



# Gateway to the West



Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society P. O Box 231 Jonesville, Virginia 24263

July 2018



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## President's Report

*By Becky Jones*

It seems like little time has passed since our last newsletter went out. Instead of slowing down as we get older I think things are speeding up. There isn't enough time to get everything done.

We are still working on our museum and adding things as they are given to us. Our research library is being used often and we can use more family lineages or books.

We are fixing an area where we will have books by local artists about our area that our member can check out and read. These books have been donated by our members and we think they do not need to be with our research books that we do not lend.

There was no meeting in January because of weather. Libby Laforce was our speaker in February. She talked about how important it is to keep our family histories and stories written down so they can be preserved. This can be done by labeling pictures and other things that tell about us our ancestors and by keeping records of family member's health and other important information that you might need later.

Ken Roddenberry led us on an adventure of his research he did on a bowl which came from Russell's Store in Hagan, Virginia.

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## My Memories of Long Ago *by Unknown*

When I was a little girl, we didn't have so many things like we have now and I wonder how we got along without them. Grandmother made their lights which were candles. She had a tin mold that would make a dozen candles. First, she would have to save some of the fat from their meats and boil it down till it would form a solid when it got cold. Then they would put a string in each candle mold and then pour the liquid tallow in the mold to harden. By the time I was born we had lamps. Most of them glass with a burner and wick with a glass chimney. They would use kerosene, or as some called it coal oil. Some of the lamps were real pretty globes hand painted.

One of the worst things was having to wash the chimney every morning and fill it with oil often. That was one of my first daily tasks.

We made our own soap. Most stores didn't carry soap. It was quite a job making soap. During the winter we burned wood in the fire places. They put the ashes in an "ash hopper" which was really a little house and in the floor they had a trough that emptied into a big iron kettle. They would pour water on the ashes and it would soak through the ashes and make lye. It would burn if you got any on you. Then to make soap they took scraps of meat, fat, skin etc., and put it in a heavy iron kettle, hanging over a fire. Then they would put some lye in it. This would have to be stirred

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# Seniorettta 1938 – Annual Newsletter Published by Jonesville High School Senior Class

One of our members, Patricia Hopkins White, found these Seniorettta Newsletters among her Mother Bonnie Newman Hopkins' papers. Bonnie was a 1940 graduate of Jonesville High School. We will try to include more in later Newsletters.

# ..SENIORETTA..

JONESVILLE, VA., APRIL 20, 1938.

PUBLISHED BY THE SENIOR CLASS OF JONESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

## Lee County Schools

Jonesville High School rates third in enrollment of the nine accredited high schools in Lee County, having an enrollment of 500, 160 of whom are in high school. There is at present an enrollment of 4,510 boys in Lee County schools and 4,323 girls.

We have at present seven high school teachers: Miss Davis, Mrs. Ewing, Mr. Sprinkle, Mr. Hyatt, Mr. Richmond, Miss Glass and Mr. Carpenter. We feel our faculty is one of the best trained and fitted of the forty-two high school teachers making up the Lee County high schools.

There will be graduating from schools all over Lee County this year 161 people, seventy-two boys and eighty-nine girls. Of this number, eleven boys and fifteen girls make up the Senior class of Jonesville High.

The total amount expended on Lee County schools last year was most Lee County schools include the new buildings erected at Pennington Gap and St. Charles, work on grounds and other incidentals. Besides this there was a total of \$125,049.50 expended for teachers' salaries.

With the exception of Pennington High School, which offers a business course, the curricula of most Lee County schools includes four years of English, history, math; two years of Latin, French home ec., agriculture; one year of chemistry, biology, general science and economics.

As a whole we think our school system in Lee County very good though some new buildings and equipment are needed in several schools. May the schools in Lee County move ever forward as time goes on.

B. W.

## Easter

Easter Sunday draws bright and clear  
Not a cloud to blot the sky is near  
The people all go to church this day  
Their new spring finery to display.

Then home again they wend their way  
The sun goes down at the close of day  
Many are happy, for they know  
In the Easter parade they have had their show.

## Senior Class



## The Class of 1928

By Fred Cox

How time flies! Only ten years ago there were eight girls and seven boys at Jonesville High School who possessed the title of dignified seniors. Since then many changes have been made and yet a few have remained unchanged. A new high school building has been built, more teachers have been added to the faculty, and a new curriculum has been adopted which enlarges the field of work for the student.

On May 23, 1928, the last class was called to order by Prof. A. J. Wolfe with all fifteen members present. An agreement was made then that all the members were to re-assemble on the tenth anniversary and, if possible, to have the teachers present. Each member has been written and requested to be present, and a full attendance is anticipated. Two of the teachers remain to greet the class.

Today we find the members of the class of '28 engaged in many occupations. Four of the girls are married, two are teaching, one is a nurse, and one is a housekeeper.

Two of the boys are managers of business concerns, one is a dentist, one is a farmer, one is a mine operator, one is a government employee, and one is in the transfer business. Of the boys five are married.

We look forward to the reunion of the class of '28 when we can refresh our memories of by-gone school days and recall incidents ere long forgotten.

Robert Hyatt, Miami Beach, Fla.  
Clarence Pennington, Harlan, Ky.

Ray Courtney, Marion, Va.  
Marvin Clark, Ocoonita, Va.  
Mac Spangler, Jonesville, Va.  
Fred Cox, Jonesville, Va.  
Alton Roop, Jonesville, Va.  
Ida Pendleton, Jonesville, Va.  
Myrtle Flanary, Jonesville, Va.  
Rose Flanary, Knoxville, Tenn.  
Mary Jess Richmond, Arlington, Va.

Mrs. Hattie Delph Bledsoe, Jonesville, Va.

Mrs. Maudie Glass Parkey, Jonesville, Va.

Mrs. Imogene Sturdivant Scruggs, Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. Zelma Jennings Ledford, Amonate, Va.

## My Impressions of High School

By Glen Williams

I am constantly bragging about the fact that I come from the best school in Lee County, and I don't believe I am exaggerating one bit. There are no unpleasant memories that blur my picture of Jonesville High School. I loved

the school, its faculty, and its students. I know students from many schools and I believe my high school background will compete with any. I accredit this to the faculty we have at Jonesville. The greatest asset to the school is its extra-curricular activities, most important of which are the Literary Societies. Jonesville is a growing school and I believe it will continue to grow.

## Jonesville 4-H Club

The Jonesville 4-H Club was organized in November. At this first meeting fifteen girls met together and elected officers and made plans for their club for the year.

Mary Etta Sewell was elected president; Mary Helen Wygal, vice president; Mary Evelyn Poteet, secretary; and Stella Mae Smith, project leader.

New members have been added since the first meeting. The present membership includes the following girls:

Mozetta Bellamy, Ophelia Bellamy, Dorothy Couk, Louella Harris, Ruth Henderson, Mary Sam Keel, Nelle Poteet, Mary Evelyn Poteet, Laura Sewell, Mary Etta Sewell, Stella Mae Smith, Carleen Willoughby, Mary Helen Wygal, Jeraldine Sewell, Myrtle Harris, Mary Ruth Williams.

The girls have been carrying on project work and club activities

according to their original plans. The first task undertaken was a scrap book. One meeting has been devoted to making scrap books. At another meeting aprons, pot-holders and smocks, which had been made during the previous month were exhibited. Each month the girls have reported on their accomplishments with home and club project work. The girls have great interest in keeping expense accounts, better foods score and records pertaining to the minor projects which they carry on at home.

The 4-H Club entertained club members and friends in February with a Valentine party. Twenty boys and girls enjoyed the games played. Delicious refreshments of fruit punch and sandwiches were served.

Summer club work brings on more work and more play. We will sew, cook and work on minor projects and records. Also, we will picnic, hike and play together.

With the accomplishments already made and with plans yet to carry out the 4-H Club continues on toward a successful "first year" of club work.

Ruth Lake

## "Headed For Eden"

SENIOR PLAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1938

Admission

15c and 25c



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## THE SENIORETTE

## History of the Senior Class of 1938

The present class of 1938 entered high school in the year of 1934 with the following enrollment: Iris Bonham, Wilma Beverly, Murble Cooper, Pina Cooper, Mary Edwards, Edna Edwards, Mary Begley, Anna Mae Flannary, Elizabeth Hines, Thelma Huff, Alma Brown, Ada Jones, Vina Johnson, Irene Lewis, Pearle Morris, Grace Russell, Evelyn Spencer, Betty Willoughby, Marietta Sewell, Vera Weston, Charles Buckley, Clyde Edwards, Clifford Gilley, Vernon Jones, Woodrow Jones, Rhea Hines, Robert Osborne, Hagan Sewell, Jr., Jim Sewell, W. G. Weston, Maurice Weston, Ermit Walton, Roscoe Wright, Edgar Quinley, Billy Snodgrass, Harold Roop.

During the year Clyde Edwards and Woodrow Jones decided to leave us before the term was out. Vivian Munsey and Julian Henderson had taken their places.

In the fall of 1935 when we began our Sophomore year we had gained Mary Evelyn Poteet of Pennington High School, Dorcas Slem, Juanita Roberts, Maggie Davis, James Edds, Wesley Glass, Glen Bonham and Burleson Orr. Maggie Davis, Juanita Roberts and James Edds had left us before school was out and David Hollyfield had joined us. In 1936 when we began our Junior year, Mary Sam Barton and N. M. Moore were added to our class. During the year Glen Bonham, Burleson Orr, and W. G. Weston abandoned us.

In 1937 when we entered school as Seniors we were joined by Hazel Stidham of Jonesville, Tyler Rhea Rasnic, of Sticklyville High school and Carl Edwards.

Not long ago one of our classmates, Dorcas Slem, married. Now we are a class of 27 and the present members are Iris Bonham, Alma Browning, Anna Mae Flannary, Mavis Hall, Vina Johnson, Ada Jones, Pearle Morris, Grace Russell, Mary Evelyn Poteet, Hazel Stidham, Marietta Sewell, Betty Willoughby, Vera Weston, Carl Edwards, Clifford Gilley, Rhea Hines, Vernon Jones, N. M. Moore, Robert Osborne, Edgar Quinley, Rhea Rasnic, Tyler Rasnic, Harold Roop, Billy Snodgrass and Roscoe Wright.

We have been guided and directed by an excellent faculty and we wish that we may repay them for the wrongs we have done and the lessons we have shirked.

We leave our happy high school day memories with J. H. S.

P. B.

## THE PESTS

"What did you have in your garden last year?"

"Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds."

## Did You Know That??

Mabel Cox, '30, is teaching French and English in the Saint Charles High School.

Lucille Cunningham, '37, made the highest grades in the freshman class at Emory and Henry College the first semester.

Southgate Ely is a junior in Virginia Medical College.

Glen Williams is the manager of the basketball team at Milligan College.

Edith Fannon (Mrs. Albert Poff), has twin girls, Albertine and Ernestine.

Winnie Cox, '30, is Mrs. John Elliott of Silver Springs, Md.

W. L. Davidson, Jr., Billie Lee, has a fellowship at Yale where he has been working for the past two years.

Emma C. Holmes, Mrs. Clyde Russell, is helping her husband run a drugstore in St. Charles.

Florence Gibson, '30, chief telephone operator of Johnson City, is now Mrs. Bruce Huffine.

Lola Beverly, '30, is a government employee at Washington, D. C.

Margaret Snodgrass and Mary Katherine Berry are students in Hiwassee College.

Hubert Courtney is in New York City.

Martha Wells lives at Fries, Va. Ruth Ballard, and Carl Flannary are students at L. M. U.

J. B. Ledford is at Johnson City Business School.

Roberta Cridlin of '27, is studying and also teaching in a girl's school in Valence, France.

Stella Ball of '31, is teaching at Bonnie Blue.

Georgiana Ball is at Berea College.

Helen Mize, '37, is a student at V. I. College.

Sam Cox, '37, is living at Gate City.

Phyllis Frye, '37, is a student at Emory and Henry College.

Wilma Beverly is a student at Pennington Gap High.

Prentiss Walton married recently and is living in Chattanooga.

Jamie and Mary Davidson are students at Harrisonburg.

Marguerite Cox is working in Philadelphia.

Louise Cox is married and living in Kingsport.

Dale Snodgrass made the honor roll at V. P. I. last semester.

Pattie Orr will graduate from V. P. I. and take up her job as Home Demonstration Agent.

Fred Cox is postmaster in Jonesville.

Glenn Farmer is studying at Langley Field, Va.

Joe Cridlin is practicing law in Jonesville.

Charles Willoughby, a recent graduate of V. M. I., is now lieutenant in the C.C.C. He is stationed at Natural Bridge, Va.

Jean Wygal, after graduating

## Guess Who

Low, handsome, and very kind, but the boys never seem to worry her mind.—Snippy.

A very quiet boy not anyone has he offended, but when he begins his work he never quits till it's ended.—Scroopy.

She has a happy little grin, and always is neat, you can't help liking her because she's so sweet.—Dot.

Straight is her hair, that blue-eyed Jane, we hope in the future she'll still be the same.—Polly.

Large and stout, an awful pest —because of books he has read, he longs for the west.—Cowboy.

A blond-headed girl, with big blue eyes, we hope she will succeed in everything she tries.—Beck.

Her hair is red, in many little curls, and she seems to be a very popular girl.—Red.

She is short and very neat, when it comes to kindness, she is very hard to beat.—Nig.

Kind to all, a friend indeed—she is willing to help you when in need.—Curley.

Eyes of blue and a tiny little figure, his classmates wouldn't mind if he'd been a little bigger.—Runt.

He is heavy in weight with attractive eyes of brown—he was never known "to slip" off to town.—Joe Lovis.

Bright and happy and in his books is fair—and known in his class by his black wavy hair.—Chaucer.

He is known for his foolishness and also for joy, but to get to the point of it he's a very good boy.—Razor.

A boy of normal size who has no imps of likeness, but stands out in all his classes by his unusual brightness.—"Abe."

A cute little girl with hair so black—everyone is glad to see her coming back.—Johnny.

Next comes a short girl called "Red", "She is my favorite," one boy has said.—Stubby.

A brown-headed girl who never seems to worry—she was never known to be in a hurry.—Sal.

A slender girl who is never stormy—and everyone knows she is interested in the 'army.'—Toots.

An attractive little girl with hair like sand—reminds you very much of 'Alice in Wonderland.'—Vib.

He is full of fun and always 'phoney' a cute little blond who is very bony.—Gip.

He is short and low and not at all thin, is known by all the girls for his happy little grin.—Shorty.

Another blue-eyed blonde, we saw on a bridge, and anyone could guess she came from Sandy Ridge.—Frosty.

A boy who is smart with lots of

from Virginia Intermont College, is employed in the Welfare office in Jonesville. V. W.

## Who's Who In the Senior Class

Quietest Girl—Marietta Sewell  
Quietest Boy—Vernon Jones  
Cutest Girl—Alma Browning  
Cutest Boy—Edgar Quinley  
Prettiest Girl—Ada Jones  
Best Looking Boy—Roscoe

Wright  
Best Student—Robert Osborne  
Most Original Girl—Grace Russell

Class Pest (girl)—Betty Willoughby

Class Pest (boy)—Clifford Gilley

Most Studious Boy—Howard Roop

Most Studious Girl—Betty Willoughby

Neatest Girl—Vina Johnson

Neatest Boy—Billy Snodgrass

Most Popular Girl—Mary Evelyn Poteet

Most Popular Boy—Robert Osborne

Best All Around Girl—Hazel Stidham

Best All Around Boy—Tyler Rasnic

Best Athlete (girl)—Mary Evelyn Poteet

Best Athlete (boy)—Carl Edwards

Class Poet—Anna Mae Flannary

Merriest Student—Pearl Morris

Sweetest Student—Iris Bonham

Wittiest Boy—Edgar Quinley

Wittiest Girl—Pauline Bonham

Most Phoney Boy—N. M. Moore

Most Phoney Girl—Laura Edna Criddle

Most Conceited Girl—Vera Weston

Most Conceited Boy—Rhea Rasnic

Most Sarcastic Girl—Mavis Hall

Most Sarcastic Boy—Rhea Hines

Teacher's Pet (girl)—Vera Weston

Teacher's Pet (boy)—Rhea Rasnic

Most Dependable Student—Vivian Munsey.

By: A.B., R.O., E.Q., M.E.P., R.W. and I.B.

pep, he will offer and give you 'most any kind of help.—Cob-robin.

She is tall and slim and always very vexed, you can never guess where she will appear next.—Snooks.

He is short and quick—has action too, and wears a number seven shoe.—Doc.

A girl who is always smiling—it is her way and will, all her classmates think she can never keep still.—Patsy.

Her hair is black with waves of folly, a little bit fat and always jolly.—Ade.

Tall and handsome, slick and slim, I bet a quarter you can't guess him.—Slim.

By A. L. B.



# The First Jonesville High School Reunion

*by William Davidson in 2006*

In early April, 1931 at the age of 15, seventeen older classmates and I graduated from Jonesville High School. The proceeding sentence needs clarification. About Christmas time in 1930, word came down from Richmond that school funds would run out in the early spring of 1931. Thus, all teachers were advised to add a couple of extra pages to each daily assignment, so all courses could be finished by the first of April, 1931.

This was not a happy time for anyone, especially seniors. No thought was given to putting out a yearbook or holding a senior prom. A salesman from Herff-Jones did pay us a visit and several of us managed to raise \$10 to buy a class ring. Our graduation exercises were held in early April. I cannot recall who gave our commencement address. Did he admonish us to "go out and change the world?" Considering the mess it was in, it certainly needed changing, but few of our eighteen graduates had any good ideas about how to go about it.

As I recall, only five of the eighteen graduates went to college - Southgate Ely, Charles Burnfin (a girl), Hyatt Bailey, Henderson Jennings and myself. The other thirteen went back home and, since Jonesville was primarily a farming community, spent countless hours raising the one cash crop - burley tobacco. Since the 1920 census showed Jonesville with a population of 328, and there were several one room schools around the area, the elementary grades were small in number. But the high school grades (8-11) were larger since youngsters finishing the 7th grade would come to Jonesville High School for their high school years. So, each grade had its own room.

The 1920's were prosperous years for the U.S., even for Lee County, considered the poorest county in the state of Virginia. In fact, during the mid-20's, the old Jonesville Institute was razed and a modern building with four high school classrooms, including an auditorium, was built. By 1930 the U.S. was in what came to be called "The Great Depression" and unemployment was at 25%. One dollar was considered a decent wage for a days' work, a nickel would buy a loaf of bread, and prime ground beef was 10 cents a pound.

Now fast forward to 1981. So far as I am aware, prior to that time, Jonesville High School had never held a class reunion of any kind. At this time Hyatt Bailey was employed by the state of Ohio in some capacity. Considering the sad state of affairs when we graduated in 1931, Hyatt reasoned that to make up for the lackluster nature of our 1931 departure from JHS, the least we would do is have an upbeat 50th reunion in 1981. So early that year, he wrote the JHS principal requesting the up-to-date addresses on all 1931 and 1932 graduates. The latter he planned to invite as guests. Fortunately, the needed information was available, and late in March, I received a

letter from Hyatt stating that he had reserved the high school auditorium for a certain day in June, and would I please plan to return on that date to celebrate our 50th class reunion along with the others who received guest invitations. Hyatt included the sad news that five of our classmates had already died in that 50-year interval. Of our four high school teachers, Fonce Wygal (principal), John Richmond, Olin Stickley, and Grace Davis, only the latter was still living and she promised Hyatt to be present. I replied to Hyatt telling him I would be there. Since I had a sister, Jamie Smith, still living in Jonesville, I drove up there a few days early to spend time with her and her husband Charlie.

In the early afternoon on the appointed day I drove up to the high school and for the first time in 50 years I entered the front door. Actually, everything was about how I remembered it from years ago. To make a long story short, only four of the thirteen living graduates of the class of 1931 showed up. Grace Davis was there along with a few 1932 guests. The four 1931 graduates were Hyatt Bailey, Burleigh Satterfield, a Russell girl from Sugar Run, and myself. In some detail we discussed how we had spent the intervening half century.

None of us had been elected to high office or made CEO of a big firm, but all had held respectable jobs with a few highlights along the way. Hyatt had made dinner reservations at the Lazy Susan restaurant located at the west end of town. We had an enjoyable time reminiscing about the days when we were students many years ago. Hyatt had prepared a few goofy prizes to be awarded to those present. I won a prize for traveling the longest distance. It was 820 miles from Dunedin to Jonesville. I have done this several times. After the dinner was over we shook hands all around and declared the reunion a success even if only four of the possible thirteen graduates took the trouble to show up.

It was fortunate Hyatt had invited the class of 1932 as guests. The following year they held their 50th reunion and agreed to make the affair a permanent organization, adding a new class each year and continuing to invite the preceding classes going back to 1931, the beginning reunion function. So, the year 2006 represents the 26th time JHS has held a 50th reunion and with all previous 50-year graduates invited to attend it has become a remarkable gathering.

I should mention the sad fact that the fellow who planned our first 50th reunion never made it back to another. I understand Hyatt Bailey had a fatal heart attack prior to the time the class of 1932 gathered for its celebration. But Hyatt should always be remembered as the fellow who started it all. *Thanks to Susie Russell Matthews of the class of 1958 for providing a copy of Mr. Davidson's letter.*

## Goins Family Research *by Harold and Morris Goins*

Jonesville Virginia and its' warm friendly, downhome people are just the kind of place the Goins brothers (Harold and Morris) really enjoy visiting as they trace their ancestral line through Jonesville and Blackwater, Virginia as well as Newman's Ridge, Tennessee (1820 - 1907 and beyond). Becky Jones of the Historical Society has provided several clues, including a death certificate dating back to December 9th, 1866, that have provided the excitement and motivation they needed to seek the help of Rev. Bruce Johnson at the Historical Society in locating the grave site of their fifth great-grandfather Joseph Goings, Jr.

Joseph Goings Jr. moved to Blackwater and Newman's ridge Tn. around 1820 from Surry County NC. with his wife Millie and children. Althea or Leathy, one of his daughters married James Livesay and is buried in Blackwaters' Moore cemetery 1907. As the death certificate indicates, Joseph Goins Jr. died Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 1866 on Station/Station Creek. The hunt continues! Any help would be greatly appreciated.

The Goins ancestry has been traced back to the mid-1650s in the Jamestown, Tidewater area of Virginia. Like many early families it has ties to the various Indian tribes including the Cherokee and Lumbee tribes of North and South Carolina. (Cherokee eastern band tribal chief - John Welch Goins 1907 and Lumbee tribal chief James Earnest Goins 2016). The family continued with a somewhat colorful existence on Newman's Ridge, Tennessee as well as in Lee County Virginia.

Harold and Morris Goins can be contacted at:  
morrisgoins@msn.com  
hgoins@fuse.net

## History of the Rose Hill District *by Miss Florence Bayless 1966*

Lee County is in the southwest corner of Virginia. It was formed from Russell County in 1792 and named for Light Horse Harry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee. Lee County is separated from Kentucky, originally a northern County of Virginia, by the Cumberland Mountain. It joins Tennessee on the South. Lee County's area is 446 miles which is divided into five magisterial districts, Rose Hill, which got its name from a hill of wild roses in front of the house where the late Bird Johnson who lived at the Willow Tree Road. The other Districts are White Shoals, Jonesville, Rocky Station, and Yokum Station.

A noted surgeon, soldier, merchant, surveyor, member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and guardian of Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Thomas Walker, with his five Associates, was the first white man to pass through Cumberland Gap in 1750. His associates were Ambrose Powell, William Tomlinson, Colby Chew, Henry Lawless, and John Hughes. He represented the Royal Land Company of London, England, which owned a patent for 800,000 acres of unappointed land in what is now Kentucky. He had his associates were to locate and survey land that would be suitable for settlement. The land was to be conveyed as a grant from the English crown. He and his associates left their home in Charlottesville on March 6, 1749, and returned July 13, 1750.

Besides their horses the men took along several dogs. Their camping equipment was simple and they took guns for procuring their food on the way. The party crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains and followed the valley through what is now Roanoke. They went to the Holston River, past the present site of Kingsport, skirted the south side of Clinch Mountain and then crossed the mountain. They followed a small creek which they called Holly Creek to the Clinch River which is supposed to be named for a hunter, Clinch by name. They could not find a place shallow enough for fording. Ambrose Powell rode one horse over and the other horses were driven across. They made a raft and floated part of the baggage over, but before all could be taken across the raft became water soaked and it was necessary to abandon it. Next morning the men waded the river holding the remainder of their baggage above the water. This brought them into a valley where a small river came from the mountains (in what is now Wise County). While encamped there Ambrose Powell carved his name on a beach tree. It is said that later hunters coming into the Valley saw the name and named the river Powell in his honor. The valley, mostly in Lee County and the most westerly of the several long narrow valleys found in Southwest Virginia, and mountains were also named for Ambrose Powell. On April 13, 1750, they passed through the gap of Stone Mountain and called it Cumberland Mountain in honor of the Duke of Cumberland. The river and mountain were also named the same. The party began a semi-circular journey through Cumberland Mountain deep into Kentucky. One horse became lame and another got bit on the nose by a snake. Dr. Walker wrote about it as follows: "I rubbed the wound with bear oil and gave him a drench of the same and another decoction of rattlesnake root some time later." On the same day Colby Chew's horse fell down a bank and hurt himself. Dr. Walker said he gave him some volatile drops and soon he was better.

*Continued on page 7*



Our February speaker Libby Laforce

## ***President's Report*** from page 1

The story is in the January newsletter.

In April Greg Edwards talked about Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell and what she did for Women and the Methodist Church.

In May Bruce Johnson told us more about the "Love Outreach Help Program" he has started and how we can help keep the program going with donations and etc.

At the June meeting we watched a movie about the 1912 shooting in Hillsville, Virginia. "On a cold spring morning of March 14, 1912, shots rang out in the rural, mountain town of Hillsville, Virginia. As gunmen spilled from the courthouse taking their battle through the downtown streets, the judge, sheriff, and the Commonwealth's Attorney lay dead in the smoke-filled courtroom. For the first time ever documented on film the story of the Carroll County Courthouse Tragedy is told, one of the worst shootings in United States courthouse history."

My husband, a 1957 graduate, and I attended the Jonesville Class Reunion the last weekend in June. This reunion has been going on for 38 years since the class of 1931 decided the get together. There were over two hundred people in attendance with Jim Watson from the class of 1940 and Frances Hines, Maxine Roop and Ernestine McKinney from class of 1944. A good time was had by all. See article enclosed.



Ken Roddenberry

I belong to the Major George Gibson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution here in Lee County. The Chapter is celebrating 100 years this month. We plan a luncheon at the Karlan Mansion, Wilderness Road State Park in Rose Hill with district and state officers coming.

Major Gibson came to Lee County about 1800 and purchased land and built Gibson Fort near Cumberland Gap. He served as Lieutenant at the battle of Point Pleasant, under Captain George Matthews, in the Southern Division of Lord Dunmore's army. He was commissioned a Captain, February 2, 1777. He served with distinction in Scott's Brigade the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge. George had eleven children. He died April 2, 1819 at Gibson Station, Virginia. About one hundred years later his descendants organized the Major Gibson DAR Chapter. For many years it was a closed chapter and only descendant of the major could join. Today they let persons like me join. My Patriot is Captain Joseph Cole of Washington County, Virginia.

We still have books to sale and we need our members to keep paying their dues and support us with their donations. Our utilities and insurance have been outrageous this winter. We ask that you make an appointment to use our research library and since we have to get a volunteer to be there, we would appreciate your making a donation to the Society.



Brothers Harold and Morris Goins



Rev. Bruce Johnson

## *The History of the Rose Hill District*    *continued from page 5*

On this trip they wore out their moccasins and had to make new ones from skins they took from elk on the way. Once the elk skins were prepared for the making of moccasins they found that they had lost every awl they had. The men improvised one from the shank of an old fishing hook. The work was done under a great sheltering cliff where they camped for several days. Dr. Walker said "We wrote our names under the rock with coal. I wrote their names and the time of arrival and leaving the place."

Deep in the Kentucky mountains one of the dogs was killed by an elk. The dog's name was Tumbler. So, the men named the stream on which the fight between the dog and elk took place "Tumblers Creek." At another time one of the dogs was so badly bitten by a bear that he couldn't walk. Dr. Walker took this one aback his horse and held him in front of him for several days journey till he could continue on his own legs.

They built the first cabin in Kentucky. A replica of the cabin is on the 12-acre park near Barbourville, Kentucky. Leaving Kentucky on through West Virginia they reached the New River and were puzzled as to anyway of crossing it. Dr. Walker, Powell, and Tomlinson took off their clothes and went into the river to determine its depth. Finding the waters shallow enough for fording they all crossed with horses and baggage. When they reached habitation, they shaved, shifted, and made new shoes. They left their useless rags at the camp. It is said that Dr. Walker would not travel on Sunday but spent the day meditating and worshipping God.

He states in the last paragraph of his journal: "We killed in the journey 13 buffaloes, 8 Elks, 53 bear, 1 deer, 4 wild geese, about 150 turkeys and much wild game. We might have keeled three times as much if we had wanted to."

Gen. Joseph Martin, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Walker, took up a large tract of land known as Powell Valley. Gen. Martin, an agent of the Transylvania Land Company, was born in Albemarle County, Virginia. Martin, being a boy of great energy, was rebellious toward discipline and ran away from home to join the Army in 1756. He rendered service in the French and Indian war. After the war he became a trapper and hunter. Interested in Indian warfare, Martin, an Indian pacifier, made treaties that were lasting. He also served in the Virginia legislature. In 1880 he ran the boundary line between Virginia and Tennessee.

In 1768 he erected the first cabin in Powell Valley. This cabin stood just to the left of the pike road beyond the first bridge over Martins Creek to the east of the railroad depot. Around a spring where Carter Howard now lives, Martins Fort was built as a stockade. No doubt that the cabin was within. Corn was planted but Indians caused all to be abandoned. Martins Station or what is now Rose Hill was part of the frontier until about 1775. The frontier ended as the wagon trains unloaded here and pack horses continued westward.

On September 25, 1774, Daniel Boone with his family and perhaps four or five more families, left North Carolina to make their settlement in Kentucky. While Camping in Powell Valley his son James and two black men went to Clinch River to get supplies. Being attacked by Indians they were killed. At Powell Valley, they joined a party of five families and forty able bodied men, all armed and provided with plenty of ammunition. They pushed on high spirits. From Rose Hill to Cumberland Gap they followed what is now the highway. The Old Daugherty house on Edward Cheek's property has three lean-to's and is the house where Daniel Boone spent a night when Peter Fulkerson lived there.

Kentucky County was established in 1776 and was represented in the Virginia Legislature by Daniel Boone. He made the Wilderness Road which is in Kentucky and extends through Cumberland Gap and Martin's Station. He passed through Lee County to and from Kentucky. It is claimed that not too many years ago there was a tree still standing near Rose Hill which had the lettering cut into the bark with a hunting knife, "Dan'll Boon killed Bar." The second settlement in Lee County was in Stickleyville. Robert Duff built a cabin at the head of Wallen's Creek.

There were two blockhouses in Lee County. One at Yokum or Rocky Station and one directly south of the Colson home one fourth mile at Station Creek. The lower part was stone and the top were logs. The house was called a fort where the people fled to be safe from the Indians. It was 40 by 60 feet. At Butcher Spring John Robinson was scalped by Indians. He lived in an old house near the Blockhouse. There were two Indian villages in Lee County. One was near Natural Bridge west of Jonesville and on at Rose Hill northeast of the railroad depot. Many Indian arrowheads have been found. The last Indian battle was at Hickory Flats in which the Indians were defeated by John Sevier from Tennessee in command.

The first school house in Lee County was at Martin's Station in the field west of the Charlie Crockett residence. Miss Kate Boswell was one of the teachers. The late White Fulkerson was a student. He was born in 1859. The stones are there as the only remains of the building. The second school in Lee County was just below the Rev. Cam Brooks spring on the Nursery Road. Larkin Bailey was the teacher there. After the Civil War school was taught in the first Presbyterian Church which was a log house built in 1824. Miss Hattie Ewing taught before the War and Captain Scaringer afterwards.

*Let us know if you are interested in this article; we can continue it as series as there is much more to Miss Bayless History.*



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## The Old Sycamore Tree *by Kelen Garber Wilson*

### The Old Sycamore Tree

In Southwest Virginia, in the County of Lee  
In the town of St. Charles stands a sycamore tree,  
Where old friends gather to whittle their wood,  
And talk of coal miners and how they stood,  
A small stream of clear water passes by  
As the cool mountain air flows steadily high,  
As they play their checker games  
And mention old familiar names,  
They talk of things of the past  
And how they wish they could forever last,  
With an old wooden bench under the tree  
The men gather and talk very free,  
The sycamore tree has stood for many a year,  
And is remembered by people both far and near,  
As the leaves fall on the ground  
The men all still gather round.  
Until the snow begins to fall  
And the men cannot come at all,  
Yes, this is the town's liveliest little spot  
The old sycamore tree has even been shot.

*Poem writing by Kelen Garber Wilson in 1974  
a student at St. Charles school.*

## My Memories of Long Ago *from page 1*

constantly for hours or until the lye had eaten the meat. They would let this cool solid and cut it into squares. It was strong and didn't smell too good. We all loved to have some "store soap". Grandmother always tried to keep some on hand so we could have it when we took our baths.

There was one black family lived near. We called them Aunt Liz and Uncle Bill. They were born slaves and after they were freed, they had a cabin and a little land. Aunt Liz came every Monday and did our wash. We had a wash shed with a long bench along one side and two large tree trunks to put tubs on. At one end was a large trough that was made by hollowing a big tree out. It had running water flowing through it all the time. They would rinse the clothes in this. They had three large iron kettles hanging over the fire. They would boil the clothes in these and they came out white.

We didn't have electricity or gas so we burned wood in our fire places and cooking stove. Our irons were made of iron so we heated them on top of the stove or in front of the fireplace. This made ironing awful hot in the summer time.

We would go with grandpa to milk. We would load the wagon with sacks with wheat to grind into flour and with corn for our corn meal. It was an all-day trip and we would take our lunch. Water turned a big wheel which crushed the grain between two large stones.

In the summer when they cut the meadows for hay, they would pile it way up high on a wagon frame. We children loved to climb up on top and ride to the barn. They would put it in the loft and we would play in it. It was a good place for the cats and kittens too.

*This memory was written by an unknown elderly lady and was not signed. Although it is not known when this was written, we wanted to share it with you and hope you enjoy reading it.*