes were boiled in it.

After hogs were slaughtered, there was much waste fat, and this was made into soap in the big iron kettle. Generally "soft soap" was the kind made, but sometimes the kettle was kept over the fire longer than for soft soap, and hard soap was made. This was used as toilet soap, and for dish washing. The big iron kettle was one of the most useful articles about the home.

Also, the pioneer's wife should have "sad irons". These were heated before the open fire, or when the wife had a cook-stove, they were heated on it. These irons had permanent handles.

Not every pioneer had these accommodations, therefore borrowing and lending were willingly done by everyone. They were occasions for a