



Gateway to the West



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

January 2019



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President's Report

By Becky Jones

As we enter 2019 I would like to share with you some of the programs and happenings at the Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society.

In the sixties and seventies Lee County had a very active theatre group. With the remodeling of the old theatre in Pennington Gap a group got together and started "The Lee Players." Elaine Elkins Barker and Jennifer Elroy came to our meeting and talked about the old and new Lee Players. They showed us documents, play books, programs, etc. and spoke of many former names of the early group of players. Jessica Moore and Greg Edwards, members of our Society, are very active with the Lee Players.

I was not able to attend our August meeting because of the death of my brother, Jimmy, but I understand they had a good group and a very nice tour of the Duff House in Stickleyville. Libby's report is included.

In September, Nancy Hines shared with us a 2001 Kentucky Educational TV video about the Melungeons. She also had copies of an article in the January 1987 Powell Valley Electric Co-op magazine about "The Mysterious Melungeons."

Also in September, John Barker visited at the Society looking for his Litton family kinfolds. After several hours of talking and looking up information about the Littons he was able to visit with cousins and was able to find an old cemetery with

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History of Wesley's Chapel Church

Originally authored by George P. Cridlin (by Ken Rodenberry)

Wesley's Chapel Methodist Church, occupies a Community center in one of Lee County's most beautiful valleys, and has for many years been one of the most widely known of the country churches in this the oldest section of the County.

Something of the early history of this valley, is interesting. Lee County was established in 1792, but the settlement of this section of the County dates much earlier. In 1776, George Moss made a settlement on a 400 acre tract of land, "In Powell Valley at 2 springs, about three miles below Rock House Creek [Natural Bridge] to include his improvements". The west end of this tract bordered on Powell River and extended eastward nearly two miles. At the time it was surveyed, Nov. 14, 1783, it was known as "Hickory Grove" and where the land bordered the river it was called "Moss' Shoals". George Moss assigned his right in the land to Benjamin Sharp, and on July 5, 1785 Sharp obtained a Commonwealth Patent for the 400 acre tract. Sharpe also obtained a Patent for a 275 acre tract lying immediately north of Hickory Grove. Robert Preston on Dec. 10, 1785, obtained Commonwealth Patent for a tract of 890 acres lying in this valley, extending from Rock House and Glade [Town Branch]

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Elaine Elkins Barker and Jennifer Elroy



Nancy Hines

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his ancestors buried there. He wants to come back and help clean up the cemetery.

Our speaker for October was Bruce Johnson. He told us about a natural Stone House on Black Mountain north of Keokee. When a family was down and with no place to live that was a place they could go until things got better. See Bruce's story.

In November Ken Roddenberry spoke to us about Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. Ken's article is included in this Newsletter.

We did not meet in December due to many of our local members being involved in other activities.

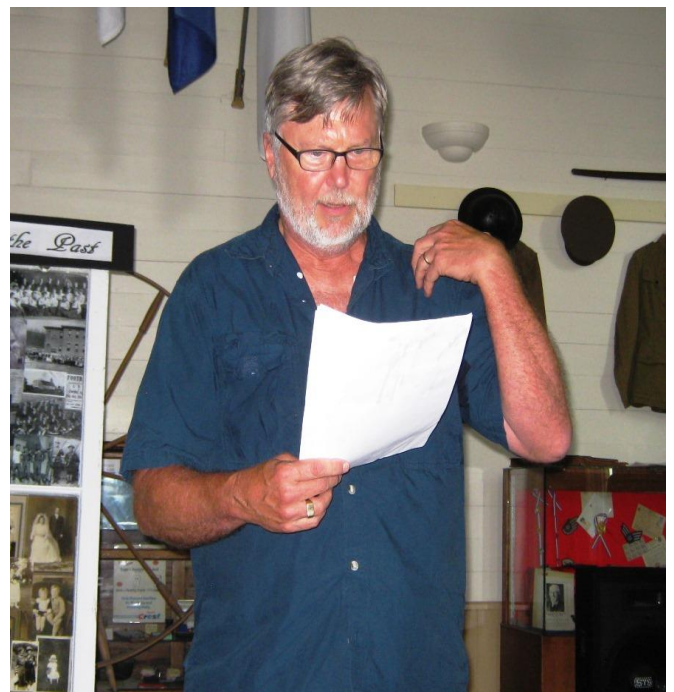
I want to thank those who supported us by paying your dues, and donations of money, personally paying for mowing and weed eating and the expense of copying and sending out our newsletters. We have had to dip into our perpetual fund to help pay enormous electric and insurance bills.

We still have books for sale and need our members to keep paying their dues and support us with their donations. If you are going to be in this area and want to visit our building you need to let us know a few days in advance so we can get a volunteer to be there.

Thank You, Becky Jones



Rev. Bruce Johnson, Sr.



John Barker

History of Wesley's Chapel Church from page 1

Creeks westward about 3 miles covering a large parcel of the eastern end of the Hickory Grove tract, but as the Moss title was the older, Preston could hold only to the east line of that tract. Then Sharpe purchased about 115 acres of the Preston tract adjoining Hickory Grove. So that he then had a compact tract of land containing some 900 acres, covering the valley from the River eastward to what is now known as the "Cedar Road", and is now State Road No. 656. [Country Club Rd.]

Sharp had acquired title to a large number of other tracts of land in Lee County, and had become a wealthy man. In 1816, he decided to move west, and in a few months time he sold 14 farms ranging in size from 30 to 300 acres. On June 17th, 1816 Sharp sold to Robert Ely his home tract known as Hickory Grove, with adjoining tracts, in all some 900 acres. Ely thus acquired title to all the lands in this valley from the [Powell] River eastward to the Cedar Road.

Champ Hamblen, a man famous for the fact that he had when some members of his family were massacred by Indians, been captured by the savages, when he was a very small child, and carried away into Canada. Some years later by the aid of friends, he regained his liberty and came back to Virginia where he acquired title to more than 200 acres of land lying adjoining and eastward of the Sharp land where he made his home the remainder of his life.

John Campbell in July 1891 acquired by Commonwealth patent title to 1018 acres of land adjoining and south of the Preston and Moss tracts and this land by various conveyance became the property of William W. Anderson.

Thus you have a short history of the early settlement of this section of the County. The beauty and attractiveness of this valley; its natural wealth of great forest, and the fertility of its broad acres, attracted to it a citizenship of men of high character.

[Henry] Hamilton, a British officer captured at St. Vincennes and escorted to Williamsburg in 1779, in his journal of his journey, tells of his passing through Powell Valley. He describes with minuteness passing "Natural Bridge in Lee County. He speaks of it as being located in a beautiful valley, and says he could not refrain from pausing awhile to admire the scene. He describes the bridge as being about 60 feet wide and covered with trees, with the road passing over it.

In this setting Wesley's Chapel Methodist Church was located. The building now stands at the eastern edge of the Benjamin Sharpe - Robert Ely land, and on the south side of the Public Highway, a site that the various building of the Church have occupied for 120 years.

In the early days, when the country was sparsely settled, the organization of the Church was necessarily very

different from that of the present day. There were no church buildings. The Methodist people were organized into small classes, a few families living comparatively near together, with members of some 10 to 25 persons forming a class. The class would hold services at stated frequent intervals, at the residence of some one of the members, services being led by a regularly appointed "Class Leader".

The Methodist Church was at work in the Holston country before there was an organized Conference. Traveling preachers went through the country preaching to the pioneer families, and here and there establishing small classes, and appointing Class Leaders. Then the whole of Southwestern Virginia was only sparsely settled. The first organized work of the Church was begun in 1783. The Conference held in Baltimore May 21, 1793, had before it a report from the Holston country, showing a membership of Sixty souls. At that time the Holston Circuit was created, and a preacher assigned to the work. The first Preacher assigned to Holston Circuit was Jeremiah Lambert. At the end of the first year he reported an increase of 17 in membership.

The first Conference to be held in the Holston country met in 1788 at the residence of Stephen Keywood, in Washington County, Va. The second Conference held in Holston country was at Huffakers about three miles from Saltville, in Washington Co., Va. in April 1792. This was the same year that the Act was passed establishing Lee County. As the population increased with like increase of membership, Holston circuit was divided from time to time into smaller circuits, all within the Holston Conference.

The Lee Circuit was established in 1814. Before this date, a Class had been established, in the neighborhood of what is now known as Wesley's Chapel, known by the name of "Eleys". The first Quarterly Conference held for the Lee Circuit met on Nov. 12, 1814, at the residence of Dreury Fletcher in Yokum Station, Lee County, Va. At that meeting 18 classes reported, and among them was "Elys, reporting a collection of \$1.25, which was not so far out of line as the whole of the 18 classes only showed a total of \$23.49 ½.

At the Quarterly Conference for the Lee Circuit at Camp ground, July 28-29, 1815, there were present Robert Ely Class Leader, Champ Hamblen Class Leader, Thomas Blakemore Class Leader; and "Elys Class" reported with a collection of \$1.71, which amount was about in line with collection at the other classes, of which there were then eighteen in number.

At the Quarterly Conference held Sept. 28th, 1816, the following minute was entered: "Robert Ely was

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recommended by the Society of which he is a member to be licensed to exhort in the M.E. Church and accordingly he is authorized".

The Quarterly Conferences held for the Lee Circuit on Jan. 10, 1818 and Jan. 16, 1819, were held at Robert Ely's home. The Ely Class was regularly reported at each Conference held for Lee Circuit until the latter part of the year 1836.

At the Annual Conference held in 1836, the Lee Circuit was divided, and the Jonesville Circuit was established, which included the Wesley Chapel Territory. The first Quarterly Conference for the Jonesville Circuit was held at Speaks Meeting house Nov. 26, 1836. Samuel Patton was then Presiding Elder and W.C. Reynolds was the Circuit Preacher. At this meeting few members were present.

At a Quarterly Conference for Jonesville Circuit, at Rose Hill, April 3rd, 1841, the following order was made "Robert Ely, Sr., Champ Hamblen, Alex Ely, James Ely, Isaac Thompson appointed trustees to Wesley Chapel". This the first mention we have of the name Wesley Chapel. The classes reporting at that meeting were: Ritchie's \$1.31, Jonesville \$3.20, Ball's School House \$1.10, Dean's \$.50, Loyd's \$2.00, Russell's \$1.25, Wesley Chapel \$1.00, Carmac's \$1.00, Pleasant Hill \$2.50, Speaks \$1.00, Marshalls \$.25, Hills \$.37 ½, Laurel Grove \$.50, Bethel \$1.25, Mulberry Gap \$1.10, Jonesville Camp Ground \$1.25, Pennington \$.25, Yearly's \$.50, Public Collection \$1.81. Total \$22.05

Members of the Quarterly Conference present at this meeting were: David Fleming, Presiding Elder, John Forister, Circuit Preacher, N. Speak, L.E., John Dickinson, L.D., Solomon Hobbs, L.P., V.A. Woodward, Exh., George Ely, Exh., Simon Burgin, C.L., Alex Ely, C.L., James Woodward, C.L., H. Morely, C.L., Alex Ritchie, C.L.

The order appointing Trustees for Wesley Chapel, having been the first mention of that name, is indicative of the fact that the location of the meeting place of that class had been definitely established, and a building erected. No deed had been at that time secured for the plot of land, but this was not unusual for such transaction of that kind in the early days. The land owner usually donated the site for a church, and it was accepted by the congregation, with little thought of a deed. Wesley Chapel Church was built on lands owned by Robert Ely. He was a Class Leader, an Exhorter and had been a leader in church affairs for many years; and he and two of his sons were appointed trustees to hold title of the property for the benefit of the Church. While it is plain that a church lot had been donated in 1840, and a building erected by early Spring of 1841... no deed had been made.

After the War between the States, and 25 years after the death of Robert Ely, and after his lands had been divided among the heirs, Alexander Ely, a son of Robert Ely, and Andrew M. Ely, a son of Alexander, made a deed of conveyance to the trustees of Wesley Chapel Church for a lot of land described in the deed dated April 27th, 1868.

At the time the deed was made to the Church lot, 1868, Wesley Chapel had been taken out of the Jonesville Circuit by the formation of the Powell Valley Circuit [thus requiring Wesley Chapel] to have a parsonage as a residence of the preacher for the Circuit. On the 3rd of July, 1871, Andrew M. Ely and Esther M. Ely, his wife, by deed conveyed to [trustees of said Church] a piece of land containing 3 acres lying and being in Lee County adjoining the Church property known as Wesley Chapel and on the west side thereof and between said Chapel for the said purpose aforesaid and house built within five years.

The first parsonage was erected within the five year period and was probably erected in the years 1871 and 1872. It is also of interest as it fixes the time of building of the [second] parsonage now standing, as being in the year 1911. The first Church building erected was on the lot afterwards conveyed to the trustees in 1868. This building was constructed just prior to the appointment of the trustees Apr. 3, 1841. It was constructed of logs, and being located on a lot which was only 66 feet long and 66 feet in width, the front of it was only a few feet from the line of the public road.

Miss Alice Ely was a daughter of Thomas S. Ely, a granddaughter of Alexander Ely, and hence a great granddaughter of Robert Ely, Sr. She wrote a short history of the Wesley Chapel Church, which is in the possession of the officials of the church. Miss Ely was born in 1867 made her home throughout her whole life on the old Ely farm, and was a life-long member of Wesley Chapel Church. She died in 1950, age 83 year of her age, and her funeral services were conducted from this church. She says that the first building was erected in the 1830's or the early 1840's, by Alexander Ely with the help of neighbors. This confirms our opinion that the first church building was completed shortly before the appointment of Trustees on April 3rd, 1841. Miss Ely says that the first church was made of large popular logs, hand hewn. The log meeting house served its purpose well. For nearly 30 years, each Sabbath day found religious services there. If no preacher was there, class meetings were held.

Soon after the close of the Civil War, the membership decided that they should have a better and more modern Church in which to worship. So the question of erecting a new building gave rise to inquiry as to title to

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The John Garrison Rock House

by Rev. Bruce Johnson, Sr.



Left - Photo by Diane Estep from freepages.rootsweb.com



Right – Photo by Rev. Bruce Johnson, Sr.

I hiked in the Big Black Mountain area on Sept. 2018. The area is known as the highest point in Kentucky. It is also adjacent to Keokee, Virginia, in the area of the Little Black Mountains. My destination was the John Garrison Rock House which I reached after an hour of grueling transportation in a side by side driven by a man named Steve (Pook) Garrett. The Rock House is a large three-sided rock room with a roof of solid rock on top forming a room about 20'x10'x8' high. The front is open and when people of the area had nowhere else to live they took their families, their few meager belongings and lived there until they could find work down in the communities of Kentucky or Virginia.

I'm pleased to say that some of those people who had to live there in hard times were able to recover and did well. Some of them who are now in their early 60's to middle 50's were children then, but being of rugged mountain upbringing met the challenge and went on to become doctors, lawyers, ministers and merchants. I knew some of them then as well as now personally. Some of you would be much surprised if I listed the names.

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the land, and it was found that there had never been any deed made to the Church for the land upon which the old log building stood. It was then that an attempt to secure a deed to the Church lot was made. Robert Ely who was the original owner of the land was long since dead, and the property where the old church stood had become the property of Alexander Ely and his son Andrew M. Ely. Alexander Ely, a son of Robert Ely, Sr., and who had been largely instrumental in the erection of the first building, together with his son Andrew M. executed the deed dated April 27, 1868, hereinbefore referred to. So title to the lot having been made certain, the members proceeded to erect on the site of the old log building, a frame building amply sufficient for the purposes of the church. This second building was used for Congregational worship for about forty-seven years. In 1914-15, through the leadership of Rev. J.C. Cornett, then pastor of the Church, a movement was started to erect a new church building. The old building was torn away and the erection of a new building begun. It was completed in 1916, when G.M. Shelley was pastor. This new building, which is the one now standing was located some 60 feet from the road, thus leaving a nice yard in front of the building, and hence does not all rest on the original church lot, but the rear end is on the McAfee lot. The present building was dedicated by Dr. I.P. Martin, then Presiding Elder of Big Stone District, on the 6th day of September, 1916. With reference to the preachers who have been pastors of the Wesley Chapel Church, Miss Alice Ely says that among the earliest preachers were William L. Turner, whose wife Phoebe was a daughter of Robert Ely, Sr.

As this is written in mid-year 1960, the church is in flourishing condition. Rev. Ray C. Stafford is pastor. The building is in excellent repair, painted attractively within and without. The grounds are well kept, preaching services are held regularly, Sabbath School conducted every Sunday and a bus service is maintained for the convenience of persons not conveniently located to attend services.

[an abridged version] Presented before the Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, Jonesville, Va., Nov. 10th, 2018 by Ken R. Roddenberry.

The Senioretta Jonesville High School April 20, 1928 pg 3 continued from July 2018

THE SENIORETTA

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Literary Societies

Jonesville High School students are divided into two literary societies. One is known as the Columbian, the other as the Emersonian. Each society gives a program every two weeks, which makes two programs a month.

These organizations often sponsor public programs to secure money for the library, stage or athletic equipment and other school necessities. The sponsors of the societies are: Columbian: Miss Davis and Mr. Hyatt; Emersonian: Mrs. Ewing and Mr. Sprinkle. Mr. Richmond our principal is sponsor for both societies.

The officers for this year were as follows:

First semester — Columbian: President—Rhea Rasnic; Vice President—Mavis Hall; Secretary—Marietta Sewell; Treasurer—Ruth Rosenbaum; Reporter—Vera Weston; Critic—Tyler Rasnic.

Last semester — Columbian: President — Alice Gilbert; Vice President—Maurice Weston; Secretary—Ruth Rosenbalm; Treasurer—Maxine Hall; Reporter — Maude Fleming; Critic — Mavis Hall.

The Emersonians gave the following program Sept. 28. It was the first program of the year.

Devotional—Mr. Richmond.
Song—"I Would Be True" — group of girls.

Talk—Sally May Bledsoe.
Musical Reading — "Beginning Again"—Grace Russell.

Song and Dance—Group of girls.
Stunt — Dorcas Slomp, Betty Willoughby, Carl Edwards and Jay Thompson.

The Columbians gave the second program for 1937 in October. It was as follows:

Devotional—Mr. Hyatt.
"Nobody Knows the Trouble I See"—Vernon Jones, Rhea Rasnic, Tyler Rasnic, Roscoe Wright, Robert Osborne and Edgar Quinley.

Song—"Little Old Lady"—Anna Jane Frye, Ruth Rosenbalm, Ruth Henderson, Louella Harris, Gladys Wright, Mavis and Maxine Hall, Mary Jean Bledsoe, Patsy Walton, and Maude Fleming.

Introduction of "The Dollar"—Vera Weston.

Play—"The Dollar."
Characters: Inez Daugherty, Rhea Hines, Robert Osborne, Elizabeth Hall, Maurice Weston, Jess Dotson and Flem Noe.

Program committee: Robert Osborne, Roscoe Wright and Rhea Hines.

Stage Committee—Maurice Weston, Ollie Belle Flanary and Ruth Rosenbaum.

The officers for this year—Emersonian Society:

First semester: President—Sally May Bledsoe; Vice President—Louise Mize; Secretary—Rebecca Grabeel; Treasurer—Hazel Stidham; Reporter—Minnie Lee Allen.

Last semester: President—Ruth Orr; Vice-President—Mary Sam

Senior Class Play Cast



"Headed For Eden"

This play by Sidney Duvall was written last year and has received wide acclaim from those schools in which it has been produced.

The plot concerns Kate Roberts, a self sacrificing sister, who is made to suffer greatly by the misfortunes of her ne'er-do-well brother Bob. Kate lives in the boarding house of Mrs. Skipworth with seven other girls, including the maid, who are "on their own."

To the boarding house comes Bob in a frenzied plea to Kate to help him. This time it is serious. The police are on his trail and he wants Kate to hide him.

"A fellow jumped on my running board and made me drive him south as fast as I could. He held a gun in my face—we hit a man at the corner."

This is Bob's pitiful tale. But will anyone believe it? The pistol, found in his pocket does not help the case. Kate demands that he give himself up, but she promises to stand by him.

The girls determine to turn sleuth and help find the criminal. Kate assumes the role of a Salvation Army girl for greater freedom in gaining information from those who might know something. In vain Ken Howard endeavors to prove that he is really a friend. Limpy finally remembers the truth and all is well.

"Headed For Eden" will be presented by the following cast:

Mrs. Oral Shipworth, who runs a boarding house—Ada Jones.
Imogene, the maid, — Pauline Bonham.

Hank, who calls for the laundry — Harold Roop.

Dorothy Brice, a stenographer—Hazel Stidham.

Peggy Walters, a department store clerk—Mavis Hall.

Gladys Hermon, a mannequin—

Keele; Secretary—Edgar Quinley; Treasurer—Hazel Stidham — Reporter—Jay Thompson.

S. B. & G. R.

Iris Bonham.

Nancy Lane, a filing clerk—Grace Russell.

Kate Roberts, a reporter on "The Herald,"—Vera Weston.

Rosina Blandish, a brokers stenographer—Anna Mae Flannary.

Barry Richards, her employer—Rhea Rasnic.

Minnie Peters, a clerk at Woolworth's—Vina Johnson.

Henry Banks, a truck driver—Carl Edwards.

Marcella Turner, who has a job—Marietta Sewell.

Bob Roberts, Kate's brother—N. M. Moore.

Sergeant Kelly, of the Chicago Motor Cycle Police Force—Rhea Hines.

Ken Howard, a reporter on "The Star"—Roscoe Wright.

"Limpy," a bit of human wreckage,—Edgar Quinley.

Reading a Good Habit

So many of the habits we form during school days remain with us all our lives. How important then, that we form good, useful habits now—so they may serve us well in the years ahead.

One of these good habits is the reading habit. Cultivate good taste in reading—in the books and magazines you choose for leisure reading. Don't think of reading as a school duty. It can be one of life's greatest pleasures.

Read widely. Do not limit yourself to books of one kind or of one author. Life is so full of varied interests and experiences; and you will find them all between the covers of the books you read.

Start now, and gradually improve your reading habits. Just as you slowly improve in athletic feats, so will your taste in reading grow and improve. Remember—the high jump bar you failed to clear today, you may easily clear next week.

Keep at it—in your reading as in life—aim high; reach for the best!

School News

The Columbian Literary Society entertained the Senior class with a Valentine Tea Feb. 14. An interesting program was given in which piano, violin and vocal music was presented by Mrs. Dean, a duet by Mrs. Alma Cox and Mr. Hyatt, and a song by a group.

Games were played and prizes were awarded to the winning couples. Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. Cox received one prize, Iris Bonham and N. M. Moore received the other. Refreshments were served at the close of the party. A nice, enjoyable evening was reported by all.

An April Fool Party, sponsored by the Community League, was presented in the Jonesville High Auditorium Friday night, April 1. A program was given which consisted of a short number from each grade in school. The Junior Class won the prize for presenting the best number. After the program several cakes were walked off, candy, ice cream, and chewing gum were sold by the Home Economics Department.

The study body elected a girl to represent J. H. S. in the beauty contest which was held at the Lee Theatre, April 5. Mary Evelyn Poteet was selected by the Senior class, Alice Gilbert by the Junior and Freshman classes, and Geraldine Sewell by the Sophomore class. Alice Gilbert received the majority of votes by the student body and so she represented our school in the beauty contest. Other students who represented different firms in the community were: Vera Weston, Mozetta Bellamy, and Geraldine Sewell. P. M.

Our Library

During the year many valuable additions have been made to the high school library. Boys from different classes who are interested in fossils and other phases of science have made an interesting collection of specimens which is housed in a glass faced case in the library. A state flag now hangs on the wall, a gift to the school by Mr. Sprinkle. Mr. Fred Cox and Rev. Dean have made some valuable gifts of books on literature.

The Community League last month matched the school fund with a sufficient amount to buy sixty-five books of modern fiction.

With the help of Mrs. Compton, district director of libraries, a vertical file system is being worked out. Cases for housing the filing system are being prepared by the boys of the agriculture class.

The library now contains three encyclopedias, the Americana, the new international, the World Book and Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, and about eight hundred books on literature.

THE SENIORETTA

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Betty Willoughby
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Tyler Rasnic
Associate Editors
Iris Bonham, Vera Weston
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Edgar Quinley
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Billy Snodgrass
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Mary Evelyn Poteet,
Alma Brownrig, Carl Edwards
Business Manager
Robert Osborne
Assistant Manager
Roscoe Wright
Associate Managers
Rhea Rasnic, Hazel Stidham,
Mavis Hall

The End of School

"The moving finger writes and
having writ moves on; not all
your poetry nor wit
Shall lure it back or cancel half
a line

Nor all your tears wash out a
word of it."

So muses the school as another
class prepares to take its departure.

The basketball season is over
again; the baseball season is in
full swing, the last track program
has been presented; the
senior play is dressing itself for
final presentation; commencement
programs are being planned; all
scheduled tests have been given;
there await only the final examinations.
Through all school
activities with their ecstasies and
despairs much has been read. In
the rush and hurry the finger
calmly writes. May we find the
high school page has been well
written when we come to read it
more clearly in later years.
"The moving finger writes and
having writ moves on"—

Education

The value of education is very
great, without it no nation can
think. If the ability to read and
write were taken from everyone
the governments and all the business
of the world would be greatly
hampered. Without an education
one can get nowhere in the
world of today. Though we may
not seem to put our education to
good use as soon as we finish
school, we will sometime sooner
or later. The wealth of a nation
is dependent upon the education
of its citizens. There are many
things that can yet be done over
the world for the advancement of
universal education. That is why
every democracy tries to educate
its citizens. For on this great
movement rests the future of
civilization.

R. W.

Our Greatest Need

While time marches on and the
whole nation looks forward to
modernization and an era of progress
it is rather essential that
progressive movements are taken
more seriously into consideration
in our local community. This
question has been asked often but
never answered: "Why don't we
have a gymnasium and a cottage
for 'Home Economics'?" No school
is considered as advancing if it
has neither of these. In the new
curriculum both are essential.

There are those who contend
that our fathers and mothers did
not have these and got an education.
Are these fathers and
mothers training their children as
they were trained? We are living
in an age of practical education
in which less responsibility,
that helps to prepare us for the future,
is taught in the home and
the student is taught more and
more how to live at school.

A gymnasium serves a school
and community in numerous ways.
First, it is the recreational center
of the community. Here athletic
contests are held, fairs and
exhibits judged. In the gymnasium
the bodies and minds of our young
people are developed. A school is
usually judged by its athletic
teams, equipment and literary
rating.

A cottage serves as a social center
of the school and community.
It is here that the students put
into practice what is being taught.
Today students have to be content
with substitutions and practical
imaginary homes and learn the
rest from textbooks and pictures.
The cottage would be their home,
which they plan and arrange.
It is here that the students
put into practice what is being
taught. Here the different
"Home Making Organizations"
have their meetings.

Would a "Home Economics—
Gymnasium Combination" be out
of the question, considering W.
P. A. aid?

Lecture Program

A very interesting part of our
school life for the past few weeks,
has been the talks which different
people have been giving in chapel.
Most of our speakers have discussed
their respective occupations and
we have gotten many new ideas
about these jobs from our speakers.
We have had the pleasure of
having Miss Lake, home demonstrator,
Commonwealth Attorney
R. B. Ely, Mr. Davis, Dr. Sutor,
head of the Health Department,
Supt. S. J. Shelbourne, Mr. Eller
and Rev. Sifton, the latter after
giving a very interesting talk to
the Junior and Senior English class
on his boyhood in Scotland. We
hope to have these talks continue

The Wedding in the Sky

By Roscoe Wright

Silver Hawk, the big passenger
transport, was on its scheduled
route to Miami, Florida. Its three
powerful motors were humming
and the sun glistened on its silver
wings. Don Wilson, the pilot, was
at the controls with Jerry Brown,
his co-pilot, at his side. Don was a
handsome young man, tall with
black curly hair and blue eyes that
had the glint of polished steel in
them. His chin was that of a fighter,
his body that of an athlete.
Jerry, his co-pilot was a cheerful
little fellow with brown hair and
eyes. There were only three passengers
aboard the Silver Hawk,
two shifty eyed suspicious men and
a beautiful girl.

To Don the girl was the most
beautiful he had ever seen, but it
was not of her he was now thinking.
He was thinking of two shifty
eyed men. When boarding the
plane they had seemed to shun the
crowd at the airport. These men
were up to something, of this he
was certain. He was about to voice
his suspicions to Jerry, when
something cold and hard was pressed
against the back of his neck and
a harsh voice commanded: "Turn
the plane to the west." Don turned
to see the other man with a
gun in Jerry's back.

"What's this all about any way?"
Don asked.

"Don't worry about that, just do
as we tell you and nobody will get
hurt," the man said. Don realizing
that he must do something, began
trying to think of a plan to get
the best of the two men. Suddenly
an idea came into his mind like
a flash from a clear sky. Tensing
every muscle in his body he put
the plane into a steep dive, then
brought it on a level again as fast
as he possibly could make the big
plane operate. Turning, he saw the
two men sprawled on the floor.
"Quick Jerry, take over the plane,"
Don said. Jumping from his seat he
grabbed a gun dropped by one of
the men.

Turning it on the man he said,
"Now get to your feet and don't
try any funny business." Marching
the two men to the back of the
plane, he locked them in the baggage
compartment. Turning from
his task, he saw they had tied the
girl in her seat. Hurrying over, he

to the close of school for the ideas
which we get from them will be of
great help now and in later years.

The school owes much to Reverend
Dean, who has so kindly given
his services once a week to our
chapel programs. We appreciate
his cooperation and hope that we
in turn may lend our aid in anything
which he wishes to undertake.

B. W.

Sunset From a Mountain Top

One afternoon before the sun
went down a car was climbing a
steep mountain road. The driver,
an artist from Illinois, had never
seen the sunset in the mountains.
Now in historical Virginia he had
a rare treat in store. On top of
the mountain, he parked his car
and went out on an overhanging
rock. The sun just above the
mountain tops could be seen in
the distance like a huge ball of
fire. The sky was bright orange
around the sun and blended softly
with the deep blue above.

As the sun disappeared slowly,
the sky turned pink, gray and
purple; down in the valley the
shadows lay deep but near him,
the last rays of the sun were falling.
When the sun had entirely
gone from sight the mountain
looked black against the bright
background and every peak was
distinctly outlined. Overcome with
the beauty of the scene the artist
held his breath. He had never
imagined that anything could be
so magnificent, so beautiful. He
had wanted to paint the scene, but
now that he had seen it, he knew
that neither he nor anyone else
could ever put it on canvas the
wonder that nature had revealed
to him.

S. M. B.

released her and asked her, "Are
you hurt?"

"No," she gasped, "just frightened."

Don said, "I'm sorry this happened
Miss—." "Reynolds," she
finished for him.

"I'm Don Wilson," Don said,
"come up to the cabin and meet my
co-pilot Jerry Brown."

"With pleasure Mr. Wilson," she
said with a charming smile. And
the remaining part of the trip Don
and Miss Reynolds came to know
each other very well. When the
Silver Hawk arrived at the airport
Jerry turned the two men over to
the police and looking up their
records found them to be dope
smugglers. While Jerry was doing
this Don was arranging for another
meeting with Miss Reynolds of
which there were many thereafter.

Two weeks later a wedding was
performed in the Silver Hawk, as
it circled slowly into the blue sky.
A certain Miss Reynolds became
Mrs. Wilson and just as the ceremony
was finished Jerry Brown, the
best man, brought the Silver
Hawk down to a three point landing.

"Pay no attention to what critics
say. There has never been a statue
set up in honor of a critic."—Sib-
erius.

Members Tour Duff House in Stickleyville

By Libby Laforce

Our members toured the Duff Mansion in Stickleyville, Virginia in August. The house originally was built between 1820 to 1830 has some unique features that went into the planning of building this home. Our members enjoyed the tour and learning the history of the home and of the people who lived there.

The home is being restored to the original condition by Eunice and Mary Ruth Laster, current owners of the home. Some of the original furniture will also be coming back to the house. Sometime between Spring and Summer of 2019 the house will be dedicated and placed on the historical homes register. We will update you then on this interesting home.



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