

The First Two Hundred Years of Cobbs Creek

By
David McCormick

First Two Hundred Years
of
Cobb's Creek History

Written by David McCormick

*To my very good friend Jetta
David M^cormick*

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Forward

Almost all of these stories are 100 or more years old; they were told to me by my parents, grandparents, great-uncles, great-aunts, and cousins. That is not surprising since everyone on Cobb's Creek is related especially if your family has been here for the past one hundred years. I believe that God, in his infinite wisdom, placed me on Cobb's Creek, within walking distance of my grandparents and other members of my family. This has given them the opportunity to share their history and experiences with me. This, in turn, gave me the information to write this book and I am more than happy to share it with you. It is my hope this will inspire someone to write a history of their relatives and neighborhood. The last edition to the list of family names on Cobb's Creek came in about 1912. His name was Keeling. His descendants are as deeply entwined into the bloodline of Cobb's Creek's people as are the descendants of Iva Bailey Lively, who was the first settler. But time moves on, and, as from the beginning, new family names are moving onto the watershed of Cobb's Creek. And as these "foreigners", as our ancestors would have called them, marry our children, grandchildren, and cousins their children become part of the Cobb's Creek family. It is my prayer that God will always keep his hand of protection upon Cobb's Creek and it's children.

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Other Sources

The following are other sources I have obtained information from:

The US Census from 1800 – 1930, Seventh West Virginia Cavalry by David Turner, Hardesty's History, WV Archives in Charleston, West Virginia, The Gazeteer, microfilm provided by the Mormon Church, Homer Pauley's First One Hundred Year's of Cobb's Creek Baptist Church, Kanawha and Lincoln County Courthouse records, US Postal Department, Boone and Lincoln County Genealogy Society books, Wintz's Kanawha County Marriage Records, and Sanford S. McClure's booklet on the Cobb's Creek Church, The Mays Osborn book by Mrs. Maxine Swango, The Climax of Locomotive by Dennis Thompson, Richard Dunn, and Steve Hauf, ASO Publishing Company, 2002.

I am sure there are some things in this book that are not right and just as I have found mistakes in other people's books, someone will find my errors and I apologize for that. I would also like to thank you for reading this book, I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did writing it.

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Gabriel Arthur

Abraham Woods, a man with considerable wealth and influence, outfitted an expedition of men lead by James Needham in the year 1673. This was over one hundred years before the United States won her independence from Great Britain. They set out from Fort Henry, on the banks of the Appomattox River. They went to the headwaters of the Tennessee River, in the Clinch Mountains of what is now southwestern Virginia. This is the home of Dr. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, a famous old time blue grass band. James Needham and his men met a band of friendly Cherokee Indians with whom they spent several days, before returning to Fort Henry, leaving behind Gabriel Arthur. Gabriel was said to be a young, illiterate but very intelligent lad of 19. His purpose was to establish friendly relations with the Cherokees and learn their ways. Gabriel accompanied these Indians across the entire state of what is now West Virginia, crossed into Ohio, and through Kentucky. Thus making Gabriel the first white man to set foot in the Kanawha Valley and live to tell about it. On the first trip they left the Clinch Mountains and traveled in an easterly direction up what the Indians called Appalachia (ap-pal-achia) meaning endless mountains. Then they turned in a northerly direction on the west side of a stream that the Indians called Mandongachate (mon-don-ga-chate), which means new water, thus our name for New River. Gabriel was seeing and learning things that would help men, who would follow his footsteps one hundred years later, men like the world famous Daniel Boone, and lesser known people like Simon Kenton, an early frontiersman, and locally know people like Col. William Clendenin who established Fort Lee at the junction of the Elk and Kanawha rivers. Coming on down the river, the party crossed a stream of water called Ottowe (ot-to-we) meaning Deer Creek, we know it as Paint Creek. Traveling on down the west side of the river they came to and crossed a small river that the Indians called Walhonda Keep (wal-hon-de-cep) meaning Hill Creek, what we call Coal River. Upon reaching the west side of this river they entered a friendly Moneton Indian village where they spent several days. This is the same place where a little over one hundred years later, Lewis Tackett would build what was called Fort Tackett, the first house built by a white man on the waters of Coal River. Tackett was the grandfather of all of us who have Tackett ancestors. They traveled down what the Indians called Keninshek (ken-in-she-ka) meaning River of Evil Spirits, we know it as Kanawha River. They came to a big river they called Ohionhio (o-hi-on-hi-o) meaning Beautiful River, we call it the Ohio. They crossed the Ohio and some distance from the river they encountered their enemy, the Shawnee, with whom they did battle, in which Gabriel participated. His actions would help him in his future dealings with the Cherokee Indians.

They traveled south down through Ohio and Kentucky into the edge of Tennessee, then back to the Clinch Mountains. After about a two-year stay with the Cherokee, Gabriel went back to Fort Henry and made a report on his travels and gave descriptions of creeks, rivers, and other things he saw. Gabriel later went back to the Clinch Mountain where he traveled down both sides of the Appalachian Mountains into Florida. He worked the fur trade between the Indians and Abraham Woods. Gabriel married what historians would refer to as a Cherokee Indian maiden, she being from a village on the Virginia / Tennessee border. Gabriel and his Indian wife have descendants that live in Newton and Spencer, West Virginia and also Kentucky and Tennessee.

A Description of Cobb's Creek

This is a description of Cobb's Creek, it's forks, branches, ridges, knobs, bottoms, and places of interest. It is my hope this will give you a better understanding of where people lived and where some of the names came from.

As you leave Little Coal River and start up Cobb's Creek on the right side is the Old Cemetery. Still on the right side is McCorkle Hill, the first drain is on the left side and is called the Mulberry Hollow, named by Elbert Kidd. Four generations of the Kidd family have lived there: Columbus "Lum" Kidd, his son Elbert, his daughter Pearl who married Joe Pauley, and their son Danny Joe Pauley. Across the creek is a bottom and fifty years ago it was called Isaac's Bottom. At that time it was a ball field. Lots of ball games were played there. It is once again a ball field and recreation park. It belongs to McCorkle Freewill Baptist Church.

The next hollow is on the left, it is called the Bee Rock Hollow, because the honeybees built there homes in a hole in a rock about one halfway up the hollow on the right side of the hill. Across the creek, and just above is Tiny Branch, named for Valentine Kessinger, the first settler on this branch. As you go up Tiny Branch the first hollow is on the left, it is called the Log Cabin Hollow, because of a log house that once stood there. The next is also on the left side but the Fork Creek Coal Company tore it out to build a coalmines. Behind the coal mines in a westerly direction on top of the hill is the Ben Lively Flats. I assume Ben Lively lived there in the early part of the 1800's. Preston and Jeanie Brown live there now. In front and across the creek is the Tiny Branch caves. The next thing is the road that comes from Corridor G, built by the coal company. The next hollow is on the right side, it is called Slab Chute Hollow. At the top of the hill was a sawmill and a chute was built to get rid of the slabs, thus the name. The next hollow is on the left side, called the Deep Hollow, because the sides are deep and steep. The next thing is the Fall Rocks. The road up Tiny Branch was always in the creek and they would build a bridge up over the Fall Rocks. When I was about thirteen years old, the remains of the last bridge was still there, but was rotted. The next is the Fall Rock Hollow, it is on the right side. The next is the Forks of Tiny Branch. Between the forks is a point known as the Saw Mill Point. On the right side of the hill was where Valentine Kessinger lived, but Corridor G or Route 119 goes through where the house was. There are two cemeteries on this point The first is where the Dolins are buried, the second is where John W. Pauley's family are buried. As you go on up the right fork, the Hog Bottom is on the left. On the right is the Joe Dolin Hollow. The next is on the left and it is called the Coal Bank Hollow, because of the coalmines. The next is on the left and is called the Dick Adkins Hollow. The next is also on the left and it is called the George Adkins Hollows. They were brothers who lived at the mouth of these two hollows. As you go up the left fork on the left is the John Armstrong bottom, next on the right is the Isom Smith Hollow, just above on the left is the Austin Smith Hollow, Isom and Austin were brothers. Above this last drain is the Austin Smith bottom.

About thirty-five years ago a World War II veteran lived, who was never married, and was sort of a hermit. He liked to make a little moonshine whiskey to sip on . He set seven posts in the ground. He put a flat, tar paper roof on it. Around the sides he tied burlap sacks, leaving a three-foot opening for a door. It also was covered with a burlap sack. It was called the sack house. Denver "Den" Dunlap was his name. He lived all of his life on Tiny Branch, except while in the Army. He would spend the Spring, Summer, and Fall in this sack house. Then go back down to his house to stay in the winter. I knew Den and all of his brothers and sisters. They were all good people.

The next two drains are on the left side but I don't know their name. Then you come to a small bottom named for John Pauley who was married to Jesse Canterbury. Across from this bottom on the right side of the creek is the Savannas Thomas Hollow. On the ridge in the head of this hollow is a rock with holes in it. The old timers called it the Indian Kettle Rocks. To the left of this is a high knob known as the Fox Knob, because for over 100 years fox hunters from Cobb's Creek, Fuquay's Creek, and other places met there to listen to their hounds running foxes.

We will now go to the mouth of Ely. It's on the left side and was named for Ely Parsons. A man who came here from Virginia to dig ginseng. The first drain going up Ely is on the right and it is called Dead Man's Hollow. I don't know if this is where it got its name or not, but I was told that when hobos would ride the train they would come up Cobb's Creek looking for a handout. Once a hobo was found in the road in front of this hollow dead. He had no identification on him. He was buried in the Anderson Cemetery at Pine Grove. The next is on the left and is called the Cat Hollow. On the top of the hill, back of the Cat Hollow, is the Bayless Knob, named for Bayless Pauley. In the bottom just above it is where I was told Ely Parsons built his cabin. The next is on the right, and is called Little Deaden. The next is also on the right and is called Big Deaden. Named because the early settlers would cut a ring around the tree. This would kill it, allowing them to plant crops under them. This was called deadening the tree, thus the name of the two hollows. Keep in mind this was virgin timber, some tree trunks were eight to fourteen feet thick. The next is on the left side and called Ephraim Branch, after Ephraim Pauley, who moved from Fuquay's Creek and owned over 4,000 acres on Cobb's Creek. Deed Book U-V, Page 71 in the Kanawha County Court House.

Going up Ely below where the church house is this area was called Malleable Town. Because the Malleable Coal Company had built at least 10 small houses in that bottom to rent to employees. On the right was the Powder House Hollow, so called because the Malleable Coal Company built a small house to keep their black powder in. Straight across from this hollow is where the Malleable Coal Mines was. The next hollow is also on the right, and I don't know its name. The next is on the left and is called Walnut Hollow, this is where Bernard Miller lives. The next is on the right and it is called the Slick Rock Hollow. The next is also on the right and it is Moss Rock Hollow. The next is on the right and it is called Camp Rock Hollow. All of these are self-explanatory. Near the mouth of the Camp Rock Hollow is a hole of water called the Jewel Hole. The next is on the right it is called the Tackett Hollow, after Jim Tackett. The next is on the left and it is called the Board Tree Hollow. What the old timers called board trees was usually red oak and straight grained trees. Someone probably cut one there years ago. Riving boards will be discussed in another chapter. The bottom in front of the Board Tree Hollow is called the Julia Hale Bottom. In 1928 Bernie and Audrey Justice lived there.

The next hollow is also on the left it is called Wolf Trap, my great-grandparents lived at the mouth of Wolf Trap for over fifty-eight years, they were John and Letha Jane (Pauley) Brogan. They had sheep and there were wolves here then. There is a rock cliff on the left side as you go up Wolf Trap and they built a pen to keep the sheep in at night. It was a double pen. In the front they kept sheep, in the back pen against the rock was empty. The wolves would start down the rock and slip into the back pen and couldn't get out. They were not the first to use this type of trap. But that's where it got its name. Going up Wolf Trap, the first hollow is on the left it is called the Maul Hollow, because someone cut a wooden maul from it. The next is on the right called the Ash Knot, because of a knot on a white ash tree. The next is on the left called the Golden Brogan Hollow, because Golden and Esta (Spears) Brogan lived there. The next is also

on the left, it is called the Lafe Pauley Hollow, because Lafayette and Grace (Brogan) Pauley lived there. The next two were Joe Moore and Golden Jones Hollow, because they lived there. The Gillenwater Flats are back on the hill named for Dan Gillenwater. At different times these hollows were called different names, because of who lived there at the time: Gilbert Justice, Harve Quentrell, and others.

The next hollow pass Wolf Trap is on the left, it is called the Coal Bank Hollow, because of a coal bank used by the community. The next is on the right. It is called the Buck Hollow, I don't know why. The next is also on the right, it was first called Little Fork, but was changed to Little Ely. Before the road was built up Ely Mountain in the 1930's. People traveled on foot and horseback up Little Ely and through the low gap to Buckeye Fork.

The next hollow on main Ely was on the right and I don't know it's named. The next is on the left and was called the Shadrack Pauley Hollow, later called the Bill Justice Hollow. The bottom below it is called the Shadrack Pauley bottom. In this bottom is where the loggers in the 1850's built a bunkhouse. The next is on the left and it's called the Fudge Hollow, where Alvin Loftis lived. Now back to main Cobb's Creek.

The next hollow above Ely is on the right it is called the Coal Bank Hollow. This is where people in that area dug their house coal. The next is on the left it is called Mill Seat. Probably because of a sawmill that sat there. The bottom above Mill Seat is called Punkin Town. There are about three different sources for this name, one was that in 1916 Lum and Mariah Dunlap and family lived in this bottom, when the big flood of 1916 came there house, their garden stuff, and everything they owned except one pumpkin vine washed away. This vine was said to have produced the biggest crop of pumpkins ever on Cobb's Creek. The next is on the right. It is called the Walloon Hollow, someone saw a walloon bird there. The bottom above that is the Long Ford Bottom. Before the 1930's the road went into the creek about the mouth of Tiny Branch and didn't come out until it got to the Long Ford Bottom. The road went back into the creek about where Evie Pauley lives. This being the longest stretch the road was out of the creek. Grassy Fork is the next branch. I don't know where it got its name. The first hollow on Grassy Fork is the Julian Pauley Hollow. He lived in the low gap at its head. The next hollow was also on the right and is the Bill Graley Hollow. He lived in front of and across the creek in a small bottom. The next is called Whiskey Branch by some, Will Paul Hollow by others, and the Mary Liz Hollow by others. It's where Harold Hensley lives now. On the left is a small drain it was called the Drip Hollow because even in extremely dry weather there was always water seeping over a big rock at it's mouth. Just below it lived Will Paul, his wife Nannie, and their son Ezra. The next is on the right and is called the Joe Paul Hollow. The next is Spring Branch., where I lived from age 6 to age 35. I suppose it got its name because of the Spring near its mouth. Going up Spring Branch, the first hollow is on the right and called the Dug Well Hollow, because of a hand dug well about thirty feet below it. The next is called Sugar Tree Hollow, because of the sugar maples that grew in it.

The next is also on the right and is called the Dog Hollow. It got it's name about 100 years ago, when a dog that wasn't any good, which meant he wasn't a hunting dog, they would kill this type of dog. Someone took a dog up this hollow and bent a tree over, tied a rope to it's top and the other end around the dog's neck and hanged him. A few nights later Will Paul went possum hunting, as it was called then. He was walking up this hollow with a dim lantern and didn't see the dead dog until he ran into it hanging in this tree, thus the name Dog Hollow. In the head of this hollow is a big rock, called the Buzzard Rock. The next is on the right, but I don't know its name. The next is on the left, it's called the George Smith Hollow, he was the second

person to live there. This George is the son of Jordan and Lucinda (Lacy) Smith. The next is on the right, it is called the Line Hollow, being the property line between Morton Griffith and General Bowman.

The next is on the left where Uncle Jim Runyan lived and he had a water powered gristmill. It was a small mill, he ground mostly for his own use. I have the stone burrs used in that mill. The next hollow goes to the right where John Jones and his family lived. Now back to main Grassy Fork. The next hollow is on the left, it is called the William Lively Branch, he lived at its mouth. The next hollow is on the right, called the Sawmill Hollow, where Paul and Isabel Jones lives. The bottom below it is called the Sawmill Bottom, where Ollie Jones lives now. At the time of my writing she is 99 ½ years old. The second oldest person on Cobb's Creek, surpassed only by Cecil Turley, who is 100 years old. The next is on the left, I don't know its name. The next is on the right and I don't know its name. The next is also on the right, first known as the Jerry Stephens Hollow, then the John Pauley Hollow, he was the son of Preston Pauley, next it was called the Ezra Pauley Hollow, he was the son of John. Now they call it the Frog Pond Hollow. Because of a frog pond that was above it. Not to say anything bad about its name now, but I liked all of the other name's better because of the historical factor, there is a lot of history in that hollow. The next is called the Coal Bank Hollow. That's where all of the local folks dug their house coal. The hill in front of the Coal Bank Hollow is called Jake Mountain, because Jake Runyan lived there when they built the road up the hill.

Up on top of the hill was called Fairview, where the first cemetery was started on Cobb's Creek. It is located behind where the Fairview School was. The Lively Cemetery is on the point between main Cobb's Creek and Grassy Fork, at the end of Ford Road. Now back to main Cobb's Creek. On the right as you go up is the Cobb's Creek Freewill Baptist Church. Just across the road on the edge of the creek bank is where Henry Graley and later George Pauley's grist mill was. Henry lived in the bottom where Tony and Janet (Justice) Adams lives now. Between them and Glen Justice's house is the Graley Hollow, named for Henry Graley. Just above and on the right side of the creek is a big rock, called the Banjo Rock. Because a boy got a banjo and his parents wouldn't let him bring it into their house. so he hid it under this rock. I've heard his name called but I have forgotten it. Straight across the creek and about half way up the mountain is a rock cliff, which is called the Buzzard Rocks. The old timers said that the buzzards built nests in this one and the one on Spring Branch. Just above the Banjo Rock on the right is a bottom called The Ad Brogan Bottom, where Danny and Ann Justice live now. Behind their house is the old swimming hole and lots of people were baptized there including me.

The next hollow is on the left, it's Buckeye Fork, first called Wolf Pen Fork. Someone probably built a pen similar to the one on Wolf Trap. The first hollow up Buckeye Fork is on the left, its called Spruce Pine Hollow. In front of this hollow lives Mike Graley, whose people are from Big Coal River. Inside his house is an old hand hewn log house that was built by Peter McClure. It is probably the second oldest house on Cobb's Creek. Up on the right side of the hill is the Peter McClure Cemetery. When I was a boy from the mouth of Grassy Fork to the first house on Buckeye you would cross seven bridges or foot logs, as they were called then, the foot logs were high off the ground and tied on one end. This was done so that when there was a flood the bridge would wash around to the side and not down the creek. After the water went down, men in the neighborhood would gather and go from one creek crossing to the next putting the bridges back into place. Now on up Buckeye, the next hollow is on the right. It is called the Willis Pauley Hollow. The next is on the right, it is called the Joseph McClure Hollow. He lived in the bottom above it. In front of this hollow is a hole of water known as the Marion Griffith

swimming hole. Up on the hill behind the old Joseph McClure house is the Joseph McClure Cemetery, where he and some members of this family are buried. The next is also on the right and is called the Carl Graley Hollow. The next is on the left and is known as the Boone Hollow, because Daniel Boone Holstein lived there. The next is also on the left and known as Woods Branch, I don't know why. As you go up the branch on the right on a small point is the Holstein Cemetery. The first hollow is on the right and has been called the Jack Brogan Hollow. The next is known as the Ezra Graley Hollow, the Dorsey family has built a large pond there. From the mouth of Woods Branch up Buckeye Fork is a long stretch of very swampy bottoms and the hills are very steep on both sides. To my knowledge no one ever built a house in this section. At the end of this section, on the left side is the Warren McCormick Bottom, where he and his wife Jane lived in a two story log house.

Across the creek and in front of the Warren McCormick Place up on top of the other hill is the Press Field, where baseball games were played every Sunday afternoon in the warm months back in the early nineteen hundreds. This land was owned by the Bill Mohler family, that owned all of Ivy Branch. Just above the Warren McCormick Bottom on the right are two small hollows, neither have names. In the second one Lysses McCormick lived for several years. Now Hezekiah Shifflett lives there. Just above and on the left is the Uncle Wash Pauley place, later known by his daughter - in - law's name the Martha Jane Place. On a little knoll in back of this place is the Wash Pauley Cemetery. Just above that the hollow forks, the Upper Buckeye School that was built around the 1900's and is still standing about sixty feet from the forks. Going up the right fork, the first hollow is on the right and is called the Winfield Loftis Hollow, before that it was called the Tom Loftis Hollow. This is where Lightburn Dunlap built a small building and was used as the Train post office during his time as postmaster. Later the Dunlap family operated a store there. Just a little piece above there the creek forks again, the right fork is called the Brushy Knob Hollow, the left fork is called by some people the Leander Young Hollow. Before that it was called the Tackett Hollow, and still is. It was named for William Tackett who married Elizabeth, daughter of Ephraim Pauley. Just up the Tackett Hollow on the right is a hollow named for John Acie Midkiff, who was the first to live in it. On a knob close to the head of the Tackett Hollow on the right as you go up is the Midkiff Cemetery. The Moore Cemetery, named for Joseph Moore's family is on the other side of the hill toward Summit Ridge.

Now to the left fork of Buckeye. In the first bottom Tommy Johnson's widow, Olive, lives now. Between her house and the creek, Charles and Elizabeth (McCormick) Dunlap lived in a log house. Just above and on top of the hill is the Dunlap Family Cemetery, located about one hundred yards up the point from Danny and Rosemary (Holstein) Johnson's house. Stanley and Caroline (Means) Johnson lives just up the hollow from his mother's at the Uncle French Midkiff place. Just above that and on the right is the Harry Porter Hollow. And the old road that went up Buckeye, goes up the side of the hill there and comes out close to where Janet Allen lives now.

Now back to the mouth of Buckeye. Just above the Ad Brogan Bottom on the right was the Lower Buckeye School, just above and on the left was the Peter McClure store, where Jim and Tammy Holstein live now. Going up main Cobb's Creek the first drain is on the right, and I don't know its name. The next is on the left, it is called the Sawraill Hollow, across the creek and in front of it is the Dan Midkiff Bottom. The next hollow is Big Branch, because it is the biggest stream past Buckeye. The Bowman Point lays between Big Branch and main Cobb's Creek, named for Alec Bowman who married Louanna, daughter of Washington and Julia (Pauley) McClure. Going on up main Cobb's Creek, on the left is Round Hollow, if you look at it in the

winter you will know why it is called that. The next is on the right, called the Joe Hollow, I don't know why. The next is on the left called the Spring Hollow, because of a spring in the hollow, The next is on the left and it's beside of where Green Bay Road is. The next is on the right where Jesse McCallister lives. The next is on the left and it is called the Graley Branch, named for Thomas Graley. Thomas, Henry, Bill, and Carl Graley have the honor of having a hollow named after them. Across Route 214 in front of Erma Dunlap's store is the Thomas Graley Cemetery, where some of his family are buried. The next hollow is on the left, it's where the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church is and was called the Meeting House Hollow by the old timers and the name is also written in some old deeds.

The next is on the right and runs from just below the Sod post office to where the Fairview School used to be, its called Mill Hollow. As you go up Mill Hollow on the left is Deaden Hollow, named for the same reason as Big and Little Deaden, it runs by Virgil Brogan's house and up by Rudy Pauley's house. The next is also on the left, it's called the Mule Hollow. There are two unmarked graves in the head of the Mule Hollow. On a ridge between the Mule Hollow and Deaden Hollow is the Daniel Pauley Cemetery. It is on the property lines of Rex and Trilby Hill and Roe and Grace Smith. Now back to Sod post office. Behind the Sod post office is a cemetery that belonged to Joseph Midkiff's family. Going up past Sod post office the next hollow is on the left, it's where Hiland Purdy lived for several years, but I don't know the name for that hollow. The next is on the right below Delano Burton's house, it's called the Brogan Hollow, for Allen Brogan who moved there in about 1835. The next two is also on the right, I don't know their names. In the head of these last two hollows is the Elijah McClure Knob. Two roads lead to that knob. One is Doris Lane named for Doris Marker, the other comes off Garret Bend Road. The last hollow on the left is called the John Hill Hollow. In the head of Cobb's Creek where Bob Pauley and Brenda (Lovejoy) Gillispie lives is the low gap between Cobb's Creek and Hayzlett Fork of Mud River.

Fleming Cobb

Fleming Cobb, born 23 December 1767 in Albemarle County, Virginia, died 10 January 1846 at the mouth of Davis Creek, Kanawha County, Virginia at his log cabin that was torn down sometime after 1900. Fleming married Sarah Morris on 16 January 1796 in Kanawha County Virginia. Sarah was born at Donnelley's Fort, Greenbrier County, Virginia in 1775 and was the daughter of Leonard Morris who lived at Brownstown or Marmet.

According to Fleming's army pension request he came to Fort Lee about 1793. Fleming was an Indian spy and scout. His job was to travel up and down the Kanawha and Ohio Valleys and surrounding areas checking for Indian sign from May until October. These were the months when Indians were traveling. In the winter months they would stay on the other side of the Ohio River in their villages. The spies received very little pay so they supplemented their income by digging ginseng. Ginseng is a herb and was in great abundance in this area and of very high quality.

My grandmother, Georgia (Brogan) McCormick told me that the old timers talked about Fleming Cobb coming to the mouth of Ely, where he had a lean to and he would camp for two to three weeks, hunting and digging ginseng. It would be my opinion that he only hunted to provide food while he was camped there. Fleming would dig the ginseng, take it back to Fort Lee, which was located at the mouth of Elk River, dry the ginseng and get it ready for market. Fleming

would have either taken it to Lewisburg, which was called Greenbrier Courthouse at that time and sold it to a trader that would have taken the ginseng to a seaport and shipped it to China. China has been trading with the white people since the days of Marco Polo. Fleming also could have taken the ginseng to Point Pleasant, which was called Fort Randolph then, where it would be sold to French fur traders and the ginseng sent to New Orleans, put on a ship, and sent to China where it was worshiped at their god. Anyway Hardesty also told part of this story about Cobb's Creek being named after Fleming Cobb. My grandmother told me that his camp was in the bottom where Frances McCallister now lives.

The Wilderness

When the early settlers came to Cobb's Creek they built their houses out of logs. There are two types of log houses. One was a hand hewn log house. The logs were squared up with the use of a broad ax. The logs were notched and laid on top of a log going in the opposite direction, but this was time consuming and they usually needed to get the job done fast. The second was the round log method, this required cutting the tree down, removing the limbs, and bark, notching each end, and placing it on top of the log going in the opposite direction, then filling the cracks with mud. This was much quicker and gave them time to raise, gather, and preserve their food, chop and gather firewood, and other chores that a frontier family would have to do.

Straight grain red oak was cut, split, and boards about seven feet long were rived out with a fro. These were used to make doors. Hinges were also made out of wood, so were the door latches. Not being able to have glass windows, shutters were also made out of wood. Cabins were twelve to fourteen feet wide and fourteen to eighteen feet long. Later they would build a kitchen on the end of the house. Between the house and the kitchen they would have a breezeway or as it was called then a "dog trot". This space was used for many things, such as a porch to set on, to hang herbs to dry, and to hang green beans to dry which they called "leather britches". These kitchens were used mostly in the summer to keep the main house cool. In winter they cooked in the main house in the fireplace. This heated the house as well as cooked the food. If it was to be a two-story house, when the logs got to be about seven feet high, logs were flattened on three sides with a broad ax and placed cross ways with one end on one wall and the other end on the opposite wall. They were placed close together forming a floor. The side logs would be laid up another six feet. The gable would also be laid up with logs. Rafters would also be made out of logs. When they were put in place logs were laid across the rafters at two foot intervals, then boards were rived out with a fro and put on the roof in the dark moon to keep them from warping. This was called a clapboard roof. To make these clapboard roofs they would cut a three foot block off a straight grain red oak log and they would rive out boards about six inches wide and one half inch thick.

This makes the kind of roof that Uncle French Midkiff told me about. He said he stayed all night with one of our McCormick cousins who lived on Fall Creek. He said when it came time to go to bed he and his cousins went into the loft. It was as cold there as it was outside. The covers on the bed were so heavy it was difficult to turn over. He said you could see every star in the sky but when it rained there was no leaks.

These boards were rived out with the use of a fro and wooden mall. The fro was a straight thin piece of metal about three-eighths inch thick and fourteen to sixteen inches long with a wooden handle on its end. The handle and the fro form a 90 degree angle. The mall was made out of a white oak or hickory pole about six inches thick, the handle was about two foot long and

cut down with a draw knife to fit the hands. The three-foot block of wood was split into quarters with the use of wooden wedges and a hammer to drive the wedges through the block of wood. Then the fro was driven through the quartered up pieces of wood by being struck with the wooden mallet. This in turn would make the wooden boards. The boards for the doors and windows were rived out the same way. Tables, chairs, and other furniture were rived out the same way and were smoothed down with a draw-knife. A drawknife has a twelve to fourteen inch sharp blade with a handle on each end turned to a 90-degree angle.

Other buildings they needed were barns to keep their livestock and feed in. They had a building to salt and smoke meat, it was called a smokehouse. They would build a cellar by digging a hole in the bank and lining it with fieldstones. Most of the time they would put the smokehouse on top of the cellar. The cellar was used for storing canned stuff and to keep milk and butter cool in hot weather.

Their gardens were fenced in with what they called a pailing fence, now this is called a picket fence. To build this type of fence you would set two posts in the ground about ten feet apart and five foot high. And nail a board across from the first post to the second about one foot from the top. Then nail another board about eighteen inches above the ground, and nail the pailings up and down on these two board with the bottom of the board about six inches off the ground, and the top was sharpened to a peak. These pailings are rived out like the clapboards only they are about four to six inches wide and four to five feet high. The corn, hay, and other fields were fenced with split rails that have a zigzag pattern. These fences are made of logs that have been split into quarters with the use of wooden wedges. This was done because the livestock was allowed to run free in search of grass.

Water wells had to be hand dug. First they would take a forked willow limb. They would hold one fork in the left hand and the other fork in the right hand and walk around until the other end pulled down. This told them that water was below the surface of the ground. They would dig a hole between three to four feet wide and dig down until they hit water. Then they would gather flat rocks out of the creek to line the walls of the well. If you used fieldstones it would cause the water to taste like dirt. Then the well box was build around the dug well. Then put a pulley, rope, and a homemade bucket to the top of the well box.

They would go to the salt licks at Malden, above Charleston, to get their salt. It has been said that wild animals and Indians traveled to Malden for hundreds of years to get salt.

This story has been told by several people that on the Ivy Ridge there was a lead deposit and the early settlers knew where the lead was. They would get the lead, melt it down, and pour it into molds to make bullets for their old mountain rifles. This bullet making method was used until about 100 years or so ago when they began to buy ready-made shells. Whether this is true or not, I do not know.

Unlike the do-gooders of today that say no one should have a gun, every family had a gun and a good dog used for hunting and killing of game and to keep wild animals away from the chickens and the other farm animals. A good dog was of great value and almost a member of the family.

Ashes from the fireplace were saved, water was poured into the ashes, this became lye, beef tallow and fat were put into the pot with the lye water and boiled until it became thick, when it was cooled it was called "lye soap". It was used for washing dishes, clothes, and for bathing.

Women would make the clothing and warm quilts. Men would repair the shoes and others things. If they had what was put into yard sales today they would have had it made.

Early settlers did not have access to sugar. Molasses was not common until about the turn

of the century when cane mills were brought here. The only source of sweetener was honey. Honey was obtained by two methods. The first way was always done in the fall when bees had lots of honey. They would find a bee tree, cut it down, and rob the honey. The bad thing about this method is that the bees died having lost their food and their home.

The second method was to locate a bee tree in the spring and cut the tree down. Then they would make what they called a "bee gum". This is just another name for a bee hive. Most early settlers made a "bee gum" from a hollow log with boards nailed over the ends. Then they would drill a hole about two inches from one end for bees to go in and out. Then they would stand it upright with the hole near the ground. They would chop a hole in the cut down bee tree that was the length of the cavity storing the honey. They would set the bee gum on the bee tree just above the hole they chopped out. They would use smoke to drive the bees toward the bee gum. Once the Queen Bee had gone into a bee gum, the other bees would follow. They would leave the bee gum there for at least a week. Once the bees had made honey inside it, they considered it their home. If it was moved too soon the bees would leave the gum. When they got ready to move the gum, they would wait till dark, when all the bees were in it. They would stop up the hole, and carry it home to its new locations. Occasionally, they would find a bee tree that could be made into a bee gum itself, but this was rare. Once a year they would rob the bees using the honey to sweeten things and to eat raw. They would use the honeycomb or bees wax to make candles.

The only other source for sweetener was maple syrup. This was done by cutting a hole or tapping the maple tree, inserting a faucet or tap into the hole, and placing a bucket under the tap. After the bucket was full of sap it was taken home and boiled down into maple syrup. It took a lot of sap to make syrup.

Pioneer Tools

When our early ancestors came to Cobb's Creek tools would have been the most important thing on their list. A good axe and a cross cut saw was always on a sled or wagon, to cut fallen trees out of the road, or to cut wood for the camp fire, if they were traveling overnight.

Nona Conley, a friend of mine who came to Lincoln County from the state of Kansas, told me a few days ago that the people in Lincoln County were the most resilient people she had ever known. She said they could build or repair almost anything they needed. That was what our grandparents did and it has been passed down to most of us. When our grandparents came to Cobb's Creek they were mostly from Franklin County, Virginia and were friends, neighbors, and were related in some way. Collectively they all had enough tools to complete any job they needed to do and helped each other build their houses, barns, and other outbuildings. Also, they helped each other gather their crops.

Tools they brought would have been, at least two different size hammers, one for heavy work, and the other for light work, three or four different size wood augers with a "tee" handle on top made out of wood, a pick, a mattock, and a shovel to dig dirt and coal with, at least one metal pry bar about two inch in diameter and five feet long, a grub hoe, a draw knife, a fro, and a hatchet.

They would have brought a metal mole board and plow point for a turning plow, three different size shovel plow points, the big one for a single stalk or lay off plow, the other two was for a double shovel plow. After they got here they made wooden handles and beams for these plows. They would have brought about twelve spikes about twelve inches long, then took two

wooden beams and fastened them together into a triangle shape and drove the spikes through them. This was called a peg tooth harrow. The first plow was to turn the sod over, the peg tooth harrow was to tear up the clods, the single stalk plow was to make rows for planting, and the double shovel plow was for cultivating. They would have brought a corn cutter, which is a knife about two to two and one half foot long. It was used to cut and make fodder shocks. Rakes & pitchforks would have been made out of wood after they got here. A blacksmith made these metal tools. With these tools they built their furniture, houses, and other buildings, dug house coal, raised crops to feed themselves and their animals. They did a lot with a small amount of tools.

Post Offices

If you had lived on Cobb's Creek on October 1, 1794 your address would have been Greenbrier Courthouse, Virginia. Your postmaster would have been Jacob S. Kites, then James W. Matthews. This lasted until October 15, 1800 when the address became Kanawha Courthouse, Virginia. Your postmaster would have been Edward Graham. His term was from Oct 15, 1800 to sometime in 1802. Then Frances A. Dubois became postmaster. Sometime in 1808 William Whittaker became postmaster. Then on September 11, 1813 Patrick Kenon became postmaster. Then on April 24, 1815 William Hogue became postmaster. This lasted until March 1, 1817 when a post office was established at Coal's Mouth, Virginia now St. Albans, West Virginia. The first postmaster was Benjamin Cole. His term ended October 24, 1825 when George Davenport became postmaster. His term ended December 8, 1826. Then John Capehart became postmaster. His term ended September 5, 1835 when James T. Teays became postmaster. His term ended September 20, 1838 when John K. Porter became postmaster. His term ended April 30, 1839 when James T. Teays became post master again. His term ended May 2, 1840 when John Capehart became postmaster again. His term ended October 1, 1846 when Benjamin F. Thompson became postmaster. His term ended August 4, 1851 when Charles T. Turner became postmaster. His term ended December 3, 1852 when R. H. M. Smith became postmaster. His term ended May 18, 1853 when C. Carroll Capehart became postmaster. His term ended March 12, 1857 when Samuel Benedict became postmaster. During his term on June 20, 1863 West Virginia became a state and the address was changed to Coal's Mouth, West Virginia. Mr. Benedict's term ended August 31, 1864 when Dan J. Lewis became postmaster. His term ended February 3, 1871 when Richard H. Lee became postmaster. He was the last postmaster of Coal's Mouth, West Virginia and the first postmaster of St. Albans, West Virginia which was on January 26, 1872, his term ended March 22, 1873 when John S. Cunningham became postmaster.

His term ended January 20, 1874 when Mrs. America M. Baldwin became the first female postmaster of St. Albans. Then on October 10, 1877 Leroy A. Beckwith started a post office in his store and called it Upper Falls of Coal. This became the new address. This was discontinued on November 15, 1880 and the address was shifted back to St. Albans where Mrs. America M. Baldwin was still the postmaster. This address continued until May 11, 1881 when Daniel S. Rock opened a post office in the vicinity of where Alum Creek water plant is located. He called it Rome after Rome Pickens who owned the store that Mr. Rock had rented from him. Mr. Rock continued to be postmaster until March 16, 1882 when William L. Childress became postmaster. The post office was discontinued on December 28, 1883. Once again the address became St. Albans. This continued until September 3, 1885 when Rome was re-established with

William L. Childress as postmaster. This post office was in the Forks of Coal vicinity. His term ended September 27, 1889 when Charles B. Beckwith became postmaster. His term ended May 26, 1891 when William L. Childress became postmaster again. This address continued until Elijah J. McClure established in his store on August 8, 1891 the first post office on the waters of Cobb's Creek. It was called Scioto, after his newly born son. Mr. McClure was postmaster until October 5, 1904 when his brother Peter McClure became postmaster. Peter held this position until December 16, 1907 when he was replaced by his wife, Leona Pauley McClure, the first female postmaster on Cobb's Creek. She held this position until September 24, 1910 when a man by the name of Theodore F. Carter became Scioto's next and last postmaster. The post office was discontinued on March 31, 1911. This Theodore F. Carter was given to me by the postal department, I haven't been able to find his name in the census record or any other record so I have doubts if he was a postmaster. I believe this is a mistake by the postal department.

On April 18, 1904 the second post office on Cobb's Creek was established in a store that belonged to Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes, thus the name Train post office. It was located in the head of the Tackett Fork of Buckeye, close to the Summit Ridge Road. Its first postmaster was James W. Lively. He served until September 3, 1904 when Carrie Alley, the wife of preacher Joseph A. Alley became post master. She served until October 13, 1920 when Joseph Lightburn Dunlap became postmaster. He moved the post office to the mouth of the Tom Loftis Holler, where Bill Wright lives now. It was in a small building about thirty feet from the existing blacktop road. He served until it was discontinued on December 15, 1928. This section of Cobb's Creek became known as Sumerco.

The third post office on Cobb's Creek was started June 3, 1904 in the store of Samuel O'Dell Dunlap, Sod's first postmaster. The name SOD was derived from his initials. He continued to be postmaster until November 6, 1907 when Jeremiah Pauley became Sod's second postmaster, in the store that had formerly belonged to Samuel O'Dell Dunlap. He was postmaster until his death. Then on June 19, 1912 his brother Samuel G. Pauley became postmaster. This was in the store just above Samuel O'Dell Dunlap's store. Sam Pauley continued in this position until March 4, 1930 when Willard C. McCallister became acting postmaster then on April 12, 1930 he became postmaster. Willard operated the post office out of two different store buildings. The first was on the upper side of what is now Oiler Road and it's junction with Cobb's Creek road. The second was on what is now Route 214 in the brick building which is still standing and owned by Erma Dunlap. It was built about 1934. On April 16, 1939 Ephraim White became acting postmaster in the store of Lysses McCormick located across Route 214 and in front of it's junction of what is now McCorkle Road. A position he held until August 10, 1939 when Miss Dorothy McCallister, the daughter of Willard, became Sod's first female postmaster. She married on December 22, 1939 to Steven Runyan. Dorothy continued as postmaster until her sister in law, Mrs. Wanda Lou (Neal) McCallister, became postmaster on September 2, 1941 in a small house in the Sod rock quarry. During her tenure as postmaster she was in four different post office buildings. Mrs. McCallister served longer than anyone before or since and it is highly unlikely it will ever be duplicated. She served with distinction until December 31, 1985. When she retired with 44 years of faithful service. Frank Crisp became Office In Charge. He served until February 7, 1986 when Flora May Lovejoy became Officer In Charge. She served until Wendell W. Roberts became postmaster on August 30, 1986. He was there until October 2, 1992 when Janice G. Kirk became OIC. She was there until November 23, 1992 when Debra C. Wolfe became OIC. She was there until January 22, 1993 when Terri G. Dentie became OIC. She was there until March 18, 1993 when Mary C. Freeman became OIC. She was there until April 14,

1993 when Terri G. Denttie became OIC again. She was there until May 29, 1993 when Julian D. Burchett became postmaster. He was there until October 30, 1998 when Terri G. Denttie for the third time became OIC. She was there until April 24, 1999 when Charles D. Coates became the next and present postmaster.

The fourth post office was established on August 7, 1907 by Fred Simms, it's first postmaster, in a store he rented from Rome Pickens and named McCorkle after the ninth governor of the State of West Virginia. It was located on the east side of the C&O railroad about 60 or 70 feet below the depot. He held this position until February 14, 1915 when he sold his store goods to Fletch M. Priestley who became the second postmaster. He held this position until Feb. 1, 1940 when Mrs. Carrie J. Isaac became the acting postmaster. She was the wife of Rennie V. Isaac, Sr. the depot agent. They were from Carter County, KY. On May 31, 1940 Mrs. Isaac became the third postmaster. She held this position until October 27, 1961 when Mrs. Virginia (Justice) McCormick became the acting postmaster. On April 14, 1963 she became the fourth postmaster. She held this position until Nov. 1, 1965 when Mrs. Betty Dunlap became the acting postmaster, a position she held until the McCorkle post office was discontinued on June 17, 1966 when some of the area became part of Sod and some of the area became part of Sumerco.

The fifth post office was started by Fred Guy May who had rented a big store building called Summit Mercantile Company from the Cobb's Creek Railroad Company. This store was on property owned by Reese and Sissy Pauley. This area was first called Summit, being a Latin word for "the highest". It was the highest point between the Mud River basin and the Little Coal basin. The address in this area became Train in 1904 when the post office was started on the north end of Summit Ridge. Fred Guy May applied for and received permission to start a new post office on February 11, 1916. This post office was called Sumerco, derived from the letters "SU" on Summit and "MER" on Mercantile and "CO" on Company, thus spelling Sumerco. Thus the name Sumerco. He operated this post office until January 15, 1918 when the Sumerco post office was discontinued and the address again became Train, WV.

Then on May 22, 1926 Seward Pauley applied for and received permission to start the Sumerco post office again. This continued until February 9, 1928 when John A. Midkiff became acting postmaster. He became postmaster on February 29, 1928. He held this position until August 27, 1929 when Mrs. Martha (McCormick) (Hughes) Saul became the first female postmaster of Sumerco, a position she held until September 15, 1934 when the address went back to Sod, WV. Martha moved the post office from the Gap on Summit Ridge to the north End of Summit Ridge road where the Train post office had originally started. She was the widow of Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes and after his death she had married Jade Saul. The Sumerco post office was reestablished on May 23, 1940 by Mrs. Bertha Midkiff. She held the postmaster position until February 25, 1957 when Mrs. Ruth Louise Hall became postmaster, a position she held until November 21, 1979 when John Abbott became OIC. Then on January 26, 1980 Donna J. Stone became postmaster. She held this position until August 26, 1982 when John E. Carpenter became OIC. Then on November 13, 1982 Mrs. Geraldine (Gillenwater) Marker became postmaster. She held this position until May 31, 2001 when Norma (Loftis) Roberts became OIC. She held this position until October 6, 2001 when Richard G. Shelton, Jr. became the current postmaster.

We have went from a post office address General Delivery, Greenbrier Courthouse, VA that covered at least 900 square miles to a post office called Sod, West Virginia that covers about three square miles. We now have a street number and a zip code 25564.

Schools and Churches

This story about the Cobb's Creek Church was written by Sanford S. McClure, raised at Alkol, WV, the son of John W. and Lucy (Vickers) McClure.

It was written in a little booklet he put together for the McClure Reunion held at the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church in about 1948:

"The Cobb's Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1855 in the small log building in Council Gap. The Council that organized the church represented the Olive Branch Baptist Church on Turtle Creek and the Forks of Coal Baptist Church at Alum Creek. The Rev. Wythel A. Wood was moderator of the council and Adam Lacy was the clerk.

Other members of the council was: George W. Griffith, William Watts, A.J. Griffith, Aaron Griffith, Jeremiah Stephens, and Joseph Midkiff.

The charter members of this church were Aaron Griffith, Jeremiah Stephen, Cassandra Stephens, Adam Lacy, W.W. Pauley, Adam Jackson Griffith, Joseph Pauley, and Joseph Midkiff. The Rev. Wythel Wood was elected as the first pastor and Adam Lacy was the first clerk. The Rev. Mr. Wood acted as the first pastor until the Civil War.

Near the close of the Civil War, Rev. George W. Griffith was elected pastor. It was during his pastoral that a lot was purchased and a log building erected thereon. For a number of years the building was used as a church and a school. The building stood on the site where the present building now stands. After the log house was torn down, a second building was erected and used for several years. Some years later this building was likewise removed and the present building erected."

Nine years later Homer Pauley wrote a book called The First Hundred Years of Cobb's Creek Baptist Church. He stated:

"In the little log house at the source of Cobb's Creek near the Hayzlett Fork Gap, a school supported by parents (Virginia had no public schools at that time) had been carrying on for several years. It was in that little schoolhouse that Cobb's Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1855 and that schoolhouse served as the meeting house until the church built her own house. Rev. George W. Griffith, a native and resident of the present town of Olcott, West Virginia, and who had been preaching for about eight years, visited the Cobb's Creek area in about 1855, he had perhaps visited here previously as his oldest sister Cassandra and her husband. Jerry Stephens lived here, as did his brother A. J. Griffith, with those in this area there was a few Christians living. Rev. Griffith with the assistance of that small group, held service in that schoolhouse, and there it was decided to organize a church to be known as Cobb's Creek Baptist Church thereupon, Rev. Griffith proceeded and organized the church with charter members as follows: Jerry Stephens and his wife Cassandra, A.J. Griffith, Joseph Midkiff, Joseph Pauley,

Aaron Griffith, Nelson McClure, and W.W. Pauley. Although the church's records have been lost the proceeding list of persons have been recognized generally as charter members, however there may have been others, for the church letter to Teays Valley Association sent in soon after the church was organized in 1855 named Jerry Stephens and Nelson McClure as delegates and reported a membership of fourteen."

The writer (Homer Pauley) has personally known the organizing minister and a few of the charter members of our church, he has eaten with them, and listened to their conversations, and at no time did he hear a doubt expressed as to the Reverend G. W. Griffith being the organizing minister.

H. H. Hardesty visited Lincoln County in 1883 and wrote,

"The year 1830 witnessed the erection of the first school building. In that year four old pioneers John Chandler, Oliver Moore, Ephraim Pauley, and Ezekiel Midkiff, lay the foundation of the first institution of learning which existed on the banks of Little Coal River. They joined together and in a few days erected a round log cabin twelve foot by fourteen foot and high enough for the teacher to stand erect beneath the clapboard roof. One end was occupied by a huge fireplace, from which arose a cat and clay mud and stick chimney. From the other was chopped a log and over the aperture was pasted greased paper as a substitute for glass. The seats were made by splitting small logs in halves and inserting pins for legs in the oval sides."

Now for what I have been told about the first schoolhouse. The first schoolhouse built in 1830 on Cobb's Creek was at the mouth of what is now called The Frog Pond Hollow. It was built by Ephraim Pauley and others. It was also used as a church house. This was the custom in that day and time which was before the ACLU got a foothold in the United States and when people feared God more than man. This 12 by 14 log house was used for both church and school until the late 1850's.

In the year 1830 when the school house was built according to the census records and what I have been told by people Ephraim Pauley was living at the mouth of Beechy Fork of Fuquays Creek, according to the census of 1840 he lived on Cobb's Creek. Oliver Moore in the 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 census was living somewhere near Blue Tom. Ezekiel Midkiff in the 1830 and 1840 census lived at Ezekiel Branch where he died in the 1840's. John Chandler, the other gentlemen, reputed to have helped build the first school house in the 1830 - 1840 - 1850 and 1860 census was living somewhere on the left fork of Mud River probably on Joe's Creek in what is now the Duval District.

In the year 1830 when the school house was built, living just as close to the location of the school as these four men were families who had children that became well educated for that day. These are the names of some of them and it would be my opinion that at least some of them helped build the school house. Living on Fuquays Creek close to Ephraim was Moses Fuquays; David, Mahony, Jonathan, Andrew, and Joseph Pauley, Samuel Priestley lived close by on Priestley Ridge. On Island Creek lived John, Adam, and Jordan Lacy. Close to John Chandler on Joe's Creek lived Peter Holstein who had children that were well-educated. The Dunlap brothers lived across Little Coal River and up a short ways. There were the Midkiffs: Samuel, Jesse, Eli,

Joseph, and John that lived close to the mouth of Ezekiel Branch. Allen M. Smith lived close to Oliver Moore and his sons became merchants. Everyone of these men had children.

In this 12 x 14 round log structure in June of 1855 Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church was founded. In the late 1850's or early 1860's the members built a round log structure, 25 feet long, 16 feet wide. This is based on the size of Les Runyan's barn. This was in the mouth of what the old deeds and old-timers call The Meeting House Hollow, where the present church stands. This log church house was in use as a church and school until 1875 when the Board of Education built what was called Lower Buckeye School. This round log church house was torn down about the time the new school house was built or 1875. Sylvester Stephens took these round logs to the head of the Jerry Stephens hollow and built himself a house. After being lived in for several years, it was torn down, and moved to the Les Runyan farm, on what is now Ford Road, and is still standing.

The second building owned by the church was a bigger hand hewed log structure. It was in use until sometime after 1907, because I have a picture taken that year, when it was torn down and the logs sawed by a local saw mill into boards (Pauley and Hughes sawmill) which was used in building it's first plank building. The building was torn down and replaced by a cinderblock structure in 1950 and is still standing. Martha Jane (Smith) Pauley, daughter in law of Wash Pauley, donated timber off her property in the head of Buckeye Fork. Under the condition that the members of the church would always keep the Wash Pauley Cemetery cleaned and cared for. Members of the church got together and cut the trees down. Ross and Rolin Pauley borrowed a bull dozer from the gas company that Ross worked for and pulled the trees to the road. Lloyd Kidd took a one and one half ton truck and hauled the logs to Ernest Gillenwater's sawmill. Ernest sawed the floor joist, sub flooring, the rafters, and sheeting for the cinder block structure that is still in use. From time to time there has been repairs and additions. When the plank building was torn down these boards were used to built Percy Dunlap's house and is still in existence at Sumerco on Route 214 and lived in by Athaleen (Pauley) Tackett. The Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church is now pastored by Mike Kordusky. It owns a parsonage beside the church, and a fine activity building across the road in the old rock quarry.

One of the buildings that was used as a church house was built in 1854 or 1855 on Ely Fork. It was built by Allen M. Smith's logging crew for the purpose of a bunkhouse, for the timber men to stay in while they were removing the virgin timber. This building was described to me as a long slender round log building and was located in the lower end of the Shadrack Pauley bottom.

The second school house which was also used as a church was built in 1875 across the creek and just above the mouth of Buckeye. It was the first to be built by the Board of Education. It closed down in the early to mid 1950's. It was called Lower Buckeye School. I attended my first Sunday School and church services that I can remember there and still have a little Sunday School card I received that day. Also, the first funeral I attended was there, that of my great uncle Ad Brogan. Lots of children attended this school and lots of revival meetings were held in it.

The third school house was built in the head of Grassy Fork where Harold and Gloria Lee Runyan lives now. It was called Fairview School. The first school was taught there in 1890. I will use a little story that my Great Uncle Willie Griffith wrote to describe the first school taught at Fairview.

"The Fairview Schoolhouse was built in the year 1890 by William "Bill" McCallister. There were three members of the board of Education in Washington District at that time. I am only able to recall the name of one, Alfred Griffith. Buck Hill was the Board Secretary. The Board of Education purchased this site for the school house from Jerry Stephens consisting of one to two acres of land. There were three trustees, two I recall Jerry Stephens and John Pauley. The trustees hired the school teacher. Miss Maggie Lively was employed to teach the first term of school. Her salary was \$28 per month. The school term at that time was only four months. Willis Hill was the first janitor. John Pauley delivered the coal which was gotten from the hollow below where Desker Brogan now lives. It happened that during this first term practically all of these peoples took measles at one time. One of the trustees gave the teacher and Mr. Pauley a scolding because he thought there was not enough coal and he thought the teacher had let the fire get too low giving the children colds. At this time a 22 inch snow fell and as so many children were out with the measles the school was dismissed for a month. The last day for the first term of the Fairview School was quite an occasion. During the morning a spelling match was held. At noon all of the patrons had brought well filled baskets and a picnic dinner was held. During the afternoon the large boys and young men had a game of base. Then a program was given. The pupils recited and read "pieces", "dialogues", the patrons made talks, the teacher gave out candy to the pupils - thus ending the first term of school taught at Fairview."

The year 1890 was the year Uncle Willie was in the first grade at Fairview School.

Terry Adams told me when the Fairview School House was torn down Willie Griffith's name was written on the wall behind the blackboard.

The next school house was on Ely, a short distance up the Buck Hollow and it was called the Buck School. It was built of round logs and according to Homer Pauley's book entitled, The First Hundred Years of Cobb's Creek Baptist Church it was 14 feet x 16 feet and was an abandoned log house. All of my great grandfather John Brogan's children attended this school. My grandmother Georgia (Brogan) McCormick told me she went there until she graduated from the eighth grade. Because she liked school she went two more years in the eighth grade. One of her school teachers was Jehu Woodrum. He was a Baptist preacher. He held a revival there and my grandmother was converted to the work of our Lord and Savior. She was a faithful follower until her death.

The next school was built near the Forks of Buckeye. It was a plank house and was built about 1900. School was taught there until about December 1961 and the last teacher was Reva Jean Bragg. There was also lots of revivals held there. It was called Upper Buckeye School. This was to distinguish, the two Upper and Lower Buckeye Schools apart.

The next school was taught at McCorkle. It was located about 800 feet up Tiny Branch about where Marvin Dunlap built his house. There are records in the Lincoln County Courthouse that called it, The Slab School. Classes were taught there until 1918, that year the Board of Education built a one room plank school house, it was called the McCorkle Grade School. It was at the mouth of Tiny Branch where Bonnie & Peck Brogan live now. Later two additional class rooms were built, a small kitchen, and a dining hall were built. This was in use until 1959 when a

more modern cinder block and brick building was built at the mouth of Ely. It has a large gymnasium, four classrooms, a kitchen, principal's office, a boy's and a girl's bathroom. All of the other schools had one outside john which was used by boys and girls. The McCorkle Grade School is still open for head start students but probably only for a short time.

The next was Ely School, it was built just above the Buck Hollow on the left side of the creek as you go up. This school was built about 1915 and was in use until about 1962 when it was discontinued and children were sent to the Sumerco School. The last teacher was Joyce Wade.

Around June, 19, 1921 the people in the McCorkle area got together after having church in the school house and different people's homes. They decided to establish a new church. William "Ed" Walker was contacted in 1922 and he donated a piece of land. The first pastor was J. C. Hatfield. A wooden frame house was built and called The McCorkle Freewill Baptist Church. This building was used until 1956 when it was replaced by a cinderblock church. This building has been remodeled and they now have a large beautiful church house. They also have a large activity building out back of the church and a playground and ball field. The pastor of this church is Roe Smith.

The Cobb's Creek Freewill Baptist Church was started in the Lower Buckeye School House by local folks in that community. Donations were collected, Willard Dunlap sawed the lumber, and his son Donald delivered it, and Basil McCallister was the main carpenter. This church was built on a lot owned by Clayton Justice. Later they added a basement and various remodeling has occurred through the years. A few years ago someone named Miller changed the name to Victory Harvest. It is now pastored by Billy Silva.

In about 1900 people were holding service in the Buck School House on Ely. In 1908 they organized a church under the fellowship of the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church and a short time later, about 1912 or 1914 they built the Ely Church across the creek from the mouth of Little Ely. Some years later Floyd Justice, a Missionary Baptist Preacher, went to another county, held a series of revivals, and was converted to the Freewill Baptist doctrine. He came back to Ely which was his home church and with the help of some of the people in that church it was changed to a Freewill Baptist Church and continued until sometime in the 1970's when church was discontinued there. The building has since been torn down.

On Summit Ridge a church was built and first called a Church of God, then changed to a community church. A basement was built under it for classrooms and at different times remodeling has occurred until they have a nice church house. Across the road from it they built a nice activity building. Chuck Adkins is the pastor. This church is located on Summit Ridge and in the head of the Left Fork of Buckeye not far from the Dinkie Spring.

At the top of Cobb's Creek mountain is a Church of God. It was built sometime around 1960. Not very many people attend this church but someone keeps the grass mowed and very clean around the building. Coltus Byrd said in the Lincoln Journal that she had been pastor there for forty years.

In the head of Cobb's Creek just over on the Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek side of the ridge in what is now called Council Gap was the beginning of the Church of Christ. This story was told to me by William "Bill" Watts. "His great grandfather was a Baptist preacher named William Watts. He came to Danville, WV in the fall of 1855 to teach school. About a year later he married one of his students Mary Jane Owen. He later moved to Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek. Later he became the pastor of Cobb's Creek Baptist Church. After the Civil War broke out he being from Macon, GA joined the rebel army. (He was really from Kentucky according to his

marriage record.) He went into battle and saw that it was a dangerous place, he decided that a preacher should not be in that predicament, so he quit and came home. The Home Guard of the Union Army, made up of old men and boys, began to take shots at him. Once again his life was in danger, so he leaves his family and heads for Macon, GA. While there he gets hooked up with the Church of Christ. After the war was over he comes home, converts several of his family, and neighbors to the Church of Christ doctrine, then they go to the Cobb's Creek Missionary Church and try to convert them. But they wouldn't hear of it. And showed them the door. At that time the road to Joe's Creek went up the hill from the Church House, they went up the hill and stop in the low gap between Cobb's Creek and Joe's Creek, sat down on a log and held council. Thus the name Council Gap. Later they built their church house there. It was on the Joe's Creek side and called the Council Gap Church of Christ. "

Sometime about 1970 a church was built on Ely and called the Gospel Tabernacle, it was later changed to a community church. Lee Graley was its first pastor. It is now pastored by Kenneth Webb. This makes a total of seven churches that were built on Cobb's Creek as churches.

In all of these school houses that were built on Cobb's Creek, with the exception of the McCorkle Grade School built at the mouth of Ely, they held revivals, regular Wednesday night prayer meetings, on Sunday morning they had Sunday School and preaching, homecomings, dinner on the ground, and a sermon by the chosen preacher. Movies were shown and different entertainers such as Sleepy Jeffers, Honey and Sonny, the Davis Twins, and even a few well known people would put on shows in these school houses. Then as now all of the schools were and are built by "we the people" but "we" don't have much to say about what goes on in them.

Stores on Cobb's Creek

As I stated in another chapter there was thirteen different store buildings built between 1905 and 1940 from the mouth of Cobb's Creek to the mouth of Tiny Branch, a distance of about one-half mile. Going up Cobb's Creek and up Ely, Delbert "Boo" McCallister had a store at the mouth of Little Deaden. Just above the Malleable Bottom on the left side of the road Wilmer and Pauline Clark had a store. Just above the Shadrack Pauley bottom on the right side of the creek, Leander Young had a store, making three stores on Ely.

Now back to main Cobb's Creek. At Punkin Town Harold and Tina Dunlap ran a store for a short time. Freddie and Mabel Edwards had two stores. Across the road in the mouth of the Walloon Hollow George and Freda Dunlap had a store in their basement. Up in the Long Ford bottom, Kelly Armstrong owned a store. Don and Juanita Huffman had a store up Grassy Fork where Doris Jean Pauley lives. Rondie and Barbara Wright owned a store where D. A. Morgan lives. In the next bottom where Jerry and Peggy Marker lives, John and Teddy Angus owned a store, that's where I drank my first soft drink and ate my first candy bar. At the mouth of Spring Branch, Morton and Blanche Griffith built a small store. Across the road and just below, they built a cinder block store, making five stores on Grassy Fork.

Now up main Cobb's Creek. Across the creek from the mouth of Buckeye, where Danny and Ann Justice, lives in the Ad Brogan bottom Homer Thompson had a store. In the bottom where Jim and Tammy Holstein live, Peter McClure had a store. On up Cobb's Creek on the right side Samuel O'Dell Dunlap had a store. It is marked by a sign stating Sod's first post office. Just above and on the same side, Samuel and Blaine Pauley had a store and post office. On up and on the left side just above Oiler Road, Willard McCallister had a store. Willard also built a brick

store up on Route 214, it is still standing and belongs to Erma Dunlap. Both of these buildings owned by Willard were also post offices. Going north on Route 214, Wanda McCallister had a small store and post office beside of her house. At the junction of Garrets Bend Road and Route 214, Winfield Dunlap's family built a service station. It is now owned by Clifford and Vivian Pauley. At the junction of Route 214 and McCorkle Road Lysses McCormick built a store and it was later owned and operated by Winfield Dunlap. On the right as you turn down McCorkle Road Bill Turley had a small store. On up Sod Mountain, Jim and Doris Marker had a store. On up Doris Lane, Elijah McClure II had a store and post office called Scioto, WV. Going south about half way up Cobb's Creek Mountain, Lawrence and Willadean Cooper had a store. At the junction of Route 214 and Keeling Road Troy and Zane Tackett built a service station. It was later turned into a beer joint, and has now been turned into a house. Just about one half mile on up Route 214 and on the right side of the road Troy and Hattie McCormick built a store. Near the junction of Summit Ridge Road and Route 214, Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes, Jade Saul, and Anthony Matthews each had stores. Jade Saul built a garage and rented it to different people. Reba and Ronnie Banks had a restaurant beside of where Dewey and Geneva Smith's house is.

To the best of my knowledge there was only two stores on Buckeye Fork, the first was just below Woods Branch and was owned by Jehu and Mary Woodrum. The next was just above the forks of Buckeye on the right fork and was owned by Lightburn Dunlap.

Now to the stores located on Summit Ridge. Summit Mercantile Company was owned by Cobb's Creek Railroad and was rented to different people. Tom Griffith had two different store buildings. One store building was close to Janet Allens house. The other was at the foot of the French Midkiff Hill where Kessell Justice lives. Seward McCormick had a store beside Uncle Johnny McCormick's house. In the Gazetteer at the Archives in Charleston in 1895 at Sciota, WV it lists Pauley and Turley General Store. In 1900 it lists McClure and Son General Store. It also lists W. H. Turley General Store. In 1902 it lists W. H. Turley Store and Music Teacher. I have been told there were seven stores on Summit Ridge. At Sod there is two or three stores I don't know the location of. On the waters of Cobb's Creek I have located over 50 different store buildings, two of them I don't know where they were located.

Early Settlers

In the latter part of the seventeen hundreds and the early part of the eighteen hundreds on the east side of the Appalachian Mountains in the counties of Pittsylvania, Franklin, Albemarle, Botetourt, Buckingham, Giles, VA and in Stokes County, NC boys and girls were being born who would play a big part in both populating and the historical factors of what is now Cobb's Creek, in Washington District, Lincoln County, WV. Now for the names, and this is close to the order in which they came to Cobb's Creek:

Lively, Pauley, Brogan, Tackett, McCormick, Graley, Eskew, Kessinger, Stephens, Allen, Dunlap, McClure, Midkiff, Hill, Holstein, Jones, Harless, Hall, Smith, Griffith, Markers, Justice, Loftis, Moore, Armstrong, Paul, Cooper, Harvey, Kidd, Alley, Elkins, Young, Dolin, Belcher, and Keeling.

Most of these early settlers were of the Scotch-Irish ancestry. With a few from England and at least one German. Henry Hardesty, the man who in the 1880's traveled most of the counties of West Virginia writing a small amount of community history. He charged five dollars to write the

personal history of people who had enough money to afford it, but not many families had the money to pay him. He came through Cobb's Creek in 1883. His writings have been a very valuable tool for the amateur genealogist and historian such as myself. But according to my research and people I have interviewed he got two or three things wrong about Cobb's Creek. He says Richard Parsons built a cabin at the mouth of Cobb's Creek and stayed five years without claiming any property, then left, but not until Eli Parsons, James Lively, and Samuel Midkiff had moved to Cobb's Creek.

First we will discuss Richard Parsons. None of the old people I talked to ever mentioned him and I haven't been able to find any record of him. Next we will discuss Eli Parsons. The old timers told me he built a small log cabin on Ely about where Denzil Turley lives now and Ely Fork was named after him. Other than that I have found nothing more about Eli Parsons, but it would be my opinion that if Richard was here, he and Eli were related in some way and were only here to dig ginseng. And after a short time they went back to the Franklin County, Virginia area and bought a farm, which is what a lot of people did with the ginseng money. It would also be my opinion that they told their friends and relatives about this area since the Parsons and most of Cobb's Creek's families were from Franklin County, Virginia.

Next we will discuss Samuel Midkiff. He came to Kanawha County, Virginia in about 1815 and settle on what is now Ezekiel Branch on Little Coal River, which was named after his son. In 1820 Samuel's wife, Lydia (Parsons) Midkiff, died. In 1822 Samuel re-married to Rebecca Smith. In 1827 Samuel Midkiff died and his will was probated giving his three sons equal shares of his property. He had no daughters. The only property Samuel had was almost all of what is now Ezekiel Branch and a section of land across the river from Ezekiel Branch. One son, Ezekiel, got one-half of the Ezekiel Branch property, the youngest son, Samuel got the other half of Ezekiel Branch. The third son, Eli, got the land across Little Coal River where Bo and Jack's Rest Home used to be. I could be wrong but I don't think Samuel Midkiff ever lived nor owned land on Cobb's Creek.

Now to James Lively and his log house. According to what Uncle Willie Griffith, Preacher Dale Bowman, and others told me, when they attended Fairview School that an old pear tree was still living and bearing fruit. It was on the right side of what is now called Grassy Fork Road, which leads to Terry Adam's house. They said the pear tree stood in the yard of the first log house built on Cobb's Creek. James Lively built it in about 1810 or 1811. It was located where Delano and Sally Burton are building a new house. James lived in this log house until 1816 or 1817. They told me he left, but didn't know where he went. In the census records I found that he was living in the Kanawha Valley. James had a brother, Lewis, who had married Iva Bailey. They lived near the Upper Falls of Coal River. They had three daughters: Winnie born circa - 1804, Sally born circa 1807, Mary born circa 1809. Lewis died in the Spring or Summer of 1817. Iva and the three girls moved into James Lively's log house in the Fall of 1817, making them the first family to live on Cobb's Creek. Keep in mind that the widow, Iva Lively, and her three daughters, aged 8, 10, and 13 were the only people living on Cobb's Creek. Their closest neighbors to the east was Samuel and Isabel (Hayzlett) Priestley, who lived on what is now called Priestley Ridge, a distance of about four miles as the crow flies. The closest neighbor to the west was John Tackett on Trace Fork of Mud River, about five miles as the crow flies. Neighbors to the north was John and Elizabeth (Griffith) Lacy on Island Creek, also about five miles. Neighbors to the south were Jordan Smith, Reuben and Nancy (McCormick) Smith, who lived where the Waterways is now on Corridor G, or Route 119, a distance of about eight miles as the crow flies. Iva lived on Cobb's Creek several years before anyone else came here. Iva was

my great-great-great-great grandmother. I might be a little bit prejudice, but in my opinion she was one tough lady. A true pioneer women to live on Cobb's Creek with no road or contact to the outside world. As I stated before Iva and the three girls came to Cobb's Creek in the Fall of 1817, just in time to sow a turnip patch. It has been said that they lived off the turnips and greens that winter. I am sure they had other things to eat. There being rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, deer, bear, and turkey, all probably in abundance. There were hickory nuts, hazel nuts, and also native chestnuts. Trees were well over one hundred feet tall. I heard the old timers talk about going in the fall of the year and raking a ring around a big native chestnut tree. Setting the leaves on fire, then picking up a one horse sled full of the native chestnuts from one tree. The measurements of the sled are as follows three foot wide, four foot long, with three foot side boards on it. The Lively's were the first to build a permanent house, and also the first family to live on the waters of Cobb's Creek.

The next family to come to Cobb's Creek was in the early 1830's when the family of Ephraim Pauley, moved there from Fuquay's Creek. In about 1835 Allen Brogan and his family came from Franklin County, Virginia to Cobb's Creek. About this time James Lively, who had recently gotten married to Sarah Smith, came back to Cobb's Creek to his log house. In about 1838 William Tackett married Elizabeth Pauley, daughter of Ephraim Pauley, and moved to what became known as Tackett's Fork on Buckeye. In the early 1840's Jordan McCormick and his family moved to what is now Spring Branch. In an old two story log house that had been built in 1830. Thomas Graley and his family moved to what is now called Graley's Branch on main Cobb's Creek in the mid to late 1840's. He came from Franklin County, Virginia.

William and Preston Eskew's families moved to the head of Cobb's Creek back of where the Sod Post Office is now in the late 1840's.

Valentine Kessinger and his family moved about three quarters of the way up what is now Tiny's Branch on the right side of the hill in the late 1840's. Tiny's Branch was named for him. Valentine's brother in law John W. Pauley and his family moved just down the ridge from Valentine's farm. John W. and Valentine bought their farms from Ephraim Pauley.

In December 1849 William Lively and his family bought a one hundred acre farm on the left hand side of Grassy Fork. They moved here from Brier Creek in Kanawha County. In the early 1850's Jeremiah Stephens and his family moved from Brier Creek to what would become the Jerry Stephen's Hollow on Grassy Fork. He and William Lively had married two Griffith sisters. Preston Allen moved to Cobb's Creek in the late 1850's. He was a widower and later married Winnie Pauley, daughter of Ephraim and Anna, they raised their family in the head of Buckeye.

Stokes County, NC is just off the left side of Route 52. just before you get to Winston Salem, N.C. This is the county from which John and Martha Dunlap came from. Since Route 52 and Interstate 77 was not there in the early 1800's they probably crossed Fancy Gap Mountain and came through what is now the southwestern part of Virginia. Then down the Guyandotte River to Cabell County, where they appeared in the 1810 and 1820 census. There were some girls in this family, but to my knowledge none came to the Cobb's Creek area. But at least three boys, and probably a fourth, did. Samuel, James, and Thomas came to the Cobb's Creek area in the late 1820's. All three being married before they came here. They settled on the east side of Little Coal River. In the 1830 census Samuel and his wife Isabel had two sons under 5 years of age and 1 male 10 - 15 years old, he being too old to be their son. With this information and what Delmar Dunlap told me I believe there was a fourth son. Delmar said that Washington was one of the four brothers and that Wash Branch was named for him. Delmar told me that Washington

tore his barn down, built a raft of it, and went down Coal River but Delmar said he didn't know where Wash went. I was talking to Jack Dunlap's wife, Ruby, who lives at St. Albans, she told me that the tale in her husband's family was that their great grandfather Washington came down Coal River on a raft built out of native chestnut logs with a pair of mules, several chickens, some pigs, their furniture, and other belongings. They settled at or near the end of Thorpe Road off Coal River Road, just below Tornado, West Virginia. Whether he was one of the brothers or not I have no proof. But it is a very interesting story told by people who never met nor talked to each other.

Now for the first Dunlap who came to Cobb's Creek, Thomas and Samuel and their families moved somewhere near the mouth of Tiny Branch in the late 1850's. And to my knowledge lived there until their deaths.

In the late 1850's Elijah McClure and his family moved to what would become known as the Elijah McClure knob in the head of main Cobb's Creek and the head of Fuquay's Creek.

On April 3, 1867 Warren McCormick bought 100 acres on Grassy Fork and Spring Branch from William Lively. He built a log house up Spring Branch at what would be called McCormick Holler. Warren sold this log house and 100 acres to George W. and Adeline (Dunlap) Smith on March 17, 1874. Then the hollow became known as Smith Hollow. Then on Dec. 4, 1883 George sold this 100 acres and log house to Alfred Griffith. This property stayed in the Griffith family until about 1988 when Ricky Kincaid became the owner.

In the early 1860's Joseph Midkiff and family came to Cobb's Creek and bought the Eskew place which was located back of where the Sod post office is now. Also, in the 1860's Thomas B. Pauley from Boone County who married Elizabeth, the daughter of Jeremiah Stephens, bought the property where Ford and Ferry Runyan's family lives now. He bought it from James Lively.

William Hill married Alice Pauley, daughter of Washington Pauley, and settled back on the point between Tom Loftis Hollow and main Buckeye Fork in the 1860's near where the Old Ball Field was. On February 1, 1870 Allen and Rebecca Holstein bought a farm from Daniel Pauley at the mouth of Wood's Branch on Buckeye.

On February 28, 1873 John and Susan Jones bought a farm in the head of Spring Branch from Warren McCormick. At the same time Henry Graley bought a farm just above the mouth of Grassy Fork and built the first grist mill on Cobb's Creek. John and Henry were brother-in-law's. John married Susan Graley, Henry married Hannah Jones.

In the early 1870's John Harless came to Cobb's Creek and married Margaret, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (McCormick) Dunlap, and lived on Buckeye. About the same time Timothy Hall moved to Buckeye just below Wood's Branch. About the same time preacher Columbus Van De Linde Hall married Sarah, the daughter of Preston and Mary Ann (Hill) Pauley. They built a house where Calvin and Tammy (Pauley) Dunlap live now. Preston lived just above there at the mouth of the Joe Holler. Preston passed away and Columbus' father William Hall moved into Preston's house. That is where Quenton Pauley lives now.

In 1875 preacher George W. Griffith and wife Lucretia McClure bought the hill top between Grassy Fork and main Cobb's Creek. It would later become known as the Joe Griffith place and still is. George was the first Griffith to come to Cobb's Creek. They moved here from Brier Creek in Kanawha County. This property is still in the Griffith family.

Thomas Marker came to Cobb's Creek from Virginia in the mid 1870's and married Emily, the daughter of Thomas and Jincy Dunlap. They made their home out what is now Keeling Road.

George and Harriet (Perdue) Justice moved to Ely Fork in the mid to late 1870's.

Thomas "Tom" Loftis came from Smith Creek in Kanawha County to the head of Buckeye in the mid 1870's and married Louvalley, daughter of Washington and Eliza (Pauley) Pauley.

James and Silenia Ann (Tingler) Armstrong came to Cobb's Creek in the late 1870's. James had a brother Thomas who married Dicy Tackett. Between James and Tom they are the grandparents of all of the Armstrongs in this area.

Joseph and Wilbur Paul were raised to adulthood at Garrett's Bend on the Trace Fork of Mud River. Their parents were William and Mary Ann (McCallister) Paul. They came to Grassy Fork in about 1880 or 1881 and married two daughters of George W. and Lucretia McClure Griffith. Joseph married Mary J. and Wilbur married Nanny L. I never knew these two men nor their wives but my people talk about them and it was all good. They were farmers and very hard workers. They have descendants left on Cobb's Creek, they too are hard workers and good people.

Floyd and Sarah J. (Dunlap) Cooper moved to the head of Buckeye in the 1880's they have great grandchildren living near the mouth of Buckeye: Eugene Cooper and Drema (Cooper) Allen.

John Henry Harvey came to Cobb's Creek in the 1890's and married first Lyona Midkiff, the daughter of John and Mary Jane (McCormick) Midkiff. They had one son, Dale and a daughter, Reva May. Lyona Harvey died and John Henry married the second time Nettie McCormick, daughter of Mark and Hester Ann (Curry) McCormick. John's two wives were first cousins.

Columbus "Lum" Kidd, the son of Jesse and Rachel (Eskew) Kidd, married Lucinda, daughter of Coleman and Jane (Turley) Pauley. They came to Cobb's Creek in the late 1890's. His granddaughter, Pearl (Kidd) Pauley, still lives at McCorkle. She is a very nice lady.

Harrison Clark was the first Clark to come to Cobb's Creek in about 1891. He was the son of John Clark. Harrison married Martha J. Jones, the daughter of John and Susan (Graley) Jones. They didn't have any children and after a short time left Cobb's Creek.

James "Uncle Jim" Runyan came from Ohio in about 1895 and bought the John Jones place in the head of Spring Branch. His first wife had died before he left Ohio. He married a short time after coming here Aunt Arbel, daughter of Bill and Tildie (Holstein) Graley. They raised a large family besides the children he had by his first wife.

William Jefferson "Jeff" Purdy and his wife Octavia came to Cobb's Creek from Mud River in the late 1890's. He was a farmer and operated a grist mill just below where the Sod post office is now. He also served as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He has a daughter Cely Saul, grandson Bobby Saul, and several great grandchildren still living at Sod.

Joseph and Carrie (Hill) Alley and their family moved to what is now Sumerco at the head of Tackett's Fork in August of 1896. He was a Baptist preacher and she was a store clerk and postmaster. Their family left Cobb's Creek leaving no descendants.

Thomas and Alice (McCallister) McCallister were the first McCallisters to come to Cobb's Creek in the late 1890's. They have one daughter Tina Matthews and several grandchildren still living on Cobb's Creek.

In about 1897 Halec Bowman came to Cobb's Creek and married LouAnnie, daughter of Washington and Julie (Pauley) McClure. They built a house on the point between main Cobb's Creek and Big Branch. This place became known as the Bowman point. All of the descendants of Halec and LouAnnie have left Cobb's Creek.

John Jehu Woodrum was the first Woodrum to come to Cobb's Creek in about 1898. He, his wife, and children left Cobb's Creek in about 1940. The next Woodrum was Rocky Woodrum, he came from Kentucky, and was a coal miner by trade. He has two sons Hassel and Dee, and one daughter Judy, the widow of Oval Loftis, that live on Cobb's Creek. I have been acquainted with several members of their family and they are all good people.

Silas Elkins who married Leoma, daughter of LaFayette and Martha Pauley, his brother James who married Julia "Frankie" Smith moved to Wolf Trap in about 1904 or 1905. They were the first Elkins to live on Cobb's Creek.

Leander Young, the son of Henry and Matilda (Ronk) Young, married Laurie Arnold and they moved to Cobb's Creek in 1904 or 1905. Leander and Laurie had two children Robert and Stella. Robert has one son, Larry, who lives at Sod. Stella married Harley Clark and they have several children and grandchildren on Cobb's Creek.

Andrew Jackson "Jack" and his wife Sarah (Dolin) Dolin came to Cobb's Creek about 1908 from Boone County, West Virginia. They lived up Tiny's Branch on the Valentine Kessinger farm until their death. They were buried in the Dolin Cemetery, which is located on what we call the Jack Dolin knob.

Edward W. Belcher and his wife Mary came to McCorkle in about 1908. He was best known for being one of the Cobb's Creek Dinkie Railroad engineers.

William "Commodore" Keeling came to Cobb's Creek in about 1908 from Turkey Creek, Putnam County. He first married Margie daughter of William Hill. He married second Gertie McClure, daughter of William "Bill" and Emily Rose (Miller) McClure. She was from the Woodville area. They lived on what is now known as Keeling Road.

William Griffith

William Griffith is the father of all the Griffith's in Lincoln, Boone, and Kanawha County. He never lived on Cobb's Creek but some of his grandsons and granddaughters will play a big part in populating and the history of Cobb's Creek and surrounding counties. William bought property on Brier Creek of Big Coal River before 1800. William moved to Brier Creek about 1800 and he owned a lot of land on Brier Creek. There were several other families in the area by 1810: Pauley, Hill, Midkiff, Smith, Holley, Williams, and Woods. I'm sure there were others that I don't know about. William came from Franklin County, Virginia with at least 5 sons. I haven't been able to find any daughters, but some say that Elizabeth, who married John Lacy, was his daughter, but she could have been his sister or niece. William was listed in the 1810 census, but not in the 1820 census. He must have died or moved away.

Of the 5 sons only 2 will play a part in Cobb's Creek history. The first is Ephraim Griffith. Ephraim was born about 1793 in Franklin County, and died 1869 on Porter Fork of Mud River in Duvall District, Lincoln County, WV. Ephraim married Marry Pauley, daughter of Henry & Athalia (Mullins) Pauley. In 1817 Ephraim bought land from Thomas Nance, all of what is now Fork Creek Hunting Area. It is now owned by Fork Creek Coal Company, where they are now operating a coalmine. Some say Ephraim lived on Brier Creek and some say he lived on Fuquay's Creek. I know he eventually moved to Porter Fork and died there. Ephraim and Mary had thirteen children but only a few play a part on Cobb's Creek. We will visit them later.

The next son of William is Adam Griffith. Adam never lived on Cobb's Creek but some of his children did. Adam was born 1784 in Franklin County, Virginia, and died in 1862. He

married 27 March 1810 to Mary Jane, born 1795, died 1885 the daughter of Norman and Nancy McLeod. Adam and Mary Jane are buried at Brounland, Kanawha County, WV. We will discuss their children when they come to Cobb's Creek.

Early Preachers

The early preachers who came to this area were mostly of the Baptist faith but some were Methodists. The Church of Christ came later. I am sure most of these men were servants of God. But some were probably scoundrels, some came and preached funerals, others joined our grandparents in marriage, some held revivals and later pastored our churches. Most of these men lived when there was very little if any money involved in preaching. They didn't have big salaries and nice cars to drive from place to place. Instead they rode on horseback and walked through rain, snow, muddy roads, and crossed rain swollen creeks. They received from those they served whatever extra they might have such as: chickens, eggs, or garden produce and was very thankful for it. There was no dental plan, health policies or retirement check at the end of forty years of preaching. They expected their reward to be given to them from God. These preachers and the good citizens they ministered to are what in my opinion makes Cobb's Creek the best place on Earth to live.

The following is a list of early preachers and close to the order in which they came to this area, David Harbor being the first, followed by William Williams, James Mitchell, William A. Wood, Nathaniel Callahan, William Young, John Sims, John Canterbury, Preston S. Turley, George W. Griffith, James E. Ellison, Roland Bias, Ralph Swinburn, Wythel Wood, William Watts, Thomas Hawkins, Henry Clay Young, Marion Alexander Lively, Adam J. Griffith, John Burnside, J.W. Moore, Joseph A. Alley, N.D. Sanford, Columbus Van De Linde Hall, A.J. Grass, Floyd Justice, J.E. Dodd, A.W. Adkins, John A. Smith, Aaron Griffith, Samuel O'Dell Dunlap, L.T. Priestley, E.E. Barker, T.J. Kinder, H.A. Jackson, L.T. Ashworth, P.A. Mitchell, Allen Skeens, U.G. Wolf, Earl Perdue, JW. McCormick, Denzil Miller, Dorsey McCormick, M.A. Tudor, H.V. Bowman, John Jehu Woodrum, Meddie Graley, Ove Hill (grandfather of Avis Hill), Gerald Watts, Arnold Hughes, Ramie Hunter, Lee Graley, Richard Runyan, Woodrow Lawson there are many more but this brings it up to about 1950's. I am sure I have missed some.

The men from David Harbour to Henry Clay Young were circuit riders, by the time they passed away roads began to be improved and travel was better.

Peter Holstein

Peter Holstein was born in August 1795 in Botetourt County, Virginia, son of Stephen and Jane (Looney) Holstein. Peter served in the War of 1812. He married December 16, 1817, to Elizabeth McClure, daughter of Richard R. and Mary F. (Crawford) McClure. Peter and Elizabeth moved to the head of Laurel Fork of Joes Creek in the early 1820's. They never lived on Cobb's Creek. But their children and grandchildren will play a part in it's history. Elizabeth was a sister to Elijah McClure. She came to Lincoln County before Elijah, making her the first McClure in Lincoln County.

Ephraim Pauley

Ephraim Pauley, was born about 1793 in Franklin County, Virginia. He was the son of Henry & Athalia (Mullins) Pauley. Ephraim moved from Franklin County with his parents to Kanawha County about 1806-1807. Henry Pauley, father of Ephraim, was on the 1807 tax list and in the 1810 census, living two houses from William Griffith, who lived on Brier Creek. Ephraim enlisted in the service of his Country, to serve in the War of 1812, but the war ended before his regiment was deployed.

Ephraim fell in love with Anna Mullins. On the 17th day of January 1818, Ephraim and Anna were married in Kanawha County by the minister David Harbour. Ephraim and Anna bought a farm and built a log house at the mouth of Beech Fork on Fuquay's Creek. In the 1820 census, his father lived three houses from Ephraim, and next door to Samuel Priestley. Samuel lived on what is now called Priestley Ridge. In 1828, 10 years after they were married, Ephraim and Anna built the first gristmill in Washington District of what is now Lincoln County. The mill sat where James Gillenwater's widow, lives now. The only thing that is left of the mill is a hole, that is chiseled into a rock, on the left side of Fuquay's Creek as you go up the creek.

The next venture that Ephraim was involved in, was the building of the first schoolhouse on Cobb's Creek. In the writings of Hardesty, he states that Ephraim Pauley, Oliver Moore, John Chandler, and Ezekiel Midkiff were the four men who built the schoolhouse that served as both school and a house of worship until the late 1850's. Then the Cobb's Creek Missionary Church built a log church house, which was also used as a school house. My maternal and paternal grandparents told me the part about the first schoolhouse being used as a place of worship. It was customary all over this country in that day and time. This was before the ACLU got the stranglehold they have now on this country.

Ephraim and Anna bought over 4,000 acres on Cobb's Creek. The calls are as follows with the names of the places and hollows, now that all of the little hollows have names it would go like this.

It began at a set stone about 100 feet below what is now the Jerry Stephens hollow, going in an easterly direction down Grassy Fork to its mouth, then in a westerly direction up main Cobb's Creek to the mouth of Buckeye, then up Buckeye Fork to the first left hand hollow, now known as Spruce Pine Hollow, up that hollow in a south easterly direction to the top of a hill, then up the ridge that divides Buckeye and Ely Forks, to the knob on Summit Ridge behind Obie Gillenwater's house. From there it went in a southerly direction to the Buck Knob (where the fire tower used to be), then in an easterly direction down the ridge between Laurel Fork and Ely, then down the ridge between Ely and Ivy Branch, then came off the hill about 800 to 1,000 feet above the C&O depot at McCorkle, then went north down Little Coal River to the John A. Branch, then up the John A. Branch to a high knob in the head of Tiny Branch to where Mr. Dickerson lives now in a stone house, which is on the east side of Corridor G, then it went in a westerly direction between Cobb's Creek and Fuquay's Creek to a high knob in the head of the Jerry Stephens or Frog Pond Hollow as it is now called, then in a straight line back to the set stone, the place of beginning.

This is over half of the land drained by Cobb's Creek.

On the water's of Cobb's Creek is 6,787 acres. Besides this 4,000 acres Ephraim also owned 850 acres in the head of Buckeye Fork. He owned a two hundred acre tract that was at the head of Grassy Fork and main Cobb's Creek, which his heirs sold to Thomas Graley after Ephraim's death. I believed he owned more land but I haven't located the deeds. Ephraim owned

more of Cobb's Creek than anyone, with the exception of Dave and Charles Howard. They tried to take all of Cobb's Creek in 1928, under the name of Lincoln Mineral Company, this will be written about in another chapter.

Allen Brogan

Allen Brogan was born in Franklin County, Virginia, about 1814, the son of Robert and Gracie (Allen) Brogan. Allen first married a woman named Hester, her last name is not known to me. Allen, his wife, and his mother, and father left Franklin County, Virginia, about 1835. His parents settled somewhere around Alum Creek, but Allen and Hester moved to the head of main Cobb's Creek, just above where Bobby Saul lives now, close to the Brogan Hollow. There Allen and Hester built a log house, barn and other buildings that a pioneer family would need to survive in the wilderness. To Allen and Hester was born about 1836 a son whose name I do not know.

The boy died sometime in the 1840s and was buried in the Old Cemetery at Sod.

The next child was Elvira, born 1837, died July 19, 1916. Elvira married November 3, 1856 to Joseph R. Curtis, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Dolin) Curtis. Elvira and Joseph moved to Mud River and raised ten children.

The next child was Rosanna Brogan, born 1839, married October 6, 1864 to Morris Midkiff, son of John and Mary. Rosanna and Morris moved to Kanawha County and raised four children.

The next child was Lucretia, born 1840, married March 23, 1864 to William Thomas, Jr., son of William Sr. and Elizabeth (Hudson) Thomas. Lucretia and William, Jr. moved to Kanawha County and raised two daughters and four sons.

The next child was Grace Harriet born 1842, married September 15, 1864 to Lafayette Pauley, son of Washington and Mary (Griffith) Pauley. Grace and Lafayette moved to Wolf Trap on Ely where a hollow was named for him. Lafayette later moved to Laurel Fork of Horse Creek. Some of their grandchildren came back to Cobb's Creek.

Not long after Grace was born Hester passed away and was buried in the Old Cemetery with her little boy.

After the death of Hester, Allen continued to live with the girls on the farm, then on the 6th day of April 1848 he took for his second wife Anna Parsons, born 1822, reputed to be the daughter of Frederick and Sarah (Turley) Parsons.

After the marriage between Allen and Anna, she helped to raise Allen and Hester's four daughters. Then in 1850 to Anna and Allen was born a son, John Oliver Brogan, born October 12, 1850, died February 6, 1940. John married May 6, 1874 to Letha Jane Pauley, born January 7, 1850, died May 19, 1931, the daughter of Shadrack and Zina (Tackett) Pauley. John and Letha raised four sons and three daughters.

The next child was Samuel B. Brogan, born 1858. Samuel married first Pliny Pauley, the daughter of Shadrack and Zina (Tackett) Pauley. This marriage ended in divorce. They had no children. Samuel married next Octavia Hill on October 22, 1881. Octavia had been married before to _____ Neal. Octavia was the daughter of Roland and Lucy Hill. Octavia died the 16th day of January 1895. Samuel married third to Florence Snodgrass on November 2, 1895. Samuel and Florence had no children.

Now back to Samuel and Octavia (Hill) Brogan. They had seven children, but we will

deal with only one. French Levi Brogan was born April 9, 1884. He was the only child that came back to Lincoln County. French died the 28th day of June 1956, French and Ross Pauley were on Big Hewett that day digging ginseng. French was on his knees where he had dug a stalk of ginseng, when he died of a heart attack with the ginseng still in his hand. Ross Pauley told me the story of French's death. French married Sylvie Pauley, daughter of Isaiah and Margie (Dunlap) Pauley. Sylvia was born October 28, 1895, died December 15, 1945. French and Sylvie had eight children who lived to maturity, married, and raised a family. Several lived at Sod and Alum Creek.

Harrison was the third son of Allen and Anna Brogan. Harrison was born January 17, 1856 on Cobb's Creek. Harrison first married Matura E. "Sissy" Kidd, daughter of Jesse G. and Melvina (Brogan) Kidd. They had seven children but none lived on Cobb's Creek. I met and talked with their third oldest child Chester, he was a very nice person.

Kermelia, born April 25, 1859 was the fourth child of Allen and Anna Brogan. Kermelia married Manville "Bud" Elkins, son of Harrison Elkins. I talked with their son Isom, he married Selina Kidd, and he was old and living with his son Harrison. He didn't know much about names and dates of the family, but sitting on his mantel was a picture of his uncle, John Brogan. (John was my great grandfather).

Maria F. Brogan, born August 14, 1863, died April 26, 1889, was the next child of Allen and Anna Brogan. Maria married June 1, 1883 to John W. Gillispie, son of Street and Mary (Chandler) Gillispie. John and Maria lived on Brier Creek. They had four sons, one died at age one month and another died at age four months. The other two sons were Claud Gillispie born March 22, 1884, died November 15, 1970, married Katie George; and Willie Gillispie born October 11, 1885, died March 19, 1967, married Luddie May Varner from Kentucky. Claud and Willie Gillispie both raised family around Alum Creek.

The next child of Allen and Anna Brogan was Monroe Brogan, born February 1864, died about 1925, married April 10, 1884 to Vernila Midkiff. Monroe and Vernila had eight children. I was told Monroe came to Cobb's Creek to visit on many occasions.

My grandmother Georgia (Brogan) McCormick, told me that her grandfather, Allen Brogan, had moved to the head of Cobb's Creek in the early 1800s. Georgia said he lived close to where Jeff Purdy lived, which is where his grandson Bobbie Saul now lives. Georgia said they lived there for several years and moved to Davis Creek, possibly around the late 1870s. According to the 1870 census, he was still living on Cobb's Creek in Lincoln County. In the 1880 census, he was at Davis Creek in Kanawha County. Georgia said that John Brogan, her father, married Letha Jane Pauley, daughter of Shadrack and Zina (Tackett) Pauley, who lived in the head of Ely Fork. They built a log house in the mouth of Wolf Trap and raised their family there. Georgia said that she could remember her grandfather, Allen Brogan, coming to their house after he was unable to take care of himself. Georgia said that the only thing that he brought with him was a rope bed, that he had built in the head of Cobb's Creek with a home made foot turned wood lathe, which Allen slept in until he died. After Allen's death, Georgia's father John, slept in the bed until his death in 1940. The bed was in constant use for around one hundred years. This bed is now owned by me and has been slept in by seven generations. The bed is held together by ropes that are woven back and forth from the side rails to the head and foot rail. The bed has no nails or pegs to hold it together.

William Tackett

William Tackett, born circa 1810, reputed to be the son of Keziah Tackett, married about 1838 to Elizabeth, born 1822, the daughter of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley. William and Elizabeth made their home in the right fork of Buckeye, which is called Tackett's Fork, after them. To my knowledge they were the first people to live on Buckeye Fork. Their children were as follows: Samuel born circa 1840, Elijah born November 1842 and died Aug 21, 1909, Matilda born circa 1846, Zina born circa 1849, James born circa 1851, Ephraim born circa 1853, Martha born circa 1858, Vonelia born circa 1860.

Samuel married Victoria Curtis and went to Duval District, Lincoln County. Elijah married Martha L. Adams and lived in the head of Buckeye, near Sumerco. Zina married Jason Rice McCallister and lived on Porter Fork Mountain. James married Margaret, daughter of George and Harriet (Perdue) Justice and lived at the Jim Tackett Hollow on Ely, named for him.

Jordan McCormick

Jordan McCormick was born in 1802 in Buckingham County, Virginia the son of John and Nancy McCormick. His father, John, passed away sometime before 1807. Nancy moved to Kanawha County Virginia before 1809 with her children: Jeremiah, John, Jordan, and her married daughter Permelia Ann and her husband Jordan Smith, I. Jordan and Permelia Ann (McCormick) Smith bought the farm where Waterways is now located just off Corridor G in Lincoln County. It was in Kanawha County at that time. Jeremiah married and moved to the Peytona area on Big Coal River. His descendants are scattered over Boone and Logan Counties. The most notorious one of them is Robert McCormick from Logan County, who got in trouble with the law at the State House a few years ago. John McCormick, brother to Jordan, went to Poca River and his descendants are still on Poca River and scattered throughout Kanawha and Putnam Counties. Keep in mind that not all Boone and Logan County McCormick's are descended from Jeremiah. Jordan had a grandson and a great grandson that went to Boone County and raised families. They are Asa, son of "Down the River" George McCormick, and Warren known as "Wompas" Warren McCormick, he was the son of Jordan McCormick, Jr. Both of them have descendants in Boone and Logan Counties.

Jordan McCormick's mother, Nancy, married Reuben Smith in 1809 in Kanawha County, Virginia. Reuben and Nancy bought a farm across the river from the Pinnacle Rock where he died sometime in the 1820's. Some think Nancy went to Poca River to live with her son, John McCormick.

Jordan McCormick grew to manhood on this home place. About 1830 or 1831 he married Sarah, born in 1809 in Kanawha County, Virginia and was raised at what is now Julian. Sarah was the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Nance) Hill. Jordan and Sarah lived for a while at Jordan's home place and some of their children were born there. In the early 1840's Jordan and Sarah moved to what is now Spring Branch of Grassy Fork and into a two story hand hewn log house that was built in 1830. This is the house that in about 1851 William Lively moved about two thousand feet to what would become known as the William Lively Hollow. Jordan and his family lived in this house in the 1840's and William Lively and his family lived in this house in the 1850's, Jordan's son, Warren, and William's daughter, Frances Jane, were married in 1864, both having lived in this house as children at different times.

On March 19, 1851 Jordan bought a large tract of land from Allen M. Smith who had

bought it from Samuel Dunlap on February 15, 1850. This tract of land was across the river from McCorkle and ran from Dick's Creek to Long Shoals Branch. Allen cut the timber and sawed it into lumber to build barges and barrel staves for the salt and the cannel coal industry, before selling the tract to Jordan McCormick. Jordan and his family lived there until his death on the 20th day of September 1859. He died of consumption and was buried in the Old Cemetery at the mouth of Cobb's Creek.

Two of his sons Owen and Preston died a short time after their father. They were buried close to their father. Sarah married Elijah McClure on March 15, 1864 by George W. Griffith. They had no children. Sarah died sometime after 1870. She had shaking palsy before her death.

The following is a list of Jordan and Sarah's children: (1) Charles born 1832, (2) Warren born 1833, (3) Nancy born 1835, (4) Owen born 1836, (5) Jordan Jr. born 1837, (6) Elizabeth born 1839, (7) Burnett born 1841, (8) Sarah born 1842, (9) Preston born 1845, (10 & 11) John and Delilah twins born 1846, and (12) William Harrison born 1850.

On April 11, 1868, the McCormick family sold this farm to Joseph and Mary Ann (Dunlap) Moore, he was known as "Contrary" Joe Moore to distinguish him from Buck Moore's Joe. Joe and Mary Ann lived there until they had raised their family. Then they sold the farm to Rome Pickens and moved to the head of Buckeye where they raised some of their orphaned grandchildren, proving that even though he was known as "Contrary" Joe Moore he had a good heart. Joe and Mary are buried at the Moore Cemetery at the head of Buckeye, not to be confused with the Buck Moore Cemetery.

Allen M. Smith

Allen M. Smith born about 1800 married Anna Beach January 18, 1825, they lived near Blue Tom. They were close neighbors of Oliver Moore, one of the men who helped build the first Cobb's Creek Schoolhouse. Allen's children were well educated and I assume in the before mentioned school. They never lived on Cobb's Creek but Allen played a big part in the commerce and development of Cobb's Creek and surrounding areas.

In the census records Allen was listed as being a merchant and farmer. He also bought and sold more land in this area than any other person that I can document and he was legal in his transactions. I will later describe people who were not. Allen was in the lumber business, and brought the first saw mill to Little Coal River in 1845. It was powered by a steam engine and set up at the mouth of Manning's Branch which is the second hollow above the Blue Tom Tunnel on the left side of the river. Manning's Branch was named for Moses Manning, an earlier settler.

Cecil Turley, who was born in 1902 and lived at Blue Tom told me that when he was young there was a stationary steam engine at Manning's Branch. The kind that would have been used on a saw mill in the 1840's and 1850's. During WWII the engine was cut up and sold for scrap iron. Cecil said that he knew of no other industry that went on there that would have used this type of steam engine.

At the mouth of Manning's Branch sprung up a small community known as Manningsville. It was made up of people from other states and countries who worked in the cannel coal mines and the barrel and barge making business. Cannel or bituminous coal was a type of coal that had a high amount of oil in it. The oil was used in the making of lamp oil. When this cannel coal was being dug on Coal River and on the Kanawha River the only other place on earth that cannel coal had been found was in Scotland. Therefore this was a very valuable commodity on Coal River. Allen's saw mill was used to cut lumber to be made into barrel staves

and sent to Malden and filled with salt. Boards were also cut to make barges to transport the coal down Coal River by steam boat, then down the Kanawha River, then down the Ohio River, then the Mississippi River to New Orleans. There the coal barges were torn apart and sold for lumber. The steam boats were brought back up river to get another load of coal. The coal was loaded into steam power ships and then sent up the eastern shore to New York, then up the Erie Canal to be manufactured into coal oil. There has been a lot written about the digging of cannel coal at Peytona and very little written about Manning's Branch and the smaller mines that were operating on Little Coal River before it was dug on Big Coal River. As I said before the staves were sent to Malden and put together to form barrels. The barrels were filled with salt and sent down the river to New Orleans. The salt barrels were loaded onto ships and sent to Charleston, SC, New York City and other seaports. There were other men who were in the barrel making business but none would equal Allen M. Smith. The one closest was Rome Pickens, both he and Allen had lots of men in their employ.

One of the men to run a steam boat up Little Coal River was Captain William "Bill" Griffith from Brier Creek, Kanawha County. Captain Bill captained several boats including *The Tator Bug*, *The Mule*, and *The Snakehunter*. He started working on the boats at the age of 14 as a deck sweeper and worked his way up to being chief boatman for the Peytona Coal Company when he retired in 1881.

Thomas Graley

Thomas Graley, born about 1808 in Franklin County Virginia, the son of James and Sarah Graley, married Ruth A. Allen, born about 1814 the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Morris) Allen. Thomas not only was the first Graley to come to Cobb's Creek but he was the first blacksmith. He lived at what is now called Graleys Branch, named for him. It is located at the first left hand hollow up past Oiler Road. Besides his wife and family he would have brought the tools of his trade: a good anvil, some hammers, tongs, and all the scrap iron they could carry with them.

He would have built a three by three foot forge out of fieldstone in which he would have placed what is called a duck's nest (or fire box). He would have ran a 2 or 3 inch pipe from the ducks nest to a home made bellows. The bellows was a wooden frame covered with either deer or cow hide. The top portion of the bellows didn't move while the bottom portion was attached with hinges allowing it to move up and down about 8 to 10 inches. It had a rope tied to the bottom and the other end of the rope was tied to a round handle about 4 feet long. This round handle was used as a lever in a fulcrum and lever design. When the lever was pulled down it forced air out of the bellows through the pipe into the ducks nest providing oxygen causing the coals to burn hotter. When the handle is released the bottom part of the bellows falls down, a flapper in the bottom of the bellows opens up and allows the air to come in. Then the process was repeated over and over. About 800 feet above where his house set was an 8 foot seam of coal. I am sure he and his sons dug coal there to heat their house and operate their blacksmith shop. Without a blacksmith, life on Cobb's Creek would have been much harder.

Thomas and Ruth had four sons and six daughters. All of their children either moved away or died leaving no descendants on Cobb's Creek except for one son, William Jack. William Jack married Emily Jane Harvey about 1881 and moved to Big Coal River. Not long ago Thomas and Ruth's great great grandson Michael Graley moved back to Cobb's Creek near the mouth of Buckeye, at the Peter McClure place. Michael is the great grandson of William Jackson Graley.

Thomas Graley bought his property from Ephraim Pauley's family in the 1850's. This property was later bought by Willard McCallister and some of it is still in the McCallister family. Across Route 214, close to where Robin Justice lives is an old cemetery. It is probably where Thomas, Ruth, and some of their family are buried.

William Lively

William Lively was born October 2, 1803, Nelson County, Virginia, died March 10, 1900, Wilgas, Lawrence County, Ohio. Reputed to be the son of James Lively. Married August 18, 1836 on Brier Creek, Kanawha County, Virginia, Diana Griffith, born September 20, 1812 (?), died March 22, 1893 also in Lawrence County, Ohio, the daughter of Adam and Jane (McLeod) Griffith. Diana was the first Griffith woman to live on Cobb's Creek, after William and Diana married they lived on Brier Creek, close to her parents, about 13 years. Six of their children were born on Brier Creek: Frances Jane, Mark, Julie Ann, Elizabeth, Albert W., and Nancy. Four children were born on Cobb's Creek: Alice, Zelika, James W., and William Addison. James died Nov. 21, 1877, at the age of 19 years old, 9 months, 10 days.

William and Diana bought property on the left side of Grassy Fork in December 1849. At that time there was a deserted two story, hand hewn log house about five hundred feet up Spring Branch that had been built in 1830. William and his neighbors put wooden runners under the log house and laid small logs cross ways in front of the runners. They hooked twenty yoke of oxen to the house. The house was pulled up ten or so feet, then more small logs, or slickers as they were called were put under the runners, pulled up again until the house had been pulled about 2,000 feet to the mouth of the William Lively Hollow where it sat for over 120 years. It was over 140 years old when it was torn down in 1971 or 1972. At that time it was the oldest structure on Cobb's Creek. There was six generations of William Lively's family that lived in this log house. They are as follows: William Lively, his son Mark, his daughter Dinah who married John Pauley, their daughter Belva who married Emory Paul, their daughter Madeline who married Cal "Babe" Dunlap, and their three sons: Gary, David, and Louie. After 153 years, three quarters of this property is still in the ownership of the Lively family. Michael, son of Paul and Joyce Graley has built a very nice two story house on the hill overlooking where the old log house stood. Michael is the seventh generation of the lively family to live on this property. He is the eighth generation to live on Grassy Fork of Cobb's Creek being a descendant of Iva (Bailey) Lively the first pioneer on Cobb's Creek.

Jeremiah Stephens

Jeremiah Stephens, called Jerry, born July 10, 1815 (?) and died October 15, 1899, was the son of David Stephens. Jeremiah married November 23, 1835 to Cassandra, born July 12, 1816 (?) and died August 19, 1898. They are buried in Lively Cemetery. Cassandra was the daughter of Adam and Jane (McLeod) Griffith. They lived on Brier Creek in Kanawha County until the early 1850's, then moved to Grassy Fork, at the mouth of what would become the Jerry Stephens Hollow, about 200 feet east of the first school house on Cobb's Creek, where the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church was organized from. Jerry and Cassandra were said to have been charter members of the above mentioned church.

They raised nine children and only the last two were born on Cobb's Creek. Their children are as follows: (1) Mary Jane born 1838, (2) Elizabeth born 1840, (3) Sylvester born

1842, (4) Amanda born 1844, (5) Dicy A. born 1846, (6) Sarah A. born 1848, (7) George W. born 1851, (8) Warren born 1853, and (9) Louanna born 1857. Some of the descendants of Jeremiah still spell their name Stephens while others have changed it to Stevens. To the best of my knowledge the only descendants of these Stephens left on Cobb's Creek are Ford and Ferry Runyan's children and grandchildren. At the southeast corner of the Jerry Stephens property is what the old timer's called a "set stone" and is the only original cornerstone that I know of left on Cobb's Creek. It has been there one hundred and sixty plus years.

The Blacksmiths of Cobb's Creek

Under the spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands are the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow when he paid tribute to the country blacksmith. Without the blacksmith the advance of civilization would have come at a much slower pace. Long before the Industrial Revolution brought ways of heating iron into liquid and pouring it into specially made molds to form different kinds of tools. The blacksmith with his hammer, tongs, anvil, swedge, forge, and a lot of sweat made all of the tools that a frontier family needs to survive. The hammer was used to strike the hot metal. The tongs were used to hold it. The hot metal was placed on the anvil and was beat and shaped into what ever tool or cooking utensil that was needed. The swedge is probably the least talked about tool in a blacksmith shop but is almost as important as the anvil. The swedge is about eighteen inches square and about five inches thick. It had different sizes of round and square holes. It also had half rounds and half square holes. This is used to place hot metal on and beat with a hammer into whatever round or square shape that is needed. It was a must for making gun barrels. And without guns civilization would still be in the dark ages.

The early blacksmith shop would be set up something like this. The forge would be in one corner and would be about three foot square and 32 to 34 inches tall or taller depending on the height of the man using it. It would be built of field stones. In the center would be placed a pipe, two to two and a half inches in diameter, over the end of the pipe would be built a duck's nest made out of metal. It is dish shaped to keep the hot coals from falling off. On the other end of the two to two and a half inch pipe was the bellows, this is used to push air into the duck's nest, which provided the oxygen to make the coal burn hotter. The bellows would have been in sort of a heart shape with a wooden frame. They would have used deer skin or cow hide on the side so it could flex. The top of the bellows was stationary. The bottom would move up and down. A flapper in the bottom piece would move up to allow air to fill the chamber and close when the handle was pulled down, thus forcing the air into the duck's nest causing the coal to burn faster and hotter.

The anvil would be to the left of the forge. On the right side was a cooling barrel filled with water. This was used to cool or temper hot metal. The blacksmith would be called upon to make and sharpen axes, hoes, shovels, mattocks and plow shares. He would make horse and oxen shoes and also shoe the horses and oxen. When the horse shoes were worn out he would make door hinges and other things out of them. Nothing was wasted. He also made household utensils, in other words he kept the community going. The shop was a place to gather on a rainy day, socialize, and get the tools repaired.

In the early days of the automobile he would be called upon to repair dents. There were two kinds of blacksmiths on Cobb's Creek. Some chose it as their main occupation while others did it to keep their family farm going. The following is a list of blacksmiths and close to the order in which they came to Cobb's Creek and a brief description of them.

Thomas Graley, to the best of my knowledge, was the first blacksmith to come to Cobb's Creek. He came from Franklin County, Va. in the late 1840's and set his shop up beside of his house, at the mouth of what is now called, Graley Branch.

William "Tiger Bill" Pauley, son of Ephraim and Anna Pauley, was born on Cobb's Creek. He worked here for a short time, then the Civil War broke out and he joined the Union Army and served the Army as a blacksmith. I read somewhere that he was a blacksmith and a moon shiner for the Army. According to the old timers who knew him he lived up to his name, "Tiger Bill, by being wild. He was married about four times, had lots of children, died, and was buried on Big Ugly in Boone County.

William "Bill" Jones, son of John Jones, married Almeda Smith. He was a blacksmith and farmer. He lived in the head of Spring Branch on the property that his great grandson, David King, owns now.

John Pauley, was the son of Preston and Mary Ann (Hill) Pauley and grandson of Ephraim Pauley. John Pauley married Diana, the daughter of Mark and Sarah Lively. They lived in the Jerry Stephens hollow, but it was called the John Pauley hollow when he lived there. He became a full time blacksmith in the late 1880's. His first shop was on main Cobb's Creek, near his father's house. He later built a blacksmith shop beside of his house. After his wife passed away he moved into the Mark Lively house with his daughter and son-in-law, Belva and Emory Paul. John was the father of Oscar, who ran the hotel at McCorkle. Oscar had moved to Florida and never came back. John and Leander Young were sitting on the back porch of the two story log house. John's daughter, Belva, came out of the back door to get a bucket of water from the well. John looked up the hill toward the Lively Cemetery and said, "I would give anything to see Oscar coming down that hill."

Belva steps off the porch into the yard, hearing a noise behind her she looks around and sees her father lying dead on the floor of the porch.

Wilburn Pauley was a great grandson of Ephraim Pauley. Wilburn was raised on Buckeye Fork. He married Angie Jones, daughter of Bill Jones. They lived at the mouth of the Buck Hollow on Ely. Wilburn worked as a blacksmith, farmer, coal miner, and worked on the dinkie railroad track.

Van Loftis, son of Tom and Louvalley Loftis, was a great grandson of Ephraim Pauley. His house and blacksmith shop were at McCorkle, about 800 feet above the Bee Rock hollow where John and Judy Dunlap lives now. He stayed there a few years then moved to Big Coal River where he worked for a coal company. He died and was buried on Big Coal River.

Monroe "Roe" Armstrong, son of James and Silenia Ann (Tingler) Armstrong. Born on Cobb's Creek he was a blacksmith and worked mostly for coal companies on Ivy Branch. He married Minnie, daughter of Columbus and Lucinda (Pauley) Kidd. They raised two sons and five daughters. When I knew him he was an elderly gentlemen and lived on Tiny Branch. He attended the McCorkle Freewill Baptist Church and would carry a carbide light at night to church. He was a very likeable man and did a lot of shouting in the church.

John C. Jehu Woodrum, born and raised on Mud River, married Mary, the daughter of Joseph R. and Nancy (Hall). McClure. They lived on Buckeye Fork just below Woods Branch. Jehu was a multi talented man being an ordained Missionary Baptist preacher, owned and operated a store, he was also a school teacher. He owned and operated a blacksmith shop across the road from his house.

In about 1908 a man by the name of Jason Peal, his wife Nancy, three boys, and two girls came to Cobb's Creek from Ky. They had a small house and blacksmith shop at the first drain

below Cobb's Creek. They only stayed two or three years. They left the same way they came, on the C&O train. This is the people that the Kentuck Hollow was named after, which is told in another story.

John Kingery had a blacksmith shop on Summit Ridge. He mostly did oil field work during the gas and oil boom, shoeing horses, repairing wagons, and so on. He was only there a short time.

Floyd Stickler was from Valley Fork in the Duval District. He operated a blacksmith shop at Sod, about 50 feet south of where the post office is now. He was only there from the mid 1930's to the mid 1940's then he went back to Valley Fork.

Vaden Loftis, son of Tom and Louvalley Loftis, great grandson of Ephraim Pauley, married Emmer (McCormick) Midkiff, widow of Wesley Midkiff, daughter of William Harrison and Emily (Curry) McCormick. His shop is still standing by the side of Route 214 just before you get to the top of Sod Mountain. He was the last blacksmith to ply his trade on Cobb's Creek.

Like the spreading native chestnut tree, the village blacksmith has all but disappeared.

The Life of Warren McCormick

Warren McCormick was born June 21, 1833 near the Pinnacle Rock on Little Coal River, and died September 17, 1916 on Buckeye. He was the second son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick. On Dec. 12, 1853 a local preacher, Preston Turley, married Warren and Frances Jane Lively. Frances Jane was born May 26, 1838 on Brier Creek, Kanawha County, Virginia and died January 20, 1923 on Buckeye. Jane, as she was called, lived on Brier Creek with her parents until 1849 when they moved to Grassy Fork where they lived in a two story hand hewn log house at the mouth of William Lively hollow. Jane was the daughter of William and Diana (Griffith) Lively. Warren and Jane are buried on a knob at the head of Buckeye behind where Clifford McClure now lives.

After Warren and Jane were married they lived close to a place called Blue Tom where he worked as a laborer for the Coal River Locks and Dam System. Then on August 24, 1855 their first child, Joel Jordan was born. Joel Jordan McCormick married Sarah Midkiff. Joel and Sarah are buried at the Midkiff Cemetery at Sumerco.

The second child of Warren and Jane was Mary Jane McCormick, born June 24, 1857 and died July 7, 1936, she married John Anderson Midkiff, born April 25, 1849 and died August 20, 1917. John and Mary Jane are also buried in the Midkiff Cemetery, named for them.

The next child of Warren and Jane's was named Frances, a little girl born in 1859 and died at about three months old.

The next child was William Harrison McCormick, called Harry, born May 25, 1861 and died in 1936. Harry first married Emily Curry and they had several children and then she passed away. Next Harry married Emily's sister, Fanny (Curry) McCormick. Fanny was the widow of Thomas McCormick, Harry's cousin. Emily and Fanny were the daughters of Andrew Irving and Sarah Jane (Elkins) Curry. Harry and Fanny had one child, a son named Troy who married Hattie Estep.

Before the next child was born, something dreadful was about to happen to our great county, The War Between the States. It was called the Civil War. I don't know why because there was nothing civil about it. The war was brother against brother, father against son, and neighbor against neighbor. They were some very dark days for this Nation.

Then, on the 5th Day of September, 1861 Warren McCormick enlisted in Company C, 8th

Virginia Calvary. His mailing address was at what was then called Coals Mouth, now called St. Albans. Warren's company had marched to Camp Buffalo in Kanawha County where he contracted jaundice in January 1862. This rendered Warren disabled and he was discharged November 6, 1862. Meanwhile, Jane's father, William Lively, had given his house and the one hundred acre tract of land it sat on, to his son Mark Lively. William, Diana, his wife, some of his younger children, and his daughter Jane (Lively) McCormick and her children had moved to Lawrence County, Ohio near the town of Arabia. When Warren was discharged from the 8th Virginia Calvary he went to Ohio, where nine months later on July 28, 1863 Jane gave birth to their fifth child. The baby was named Mark after Jane's brother. Mark McCormick married Hester Ann Curry. Hester Ann was born March 30, 1870. Hester was the daughter of Andrew Irving and Sarah Jane (Elkins) Curry. Mark died October 23, 1897 leaving behind Hester and five children. One of who was my grandfather. Hester died March 17, 1924. Mark and Hester are buried at the Midkiff Cemetery at Sumerco.

Now back to Warren McCormick in Ohio. For the next eleven months he and Jane lived with William Lively and helped with the farm chores until the 12th day of May 1864 when Warren enlisted in Company G, 126th regiment of the Ohio volunteers. Then on the 9th day of July, 1864 at Manacy, Maryland he received a gunshot wound to the upper right arm and a mortar shell wound to the lower right arm. Warren was discharged March 20, 1865. According to the War Department, this battle saved Washington D.C. from being taken over by the Rebel Army. After once again being discharged Warren went back to Ohio and his family. John Asa McCormick the last child was born October 16, 1866. He was crippled, never got married, and lived with his parents until his death on the 18th day of April 1903. John Asa was buried in the Midkiff Cemetery at Sumerco, West Virginia.

While Warren was in Ohio, he bought two tracts of land on Grassy Fork containing about 200 acres or so from his father in law William Lively. Warren and his family came back to Cobb's Creek and built a log house and other buildings necessary for a farm, at the mouth of what would become known as the Smith Hollow. On the 28th day of October 1870, Warren sold a tract of land to Jeremiah Stephens, it was in the hollow above Jeremiahs' house. Then on the 28th day of February 1873 Warren sold the head of Spring Branch which was about seventy five acres to John Jones and family. Then Warren sold the 100-acre tract that lay on Grassy Fork and Spring Branch to George Smith. Warren bought a one hundred and sixty-two and one half acre tract from Washington Pauley. This place was located down the road and across Buckeye Fork from where Hezekiah Shifflett lives now. At this place, Warren built a nice two-story hand hewn log house. Similar to the house his wife Jane was raised in on Grassy Fork. There was a rock in the yard in front of this house, my grandfather George said that was where Warren hid his five dollar gold pieces and every morning when his grandfather, Warren, got out of bed, he would walk out in the yard and set one foot on this rock and look all around. He said this was to make sure no one had dug up his gold.

Warren had four brothers. Charles was the oldest. Lots have been written about Charles having been an early pioneer on Ivy Branch. Very little has been written about Warren, his brother Burnett, his brother Jordan Jr., and his brother John who were all in the Civil War and saw lots of places and great adventures. Charles was the only brother who didn't serve in the Civil War.

Now for the family legend about Warren. My grandfather, George, and his sisters would tell this story only in the family and to no one else. When they started to talk about it, they would look all around to make sure that no one was close enough to hear. They didn't know what

regiment he was in, only that he was in the Civil War. It was Company C, 8th Virginia Cavalry. They said that William K. Moore who was from Summit Ridge, Grandfather Warren, and a group of Union soldiers were on maneuvers when they came upon a southern supply train. These two opposing units began shooting at each other. When the shooting was over, all of the southern boys were dead. All on the northern side were dead, except Warren and William K. Moore. These two men rummaged through the southern soldier's wagon and found a one half bushel basket of five dollar gold pieces which they promptly buried. Then a few years after the war was over, Warren and William K. went back and dug the gold up, dividing it equally between them. They each had a peck basket full of five dollar gold pieces, which Warren spent on the buying of property on Cobb's Creek. He also spent some on women, siring at least three illegitimate children, two boys and one girl. Warren never worked after being in the Army, but when each of his children married, he bought them a farm close to his in the head of Buckeye. Even though John Asa never left home, Warren bought him a farm, which he sold making a little profit, and bought and sold other parcels of land.

My grandfather told me he saw some of these five dollar gold pieces when he was a boy. Someone from all of Warren's children, with the exception of Mary Jane's children, have told me the same tale, always in secret. The same story is told in the Moore family also, until recently always in secret.

Valentine Kessinger

Valentine "Tiny" Kessinger was born about 1818, the son of Matthias and Nutty (Ballard) Kessinger. He was raised in a hand hewn log house on Spruce Fork of Little Coal River, which is now in Boone County, WV. This house is still standing, and is said to be the oldest structure in Boone County. Tiny was married to Mary, born about 1829. Some say Mary was Ezekiel Midkiff's daughter, I kind of doubt that. Ezekiel had a daughter named Mary, born in 1840 but she married Burnett McCormick, son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick. Tiny and his wife, Mary's, children were as follows: Julie Ann, Diana, Paulina, Wilson, Cornelius, Thomas Benton, Charles Robert, John, Sarah, and Isadora (called Dora). Tiny and his family bought their property from Ephraim Pauley in the late 1840's. It lay on the right side of Tiny Branch and the head of Lick Branch, also known as the John A. Branch, named for John A. Pauley, a Civil War veteran.

As I have stated in another chapter, Tiny Branch was named after Valentine Kessinger and he had the finest farm on Cobb's Creek. The Kessinger family sold this farm to Jackson Dolin. When I was a small boy, Charlie Taylor lived on this farm. It had the best apple orchard I ever saw in this area. From the size of these trees, it would be my opinion they were planted by Valentine Kessinger. There were meadows for both cutting of hay, and for grazing of livestock. When Tiny bought this property, it was probably worth about five hundred dollars. It sold several times for \$4,000. The last time it sold for \$7,500. About twenty years ago a four lane highway, Route 119, split this farm in half, taking fifty acres. Now the remainder of this property is worth about \$1 million. Tiny Kessinger, Jackson Dolin, Winfield Dunlap, Charley Taylor, Ralph Mitchell, Ben Edwards, and Frank White, all at different times owned this property, but never realized that one day it would be worth this kind of money.

Washington Pauley

Washington Pauley was born April 7, 1832 on Fuquay's Creek, Kanawha County, Virginia, the son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley. In the early to mid 1830's Washington and his parents moved to what is now Ephraim Branch located on Ely Fork. From there he attended the little school his father and others had built on Grassy Fork. He was educated enough to write deeds and fill out papers for people in the neighborhood before he was married. He was joined in holy matrimony with Eliza Ann Pauley on July 4, 1854.

Washington and Eliza moved to Buckeye Fork of Cobb's Creek, just below where the Upper Buckeye School was later built. He lived on the property that his father and mother had owned. There Uncle Wash, as he was called, and Aunt Eliza built a house, barn, and other buildings that was needed in that day and time. One building that he had, which, several people told me about, was a woodshed. They said he liked to cut firewood. In March 1872 Aunt Eliza died leaving Uncle Wash and seven children. Eliza was buried at the top of the hill behind the house in what became known as the Wash Pauley Cemetery. She was the first to be buried there.

Uncle Wash continued living there until February 15, 1877 when he married his second wife, Eliza (Smith) (Dunlap) Hill. A. J. Griffith married Wash and Eliza. Eliza was born January 6, 1825 at what is now Water Ways Park, located just off Corridor G and across from Pinnacle Rock. Eliza was the daughter of Jordan and Permelia Ann (McCormick) Smith. Eliza married first Andrew Jackson Dunlap and had seven children with him. After Andrew died, Eliza married Andrew Jackson Hill, and they had no children. After Andrew Jackson Hill died, Eliza then married Washington Pauley, and they had no children.

Uncle Wash and his new wife, Eliza, lived together and raised his and her children. They were both buried in the Wash Pauley Cemetery. After Wash Pauley's death his children received parts of his farm. One daughter Louvalley and her husband, Tom Loftis, got a portion. Wash Pauley had a son, Marion Pauley, who married Martha Jane Smith, daughter of George and Adaline (Dunlap) Smith. Martha was raised at the Smith Hollow on Spring Branch. Marion and Martha made their home with Uncle Wash and took care of him in his old age. Uncle Wash was buried in the cemetery that bears his name.

The Dinkie Train in 1850

Before 1845, the virgin timber along the edge of Little Coal River was being cut. Workmen, with the uses of wedges, broadaxes, foot adzes, made long boards which were used to build barges. These barges were shoved into the river and sank. After a period of time, the wood swelled plugging the cracks, and allowing it to float after the water was bailed out.

Other workers, called coopers, were making barrel staves. These were put into the barges and floated to St. Albans where they were sold to salt merchants from Malden.

Keep in mind, that the average tree size was about eight feet thick. Some trees were thirteen to fourteen feet thick, and seventy feet to the first limb. The weight of these logs was so great, it was almost impossible to pull with oxen, mules, or horses.

The removal of these logs required a lot of hard work by both man and beast. In 1845, Allen M. Smith brought the first saw mill to Little Coal River. It was set up at the mouth of Manning's Branch. They began to saw boards to build barges and barrel staves, in a short time, the trees along the river were all but gone.

In the year 1854 Allen M. Smith bought 4,000 acres on Cobb's Creek, from Ephraim

Pauley's widow, Anna, and eleven of their thirteen children. Next they brought a dinkie train to Cobb's Creek. I have not been able to determine who actually owned the train. It probably belonged to Allen M. Smith. This dinkie train is not to be confused with the one Walter Smoot and other's brought to Cobb's Creek in about 1909. This dinkie was the small type, it could be taken apart and transported from job to job, with horses, mules, or oxen. A wooden track was built up Cobb's Creek to the mouth of Ely, then to the head of Ely Fork.

Timber was cut, rolled, and dragged to the dinkie train. The timber was loaded on flat cars and hauled to the mouth of Cobb's Creek and piled up. When the river was in flood stage, the logs were rolled into the backwater and tied together. Men would ride the logs to Manning's Branch, then pull them up the bank to Allen Smith's saw mill. While working on Ely, the timbermen and teamster's built a long, slim log bunkhouse in the lower end of the Shadrach Pauley bottom. They used the bunkhouse to live in until the job was finished. Later, it was used as a church and school house. After the timber had been cut on Ely, the tracks were taken up and then laid from the mouth of Ely to the head of main Cobb's Creek. This was in the close vicinity of where Delano and Sally Burton have lived for many years. The tracks were then laid up Grassy Fork and also up Spring Branch, where David King now lives. The tracks also ran up Buckeye Fork.

Cecil Turley told me that the old timers told him that when they were finished on Cobb's Creek the train was then moved to Dick's Creek. I assume when they finished on Dick's Creek they moved on to Wash Branch and Ivy Branch and so on until all of the virgin timber was gone.

Preston Turley

On the 10th day of December 1853 it was probably a nice day to be that late in the year. Two brothers and a sister that lived across Coal River and below the mouth of Cobb's Creek up on the hill from the Jordan bottom were busy saddling up their horses. Their names and order of age from oldest to youngest were Charles, Warren, and Nancy McCormick. They were the three oldest children of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick. The brothers and sister mounted their horses and rode down the side of the mountain to the Jordan bottom, up to the mouth of Cobb's Creek, across the shoals and up into the bottom above the Old Cemetery at the mouth of Cobb's Creek, where Benj Pauley was waiting with his horse. Benj was the fiancé of Nancy McCormick. Benj lived just down the river and up Lick Branch. He was the son of John W. and Lorina (Kessinger) Pauley. They exchanged greetings and rode off up main Cobb's Creek to the mouth of Grassy Fork. Then preceded up Grassy Fork to the house of Frances Jane Lively, the daughter of William and Dinah (Griffith) Lively. Jane, as Frances Jane was called, was the fiancée of Warren McCormick. Jane mounted her horse and the party proceeds on up Grassy Fork about half a mile to the mouth of the Jerry Stephens hollow where the fiancée of Charles was waiting. Her name was Mary Jane Stephens, the daughter of Jeremiah and Cassandra (Griffith) Stephens. The group mounted their horses again and on up the Stephens Hollow they went over the mountain and down into the head of Fuquay's Creek about where Bryant Bowman lives. Down Fuquay's Creek they went in much the way that Route 214 runs only they rode in the creek. Crossing through a low gap into the Pauley Hollow, now called Upper Mollys Branch, and went in front of where Curry Funeral Home is now. Down that little drain where less than fifty year later Henry Ramsey would build a ferry boat to cross Coal River. Then taking a right turn up Coal River to near the location of Lock Four, where they are now building a housing development just below the Lincoln PSD water plant. The destination of the three couples was

the home of Preston Turley and his wife Mary (West). Preston was a Baptist preacher. He held lots of revivals and was pastor of several churches in and around Lincoln, Kanawha, and Boone counties. The purpose for this trip was for Preston Turley to marry them and so they took their solemn vows.

They stood there that day, the three newly wed couples and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Turley as is always the case not knowing the future. Two years later Charles McCormick's wife Mary Jane would die in childbirth leaving no children. In the 1860 census Warren and Jane were living beside his sister Nancy and brother-in-law Benj Pauley. Benj and Nancy (McCormick) Pauley had two sons, John born in 1855 and George S. born in 1858. This was the last record I found of the Benj Pauley family. I don't know if they all died or just left the area.

After four years, nine months, and five days had passed there would be something happen that would be talked about for over one hundred years and is being once again written about.

Not long after the weddings, Preston Turley began to drink and run around with a very good looking young single woman in the neighborhood. The woman had black hair and brown eyes. This continued for some time and on Wednesday, January 27, 1858 late in the afternoon Preston Turley began to drink moonshine whiskey. Preston and Mary got into a heated discussion about his drinking and running around with this dark complexion raven haired woman and in a fit of rage he struck Mary over the left eye. The second blow struck Mary on the left cheek just below the eye. The second blow crushed her cheek and broke her neck. Their house was about 900 to 1000 feet below Lock Four. Going from a drunken rage to a drunken panic Preston takes a rope and ties it to the waist of his wife then ties the other end to a sixty-nine pound rock. Carries the rock and his wife to the top of the dam which is Lock Four, drops her and the rock into the deep water. Down river below his house Preston made tracks in the sand as though his wife had walked down the bank and drowned herself.

Her children missed Mary Turley the next morning, which was Thursday. Preston took neighbors to the footprints and they perceived that she had drowned herself. Neighbors and the authorities searched from the tracks down river a good ways until Monday afternoon, February 1. Preston changed his story more than once. People began to suspect him of murder. So they started searching above the dam and sometime near midnight they found her body and took it to Charleston for a doctor to examine it. Shortly thereafter they arrested Preston Turley and took him to the Kanawha County jail in Charleston where he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to hang.

Preston spent eight months and 9 days in jail. On Friday, September 17, 1858 about mid morning he was led from the jail into the yard. He told his two oldest daughters goodbye and they were taken to the home of a friend. Preston's youngest daughter and his aging parents went to the gallows that were built in Ferry Branch Hollow. The hollow was named for the ferry boat that was used to cross over Kanawha River. Ferry Branch Hollow does not exist anymore. It was filled in to build US-119. In the jail house yard stood a pair of horses hooked to a wagon with a coffin on it. Preston climbed on the wagon and set down on the coffin and rode from the jail to Ferry Branch and the gallows. He was escorted by Sheriff Slack, the jailer Mr. Miles, Dr. Watkins the jail physician, and two clergymen: Smith and Brown, and several citizens that had been deputized.

One source says that the reason for the heavy guard was a few days before Preston and another prisoner had escaped and boarded a steam boat traveling down the Kanawha River. Sheriff Slack was standing on the river bank and as the prisoners passed by they waved at him. They were caught somewhere near Point Pleasant and brought back to the jail.

Still another source says the guards were more to protect Preston from a possible attack from an overwrought bystander than to keep him from escaping.

Upon arriving at Ferry Branch Preston hugged his mother, father, little girl, and shook hands with about twenty people including two brothers of his deceased wife.

About five minutes past eleven Preston accompanied by Sheriff Slack, and the before mentioned clergymen ascended the steps of the scaffold.

Immediately upon reaching the top Pastor Brown said it was Preston's request that they sing, "When I can read my Title clear" and for all to join in the singing. During the singing the prisoner's voice was heard above the other singers. After the singing Pastor Smith read from the 15th Chapter of Luke, the parable of the Prodigal Son. Then prayer was offered by Pastor Brown while Preston was engaging in silent prayer. At fifteen past eleven Preston stepped to the front of the platform. Then he began to address the crowd, saying whiskey and other things had caused his predicament and he had made peace with God. He then began to preach for forty-five minutes. Some said it was one of his best sermons. After the sermon his parents, young daughter, and brother, left before the rope was placed on his neck. Preston told the Sheriff that he was ready. As the Sheriff descended the gallows steps Preston said to him, "Cut the rope quick that I may go to Jesus." Then he was heard to say, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." This was at noon. The Sheriff pulled the pin and Preston Turley passed into the next life. The body was left to hang for forty minutes, before he was placed in the coffin that one hour before he had set on. He was carried by wagon to Alum Creek. Preston is buried just a few feet off Brounland Road below Alum Creek Grade School. Preston was thirty-six years old when he was hanged on Friday September 17, 1858. Preston Turley was the first white man to be executed in Kanawha County, Virginia now West Virginia.

Elijah McClure

Elijah McClure was born Apr 7, 1799 in Botetourt County, Virginia, the son of Richard R. and Mary F. (Crawford) McClure. Elijah married August 7, 1827 to Rhoda Pauley, born July 12, 1812 in Kanawha County, Virginia and died in the early 1860's. Rhoda was the daughter of Joseph and Lavina (Midkiff) Pauley. There are two stories about how they met, neither one may be true.

This is the first version, written by William T. Watts, in Vol. 1 of Who, When and Where of Lincoln County, West Virginia. Richard McClure and his ten children moved from Virginia to Kentucky in 1824, his wife having died prior to this time. They moved by wagon and ox team, a slow, tedious, and sure way to travel. About once a week they would stop and make camp to let the livestock rest and to wash their clothing. They traveled the old Kanawha James River Turnpike to the mouth of Coal River, then up the river to the mouth of Fuquay's Creek. Then up Fuquay's Creek to the mouth of Beech Fork, then they camped and rested. Joseph Pauley lived in a log cabin nearby. There the McClure's camped and rested. Joseph had an attractive young daughter, named Rhoda, in whom Elijah became very interested. After resting Richard took his family on to Lawrence County, Kentucky but Elijah did not forget the girl. He returned and on the 27th day of August 1827, Elijah McClure and Rhoda Pauley were united in marriage by James Mitchell.

This is the other story and probably closer to the facts. Peter Holstein married Elizabeth McClure in Botetourt County, Virginia Dec. 16, 1817 and later moved to Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek, making Elizabeth the first McClure to come to what is now Lincoln County, West

Virginia. In 1824 when Richard McClure and his children left Botetourt County, Virginia on their way to Kentucky, he would have traveled along what was called the Kanawha James River Turnpike, close to what is Route 60 now. He would have come through what is now Charleston, St. Albans, Teays Valley, and Huntington and then over into Kentucky. But because his daughter lived on Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek he would have come to Coals Mouth, now St. Albans, this is the way the road came to Cobb's Creek at that time. They would have come up the west side of Coal River, about the way Strawberry Road is now, crossed Coal River at Lower Falls, then up the east side of the River, past Upper Falls, to about where the Gore Addition is now, then went to the top of the hill, then up the ridge, then down a hill and across the river at the mouth of Island Creek. Up Island Creek to the ridge between Fuquay's Creek and Hayzlett Fork, then to the knob that later became known as the Elijah McClure Knob, took a right turn off the main road and went through the Low Gap between Hayzlett Fork and Cobb's Creek. Then over the hill and down into Laurel Fork where Peter and Elizabeth lived. At this time Elijah was twenty-five years old and Rhoda, his future wife, was twelve years old. Whether he met her then or not, I don't know. But more than likely Elijah came back from Kentucky to visit his sister and met Rhoda.

Neither story may be true, but they both sound good.

But any way on the 27th day of August 1827 they were married by James Mitchell, a Baptist preacher, and moved to what was then Logan County, Virginia now Boone County, West Virginia. This was a very productive marriage producing twelve boys and five girls; they helped to populate Cobb's Creek and several other communities. They moved to Cobb's Creek onto what would become the Elijah McClure Knob in the 1850's where he lived until his wife, Rhoda, passed away in the early 1860's. On October 16, 1864 he married Sarah (Hill) McCormick, widow of Jordan McCormick they lived there until his death. Elijah and Sarah had no children. Elijah and Rhoda still have lots of descendants on Cobb's Creek and they all are good people.

Mark Lively

Mark Lively, born on Brier Creek, Kanawha County, Virginia, September 15, 1840, died Feb. 4, 1928 at Sod, Lincoln County, WV, buried in Lively Cemetery named for him. He was the son of William and Diana Griffith) Lively. Mark married Oct 10, 1864 to Sarah Midkiff, born Dec. 25, 1842 at Ezekiel Branch named for her father, died Jan. 21, 1926, buried beside of her husband at the Lively Cemetery. She was the youngest child of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. Ezekiel had died in the mid to late 1840's leaving Mary the job of raising their children just as her mother, Iva (Bailey) Lively, before her did on Cobb's Creek.

When the Civil War started William, Mark's father, moved to Ohio, giving the farm on Grassy Fork to Mark. When Mark and Sarah were married he brought Sarah, his bride, and his mother-in-law Mary to the two story log house at the mouth of Lively Branch. It would become known as the Mark Lively Place to my ancestors. Mary made her home with Mark and Sarah until her death on March 14, 1891 when she became the second person to be buried in the Lively Cemetery, preceded fifty days earlier by her granddaughter Martha. Mark enlisted in the Civil War in Company C, 7th WV Cavalry and became a dispatch bearer, which meant he carried on horseback messages from the front lines to the command post, then carried messages back to the front lines. This being a very dangerous job in the Civil War. I am sure that if someone had interviewed him they would have received many interesting stories.

To Sarah and Mark was born July 1, 1865 a set of twin girls who were named after their

grandmothers, one was Dinah and the other was Mary. Dinah, died May 7, 1928, she married John Pauley, son of Preston and Mary (Hill) Pauley. When I interviewed Ezra Pauley, the son of John and Dinah, he told me his mother said her name was to be spelled with an H like Dinah in the bible, who was the daughter of Israel. I have found lots of records of her that is not spelled the way she wanted it so in this writing we have made sure her wishes are carried out. The other twin, Mary died Jan 16, 1926, she married George Wyatt Priestley, son of Marshall and Susan (Gillenwater) Priestley. The next child born to Mark and Sarah was Martha, born Sep. 15, 1867, died Jan. 23, 1891, and was the first person buried in the Lively Cemetery. She married John W. Pauley, son of Thomas Benton and Elizabeth (Stephens) Pauley. The next child was Lydia Ann, born circa 1873, she married 1st James Monroe Dunlap, son of Morris and Delilah (McCormick) Dunlap, she married 2nd Peter Hale. The next child was James W., born circa 1879, he married Nora Hilbert, daughter of Albert and Louila (Watts) Hilbert.

Ephraim Tackett

Ephraim J. Tackett, born September 11, 1876 died January 13, 1957, son of Elijah J. and Martha L. (Adams) Tackett. He married Mary Alice Midkiff, born October 30, 1879 and died July 12, 1934, daughter of John A. and Mary Jane (McCormick) Midkiff. Ephraim lived and raised his family in the head of the Tackett Fork of Buckeye, just below the Summitt Ridge Road at Sumerco.

Ephraim was a farmer, and also had a gristmill. Unlike most gristmills, his was high on the mountain, and was powered by an engine that ran off of natural gas. His son, Opha and daughter, Vonni lived on the home place and raised their children there. Opha married Hazel Ruby, daughter of Juraz and Lucy Ann (Miller) Ruby, and lived on the home place until his death. Orpha was buried in the Midkiff Cemetery. Vonni married Freeman Fry. They also raised their children on the home place, and were also buried in the Midkiff Cemetery.

Civil War

The following is a list of men from Cobb's Creek who served as Union soldiers during the Civil War. All except where noted served in the 7th Virginia Calvary then later changed to the 7th West Virginia Calvary.

* Addison "Beady" Dunlap Company M, 6 foot tall, blue eyes, dark hair, born April 24, 1847, died 1902, buried in the Old Cemetery at McCorkle, son of Andrew Jackson & Eliza Ann (Smith) Dunlap, married Minerva McCormick, daughter of Charles & Sarah (Dunlap) McCormick.

* John Dunlap, Company M, born September 4, 1844, died on Cobb's Creek June 8, 1869, son of Andrew Jackson and Elizabeth Ann (Smith) Dunlap, married Mary Graley, daughter of Henry and Hannah (Jones) Graley.

* Morris Dunlap, Company M., born in 1836, died Dec. 26, 1910, son of Samuel and Isabel (Farley) Dunlap, five foot 9 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, married Delilah McCormick, June 6, 1866, and lived on Joe's Creek. Delilah was the daughter of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick.

* Nelson Dunlap, Company M, born circa 1844, died May 24, 1886, son of Thomas and Jane (Turley) Dunlap, married Mary Jane Hill, daughter of Gordon and Mary (Miller) Hill.

* Piner Dunlap, Company C, five foot 9 inches tall, dark complexion, black eyes, brown hair, born Oct. 4, 1829, died Mar. 8, 1905, son of Samuel and Isabel (Farley) Dunlap, married Elizabeth, daughter of Peter & Elizabeth (McClure) Holstein. Dunlapville was named for Piner Dunlap. Dunlapville is about one and one-half miles down river from McCorkle,

* Valentine Dunlap, Company M, born 1834, died May 29, 1890, six foot tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, black hair, son of Samuel and Isabel (Farley) Dunlap. He married Martha M. Pauley. They moved to Kanawha County.

* George E. Graley, Company C, born circa 1842 in Franklin County, VA, five foot eleven inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair.

* George W. Graley, Company C, five foot six inches tall, dark complexion, black eyes, light hair, born circa 1840 in Franklin County, VA, son of Thomas and Ruth (Allen) Graley, married Lucinda, the daughter of Joseph and Arminta (Manning) Midkiff.

* Thomas E. Graley, Company C., born circa 1842 in Franklin County, VA, five foot eleven inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, son of Thomas and Ruth (Allen) Graley, married Sarah A. Griffith, daughter of George W. & Dicy (Lacy) Griffith.

* Webster Hill, born circa 1845, Company A. 91st Ohio Infantry, son of John and Sarah (McDilda) Hill, he married Sarah J. Hill, daughter of Roland and Lucinda (Manning) Hill.

* George Justice, Company B, five foot eleven inches tall, fair complexion, brown eyes, chestnut hair, born circa 1832 in Wythe or Mercer County, VA, died Dec 16, 1914 at McCorkle, WV on Ely. George came to Cobb's Creek to live after the Civil War was over. He was captured at Harrisonburg, VA July 12, 1862 and sent to Richmond, VA to Comfort Prison. He married Harriet Perdue.

* George B. Loftis, Company C., five foot five inches tall, dark complexion, gray eyes, black hair, born circa 1832 in Campbells County, VA, son of Matthew and Permilia Ann (Moore) Loftis. Married Martha Schultz, came to Cobb's Creek from Smith Creek, Kanawha County after the war was over.

* Albert Willis Lively, Company C., five foot ten inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1846, died April 3, 1923 at Train, WV, son of William and Diana (Griffith) Lively, married Eliza Hill.

* Mark Lively, Company C, five foot eleven inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1841, son of William and Diana (Griffith) Lively, married Sarah, daughter of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. He was a dispatch bearer on horseback during the war.

* George W. McClure, Company M., five foot six inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1844, died May 10, 1910, son of Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure, married Julia Ann Pauley.

* Harrison McClure, Company M, five foot ten inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1841, died Aug 18, 1903, son of Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure, married Sarah McCormick, daughter of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick.

* Joseph R. McClure, Company M, five foot three inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, born circa 1839, died Nov. 9, 1914, son of Elijah & Rhoda (Pauley) McClure, married Nancy Hall, daughter of William and Madora Hall. He is buried in back of his house on Buckeye in the Joseph R. McClure Cemetery.

* Nelson McClure, Company M, born Feb 6, 1829, son of Elijah & Rhoda (Pauley) McClure, five foot seven inches tall, blue eyes, black hair, married 1st Mary Jane Chapman, married 2nd Nancy Clark. Listed in the census with his occupation as doctor and farmer. Reputed to have been a surgeon during the Civil War. Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure raised 12 sons

to adulthood. Out of these 12 sons, 4 joined the Union Army and served their country with distinction.

* Burnett McCormick, Company M, five foot 10 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, dark hair, born Oct 26, 1840, died May 11, 1929, the son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick, married Mary Midkiff, daughter of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. To my knowledge he was the last Civil War veteran to pass away from Cobb's Creek.

* Jordan McCormick, Jr., Company C, five foot 9 inches tall, dark complexion, dark eyes, dark hair, born circa 1839, died Oct 1, 1920, son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick, married 1st Ruthie Miller, married 2nd Adeline _____, then re-married Ruthie Miller.

* John McCormick, Company C, five foot 10 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, dark hair, born circa 1842, son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick, married 1st Margaret C. Means, married 2nd Mary Frances Hayzlett.

* Warren McCormick, Company C, 7th VA and WV Calvary also Company G 126th Ohio Volunteers, five foot 10 inches tall, dark complexion, gray eyes, black hair, born June 21, 1833, died Sept. 17, 1916, son of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick, married Frances Jane, daughter of William and Diana (Griffith) Lively. Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick had 5 sons who grew to maturity, of the 5 all but the eldest Charles served in the Civil War. Of the four, 2 have descendants on Cobb's Creek, John and Warren.

* Lorenzo Midkiff, Company C, five foot 6 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1841, son of Joseph and Arminta (Manning) Midkiff, married Martha D. Newcomer.

* William Harrison Midkiff, Company C, five foot 6 inches tall, light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1835, died Jan. 21, 1920, son of Joseph and Arminta (Manning) Midkiff. He married Julia Ann Lively, daughter of William and Diana (Griffith) Lively.

* William K. Moore, Company C, six foot tall, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair, born circa 1819, son of Matthew Moore, married Sarah Miller on Aug. 13, 1846. See story about William K. Moore in another chapter.

* Allen H. Pauley, Company C, five foot 6 inches tall, light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1841, died June 16, 1909, son of David and Mary (Kidd) Pauley, married Vianna, daughter of Matthew and Permelia (Moore) Loftis.

* Daniel Pauley, Company C, five foot 7 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1823, died Jan 12, 1902, buried in the Daniel Pauley Cemetery at Sod, son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley. Married Louisa Midkiff, daughter of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. They lived at the mouth of Wood's Branch, then moved to the head of Fuquay's Creek.

* George W. Pauley, Company C, born 25 of June 1847, died 19 May 1918 while chopping wood at the mouth of the Graley Hollow, son of Shadrack and Zina (Tackett) Pauley, married 1st Nancy Virginia Pauley, married 2nd Atha Cabell.

* Henry A. Pauley, Company C, born circa 1847, died December 22, 1919, son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley, five foot 7 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair, married Julia Ann Thomas.

* John A. Pauley, Company C, five foot 7 inches tall, light complexion, gray eyes, brown hair, born circa 1839, died Oct. 26, 1928, son of David and Mary (Kidd) Pauley. Married 1st Sarah M. Loftis, daughter of Matthew and Permelia (Moore) Loftis. He was married four times, and outlived all of them but the last one he married. He never had any children to live to maturity. Reputed to have adopted two boys, Terry and Wilburn Pauley.

* Joseph Pauley, Company C, born circa 1830, son of Joseph and Anna (Mullins) Pauley,

married Mary Ann Tackett. He later became a Baptist preacher.

* Lafayette Pauley, Company C, reached the rank of second lieutenant, born circa 1840, died June 11, 1913, son of Washington and Mary (Griffith) Pauley, five foot 8 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, dark hair. He married 1st Grace Brogan, daughter of Allen & Hester Brogan, married 2nd Martha F. McClure, daughter of Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure. Lived on Wolf Trap for a time, then moved to Laurel Fork of Horse Creek.

* Preston Pauley, Company C, five foot six inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair, born circa 1834, son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley. Preston Pauley married Mary Ann Hill.

* William Morgan "Tiger Bill" Pauley, Company C and Company M, five foot 5 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, occupation blacksmith, born June 10, 1828, son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley. Married 3 times: Mary E. Lewis, second he married Rhoda J. Pauley, third _____.

* William W. Pauley, Company M, five foot 10 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, born circa 1822, died March 30, 1899, married Maggie Brown. In 1900 census she and son James Blaine Pauley lived at McCorkle, WV.

* George W. Smith, Company M, five foot 7 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1845, died circa 1885, son of Jordan and Lucinda (Lacy) Smith, married Adeline Dunlap, daughter of Thomas and Jincy (Turley) Dunlap. He lived on Spring Branch.

* Jordan Smith, Jr., Company M, five foot 8 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, born circa 1844, son of Jordan and Lucinda (Lacy) Smith, married Julie Ann (Dolin) Pauley, widow of Ellison Pauley.

* Elijah Tackett, Company C, five foot, 5 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair, born circa 1841, son of William and Elizabeth (Pauley) Tackett, married Martha L. Adams. Elijah died at Train, WV.

* Samuel Tackett, Company C, five foot 7 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair, born circa 1840, died March 14, 1915 at Garrets Bend, WV, son of William and Elizabeth (Pauley) Tackett, married Victoria Curtis. Samuel and Elijah Tackett were brothers, they joined Company C the same day.

* Henry Clay Young, Company A, enlisted as a substitute for Coventha Hatcher, five foot 3 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, light hair, born circa 1847, died January 5, 1917, married Matilda Ronk, in later life he became a Baptist preacher. He pastored Cobb's Creek Baptist Church in the early 1900's.

All of these Dunlap boys were related, Piner was in Co. C, the rest were in Co. M. Piner, Valentine, and Morris were brothers being the sons of Samuel and Isabel (Farley) Dunlap. Addison and John are brothers, being the sons of Andrew Jackson and Elizabeth (Smith) Dunlap. Nelson was the son of Thomas and Jane (Turley) Dunlap. Four of these boys enlisted the same day in Co. M.

Several of these soldiers were wounded in battle, but to the best of my knowledge, not one person from Cobb's Creek was killed in action. George Justice was the only one captured, but he was released shortly thereafter. George moved to Cobb's Creek after the Civil War was over. From the amount of divorce it seemed the Civil War took a heavy toll on the soldier's emotionally.

The only person to join the rebel army was William Watts, see his story in another chapter.

To the best of my knowledge no one on Cobb's Creek ever owned a colored slave.

Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley had five sons, three grandsons, and one son-in-law who served in the Union Army, all with distinction. The sons were as follows: Daniel, Joseph, Preston, Henry A., and William "Tiger Bill", the three grandsons were: George W. Pauley, Elijah and his brother Samuel Tackett., the son-in-law was John Shultz who married Martha J. Pauley, and they lived on Smith Creek in Kanawha County. It has been reputed that a sixth son of Ephraim and Anna (Mullins) Pauley named Jackson Pauley served in the Confederate Army.

Sarah and Harrison

Sarah, born 1842, the 8th child of Jordan and Sarah (Hill) McCormick married on the 16th day of October 1864 Harrison McClure, son of Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure. Sarah McCormick's father, Jordan, had died September 20, 1859. Harrison's mother, Rhoda, had also passed away. This left Sarah McCormick a widow and Elijah McClure a widower. Seven months before Sarah and Harrison got married, Harrison's father, Elijah, had married Sarah's mother, Sarah the widow of Jordan McCormick. This created some very strange family ties. Sarah the mother of Sarah became her stepmother in law. Sarah, the mother of Sarah, became Harrison's stepmother and mother in law. Elijah, the father of Harrison, became Harrison's stepfather in law. Elijah, the father of Harrison, became Sarah's, the daughter of Sarah, father in law and stepfather. All of Harrison's brothers became Sarah's brothers in law and stepbrothers. All of Harrison's sisters became Sarah's sister in laws and stepsisters. Sarah's brothers became Harrison's brother in laws and stepbrothers. Sarah's sisters became Harrison's sister in laws and stepsisters. Elijah was the grandfather to Harrison's children and step grandfather. Sarah was the grandmother to Sarah's children and their step grandmother. Harrison's brothers became his children's uncles and step uncles. Harrison's sisters became his children's aunts and step aunts. Sarah's brothers became the uncles and step uncles to Sarah's children. Sarah's sisters became the aunts and step aunts to Sarah's children. Harrison and Sarah's children became first cousins and step first cousins to his and her brother's and sister's children. This story could go on forever, so to preserve what little sanity I have I will stop here. P.S. This is a True Story.

Counties

Cobb's Creek is located in Washington District of Lincoln County, West Virginia. But this has not always been the case, before June 20, 1863 it was in the state of Virginia and instead of being called Washington District, it was known as Washington Township. In Cobb's Creek history it has been a part of fourteen different counties and one shire.

Before 1634 most of the settlements were in the coastal plains of Virginia. For the convenience of administrating local government seven shires was formed. Cobb's Creek was in the bounds of the Charles River shire. The word shire was taken from the shire structures of the British Isles and was used instead of counties. At that time it was believed that the Pacific Ocean lay but a short distance to the west. So as far as they were concerned the shires went all the way to the Pacific Ocean, so did the counties after they were formed. But when explorers began to make their way across the Appalachian Mountains to the Ohio Valley and into the Mississippi Valley, they limited their claims to the Mississippi River.

In other words our first county, York, took in all of what is now West Virginia, Ohio,

Kentucky, Indiana, the southern part of Illinois and the northern part of Tennessee. Just as people have genealogy charts that tells from whom they are descended so do counties.

Cobb's Creek's chain of counties goes like this. Lincoln County was formed in 1867 from Kanawha County. Kanawha County was formed in 1789 from Greenbrier County, which was formed in 1777 from Montgomery County. Montgomery County was formed in 1776 from Fincastle County, which was formed in 1772 from Botetourt County. Botetourt County was formed in 1770 from Augusta County, which was formed in 1738 from Orange County. Orange County was formed in 1734 from Spotsylvania County, which was formed in 1720 from King William County. King William County was formed in 1701 from Essex County, which was formed in 1692 from King & Queen County. King & Queen County was formed in 1691 from New Kent County, which was formed in 1654 from York County. York County was formed in 1634 from Charles River Shire.

I have obtained this information from several different sources. I also read one source that stated that Orange County was the first to reach across the Appalachian Mountains. You can decide for yourself who is right.

Henry Graley

Henry Graley, born about 1824 in Franklin County, Virginia. He married December 21, 1845 in Floyd County, Virginia, to Hannah Jones, born about 1823. They settled on main Cobb's Creek in 1873 just above the mouth of Grassy Fork at what would become Graley Hollow, named after them. With them came John and Susan Jones, probably Hannah's brother and sister-in-law. John and Susan bought from Warren McCormick the head of Spring Branch which is now owned by David King, who is John & Susan's great great grand son. John and Susan have other descendants on Cobb's Creek: Melvin "Bo" Dunlap, David McCallister (half brother to Bo), Paul Jones who married Isabel Dunlap, daughter of Everett and Delcie Dunlap, Paul's sister Gale who married Delano Watts, Lola (Pauley) Armstrong and her son Jimmy.

Henry Graley was a farmer, stonemason, and miller. All over Cobb's Creek even yet can be found stones that Henry cut. At Glen Justice's house is one of the millstones he made and used in his mill. This mill was located in front of Ernest Justice's house on the creek bank. It has been said that the mill washed away in the big flood of 1916.

Behind Tony and Janet Adams's house was a hand dug well. Henry cut a stone that was about four foot across with a hole in the middle about three foot across and about one and one-half foot thick that set over top the well with a well box built on it. Henry hued the fireplace and chimney stones for the Mark Lively two story log house. He also cut the stone for Alfred Griffith's fireplace and chimney. Sherman Holstein's log house on Buckeye had the same stone design as the other two, but no one told me who cut them. Between farming, cutting stone, and running his gristmill Henry did a lot of hard work and lived a long life. Henry passed away in 1901. Some of his descendants on Cobb's Creek are: Betty Graley who married Donald Dunlap, Harry Harvey, Paul and his son Michael Graley, Dorothy Graley who married Doug Waldron, George Graley Jr. and his son Barry. All of these grandchildren are like Henry; they are hard workers and good neighbors.

Daniel Pauley and Allen Holstein

As I stated in another chapter Ephraim Pauley, owned over half of Buckeye. When his children got married they got different portions of this property. His son Daniel, born circa 1827 married Louisa, born circa 1830, daughter of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. Daniel in about the year 1860 with the help of his brothers and neighbors built a two story hand hewed log house in the mouth of Wood's Branch on Buckeye Fork. On one end of this house was a fireplace and chimney. It was built of hand hewed stone. From the looks of this stonework it was probably built by Henry Graley. This was a very good house for that day and time. Daniel and Louisa lived there until February 1, 1870 when they sold it to Allen and Rebecca (Lacy) Holstein. Allen was born about 1820 and Rebecca born about 1818 in Kanawha County. Rebecca was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Griffith) Lacy. I don't know who Allen's parents were. Allen and Rebecca were married March 31, 1841 and lived in the Pine Grove area. When Allen and Rebecca moved into the log house, Rufner Holstein, their grandson, said that they went up the creek to the nearest neighbors house (which was probably Washington Pauley) to borrow some fire. The fire being carried back in a cast iron pot. Allen and Rebecca lived out their lives on the farm, raised their children there, and were buried in the Holstein Cemetery up on the point from the house.

Sherman who was the youngest child got the farm at their death and raised his family there. He married Moscenia, the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (McCormick) Dunlap. The old log house stood there until 1997, a total of 127 years. Someone set it on fire, this was at that time the second oldest building on Cobb's Creek surpassed only by the log house of John and Mary Jane (McCormick) Midkiff which is located in the head of Buckeye, near the junction of Buckeye Road and Route 214. This structure is in bad shape, most of it has fallen down. Allen and Rebecca had at least nine children, two of which died before age 10, their names were Jasper and Newton. The ones that lived were as follows: Matilda, born about 1846, Susan born about 1859, Daniel Boone born about 1855, Dicy born about 1856, Burnwell called Burl born about 1858, Jenetta born about 1859, and Sherman born about 1865.

After Daniel sold this property he built a log house at the head of Fuquay's Creek where Butch Marker lives now. This property laid both on Fuquay's Creek and Deaden Hollow which is on Cobb's Creek. Daniel and Louisa lived there until their death and were buried in the Daniel Pauley Cemetery at Sod. Their son Eunic got the property and lived their several years. Then traded the place to Wesley and Willie Midkiff, who were brothers, for property further down Fuquay's Creek.

Willie Midkiff married Zona, daughter of George W. Pauley and Nancy (Pauley) Pauley. Willie built a house where Glen Justice lives now. He sold that place and moved into the Daniel Pauley house on Fuquay's Creek. Willie and Zona never had any children.

Wesley Midkiff married Emmer McCormick, daughter of Harry and Emily (Curry) McCormick. They built a house on the Cobb's Creek side where Roland Pauley's children lives now. They had three girls: Dessie who married Ross Pauley, Doris who married Jim Marker, and Westine who married Lloyd Kidd. Wesley died and Emmer married Vaden Loftis and they had Desmond who married Phyllis McCormick. Desmond and Phyllis still live on some of that land.

The descendants of the Kidds, Pauleys, and Markers are still living on part of this property.

Never Again

On the gentle, rolling hills of Eastern Virginia in the days of George Washington the aristocrats participated in a sport brought from England. It was called fox hunting. Now, the aristocrats play golf. In addition to being the father of our country, the first president of the United States had many passions. He was known to be a "ladies man" and maker of moonshine whiskey. But he had at least two passions that are seldom talked about. One, he was an avid breeder of mules. It has been written that he owned some of the finest mules in that time period. Second, he loved riding horseback behind 40-50 English foxhounds, accompanied by colleagues and friends. When the early settler's came to what is now the Appalachian Mountains, they brought the sport of fox hunting with them. The rugged terrain of the Appalachian Mountains made it impossible to ride horses and was too rough for the English fox hounds. The settlers bred a new breed of fox hounds. They were called Walker fox hounds. They were brought to Cobb's Creek but I have no idea when they came, nor who brought them.

About twenty years ago, a good friend of mine Paul Madden, also an avid fox hunter, he gave me a list of names of fox hunters, he had hunted with on Cobb's Creek. He called them "the first and second generation of Fox Chasers". They are as follows: First Generation: George Banks, John Stepodi (commonly known as Stepodi, he was from Mexico), Monty Banks, Shell McClure, Arnold and Foster Midkiff, Jim Stottler, Doc Pauley, Arnold "Fox" Peters, Dillard McCormick, Leonard Madden, Ralph Mitchell, Shelton and Estil Smith, Mervin Cooper, Chester Pauley from Laurel Fork, Hardy Phelps, and James Aldridge. Second Generation: Denny "Jigs" Banks, Ned Midkiff, Joe Madden, Harold Banks, Thomas Pauley, Jr., David Matthews, brothers Lyle and Boyce McCormick, Ruby Elkins, and Virgil Phelps.

Names that I have added are: Cal "Babe" Dunlap, Ora Pauley, Todd and Randall Gillenwater, Jeff and Jackie Loftis, Arnold Hughes, Hardy Dunlap, Clay and Creed McCallister.

For those of you who don't know, the object of this sport is not to kill the fox. But to let the hounds chase it over the hills and down through the hollows while the hunters set on a high knob and listen to the hounds bark, a sound that some people love and call it "music".

Except for some remote areas this sport is mostly participated within the confines of a five hundred to one thousand acre lot. The reason being, that their hounds may run deer and get lost, or get killed on highways by cars at night. The first generation fox hunters would gather at a knob named in their honor, it is called "The Fox Knob". It is located in the head of three streams: the first one, Road Fork on Fuquay's Creek, the other two, Tiny's Branch and Spring Branch on Cobb's Creek. It is the highest knob for quite a distance in all directions. Hunters from Island Creek, Fuquay's Creek, and Cobb's Creek would come to this high knob, build a fire, and put on a pot of coffee "to keep them awake all night". They cooked, ate, and told tall tales. Every now and then a hunter would say, "Listen, I hear them." A silence would fall on the crowd as they listened to their hounds chase the fox to the east as far as Blue Tom, to the west the head of Buckeye and Ely, to the north the head of Island Creek, and south toward McCorkle. In later years, they would hunt at places with names such as, the Angelico Knob which is located on the Ivy Ridge, the Blue Grass Knob at the head of Buckeye, and the Burl Knob also on Buckeye, the Harry McClure Knob on top of the hill at Big Branch where Steven Minninger now lives. Three cabins were built between the 1950's and the early 1970's. The first cabin of these was built on the Ivy Ridge, the second on the ridge between Tiny Branch and Grassy Fork, and the last on a mountain at the head of Buckeye.

The foxhunters preferred the red fox over the gray. The gray fox would usually run about

an hour. The red fox would run all night. They could tell different foxes by the routes they run and the hounds, by the distinct sound of their barking. Some were called fine mouth dogs, others were coarse mouth, chop mouth, and bugle mouthed hounds.

The hunters would get what they called a fox horn, which was either a horn from a bull or cow. The horn was scraped thin with a knife to give it a high pitch so it could be heard from a long distance. The big end had a small hole drilled in it, a piece of rawhide was tied through this small hole. On the small end of the horn, which is the tip they carved out a mouthpiece. The other end of the rawhide was tied to the mouthpiece. This allowed them to hang the horn over their shoulder for easy carrying.

The next morning after the fox had run to the hole or den some hounds were slow to come to the knob from which they were hunting. The hunters would blow their horns. Each horn had a different sound, and different hunters had different blowing technique. Some hunters would blow their horn with a series of long and short blasts. Others would blow and then follow with "Hyawk, hyawk, hyuck."

Through the years there have been dozens of men, boys, and an occasional woman or two who like to hunt. There were probably one hundred foxes and over a thousand different hounds in the Cobb's Creek area at different times. Most hunters had more than one hound, but they all had their favorites. Shelton Smith had Meggy and Peggy, Estil Smith had "Old Mac". Leonard Madden owned "Wild Bill Cody" and "Belle Star", named for the outlaws of the old west.

The old hunters said those two were the best hounds that were ever in Lincoln County. "Belle Star" lived past thirteen years, which is extremely old for a fox hound. "Wild Bill Cody" ran into a tree and killed himself.

David Matthews started hunting at around the age of 8 years old. He owned "Old Lark" for many years which was his favorite. Brothers, Lyle and Boyce McCormick had "Dixie" and "Gypsy". "Ned Stride" was owned by Ray and Phyllis Carroll. "Belle Star", "Old Drum", and "Blaze" were favorites of Dillard McCormick. "Cindy" and "Old Tommy" were favorites of Denny "Jigs" Banks. "Roxie" and "Pat" were Bernie McCormick's favorites. Joe Madden named one of his hounds "Lindie Madden" for his wife, Linda, whom he called Lindie. Another he called "Old Joe Clark", for his favorite fiddle tune that he often danced to at the old barn on Coal River road. It was played by his favorite fiddler, world champion Clark Kessinger. "Old Riley" was Ruby Elkin's favorite. And Alfred "Alf" McCallister called his hound, "Old Mike". Esmond Pauley's favorite was "Old Kitty Bell", even though he had more hounds than any other two fox hunters put together. Paul Madden's favorite was, "Old Flag". Arnold McCallister owned "Old Joe". Troy Tackett's favorite was "Old Rock". "Betty" and "Peggy" were Ned Midkiff's favorites.

The only foxhunter left on Cobb's Creek is James "Pete" Huffman. His favorite hounds were called "Bonnie" and "Lou".

It is a pity that the music that these hounds made in the hills and hollows of Cobb's Creek will be heard never again.

Citizen's Telephone

In the late 1950's the C&O Telephone Co. set poles and strung wire on them. They installed telephones in the homes of people who wanted and could afford them. It was called a party line. In the beginning they were all twelve party lines. Later you could get a ten party, then an eight party, then six, then four, and then two. Now they are all private lines.

Back in the days of the party line when the phone rang you could hear it in all twelve houses. The way you could tell if it was yours was by a series of long and short rings. There were those that listened in on other people's calls and a lot of gossip was spread. A lot of people thought that was the first time telephones were on Cobb's Creek that is not the case. A hundred years ago, before my grandparents were married, Cobb's Creek was criss-crossed with what was known as the Citizen Telephone Line. The telephone line was built by people in the community and was also repaired by them. Each person who had a phone had a certain area to repair in his neighborhood. There were wooden pegs with threads on one end that were nailed mostly to trees. But some were nailed to fence posts, while others were put on untreated poles about twelve to fifteen feet high. The poles were more than likely black locust because they didn't rot easily. On the wooden pegs were glass brackets which had been screwed onto the pegs. Then the wire was attached to the glass bracket or insulator. When I was a small boy about one-half mile from where I live now was a tree that had a wooden peg nailed to it but the glass bracket was missing. Everett Dunlap, a good friend of mine, who lived at Punkin Town, told me the line went up the Walloon Hollow and down the Log Cabin Hollow where he was raised, across Tiny Branch, and up the hill into the Pine Grove area. He told me that the last wooden peg he saw was on a tree on the ridge in the head of the Walloon Hollow. He saw it sometime in the 1960's. The switchboard, that operated the phone system on Cobb's Creek, was located on Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek in the home of Wirt C. Holstein. The operator was his wife Permelia Ann. The line went down Joe's Creek to Griffithsville. On the side of the hill in front of the Church of Christ at Griffithsville was the switchboard for that area. It was run by Emmer Tackett, wife of George Tackett. There was a line that left the Holstein place and went over the hill to Hayzlett Fork just below the mouth of Donnelly Fork. Quiller Belcher had a phone in both his house and store. The line went up the side of the hill just below Donnelly Fork then down the ridge between Hayzlett Fork and Island Creek. It went down the ridge almost to Falls Creek then it went to Tornado. One line left Mr. Holstein's house going to Cobb's Creek to where the Baptist Church is. One went down main Cobb's Creek. The other went down Grassy Fork to Spring Branch then up Spring Branch to Alford Griffith's. Then to Jim Runyan's, then up the right side of the hill and around the ridge between Tiny Branch and Road Fork to the junction of the Lacy Ridge and Priestley Ridge. One went around the Lacy Ridge and down into Ezekiel Branch. The other went down the Priestley Ridge into Road Fork. One line went up Fuquay's Creek, the other went down Fuquay's Creek. The line that went down Fuquay's Creek went to the home of Jackson B. Turley in what is now Lincoln Heights. His wife, Charlotte, was the switchboard operator in that area. One line left there and went down Coal River but ended just before it reached Tornado. The line also went up Little Coal River toward Blue Tom. I suppose one went across Coal River and up Alum Creek, but no one ever told me anything about it.

Now back to the Baptist Church on main Cobb's Creek. The line that went down Cobb's Creek went to the mouth of Buckeye Fork and up Buckeye to Sumerco. It went on down main Cobb's Creek to the mouth of Ely then up Ely. At the mouth of Wolf Trap lived John Brogan, my great grandfather, in a log house. I have a picture of it and there is a telephone pole in his yard with the pegs and glass bracket on it. The line went on up Ely to the Summit Ridge. Quentin Shirley told me he had a picture of a pole on the Ely Mountain just before you get to the top of the hill.

Now back to the mouth of Ely. The line went down to McCorkle. One line went up the right side of the Bee Rock Hollow and crossed the hill into Ivy Branch. From there into Laurel Fork of Horse Creek. From there I have no idea where it went. I don't know when this telephone

service started on Cobb's Creek nor how long it lasted.

My sister, Linda, owns the hand-cranked telephone that hung on the wall inside of our great grandfather Alford Griffith's house. My friend, Edward "Bus" Belcher, told me that the one in his father's store and house was in operation in the early 1940's just before WWII.

Larry Wilkerson said the one at Griffithsville was in operation to about the same time.

Mad Dog

About one hundred years ago something happened on Ely that not many people living today have encountered. A rabid dog came down Ely, no one knows where he came from or where he went. They called him a mad dog. This mad dog first bit Uncle Isaiah Pauley's milk cow, coming on down Ely it bit two or three dogs that belonged to different people. This story was told to me by my grandmother, Georgia (Brogan) McCormick. She was Uncle Isaiah's niece. He was her mother's brother. The next victim of the mad dog was her brother in law, Uncle George Graley, who married her oldest sister, Virgie. Uncle George was the son of Aunt Peggy Smith and Green George Graley.

This mad dog attacked Uncle George and bit him in the back just above the belt line. After all of this happened everyone was convinced it was a mad dog. So the dogs that had gotten bit were killed. Uncle Isaiah's milk cow was put in a log barn to wait the nine days to see if it would go mad. It did and broke it's horns off charging the logs of the barn that restrained it. Uncle George was put in his father in law's smoke house at the mouth of Wolf Trap. In nine days Uncle George went mad. His wife Aunt Virgee was afraid of him and said he would starve to death before she would open the door to feed him. So his mother in law, Letha Jane Borgan, took on the task of feeding him.

She would take food and water to the door of the smoke house, then talk to Uncle George until he would move to the back of the smoke house, then she would slip the food and water in the door. After a while he recovered from the rabies. A few years later his wife Virgee died. He then married Ethel Wallace who was raised up the river from Blue Tom. They had several children. Then he died and was buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. I was told by someone else that the place on his back never completely healed. This rarely happens to dogs now of days, because of rabies vaccinations.

Uncle Willie

Willie Griffith, born March 7, 1882, died September 4, 1972, and was buried in Lively Cemetery beside of his parents, Alfred and Frances Jane (Lively) Griffith. He was never married. He was a tall, slim, raw boned man, about six foot three inches tall. He wore a John D. Stetson hat, wire rimmed glasses, suspenders, and a dark colored sweater over his shirt when it was cool weather. He carried a pocket watch, with a strap of leather fastened to his belt loop. I never heard him use any four letter words, even though he never professed to be a Christian, until he was well into his eighties. He told me that when he was a young man, he went to Fork Creek and worked two weeks cutting timber. When he got paid, he came home and never again worked for anyone on public works. He became a full time farmer. He raised chickens, cattle, and hogs. He raised a big garden, and enough corn and hay to feed his livestock. He bought laying mash to make the chickens lay more eggs, and dairy feed in one hundred pound sacks to make his cows give more milk. He bought salt, black pepper, flour, coffee, sugar, and Quaker oats for himself to

eat. He also fed some of the oats to his baby chicks to get them started eating. Other than clothes and shoes, which he ordered from a Sears and Roebuck catalog, this was about all he bought. The rest of his food he raised. He killed a hog every fall, salted it down in the smoke house, and what was left over in the spring, he canned. He occasionally killed a beef, of which he canned about one fourth, and sold the rest. He canned the vegetables out of his garden and put them, and the potatoes that he raised, into his cellar. He also sold his excess produce. He sold eggs, milk, butter, and buttermilk.

Back in the 1920s, when the coalmines were booming in Ivy Branch, Uncle Willie carried milk, butter, buttermilk, and eggs to Ivy Branch, where he sold it to coal miner's wives. Sesco and Ezra Dunlap were camping at the old camp rock in Ivy. They decided it would be a funny trick to rob Uncle Willie of his eggs and dairy products. Uncle Willie always got up at 4 o'clock and headed to Ivy to sell his wares. This particular morning, Ezra and Sesco were waiting at the top of Ivy Mountain in a weed patch. When Uncle Willie came by, they stepped out and stuck a corn cob in his back, robbing him of the things he was going to sell. Jerry Dunlap, son of Sesco, and Edgel Dunlap, son of Ezra, and others, told me this story. I always thought it was funny. Uncle Willie told me lots of stories, but he never told this one. This leaves me to believe he didn't think it as funny as I did.

Another tale that was told on him, was about when he was a young man. He decided to go to Charleston. He was warned to watch out for cars when he was crossing a street. After arriving in Charleston, he started to cross a street. He looked both ways, and seeing a car coming, he waits until it passes, then steps out in the street to cross, and a motorcycle almost runs over him. He comes back home, and someone asks, "How did you do while crossing the streets?"

His answer was, "I made out o.k. with the cars, but no one said anything about that colt that was following it." I always thought this story was funny, but I never believed it, because he made lots of trips to Charleston as a small boy with his father, their oxen, and wagon, peddling produce. Even though he had no children, he worked in every election trying to get bonds passed to help schools. He believed in education, and preserving the history of Cobb's Creek. He told me lots of stories about Cobb's Creek and its people. He preserved a small amount of history on paper, which I got at his death. He was also a school board member at one time.

The McCorkle Depot

In 1905 at McCorkle when the C&O railroad was built up Little Coal River a depot was built between the river and the railroad tracks. Between the depot and Little Coal River a house was built. It was called the Red House and it was used for the depot agent and his family to live.

The oil and gas boom started almost immediately after the railroad was built. A sidetrack was built on the right side of the main track for the unloading of oil field supplies. From there the supplies was loaded on wagons and hauled up Cobb's Creek to the oil fields. A short time later Rome Pickens built a store just below the depot and rented it to Fred Sims. And a short time later, Thomas Hill built a store across main Cobb's Creek at the foot of what would become McCorkle hill.

The items that had been hauled from St. Albans with horse and wagon by way of Island Creek or from Charleston by way of Alum Creek were now brought by rail to the McCorkle depot. After Rome Pickens built the store below the depot a sidetrack was built, it was on the left side of the main track and was used to park boxcars loaded with goods for the stores in McCorkle.

The Brogan brothers: Walter, Ad, and Jack owned and operated a sawmill and had a contract to supply cross ties for the railroad. Lots of things were shipped in and out through the depot before the WPA built the road to McCorkle in 1934. Men from Hayzlett Fork and Garrett's Bend area built the road on Cobb's Creek and men from Cobb's Creek built the road down through Garrett's Bend. Every morning they passed each other walking to work and also in the evening when they were returning home. Seems that the government then as now, doing things backwards.

Now back to the depot, through the years lots of people worked at the depot, the following is a list of agents that I knew about, I am sure there were others: Henry Ramsey, Clyde Ellis, Cecil Burton, Shelby Halstead, George Atkins, Johnny Shelton, and the one who was there longer than anyone else Rennie V. Issac who came here from Kentucky. When they shut the depot down Mr. Isaac retired and went back to Carter County, Kentucky.

Bill and Ellie

Ellie Griffith was born Feb 26, 1890 on Cobb's Creek, died in 1977, and is buried in Madison, Boone County. She was the daughter of Alfred and Frances Jane (Lively) Griffith. James William "Bill" Graley, was born about 1849 in Franklin County, VA, died Feb 9, 1931 at McCorkle, Lincoln County, WV, the son of Henry and Hannah (Jones) Graley, married Matilda Holstein, born about 1850, died June 11, 1922, daughter of Allen and Elizabeth (Lacy) Holstein. When Ellie was an elderly lady living at West Madison, I went with my mother to visit her. While there she told me the following story.

Beside of their house on Spring Branch, was a hand dug well, which I had drank water from as a boy. She said that one summer there was a drought, and this caused the well to be low on water, as a result wash day was taken to the creek. They lived up Spring Branch and it was also dry. So Ellie and Grandfather Alfred loaded up the wagon with the dirty clothes, bed linen, wash board, and lye soap. They hooked Buck and Ballie, their oxen, to the wagon and down Spring Branch they went. Then turned left down Grassy Fork. After a little over one mile, all of which was in the creek bed, they reached a hole of water. It was beside of Uncle Bill and Aunt Matilda (Holstein) Graley's house. This was early in the morning. The clothes, bed linen, wash board, and lye soap were unloaded. Grandpa Alfred went back home, and Ellie began the day's work rubbing the clothes up and down by hand on the wash board. When the clothes were clean and the water wringed out by hand, they were hung on willow limbs to dry. At noontime, Uncle Bill came to the creek bank and told Ellie that dinner was ready. After eating dinner, as it was called then, she went back to her laundry. Late that evening, grandfather Alfred came back with the oxen and wagon, loaded the clothing and went home.

The following is some of the descendants of Bill and Matilda Holstein Graley still living on Cobb's Creek: Frances McCallister, Delano Turley, Teresa Dunlap Brogan, Danny Graley, Eloise Dunlap Justice, Eric Smith, Isabel Dunlap Jones, Debbie Justice Hedrick, Gail Runyan Tulley, Justin Dunlap, Calvin Dunlap, Nellojean Dunlap Allen, Jerry Allen, Donald Dunlap, Gary Dunlap, Sharon Griffith Dunlap, Paul Griffith, Melvin Griffith, Frankie Griffith, Van Buren Pauley, Jr., Evelyn Pauley McCormick, Lisa Huffman Lewis, Lolita Dunlap Justice, Kenneth Dunlap, Vicky McClure Runyan, Susie Dunlap, Phyllis Dunlap, Van Pauley III, Preston Brown, and Leeann Brown. I write this story to tell how different things was one hundred years ago, when people who weren't related were called uncle and aunt. Neighbors as well as strangers were invited to dinner as if they were relatives.

Sawmills

As was stated in another chapter, Allen M. Smith cut the virgin timber from the hills and hollows of Cobb's Creek in the 1850's. After that the timber had fifty to sixty years before it began to be cut again. The Gazeteer states that in the year 1900 Pauley and Hughes operated a sawmill on Cobb's Creek. To the best of my knowledge these men were George Pauley and Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes. Later George bought "Train" Hughes part of the sawmill. George Pauley lived at the end of what is now called Green Bay Road. His house is still standing and in good shape. I was told that he handpicked grade A lumber from his mill to build this house. Mohler Lumber Company owned a couple of small tracts of land on Buckeye Fork, from which they cut the timber. This, to the best of my knowledge, was the extent of their timbering on Cobb's Creek.

The next sawmill was owned and operated by the Brogan Brothers, Walter, Ad, and Jack. Other than Allen M. Smith who hired men to cut his timber in the 1850's, the Brogan brothers cut and sawed more lumber on Cobb's Creek than anyone before or since. In the late teen's, twenties, and thirties the lumber for almost every house built on Cobb's Creek was sawed by them. There are houses still standing built with lumber that they sawed. When they started their business, lumber was delivered on a wagon pulled by mules and horses. After the roads were built in the 1930's they got a log truck to haul logs and lumbers. Keep in mind at one time or another there has been a saw mill in about every bottom on Cobb's Creek. They would cut the trees from each side of the hill and skid the logs to the mill, after the logs were sawed into boards, the mill was taken apart and moved to the next bottom. This was done again and again until all of the timber was sawed in that area. They owned several horses and mules. Two mules they used were named Kit and Nigger, owned by their father John Brogan.

The following is a list of the people who worked for the Brogan Brothers. Peter Holstein, his brothers Leonard and Burl. Some of Jim Justice's older boys worked for them. Walter Brogan's sons Shelt, Dale, Golden, and Johnny. Ad Brogan's son Rockard. Jack Brogan's sons Daner and Desker worked for them. when they got old enough to work.

Willard Dunlap was the next man to own and operate a saw mill. His mill was set up on Wolf Trap. And in what is now called the John Armstrong bottom in Tiny Branch. While cutting timber on Tiny Branch, Willard built a bridge up over the Fall Rocks so he could travel in and out of Tiny Branch with his truck. Marvin Cooper and Everett Dunlap cut the timber. Fred Dunlap with a pair of horses named Dan and Charley skidded the logs. Willard owned a one and one-half ton log truck, with it his son Dennis hauled the logs to the mill, and also hauled the cross ties to the C&O Depot at McCorkle. He also delivered lumber to different people to build houses. One of the houses that Dennis hauled the lumber for was Glen Allen's house. The lot is now owned by Keith Pauley and the house was burned down just a few days ago (Fall 2003). Donald delivered the lumber to build the Cobb's Creek Freewill Baptist Church. Donald and Aubrey were Willard's two youngest sons. They mostly worked on the saw mill with their Dad.

The next saw mill was owned by Ferd Loftis. It was set up at the mouth of Ely. Ferd was from the St. Albans area and never lived on Cobb's Creek. Thomas Pauley, Jr. and his brother Ray, Monroe Smith, Beldon "Pete" Pauley, and Ken Moore worked at different jobs on the saw mill. Kit Meikle skidded logs with a pair of horses in the woods. Joe McCormick drove the truck and hauled logs to the mill and delivered lumber after it was sawed.

The next mill belonged to Homer Pauley, Sr. It was set up in the bottom above where his

son Lowell lives now on main Cobb's Creek. Loderick Holstein and his brother Burl cut the logs. Daner Brogan and Jackie Marker skidded the logs into the mill. Homer Sr. and his two sons Homer, Jr. and Lowell ran the saw mill. A short time after they got the mill Lowell went to the Army. By the time he got out Homer had sold the saw mill.

About 1943 Ernest Gillenwater moved a sawmill into Tiny Branch. Ray and Russ Dunlap cut timber and Cecil Turley skidded the logs to the mill with a pair of horses.

The next person to own a saw mill was Lysses McCormick. He operated it in the late 1940's and early 1950's in the head of Cobb's Creek on the John Hill Farm, which is now owned by Bob Pauley and others. The mill set just above the John Hill Hollow.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's Cecil Dunlap bought and operated a sawmill. The sawmill was set up on the point between the Forks of Tiny Branch, this point is now called The Sawmill Point. This mill was operated by Cecil and his brothers: Dean, Cline, Billy, and their father Fred. These Dunlap boys were very good singers. When I was a boy, I could hear them cutting timber on their side of Tiny Branch. They would chop a notch in a tree, then use a cross cut saw to cut the tree down. After the tree fell they would take a break and sing a song or two, then return to chopping and sawing trees down. These were gospel songs.

The next saw mill was owned by Daner Brogan. It was set up in the bottom just above where Janice Pauley lives, above the mouth of Graley Branch. He operated the saw mill a short time before selling it.

The next saw mill was owned by Eugene Miller. It was set up just above his house on Ely. He and his sons Donnie, Jerry, and Jackie operated the mill after a short time they sold it.

The next saw mill was owned and operated by Jerry Miller. It was set up in the bottom just above his house on Ely. He operated this mill for several years.

The next sawmill was owned by Charlie Thomas. He came here from Beckley, WV. His mill was set up just below the old dinkie road in the head of Buckeye. He was a young man when he came here and still owned it when he died. This saw mill was sold to Donnie Miller and it was set up in the bottom just above his house on Ely.

The next mill was set up on Ivy Mountain and owned by Glenn "Sweets" Pauley. He has sawed lumber for other people but his main purpose for this mill was to saw logs to build himself a log house. He now lives in a very nice two story log house.

The next saw mill was bought by Timmy Brogan. It sets about three quarters of a mile up Buckeye Fork on the left side of the hill on Log House Road. He, like "Sweets" Pauley, bought the saw mill to build himself a house. He now lives in a very nice two story log house close to his saw mill.

Legends - James and Martha (James) Midkiff

James Midkiff was born April 8, 1825, died December 8, 1921 was the son of Ezekiel and Mary (Lively) Midkiff. Mary was the daughter of Lewis and Iva (Bailey) Lively. Iva and her three daughters were the first settlers on Cobb's Creek.

James grew to manhood on Ezekiel Branch, which is just across the hill in a northeasterly direction from Tiny Branch of Cobb's Creek. He went to work for the Peytona Cannel Coal Company on the boats, making several trips to New Orleans. Mrs. Lucille (Midkiff) Jordan, his great granddaughter, told me that on one of his trips to New Orleans he dreamed his father Ezekiel had died. This was in 1850. He buys a horse in New Orleans and hurries home finding his father was dead and buried.

Martha Jane James, who was called Patsy, was born in 1830 and died October 27, 1912. She came to Peytona, Boone County in about 1842 with her brother Jonathan, they are reputed to have a brother Robert who was the father of Frank and Jesse James. Robert and his brothers and sisters are the children of John M. and Mary (Poor) James. James Midkiff and Patsy met, fell in love, married, and made their home in the Peytona area of Big Coal River. They raised their children there and some of their great grandchildren are still living in the area. Mrs. Jordan told me that her grandfather would tell her and her siblings about Frank and Jesse James coming to their home and would stay for two or three weeks. Then ride off on their horses just as mysteriously as they came. They believed them to have been hiding out from the law. She said once the Pinkerton Detective Agency came there looking for them. Mrs. Jordan further states she is very proud of her James and Midkiff heritage and has a picture of Martha J. James Midkiff hanging on her wall in her bedroom. Some of this story that Mrs. Jordan told me was also told to me by my great uncle, Willie Griffith, and others.

There are other legends about Frank and Jesse being in this area. Anderson Dunlap met Frank and Jesse in the low gap between Angel Branch and Preston Branch on their way from Big Coal River. Another tale was that Jesse James came to Fuquay's Creek as an old man going under the name of Charles Smith. He died and was buried in the Griffith Cemetery close to Midway School.

There is a legend that Jesse and Devil Anse Hatfield met on a narrow mountain path in Mingo County. Both men fought for the south, which in my opinion caused them to live the kind of life that made them famous.

George and Georgia

George Washington McCormick, born July 9, 1890 died July 7, 1972, was the son of Mark and Hester Ann (Curry) McCormick. He was raised in the head of Buckeye, on the right side of the mountain in the left fork. He had one brother and four sisters. His father passed away when he was seven years old, leaving his mother, as the old timers would say, "a hard row to hoe." He attended two weeks of school, never learning to read or write. He could go into a store, make a purchase, give the clerk a twenty-dollar bill, and then figure in his head how much change was coming back, before the clerk could with a cash register.

Georgia Brogan, born Dec 12, 1889 died July 8, 1972, was the youngest daughter of John O. and Letha Jane (Pauley) Brogan. She was raised on Ely, at the mouth of Wolf Trap. She had two sisters and four brothers. She learned to do farm and household chores as a young girl from her parents. She completed eight years in the Buck School which was located about ¼ mile or less, up Ely from her home. After that she attended two more years in the eighth grade because she liked school and couldn't attend high school, unlike my grandfather George she had a very good education for that day and time.

George and Georgia were married September 12, 1912 by a Baptist preacher, John Jehu Woodrum, who had been one of her schoolteachers; he also preached the sermon the night she gave her life to the Lord. He also baptized her. Jehu, as he was called, also had a store where my grandparents bought things to start housekeeping with, including dishes that had Jehu Woodrum's store written on the bottom side, some of which she had when she passed away. They told me when they were married he was working on the docks at Ivy Branch stacking lumber for Mohler Lumber Company. He had five dollars and owned a horse. She owned a milk cow. They moved into a house up in Wolf Trap above her mother and father's. He left the dock

job and went to work for one of the coal companies on Ivy Branch. They lived on the right fork of Ivy Branch. He next went to Fork Creek to skid logs. They stayed there about three weeks and moved back to Ely, because there were too many rats on Fork Creek. This was in 1920. He worked in the Malleable Coal Mines on Ely until it went out of business about 1924. Then moved to Brier Creek where he worked for some coal company. Then they moved back to Cobb's Creek in 1933 or 1934 and built a house just below the mouth of Buckeye. At that time he worked for his brothers-in-laws, the Brogans, skidding logs on Cobb's Creek and Wash Branch up Little Coal River above McCorkle. They lived there until the children were grown. In about 1946 or 1947 they moved to Bull Creek on Big Coal River where he had a job skidding logs, they stayed there a few years and came back to Cobb's Creek. They bought the Jack Brogan place on Woods Branch, lived there a few years, and their son Delma got that place. Then they moved back to their house below the mouth of Buckeye, where they lived until their death.

In their sixty plus years together George and Georgia didn't acquire very much earthly wealth, mostly because of their generosity toward their fellow man. But they left behind a lot of good memories for me, and I hope for the other grandchildren. I was standing at their graves one day and a lady I had known all of my life, walked up beside me and began crying. She made this statement that "if it hadn't been for George and Georgia when I was a little girl my mother, my brother, my sisters, and I would have went hungry lots of times." There are people living today who are not related to them that tell me about walking by their house or playing in the creek in front of their house and my grandparents insisting on them coming in and having something to eat.

This is what their table looked like at a normal meal: fried potatoes, green beans, pinto beans, cornbread, cat head biscuits, boiled and fried eggs, pork or as we called it "hog meat", pickled beans, pickled corn on the cob, sour kraut, home-made cow butter, butter milk and sweet milk. Also, on the table in the summer and the fall were rhubarb cobbles, fresh corn on the cob, tomatoes, and a cake or pie. It was a table like no other I ever saw.

My grandfather went to work for the WPA, he was making sixteen dollars a month, election time came and the boss told him how to vote, and this was during a Democrat administration. He being a strong Republican told them where to go, that voting was a privilege given him by the government and he was going to vote to suit himself. Needless to say he was fired. After this happened he went about fifteen hundred feet below his house and opened up a coal mine where he dug his house coal and sold coal to other people. He told this story to me when I was about thirteen years old. We were digging coal in that mines, he said that he made more money in one week, than he did in four weeks working for the WPA. Digging coal was his winter job; in the summer he farmed and raised a garden.

He always kept a pair of horses or mules, a milk cow, fifteen or twenty chickens, and a hog. He raised enough corn and hay to feed them. They bought very little from a store. They raised and canned most of what they ate and always had plenty to give away. My grandfather said that when they were married at age 21 my grandmother was a Christian and had changed very little, except for getting older. She was a very kind person and loved all little children. She said that children was what the next world was about, quoting the scripture about a child being one hundred years old. My grandfather was a little coarser than my grandmother, but was a fine man and deep down had a very soft heart. I saw him crying the day his grandson Denzil Pauley left for the service. After several years of Georgia praying for George he gave his life to the Lord. They had four children as follows: (1) Pansy born Oct 5, 1914, died Nov 28, 1993, married Ora B. Pauley, a number one good man. (2) Nona May born in 1918 and died in 1931. She

passed away at 13 years old and was buried in the Wash Pauley Cemetery with her grandparents, John and Letha Jane Brogan, and some uncles and aunts. My father said she was a very pleasant person and took whatever happened in life and went on. (3) Dillard Mark born April 5, 1920, died March 30, 1985, married Mortana Griffith. In my opinion the finest mother in the world. (4) John Delma born Sept 21, 1921, died Feb. 26, 2002, married Evelyn Pauley. George and Georgia lived to see three of their four children grown, they also lived to see five of their six grandsons grown, and lived to see seven granddaughters that lived to adult hood. I have no idea how many great grandchildren they had before they passed away. My grandfather George, whom we called Paw, died about three a.m. on July 7, 1972. My grandmother, Georgia, whom we called Granny, died at 7 am the next morning, July 8, 1972. They were both buried in one big grave in Lively Cemetery. I know I am prejudiced but I don't think there are people like them anymore.

The Saloon

In about 1906 Lincoln County was dry, meaning you couldn't sell whiskey. Rome Pickens goes across Little Coal River to Kanawha County and builds a saloon in the Jordan bottom. He also builds a house for the saloonkeeper to live in. This house burned down in the late 1950's while Other and Virgee (Hughes) Miller lived there. When Rome Pickens built the saloon he also built a swinging bridge across the river for his customers to use. The west end was between two beech trees that are still standing. This bridge crossed the river to the upper end of the Jordan bottom. I was told that after the saloon was torn down and rebuilt into a restaurant. The bridge steadily deteriorated until someone cut the wire cables up for junk during WWII. The saloon was operated by at least four different men that I know of, there could have been more. The four saloonkeepers that I know of are as follows and this is not in the order they worked there. Charles Eggleton, a man named Fluthart, Son Moore (the only man that was from Cobb's Creek) and a man named C J Bumpus who owned a saloon on Big Coal River before he came to the Jordan bottom. Mr. Bumpus had a big gray tomcat named Tom. Tom was almost always lying around in the saloon. I was told that if you wanted to get in trouble with Mr. Bumpus just mess with his cat. As does happen to all God's creatures Tom died. Mr. Bumpus buried him in the back yard and ordered a tombstone with Tom written on it. I saw this monument in the Jordan bottom when I was a teenager and became very curious. I asked someone about it and was told to see Delmar Dunlap. He was the one that told me about the cat. At that time I never dreamed that someday I would write about it.

Someone told me that at least one man was killed in the saloon but I don't remember the details. There were lots of fights and I'll tell one about Fighting John Dunlap. John passed away when I was a teenager and he was an elderly man. The old timers told me when John was young he never bothered anyone but if someone wanted to fight he was always ready and was hard to handle. The hotel that John, and his wife Dicy, ran was on the riverbank and just above the depot. I was told John was always hanging around the depot when the train stopped to unload passengers. One day a stranger got off the train but no one paid much attention to him, because people was always getting off the train and going into the oil and gas fields, or to either Malleable or Lincoln Coal Mines looking for work. Sometimes hobos would hitch a ride on the trains, get off when it stopped at McCorkle and go up Cobb's Creek looking for something to eat. Or men like this stranger who was just roaming from place to place. This stranger goes to the hotel, gets something to eat, and a room. Just before dark John Dunlap and some of the local men were playing cards at a table in the saloon. In comes this stranger, walked up to the bar orders a

drink, gulps it down turns around, and looks at the crowd. He says, "I am a S.O.B. from Kentucky."

No one says a word. He orders one more drink and gulps it down. Then in a loud voice repeats, "I am a S.O.B. from Kentucky."

This time John says to him, "We knew you were a S.O.B. but didn't know where you were from."

Needless to say a fight broke out, when it was over the stranger was ready to go back to Kentucky.

Dinkie Railroad in 1909

In Cass, West Virginia, in the county of Pocahontas, is a Dinkie (or narrow gauge) train equipped with a coal fired steam engine. It is used as a tourist attraction. You can ride half way up the mountain by a series of switchbacks to Whittaker Station or all the way to the top, Bald Knob. It was originally used to bring logs off the mountain around the late 1800s.

In about 1909 a man by the name of Walter W. Smoot, along with C. W. Eagler and J. H. Jarrett began to build a Dinkie railroad on Cobb's Creek. Walter owned 45% and the other two owned 55%. Walter was the president and Jarrell was the vice president. It was called the Cobb's Creek Railroad. They hired a man named Stonewall Rock, from Virginia. Rock's title was Civil Engineer and his job was to lay the route for the Dinkie railroad and to design the switchbacks to a degree that the train could climb the Ely Mountain. He also designed the building of the railroad trestles and tipples. After his work was finished he left Cobb's Creek.

Creed A. Beckwith was the contractor that was hired to build the railroad, trestles, and the buildings that were needed to operate the railroad. He left Cobb's Creek when his work was finished. Arthur Wade from Virginia was the foreman that oversaw the workmen for Mr. Beckwith. Wade's job was to make sure the tracks and trestles were properly installed. Wade also left when his job was over. The tracks and trestles were in constant need of repair, because the tracks were built on the ground as opposed to the C&O tracks that were built on a bed of ballast or stone. No creosote or other preservative was applied to the cross ties.

Uncle Isaiah Pauley was hired to oversee the repairs. He later left this job, moved to Horse Creek, and lived there until his death. Then Uncle Frank Griffith was hired in Isaiah's place. According to records I have found, and I have also been told by Marvin Dunlap and Cecil Turley that the first engineer was William Jarrell, born about 1885 and his fireman was John Call.

Edward W. Belcher, born about 1872, worked on the Dinkie. He would also become an engineer. His son Wesley "Wes" Belcher also became an engineer. Marion Tyler who had worked on Horse Creek as an engineer hauling logs left that job and went to work as an engineer on the Cobb's Creek Railroad. Cecil Turley told me Marion Tyler was also the boss over the Dinkie as well as engineer and that he was the finest man he ever worked for. Cecil said he and Jehu Graley went to work on the same day. Jehu became a brakeman but didn't stay long, he left and went to work for Malleable Coal Company. Marvin Dunlap who married Vinnie Tyler, daughter of Marion and Hattie (Hill) Tyler, began working on the Dinkie a short time later. Marvin and his father in law Marion Tyler worked on the engine until it went out of business this makes Eloise (Dunlap) Justice, daughter of Marvin & Vinnie, the only person living to have both a father and grandfather as engineer on the Cobb's Creek railroad.

In the bottom on the western side of the C& O depot, was a stable used to house horses,

mules, and oxen. The animals were used to haul oil field supplies to Summit Ridge, Yawkey, Tango, Joe's Creek, Straight Fork, and Porter Fork before the dinkie train came to McCorkle. This stable was torn down and in its place was built a crane house. The crane would be used to load supplies on the dinkie train. Behind the crane house was built an office to run the business affairs of the Dinkie railroad. In front of the crane house the main track was started, and it ran up the left side of Cobb's Creek.

It went in front of where Freddy Pauley and Pearl (Kidd) Pauley lives now, but at that time Ove Hill, Frank Griffith, and Bill Cabell lived there. Up on the side of the hill lived Pearl Pauley's father Elbert Kidd. The track went on up the creek and crossed the Bee Rock Hollow where Roe Armstrong lived. The next place it passed was Van Loftis who owned and operated a blacksmith shop. On up the track, about 400 or 500 feet above where John Dunlap lives now, they built a garage to park the engine at night and on weekends. The track crossed from the bottom where Uncle Walter Griffith lived then and where his grandson David Pauley now lives into the bottom where Frances McCallister now lives and where Fleming Cobb camped one hundred years before. This is the longest trestle on the railroad. From that bottom it crossed main Cobb's Creek and went into the bottom where the McCorkle School house now stands. The track went on up Ely where the state road is now.

Where Hassel Pauley now lives they built a garage, this one was to work on the Dinkie engine, buck jimmies, boxcars, and pipe cars. The tracks continued on up the now existing Ely road. Across the creek in the bottom where Denzil Turley lives, was an old log house. I don't think it is the same one, but I was told that Ely Parsons had built a small log house in that bottom about 1812. The tracks continued up Ely and crossed a small drain called Little Deaden Hollow. The name of the hollow was derived from the practice that the early settlers had of deadening trees so that they could raise crops under them. This was done because the trees were so big that it was hard to chop or use a cross cut saw to cut them down.

The track went on up Ely, and the next house was at the mouth of Big Deaden where a widow woman lived that everyone called Aunt Peggy Smith. She had been married to Green George Graley but they still called her Aunt Peggy Smith. We will come back to Aunt Peggy in a later story. Up in Big Deaden lived Aunt Peggy's daughter and son in law Charley and Mary Liz (Graley) Armstrong and family. Across and just above in the mouth of Ephraim Branch, named for the early pioneer Ephraim Pauley lived Aunt Peggy's son George and his wife Virgie (Brogan) Graley. The tracks went on up Ely and went on the right side of a row of three room company houses, at least ten of these houses were built and owned by Malleable Coal Company. It was called Malleable Town.

It was in the bottom where Paul Hedrick, Gordon Roberts, and Denver Hughes now live; at different times, different people lived in these houses. Some were as follows: Ad Brogan, Sherman Pauley, and Frank Eskew. William Holsclaw and Bill Hensley and others lived there. On the left side of the hill lived Jehu Graley. The track crossed the creek just above the now existing Ely Church. This area is called Malleable after Malleable Coal Company that had a coalmine on the left side of the hill. A sidetrack was put in there to pick up coal. The track went on up the Ely Road to the Walnut Hollow where my grandparents lived, George and Georgia McCormick, where Bernard Miller lives now. The next house was Rocky Woodrum's where Eugene Miller now lives. The track went up the right side of the creek and over a hole of water called the Jewel Hole, then it went on up and crossed the creek twice near the Jim Tackett hollow, where at that time Maclely Dunlap and his family lived. It went on up and crossed the creek at the Board Tree Hollow, then went on up and crossed Wolf Trap, where my great

grandparents John and Letha Jane (Pauley) Brogan lived in a hand hewn log house, that they had built in about 1872. The track never crossed the creek again until it got above William Ira Loftis' house, then it went into the creek and a small railroad trestle was built over a small waterfall.

Now back to Wolf Trap, at the upper end of that bottom, lived Jim Justice at the mouth of Coal Hollow. Just above that on the right side of the creek, lived Wilburn and Angie (Jones) Pauley at the mouth of the Buck Hollow, on up the creek on the right side is Little Ely. In that hollow lived Phillip Sherd George, Walter Brogan, and William "Bill" Justice. On up the tracks at the mouth of the Shadrack Pauley hollow lived Isaiah and Margie (Dunlap) Pauley. He was the son of Shadrack and Zina (Tackett) Pauley. Just above Isaiah, on the right side, lived Leander Young, he at one time had a store there. Above Leander's house and just below William "Ira" Loftis house, is a little drain on the left side of the creek called Fudge Hollow and about half way up that hollow lived Alvin Loftis, brother to William "Ira" Loftis. The Dinkie railroad went up over a small waterfall to the foot of the hill, then a switch back was made, and the track went up the right side of the mountain about half way another switchback was made that took the track to the Low Gap in the head of the middle fork of Buckeye, close to where the Summit Church now sits. There was a yard built to unloaded pipe, and other gas and oil field supplies. Carl Egnor told me that when they were digging around the church, they dug up a brake mechanism for the dinkie train.

About three fourths of the way up Ely Mountain, on the right side of the dinkie track, was a third garage with two rooms upstairs. This garage was used to park a gas-powered car similar to a handcar. The motorized car was used by the foremen. The office upstairs was used to conduct business with the different company officials in the oil fields.

On Summit Ridge, they built three warehouses, a big company store, and one icehouse on land that belonged to Uncle Reese and Aunt Sissy (McCormick) Pauley. The Pauleys were paid \$30.00 a month rent, the contract stated that when the railroad was no longer in use the buildings became the property of Reese and Sissy.

Even though the Dinkie railroad was started much earlier this description of who lived where and what was going on at that time, is based upon 1920 when Cecil Turley was the engineer and also the 1920 census. The following is a list of people that I know, and I am sure there were lots of others, who worked for the Cobb's Creek railroad at different times and different jobs: Frank Griffith, Cornice Griffith, Ernest Griffith, Columbus "Lum" Dunlap and his son Delmar, John "B.J." Dunlap, Willard Dunlap, Marvin Dunlap, Edward Belcher and his son Wesley "Wes", Marion Tyler, Jehu Graley, John Cole, Monroe "Roe" Armstrong, William Jarrell, William "Will" Price, Wilburn Pauley, Alford Browning from Boone County, Isaiah Pauley, Joseph Dolin, Logan Tyler, George Brown (father of Mart Brown) a fireman, Jim McCormick a fireman, and Gilmer Dunlap a fireman.

Now that we have completed all the railroad track and the buildings to operate an early 1900 Dinkie railroad, let's go back down to the mouth of Cobb's Creek and put the railroad into operation.

When they first started operating they had a Shay engine, called Old Number One, and 2 pipe cars about 20 feet long. They had two boxcars about 12 feet long. The boxcars were used to transport all types of supplies to the pipe yard in the low gap north of the Sugar Knob.

The C&O railroad brought the dinkie engine to McCorkle in a boxcar. It was taken out and the pieces were assembled on the dinkie train tracks, there were two boxcars about 12 feet long, and two 20 feet long flatcars for hauling pipe of 2 inch to 10 inch diameters, and one 12 foot flat car that was also put together on the tracks. The front of the engine was always pointing

up Cobb's Creek since there was no turntable to turn it around.

The 12-foot flatcar was hooked to the back of the engine and was never unhooked. I will explain later it's use. The workmen loaded the boxcars with supplies. Water was put into the boiler and coal into the firebox. When the fire was hot, a head of steam was produced. Up Cobb's Creek went the Shay engine with the 12-foot flat car, and the two 12 foot boxcars in tow, with the engineer, William Jarrell, at the controls. When it reached the long trestle between where David Pauley and Frances McCallister lives now, the engine stopped in the middle of it, dropped a hose into the water and engaged a pump that pumped the water from the creek under the trestle into a reservoir in the engine. Up Ely they went, to the top of Summit Ridge, where the supplies were unloaded. Back down the mountain they came, through the two switchbacks, and on down Ely until they reached the Jewel Hole, where they took on water. This procedure was followed on every trip, to the top of the hill and back to McCorkle. Later they bought a Climax engine and sold the Shay. The Shay was called #1; and the Climax was called Old #2. Old #2 was a Class A Climax, it weighed 18 tons, was built in 1915, and brought to Cobb's Creek in November 1919. The tracks and the wheels on both engines were thirty-six inches wide.

While the coal mine was being set up for operation, the Dinkie railroad people were building a coal tipple about 100 yards above the C&O depot, against the side of the hill a section of track was laid from the coal tipple to the main track just above where Elmer Clark now lives.

In the meantime, they brought in four coal cars that were called buck jimmies by the Dinkie railroad people. These four coal cars were assembled on the tracks and were ready to transport coal. The word came from the Malleable Coal Company that they were ready to load coal from the tipple into the buck jimmies. So up the track they went with the four-buck jimmies in front of the engine. When they crossed the trestle just above where the Ely Church is now, the switch was thrown and all four - buck jimmies were shoved up the siding and under the tipple, until the last car was directly under the tipple. The engine was unhooked, and taken back to McCorkle where another load of oil field supplies were ready to be taken to Summit Ridge. By the time this was done the four - buck jimmies are filled with coal and ready to go. Keep in mind the buck jimmie held about 15 tons of coal per car. Up the track went the engine with the flat car that was 12 to 14 feet long in tow, it stopped in front of the tipple, then the switch was thrown, and the buck jimmies are allowed to drift down onto the main track. The switch was again thrown and the engine shoved the flat car down to the buck jimmies and they were coupled together, down the track they were shoved, with the engine in reverse. When they reached the switch at McCorkle that went to the tipple, they shoved three of the buck jimmies down the main track toward the crane house. Then they pulled one of the buck jimmies back up the track, threw the switch, and shoved that buck jimmie to the tipple with the empty flatcar between it and the engine. This allowed the buck jimmies to be shoved up on the tipple with the engine still on the ground, as the engine and the 15 tons of coal would have broken the tipple down. The buck jimmies was unhooked. The engine and flat car went back down to the main line and the switch was thrown. The engine went down the main track and was hooked to the next buck jimmie. Meanwhile the other workers were pulling the pin that allowed the coal to drop through the bottom of the buck jimmie, into the tipple, then into the C&O railroad car. Two men with cranks, rolled the bottom backup and fastened the pin that held it shut. The brakes were released and the buck jimmie drifted down the sidetrack and up the main track. The switch was thrown and the next buck jimmie was shoved up the sidetrack to the tipple, and this procedure was repeated until all four-buck jimmies were emptied.

Then the buck jimmies were shoved back to Malleable Coal Company, where they were

reloaded with coal. Will Price was Walter Smoot's brother in law. Will had married Lucy A. Griffith, daughter of Addison and Dicy (Stephens) Griffith. Lucy had a sister named Mary. Mary was called Maude. Mary "Maude" had married Walter W. Smoot, son of Daniel J. and Mary M. (Atkins) Smoot. Walter served as Sheriff of Boone County from 1913 to 1916. They lived at Lick Creek, Danville, WV. Walter Smoot had started to board with Uncle Frank Griffith. Uncle Frank had several good-looking daughters, one of which was Minnie. Minnie and Walter fell in love, they later moved to Charleston and lived there until his death. There were no children born to Minnie and Walter.

By this time the long trestle that crossed from David Pauley's to Frances McCallister's had become weak. Julian Pauley lived where Frances' house is now. One day Edward Belcher was coming from Malleable Coal Company with four cars of coal, and in the middle of the long trestle it collapsed and the train fell into the creek. Edward was burned very badly from the steam. The new rule was not to cross the trestle with more than two full buck jimmies. Edward Belcher's son Wesley "Wes" Belcher became engineer and with only two-Buck jimmies of coal he still wrecked in that same place. This wreck was not as bad as the wreck of Old 97 with Casey Jones, but Wes was burned over 90% of his body. Even his ears were burned off. Another time Marvin Dunlap also wrecked there but he wasn't hurt. There also was a wreck at the second switchback on the mountain but no one was hurt. There is coal lying around that area unto this day.

Marvin Dunlap attended the old Slab Schoolhouse, which was located in Tiny Branch where his house stood. Marvin said one of his schoolteacher's asked what he wanted to do when he was finished school. His answer was "to be an engineer for the Cobb's Creek Railroad." He not only got that job, but also was the last person to operate Old #2 on Cobb's Creek.

Following is a list of the Dinkie engineers: William Jarrell, William "Will" Price, Edward W. Belcher, Wesley "Wes" Belcher, Marion Tyler, Willard Dunlap, Cecil Turley, Marvin Dunlap, there could have been more but this was the names I was given.

Two Boomtowns on Cobb's Creek

The year 1905 dawned, an era of prosperity that had never before nor since been seen on Cobb's Creek. It could not have been imagined by old pioneers like, Eli Parsons, James Lively, or his sister-in-law Iva Lively, widow of James' brother Lewis. who had lived on Cobb's Creek one hundred years earlier.

The capitalists knew there were oil, gas, and coal deposits in this area. In the mid to late 1800's they tried hauling coal down river by barge through a series of locks and dams, but it was found not feasible so they began the process of building a railroad up Coal River. Shortly before 1905, they crossed Cobb's Creek, built a depot just above the mouth of the creek, built a sidetrack on the right side of the main line, and prepared a yard to unload oil field supplies. There was a barn built to store grain and hay, to house and feed horses, mules, and oxen. These beasts of burden were used to haul the supplies up main Cobb's Creek, to the mouth of Buckeye, up Buckeye and into Joes Creek, Laurel Fork of Horse Creek, Straight and Porter Fork, Yawkey, and Griffithsville. This would cause two boomtowns to be born. The first would be called Train, after Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes. The second was called McCorkle, and it would become the hub of the oil and gas operations.

McCorkle was located at the mouth of Cobb's Creek, where the freight was brought in by the C&O Railroad. The freight was unloaded by hand and loaded on wagons the same way. This

created hundreds of jobs like hauling supplies to the well sites, drilling wells, digging ditches, laying pipe, building derricks around the wells, and hundreds of other jobs. People came here from other counties and other states. Some stayed and became very productive citizens. Others stayed a short time and moved on. Very quickly the first store was built by Rome Pickens and run by Fred Sims. The second store was built and run by Thomas Hill. A hotel and livery stable built and run by John H. Burdette. The second hotel was built by Rome Pickens and run first by "Fighting" John Dunlap. A barber shop ran by Hugh Armstrong. A blacksmith shop was ran by Jason Peal. A saloon was built by Rome Pickens and operated by several other people. A theater was built and run by Josh and Marion Allen. A restaurant was ran by Acie McCormick and his wife Lilly, the daughter of John & Mary (Pauley) Graley. Several houses were built on McCorkle Hill as rental houses and some were still standing in the 1960's. Other people took boarders into their homes.

Fred Sims ran the first store. He applied for and received permission to operate a post office on August 2, 1907. Fred was the first postmaster. He continued operating the store and the post office until February 13, 1915, when he sold his store goods to Fletch Priestley. Then on June 14, 1917, Fletch bought the store building, house, and property from Rome Pickens for \$5,000. Fletch operated the post office and store until Feb. 1, 1940, when he sold out to Gilmer Dunlap. At that time, Mrs. Isaacs who had a little store in her home, became postmaster. The second store was built and run by Thomas Hill. Thomas ran it a short while and sold it to Fletch Priestley. This was when Fletch first came to McCorkle. Fletch ran the store a short time, and moved into the big store on the east side of the railroad, the one that had been run by Fred Sims. The third store was owned and operated by Mordec McClure. It was located across the road and in front of Rex Dunlap's house and west of the first hotel.

The first hotel was built across the road and to the right of Rex's house. This hotel had a basement and two floors above. It had ten rooms on the top floor. The middle floor had a kitchen and rooms for boarders. This was built and run by John H. Burdette, born about 1861, his son Braden and a hired hand named Nelson McCane, born about 1888, helped run the livery stable and hack service. John's wife, Becky, ran the hotel. They ran this business until Elwood and Gilbert Priestley bought them out. The Priestley boys ran it for a few years, then Ed Walker and Winfield Dunlap bought the building and rented it to families to live in. In 1920, Sim and Celesty Belcher, Golden and Ollie Jones, Delia Turley and her three sons were living there along with others. A short time later, about 1922, it caught on fire and burned, also burning Mordec McClure's house and store. It was a two story building, the store was on the ground level and his house was on the upstairs floor.

The second hotel was built by Rome Pickens and run first by "Fighting" John Dunlap and his wife Dicie. The next to run this hotel was Oscar Pauley and his wife Phoebe (Bowman) Pauley. About this time, when the Priestley boys had bought out the Burdettes, they discontinued the hack and livery service. Oscar seized the opportunity, and bought a pair of small black mules that weighed about seven or eight hundred pounds apiece and a 5 passenger buggy, with this he started his taxi service. Oscar transported people into the oil and gas fields of Summit Ridge, Yawkey, Joe's Creek, Griffithsville, and as far as Hamlin. Cecil Turley told me that he had driven this pair of mules and delivered people into the oil field. He said that Oscar Pauley was one of the finest men he had ever known and that he treated him as if he were his son.

Oscar and Phoebe had marital problems that couldn't be resolved, so Oscar left and went to Danville, where he opened a restaurant. A short time later, Phoebe left the hotel and went to Danville where Oscar lived. They still couldn't get along, so one day Oscar rides the train down

river to McCorkle, goes up Cobb's Creek to visit his father, who was Cobb's Creek's main blacksmith at that time, and his mother, his sisters, brothers, and all of his relatives. He then goes back to Danville, packs his bags, and catches the down river train. I can imagine how sad it must have been, when he passed the mouth of Cobb's Creek knowing he would never see it or his family again.

A short time later, his family received a letter from him. He was in Florida and they corresponded through the years until all at once his letters stopped. They said about that time a big storm hit Florida and they believed he was killed in that storm. His wife Phoebe married a man who came here from Virginia to work in the oil fields, his name was Jim Catran. Phoebe and Jim lived to an old age on Summit Ridge before passing away.

When Oscar left and went to Danville, that left Cobb's Creek without a hack service. For a short while, Harry McCormick ran the hack service. Then a man who lived on the other side of Summit Ridge, Rufus McCallister, took over and ran this service until the automobile replaced him. He was the last to run the hack service. In the Library of the Archives at Charleston, in a book called The Gazetteer it refers to it as a stagecoach.

The next person to operate the hotel was Elvin Williams from Fuquay's Creek. He operated it until it went out of business. Lincoln County was once again wet (no prohibition of alcohol) and the saloon business was gone, so Rome Pickens hired Acie McCormick to tear the saloon down and move it to the west side of the river. Acie rebuilt it beside of Fletch Priestley's store on the upper side, toward the depot. Acie rented it from Rome, moved in the back, and put a restaurant in the front. This was the only restaurant in McCorkle besides the two restaurants that were in the two hotels.

There was a big house built about where Freda Dunlap lives now, where Josh and Marion Allen would show silent movies. Later in the late 1930's to early 1940's, Chris Dunlap had a theater in the bottom beside of Pete Dunlap's house, at the mouth of Tiny Branch. Around 1910 Jason Peel had a blacksmith shop at McCorkle. He was from Kentucky, and after a short time he went back to Kentucky. As he was loading his belongings on the train, someone asked him where he was going. His reply was, "Back to Kentuck." He had lived in the first hollow below Cobb's Creek. From then on it was called The Kentuck Hollow.

There was a doctor living at McCorkle. His name was Dr. Manuel F. Adkins, born about 1843. He was only there a short time, and at one point had lived at Blue Tom. Between the C&O railroad tracks, and where Woodrow and Hester Miller lived, Fred Armstrong and Ike Anderson had a store. At one time, Fred had gotten hurt working for the C&O, and they gave him this piece of property as a settlement. Fred built a store on this piece of property. The Gazetteer called it Armstrong & Anderson's Confectionery.

Hugh Armstrong had a barbershop up on the bank, about where Frederick Dunlap lives now. My grandfathers, Griffith & McCormick, told me that Hugh had cut their hair lots of times. They and everyone that told me about Hugh, said he was a good barber. He charged twenty-five cents per person. The only person that I have heard that wasn't happy with their haircut, was Ershel Dunlap. He got into the chair and Hugh began to cut his hair. Ershel said to Hugh, "I've only got ten cents." So Hugh finishes the hair cut, Ershel gives him the dime and goes home, he looks in the mirror and in the front, he has a good haircut, but in the back, it looks bad.

Ershel confronts Hugh about the haircut, and Hugh says, "You paid for a ten cent haircut and that's what you got." As was Ershel's nature, he thought it was funny and just laughed about it.

In front of Hugh's barber shop, Townsel L. Green built a store. Later he builds a store

just beyond the Old Cemetery, towards Pine Grove. Then a little later Bill Cabell comes to McCorkle and builds a store. It is the only one that is still standing. J. R. Pauley has turned it into a workshop. Bill's son, Charles, built a store where the first hotel stood. It was later turned into a house and Ray Isaac lived there. Gilmer Dunlap built a store in front of his house and about one hundred feet west of the cemetery, and operated it until 1940 when he bought Fletch Priestley's store. After Gilmer passed away, Edie sold that store and opened up one in her basement. Big Johnny Dunlap built a store in front of his house, and about thirty feet from the Old McCorkle School. His son, Marvin, built a store on the other side of Tiny Branch, about 150 feet from the old McCorkle School. This makes a total of 13 stores between Tiny Branch and Little Coal River. These stores were built between 1905 and 1945.

Train, the other boom town, was at Summit Ridge, and was located on the head waters of Ely Fork and Buckeye. Like McCorkle, it would build up in much the same way. It would have stores, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, theaters, an ice house, and three big wooden water tanks.

One tank was near Ross Pauley's house. It was filled by pumping water from a well that was located in the head of Ely above the William Ira Loftis' house. The main purpose for this water tank was to operate Harvard's Gas Company's gas compression station, but water was also run into Ross's house and workshop. Roy Shirley was one of the men who operated the pump.

The second water tank was located on the Sugar Knob behind Estil "Windy" Loftis' house and water to fill it was pumped from a well on the Mud River side of Summit Ridge.

The third water tank was on the Buck Knob close to where the fire tower was. This water tank was used for the houses and businesses on south Summit Ridge, out on the northern end of Summit Ridge, Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes built a store and rented it to James W. Lively. On April 18, 1904, James W. Lively received permission from the postal department to start a post office, which he named Train after the store's owner, Andrew Jackson "Train" Hughes. Hughes owned the store and a big section of land around it, so Train became the name for the second boomtown on Cobb's Creek. The name continued to be Train, until Fred Guy May, rented the big company store that belonged to Cobb's Creek railroad company. He applied for permission to operate a post office and received it on February 11, 1916. This store was called Summit Mercantile Company. He took the first letters of these words and combined them to make the name Sumerco (Su mer co). Then on June 15, 1918, the address went back to being Train, WV because Mr. May went to Woodville and opened up a store. On the Mud River side of the Summit Ridge, below the Sugar Knob, people began to live in tents because there weren't enough houses. This became known as "Rag Town". The following is a list of things that were at Train: A.A. Clark had a general store there, Ike Carver ran a barber shop, F.L. Bennett was in the real estate business, Marion S. Griffith sold insurance, John Kingery ran a blacksmith shop, James W. Bowman ran a hotel, John H. Harvey was a contractor and a builder of houses, R. W. Connley ran a hotel, J. H. Wagner was a manufacturer of barrel staves, and John McCormick, son of Jordan Jr., made coffins, straight back and rocking chairs. I am sure lots of other things happened there, but before I got to Summit Ridge, all of the old timers had passed away.

Malleable Coal Mines

When I was a small boy in the mid to late 1940's the Appalachian Power Company installed electricity on Cobb's Creek. They ran three separate wires from the electric pole to each house. One was a ground wire, the other two had 110 phase power on them which gave the

customer 220. At first the only thing that most people had was one or two light receptacles which were turned on and off by a string hanging from it. Each customer was charged \$2.00 per month whether they used any electricity or not. For a long time that was all most people's bill was. We have progressed with new electrical gadgets until some people's bills runs \$200 - \$300 per month. This electric power is called AC which means alternating current. Some might think this was the first time electric lights were seen on Cobb's Creek. But this is not the case. In about 1914 Malleable Coal Company brought electric lights to Ely Fork of Cobb's Creek. It was located about one half mile from the mouth of Ely on the left side of the creek. They brought in a coal fired steam engine which ran a DC electric generator. DC means direct current. It was put into a building which they called a power house located about where Wilmer and Pauline Clark's store was, it was run by Frank Eskew from Big Coal River, he married Sylvie Lacy, daughter of Oscar and Louvina (Allen) Lacy. They sat poles up along the dinkie track to the tipple. On the poles they installed electric lights. The electric wire was run up the side of the tipple, which also had lights on it. The electric wires were extended back into the mines, this was used to power the motor which pulled the cars of coal out of the mines which was operated by Bernie Justice. The motor had a seat to sit in and on the back was a coupler to hook the motor to the coal cars. After the coal cars were pulled out of the mine, the coal was dumped into the tipple, then out of the tipple into the dinkie railroad cars. Then the cars were shoved back into the mines to be loaded again by the men using coal shovels. There was an electric wire that ran into the mines and up to the face, this was to power the coal cutting machine. One of the coal cutting machine operators was Clayton Justice. The coal cutting machine made a cut about 4 inches high at the bottom of the coal seam and five to six feet deep all the way across the face of the coal. Holes were drilled with hand operated drills at about four feet intervals across the face of the coal and about one half way between the floor and the roof. Then black powder, a fuse, and a cap were placed in the holes. Then mud was tamped into the holes with a special rod. The fuses were set on fire and the miner yelled out, "Fire in the hole," and ran to the outside or got behind something. On the left side of the main shaft was another opening, where they installed a big fan, also ran by DC power. This fan kept fresh air flowing through the mines.

To the best of my knowledge Malleable Coal Company started operations in about 1914 or 1915. There is a little bit written about it in the Chapters entitled "Aunt Peggy Smith" and the "1909 Dinkie Railroad".

The following is a list of men who were foremen and superintendent:

G.D. Dillon was a superintendent, John Holston was a foreman, Howard Coplin was the superintendent when it closed in about 1924, and J.C Blair was the company treasurer, their address was 806 Kanawha National Bank Building, Charleston, WV.

In 1918 they produced 18,198 gross tons of coal. In 1920 they were receiving \$3.00 per net ton f.o.b. McCorkle (delivered to McCorkle).

The following is a list of men who worked as laborers in the coal mines: Rockie Woodrum, Elijah Miller, Omer Loftis, George Graley, George McCormick, Matthew "Matt" Moore, Bob McCallister, Charlie Armstrong, Jack, Ad, and Walter Brogan, Sherman Pauley, Bill Hensley, Jehu Graley, Corbet and Arthur "Shortie" Justice, McClellie, Carr, and John "BJ" Dunlap. As I stated before Clayton Justice ran the cutting machine, and Burnie Justice was the motorman. I am sure there were other men who worked there at different times. Most of these names were given to me by George McCormick, some by Cecil Turley, and one or two by Kyle "Red" Dunlap.

Cecil Turley

Cecil Turley was born September 2, 1902 at the mouth of Long Shoal Branch about one and one-half mile below what would in five years become McCorkle, WV. Long Shoal Branch is in Kanawha County, but the address would have been Scioto, WV which was in Lincoln County. He stayed there about one year or so and moved with his family in a wooden john boat to a farm near the Forks of Big and Little Coal River and lived there about three years. Cecil remembered moving from there to a hillside farm at Blue Tom, in a horse drawn wagon and could remember a spotted milk cow tied to the back of the wagon. This farm was bought from Black Lee Lovejoy, then later sold. They rented a farm nearby, still at Blue Tom. While living at the Forks of Coal and Blue Tom their address was Rome, WV. Cecil was the son of Ulysses S. Grant, called Grant, and Cordelia (Dunlap) Turley. Cordelia was called Dely. Cecil had nine brothers and sisters. His father died in 1916 when Cecil was fourteen years old. They continued to live on the farm for a year or two. Then they moved to the top of McCorkle hill. They lived there about two years. Then they moved into Elwood and Gilbert Priestley's hotel and boarding house, by this time all of the children were married except Cecil, Maywood, and Carl.

Before they moved to McCorkle Cecil asked Ed Walker, who was the section foreman on the C&O railroad, for a job. Ed asked Cecil if he was sixteen years old, Cecil replied, "Not quite."

Ed replied, "You are a big boy, I think I can get by with you."

Cecil worked for the C&O railroad three years repairing railroads, building side tracks, and so on. He left the C&O and went to work for the Cobb's Creek railroad. The Cobb's Creek railroad was a dinkie or narrow gauge train. He spent about two years there as an engineer, as well as other jobs, on the dinkie train. He left there and went back to the C&O railroad where he spent twenty years repairing and building railroad tracks. He then went to work for the Y&O Coal Company at Pond Fork in Boone County, where he was a main line motorman, he was also a boss among other jobs. He worked twenty years for the Y&O Coal Company. Then he retired. A short time later he went to work for the Lincoln County Board of Education as a carpenter and was there for eight years. This makes a total of 53 years on public works. During his early working years, he farmed, raised a garden, and raised a few head of cattle. He built four houses for himself on Cobb's Creek and a few houses for other people. Before he went to work for the C&O railroad the first time he did a lot of hard work on his father's farm.

I said to Cecil, "It sounds like you started to work early and quit late.

His answer, "Yes son, I did."

He lived through the Great Depression, two World Wars, the Korean War, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, and probably the beginning of World War III. Cecil has lived most of his life on Cobb's Creek. First marrying Dorothy Dunlap, they had one son named Delano. Dorothy was the daughter of John C. known as "Big John" and Genevieve (Graley) Dunlap. This marriage ended in divorce. Cecil later married Vada Harper from Roane County. She had three children: Buster, Reva, and Kenny Harper which Cecil raised as if they were his own. Cecil is still living and is over one hundred years old. I visited him two days ago, Nov. 3, 2003 and he has knowledge that no one I know of has. He gave me two names of people who worked on the dinkie train that I hadn't heard before.

He has seen more things than anyone I know living today. He saw the railroad come up Little Coal River but said he was very young and it seemed like a dream to him.

He saw the first car, a Ford, come to McCorkle. It was owned by Elwood Priestley. He

said there was hardly no road at all, mostly it ran in the creek. He said winter came and the car was useless. As far as Elwood could go was up to the mouth of Tiny Branch and back. A distance of about one-half mile. He said that him and his brother in law, Gilmer Dunlap, bought the next car, it was a Chevy Touring car. Cecil said that Elwood Priestley was a man of vision, keep in mind that the automobile was in it's infancy. Elwood went to Madison and went into the automobile business. Then Elwood became the first millionaire that I know of from Cobb's Creek. Elwood was born on Fuquay's Creek but raised on Cobb's Creek.

I go to Cecil's house and we talk about things that probably only the two of us know about, he because he saw it and I because some old timer, who is now gone, told me about it. He has given me information that no one else alive has. He has let me copy pictures that he has. I have old pictures that he has identified that no one else can remember seeing. Pictures like the dinkie train, the Saloon across the river from McCorkle, and different people in the pictures. He has given me information about the operation of the dinkie railroad that no one else can because of his being one of the engineers and also seeing it operated before and after he worked there. When I am writing these stories I find myself with questions that I should have asked the older people when they were alive. But thanks to Cecil, a man with an amazingly good memory I can get some of my questions answered. If I say something that isn't right, instead of saying, "That's not right." He says "That won't do."

I would like to say that he is one of the finest men I have ever known, when I go to visit him seeking answers to my questions he will thank me when I leave like I was doing him a favor when it is the other way around. I have become very fond of Cecil. As I stated before, he is one hundred years old, my hope and prayer that he will have good health and God will allow him twenty more years which is all the bible says we can live. He lives by himself. He does his own cooking and housework. His son, Delano Turley, lives beside of him and helps with things he can't do for himself.

Ray Tyler

About a week before I started to write this particular story, a man passed away on March 3, 2002 in rural Mason County, West Virginia. His name was Clarence F. Gray, but he was better known as "Catfish Man of the Woods". Gray would dig wild herbs, make medicine out of the herbs, and sell it to the public; he also hunted and fished for food, and lived off the land.

On Grassy Fork of Cobb's Creek, lived such a man named, Ray Tyler. He was a man of rare character and a very resilient person. Ray Tyler was the son of Marion and Hattie (Hill) Tyler. Ray married Sylvia Hill, daughter of Bud Hill, from Julian. Ray and Sylvia were the parents of thirteen children, six of who lived to adulthood. Ray never had what we'd call a public job. He was a digger and seller of ginseng, may apple, and yellow root. Ray had a hunting dog, which was described to me as a little black fuzzy dog, named Little Blackie. With this dog, Ray would hunt rabbits, squirrels, coon, and ground hogs. The old timers said that if Ray and his dog got after a squirrel, it might as well give up. If the squirrel went into a hole in a hollow tree, Ray would climb the tree and chop a bigger hole in it, and twist a forked twig into the squirrel's tail and pull him out.

In the winter, Ray would trap mink, muskrat, and coon. He would dry the skins and sell them. When the river was low and conditions were right, he would go to McCorkle and get in his wooden johnboat. He would either go down river toward Long Shoal, or up toward Ivy Branch. He would gig fish and frogs. He didn't have time to fish with a pole and a hook, he had a family

to feed. He also would set drop lines and trot lines to catch fish. I was also told he would sometimes use dynamite to catch fish which is illegal, but very effective. Ray was about 5 foot 10 inches tall. I was told that on one of his trips down toward Long Shoals, that he killed a fish with dynamite, put it in his boat, came back to McCorkle, stuck a stick through the fish's gills, placed the stick on his shoulder, and started walking toward home. Ray Dunlap told me that when Ray Tyler passed the mouth of Tiny Branch, the fish's tail was dragging the ground. In the Holy Scriptures God speaks of a man named Nimrod, and called him a mighty hunter before the Lord. Ray, too, could have been called a mighty hunter.

Ray also dug coal out of a coal bank, as they were called in that day. He used the coal to cook with and to heat their house. Ray used the coal for one other purpose that most people didn't use it for. That was for the making of moonshine whiskey, the brew of the mountain man. Ray would set his mash barrel out in the woods, and when it had fully worked, he would bring it in the house, set his still on the cook stove and then he made his brew, which he sold for twenty-five cents a pint. As bad luck would have it, one day the revenueurs came by and caught him making whiskey. After he was caught, and his neighbors found out about it, his closest neighbor, Joseph Paul said, "We thought that when we saw the smoke coming out of his chimney, that his wife was cooking something to eat."

Ray was tried, convicted, and sent to Moundsville prison to serve out his time. His wife and children moved close the prison and they never came back after he was released.

As I stated before, he never had a public job, but in my opinion Ray Tyler worked harder to feed his family than anyone I know, but, he was doing something he enjoyed. I would like to state the Tyler's that I have known were all wonderful people.

The Death of Aunt Peggy Smith

We talked about Aunt Peggy Smith in another chapter living at the mouth of Big Deaden Hollow.

Aunt Peggy Smith was born in 1856 the daughter of Jordan Jr. and Julia Ann (Dolin) Smith, her name was Margaret but she went by the name Peggy. Aunt Peggy was the widow of Green George Graley but people always called her Aunt Peggy Smith. She was old and wasn't able to do for herself so the men on the dinkie train would dump big lumps of coal off in front of her house. She piled it beside her house and was always ready for winter.

Now in the Malleable Coal Mines where the coal was being dug by hand the operation went something like this. The coalminer would use a handheld auger about five feet long and drill three or four holes across the face of the coal. They would tamp black powder in the holes along with a cap and a long fuse. Then they would take mine dust and mix it with water and tamp it until the holes were full. Then they tied the loose ends of the fuses together, sat fire to the fuses, the miner would yell, "Fire in the hole." And run to the outside. When the smoke had cleared they went back inside, the coal would be shot lose, and lying on the floor. The coalminer would use a coal shovel, which has a wide scoop and short handle, to load the coal into mine cars, shove the car to the outside and dump it into the tipple. From the tipple to the buck jimmies the coal was then transported to McCorkle, then dumped into the C&O coal cars. Now back to the story.

On this particular day one of the shots didn't go off, the other shots went off and caused a big lump of coal to fall out onto the floor of the mine with a live charge of black powder in it. Unknown to anyone this lump was put in the mine buggy and shoved to the outside, dumped into

the tipple, then into the buck jimmie, taken down the Dinkie Railroad and dumped at Aunt Peggy's house. She busily carried the lump to the house.

One winters evening when the sky was so clear that it looks like you could almost touch the moon, Omer Loftis, Peggy's grand-son-in-law, and some other family members came to visit. A blazing hot fire was going in the fireplace. As the fire began to burn down Omer went outside and picked up the big lump of coal with the black powder tamped into it. Omer placed the lump in the fire and in a short time it began to burn. Then all of a sudden the black powder in that lump of coal exploded. Aunt Peggy, being old and sitting up close to the fire to keep warm as the explosion occurred, was very startled. She gasped for air and flames of fire were inhaled while she was burned badly over her body. Omer's hands were burned trying to put out the flames. But by morning Aunt Peggy had passed from this life. Omer was a friend of my grandfather, father, and myself. He wouldn't have let this happen if he could have prevented it. This was an unforeseen accident, a chain of events that only happens once in a lifetime or maybe 10 lifetimes. Some of Aunt Peggy's grandchildren are Leroy, George Jr. Bruce, and Arley Graley; Edgel, Harold, Earshel, and Nelson Dunlap; Sylvia Loftis, Mable Edwards, and Delcie Dunlap.

Morton & Blanche (Waugh) Griffith

My maternal grandfather was born June 15, 1895 at what was called Sciota, West Virginia now Sod, about ½ mile up Spring Branch at the mouth of Smith Hollow, he was named Morton Alford Griffith and was the fourth child of Alford and Frances Jane (Lively) Griffith. Morton attended 8 years of schooling at Fairview Grade School; it was located where Harold and Gloria Lee Runyan now live on McCorkle Road. When World War I started Morton joined the navy, he was a barber during his tour of duty.

After the war was over Morton came home and spent some time on his parent's farm. A short time later Morton decided to visit his cousins on the lower end of Mud River near Barboursville, West Virginia. The cousins lived at Staats Mill on Waugh Creek. After arriving at his cousins he learned that the Blue Sulfur Missionary Baptist Church was having a revival. Just before church time he and his cousins walked down the dirt road to the church house. There at the church Morton met a young woman by the name of Blanche Waugh. Blanche lived near by at Staats Mill. During the two-week revival Morton saw Blanche every night and would walk her home after church. When the two-week stay was over Morton came back to Cobb's Creek and after a month or so of not being able to get her out of his mind he went back to Waugh Creek. Morton went to Blanche's house and they took a walk down toward the banks of Mud River and as they walked along he said to her, "I'm going to get married. Do you want to be there with me?" Blanche's answer was, "Yes."

So on the 30th day of May 1923 in the Blue Sulfur Church house they were married. A week or so later he writes a letter to his mother and father telling them that on a certain day they were going to Barboursville and catch a train to St. Albans. It was a passenger train that Rome Pickens was ½ owner of. Upon reaching St. Albans they boarded the passenger train up Coal River. Blanche said that was the first time she ever went through a tunnel, it was Armstrong Tunnel named for a man named Clarence Armstrong.

Going on up Coal River they passed Upper Falls, and then pulled in to the Lincoln Station for a brief stop. Then the train went on up Coal River to Alum Creek Depot. After a short stay it was on up Coal River to the Forks of Big and Little Coal, up Big Coal they went to the

Sproll Depot. There they stopped for a short time, the tracks were thrown and through the Sproll Tunnel they went, coming out on the left side of Little Coal River.

On up the track the couple went passing Flat Creek and through the Blue Tom Tunnel and onto the trestle then into the bottom called Blue Tom. On up the track about one-quarter of a mile on the left side of the river was Manning Branch where 30 or 40 years earlier was a small boom town where boats and barrels were made for the hauling of salt and cannel coal. On up the tracks they went past Henry Wallace's place past Round Shoal where "Down River" George McCormick lived.

On passed Dunlapville where Piner and Willie Dunlap lived, through by Long Shoals and Preston Branch. Preston Branch was so named for William Preston, an early surveyor sent here by George Washington to survey a tract of land. Then past the John A. Branch, named for John A. Pauley, an old Civil War veteran, then into the McCorkle Station.

In the letter to Morton's parent's it was requested that my great uncle and brother to Morton, Willie Griffith would meet them with the horses and wagon to take them and their luggage home. Uncle Willie was there when the train pulled into the station. They loaded the luggage into the wagon with Uncle Willie driving the horses and my grandparents sitting on the back of the wagon. Down by the Dinkie Track they went crossing Cobb's Creek just about where the county bridge is now, which is called Trestle Road Bridge. Up through the bottom that belongs to the Damon Dunlap family, now behind where Rex Dunlap and J.R. Pauley now lives, on up the bottom past the Free Will Baptist Church and the old McCorkle School into the creek at the mouth of Tiny Branch.

Going on up the creek there was a bottom on the left side where Jerry Allen lives now but at that time Lum and Marian Dunlap lived there. As they passed by Lum and Marion were sitting on the porch in a swing. Lum was a man of dark complexion, probably with Indian ancestry; his people came from North Carolina. When they used to have the Dunlap and McCormick Reunion at the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church they would give a gallon of molasses to the person with the darkest complexion. They said Lum Dunlap would wear a white shirt to make himself appear even darker so he would win the jug of molasses.

Before I say anything else, I would like to make it clear that my grandmother was not a prejudice person in any way. Blanche said to Morton, "Who was that nigger man with his arms around that white woman?"

Well as fate would have it Lum and his wife Marian's grandson Jerry Dunlap and Morton and Blanche granddaughter Linda McCormick would become husband and wife and would raise two sons: Jay and Chris.

Morton and Blanche raised their family on Spring Branch. The first child was my mother Mortana who had three children; the next was Morton Jr. who had two children, and the last was Ola who had three girls. Morton and Blanche lived to see 8 grandchildren and at least 5 great grand children.

Lincoln Mineral Company

Parts of this story were told to me by my grandparents on both sides, and they put David and Charles Howard as the number one alleged crooks.

Next there was a man by the name of James A. Holley. He came from the Charleston area. But he never put his name on any papers that would incriminate him. He was often mentioned as the former owner of this piece of property or that piece of property but they never

gave any deed book or page numbers for his deeds. I was unable to find any deeds to verify his ownership of this 12,900 acres.

In the beginning of the oil and gas boom these two brothers, David and Charles Howard, came to Lincoln County. Dave, as he was called, was a lawyer and he and Charles together owned several gas and oil drilling companies. They were drilling wells in the headwaters of Ely, Buckeye, and also in the Duval District of Lincoln County. Keep in mind that Washington District of Lincoln County was taken from Kanawha County in 1867 when Lincoln County was formed.

This is speculation on my part. I believe that while Dave was doing title searches at the courthouse he discovered that some people were just squatters and didn't own the land they lived on. Some of them lived there fifty and sixty years. This is based on title searches that I have done both in Lincoln and Kanawha County. When most of the early deeds were made, some of the smaller hollows had not been named. The calls on the deeds went something like this:

"Beginning at a 8 inch black oak with a cucumber tree pointer, just below the Eskew field then running north to the top of the hill, cornering on a large red oak, then running east to a black gum tree with a sassafras pointer, then south down the hill to a large Beech beside the creek, then down the creek to the place of the beginning, containing 25 acres, more or less."

As you can see it is very difficult to tell where the land was located. This is the end of my speculation.

While discussing this 12,900 acre land deal with a lawyer I said, "There seem to be a lot of shady characters that came together to pull this task off."

His reply was, "When a crook needs help, it's not hard to find other crooks to help."

In 1909 a man was supposed to have set the Lincoln County Courthouse on fire. Someone told me he was tracked down with bloodhounds, tried, convicted, and sent to prison for a short time. Very few people took their deeds to the courthouse to have them put back on record. Keep in mind, this was a time, when people trusted other people to do the right thing. I realize the following is very confusing but I will do my best to make this as simple as possible. The following is 8 deed transactions that were made on the same 12,900 acres to David or Charles Howard or one of their companies that they owned which included Lincoln Mineral, Harvard Gas, and Delaware Fuel:

1. April 9, 1926 Deed Book 93 Page 437
Potter & Turner to Charles Howard.
2. April 9, 1926 Deed Book 94 Page 338
Williamson & Charles Morgan to David Howard.
3. April 9, 1926 Deed Book 99 Page 108-124
Potter & Turner to Charles Howard, Trustee
4. May 1, 1926 Deed Book 94 Page 342
David Howard to Harvard Gas
5. Dec. 29, 1928 Deed Book 99 Page 219
Lincoln Mineral to Delaware Fuel
6. Dec. 9, 1928 Deed Book 104 Page 26
Lincoln Mineral to Delaware Fuel

- In the second paragraph it states Delaware Fuel to Lincoln Mineral.
- 7 Feb. 27, 1929 Deed Book 100 Page 75
Wattie McClure to Lincoln Mineral Company
for the same 12, 900 acres that in six previous deeds had been made
to David or Charles Howard or one of their companies
- 8 June 1, 1948 Deed Book 33 Page 313
Delaware Fuel to Lincoln Mineral

Most people are happy with one deed, but this is a total of 8 deeds for one piece of property and there could be more that I didn't find.

The following is written the way it is on record in the Lincoln County Courthouse: Deed Book 99 Page 108-124, It was made on the 9th day of April, 1926 "James and his wife Lula Potter, John Potter, J.E. Turner and his wife Rachel Turner, of Steubenville, County of Jefferson in Ohio and Charles C. and his wife Caroline Morgan of Lincoln County, WV parties of the first part to Charles Howard, Trustee, party of the second part containing 12,900 acres." There were no books or page number from which this deed was made.

I don't know who the Potters and Turners were, but Charles Morgan was an oilfield foreman for the Howard Brothers. The only property that I can find a deed for Mr. Morgan was about 2 acres, now owned by Obie Gillenwater on Summit Ridge, at the junction of Ely Road and Summit Ridge Road. The Morgans bought this property from the Howards, several years after the 12,900 acre deed was made.

This 12,900 acres had been surveyed sometime in the 1920's which includes all of the calls in minutes and degrees, but to save space I'll not go into that. It started at the mouth of Fuquay's Creek where the Alum Creek Lion's Club Park is now located. Running up the edge of Coal River to about where Route 214 and Alum Creek Bridge is now to the corner of Rome Picken's property, he being a multi-millionaire, they didn't want to tangle with him. So they surveyed to the top of the hill and went around his property, coming back to the Little Coal River, about where the Corridor G bridge is now, then following the Little Coal River to McCorkle. Then went up the divide ridge between Ely and Ivy Creek to the Buck's Knob. Then followed Summit Ridge in a northerly direction to the knob behind where Clifford McClure lives now. Then in an easterly direction down the ridge between Buckeye Fork and Joe's Creek to the old Council Gap Church. Then around the ridge between main Cobb's Creek and Laurel Fork of Joe's Creek, then crossed in a northerly direction between Hayzlett Fork and Cobb's Creek, through the Low Gap then up the hill to the Elijah McClure Knob. Then down the ridge between Hayzlett Fork and Fuquay's Creek to the head of Tom's Fork, then down the center of Tom's Fork Creek to it's mouth, then down main Fuquay's' Creek to the Lions Club Park, the place of the beginning, being 12,900 acres more or less. They claimed to own everything inside this tract of land except 75 ½ acres on Road Fork of Fuquay's Creek, owned by Emma Z. Smith, who she was I don't know and I have never seen her name written anywhere other than this document. The second tract of land was 24 ½ acres on main Fuquay's Creek and owned by Susan Ramsey. I know she was the widow of a Henry Ramsey. He is not the one who ran the ferry at Alum Creek. Despite the fact they claimed to own the land and minerals they were renting mineral off of people who truly owned it: Pauleys, Dunlaps, Harveys, and etc.

For most people one deed would be enough but on the same day as the preceding deed was made, April 9, 1926, J.A., D.E., D.G., J.A., and their wives: Sarah, Eliza, and Lola Williamson, party of the first part made a deed to David C. Howard, party of the second part for

the same 12,900 acres. This is in Deed Book 94, Page 338. Keep in mind the first deed was made to Charles Howard. I don't know where the Williamson's were from but the deed was made in Wood County, WV. The only money to exchange hands was \$1,550.00 in a note to be paid in 30 days written on the Peoples Exchange Bank in Charleston, WV and a promise to pay \$10,000. Most deeds have a deed book and page number from which it came, this one says Deed Book 88, Page 355, owned by White Sands Petroleum Company, Box 1065, Charleston, WV. But this deed had nothing to do with this 12,900 acres, but was mineral owned by the Pauley family and others in the head of Buckeye, on land the White Sands Petroleum Company had leased from: Harveys, Pauleys, Dunlaps, and others. Land that according to Deed Book 99, Page 108-124, and the other seven deeds that David and Charles Howard owned They were leasing mineral from land that they claimed to own. The strange thing about this is they didn't drill on the land they claimed they owned in Deed Book 99, Page 108-124, and the other seven deeds made on this 12,900 acres.

On May 1, 1926 David C. Howard, Trustee, party of the first part, sold this same 12,900 acres to Harvard Gas Company, party of the second part, a corporation in the State of Delaware, Deed Book 94, Page 342. On the 3rd day of August 1928 there was a special commissioner appointed by Lincoln County Courts, he was Hawthorn Battle, a lawyer from South Charleston, and a business partner of David and Charles Howard. The next time the deeds changed hands was on Dec. 29, 1928 the next day after the Federal Court Case was held in Huntington, WV in which the Federal Court determined the Howards owned the 12,900 acres. It is recorded in Deed Book 104, page 461 and is a very strange deed. In the first paragraph it states Delaware Fuel Company, party of the first part, to Lincoln Mineral Company, party of the second part. In the second paragraph it states Lincoln Mineral Company, party of the first part, to Delaware Fuel Company, party of the second part.

After all of these deeds transfers on Feb. 27, 1929 in Deed Book 100, page 75 Wattie McClure, party of the first part, to Lincoln Mineral Company, party of the second part. Once again after two years, ten months, someone who didn't own this 12,900 acres is making a deed to David and Charles Howard. No book or page numbers stating Wattie McClure's ownership are written in this deed. Money is not mentioned in this transaction, no hand written signatures are on any of these deeds, they are all typed. Since all parties involved are dead, only the Lord knows for sure what happened.

Now for a little background on Wattie McClure. He had a twin brother, Willie, and they lived in a small house in the head of Buckeye. They also had a small garden and chicken house. They raised about all they ate and sold eggs from the chickens. They were helped out by kindly neighbors and relatives. If they had sold this much property they wouldn't have needed any help.

Once again on June 1, 1948 in Deed Book 133, Page 313 Delaware Fuel Company, party of the first part, to Lincoln Mineral Company, party of the second part, this same 12,900 acres has once again been sold and by this time all was left was the mineral rights.

Now we will back up, just a little bit, and tell what happened to the surface property. In the 1940's Delmar, Winfield, Gilmer, and Johnny Dunlap, Ralph Mitchell and others bought from Charles Howard different parts of this land on Cobb's Creek and sold it to other people. And on Fuquay's Creek someone else I don't know who, sold that property. These deeds are specially warranted, this means if I own the property, it's yours.

Now as was stated in another chapter Ephraim Pauley died in 1854. At the same time this alleged crooked work was going on in the Lincoln County Courthouse and seem to be going on in the Kanawha County Courthouse. Two deeds were put on record that were supposed to have

been, put on record in 1859. It was dated July 20, 1859 in Kanawha County, Deed Book W, Page 93 it says, Summers and Summers, party of the first part, to Ephraim Pauley, party of the second part. Then on August 5, 1859 Ephraim Pauley, party of the first part, to E.P. Swan and George W. Summers, party of the second part, 12,900 acres signed by Ephraim Pauley only, these signatures were typed out too, Deed Book W, Page 95. Five years after Ephraim died, he bought 12,900 acres, then 16 days later he sold it to the same people he bought it from. Sounds like some of the Lincoln County voters, voting after they are dead.

Then on the 30th day of August 1968 Charles F & his wife Nona Shll Howard, party of the first part, sold the mineral of this 12,900 acres to Armco Steel Corporation, party of the second part. It would be my opinion based on the names they gave their companies and where some of the their companies were based that these people were northern carpetbaggers. I was told that some of them went to Harvard and others went to Cambridge to school. One of their companies was Harvard Gas and another was Cambridge Oil. Anyway, they all came together, and with the help of some alleged unscrupulous people the courts of Lincoln County, WV, and the Federal Courts of Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia. All three courts gave the land and the minerals to these people. David Howard never enjoyed any benefits from this transaction, he was killed in a car wreck at the junction of Summit Ridge Road and Ely Road, as he entered into the land he allegedly helped steal. I have not run title searches on the rest of Lincoln County but was told the biggest portion of Lincoln County was allegedly stolen in the same way by other people. This is one of the reasons this is a poor county. If the carpetbaggers hadn't allegedly stolen it and every landowner owned his or her mineral rights we would be getting the royalties from the coal, gas, and oil and we the people would be wealthier and so would the county.

Four Dunlap Brothers

This story is about four Dunlap Brothers who were raised in a log cabin on Big Hewett in Boone County. Their father was Samuel Early Dunlap, he went by the name of Early. Early was the son of Andrew Jackson and Eliza Ann (Smith) Dunlap. Early's grandparents were James and Millie (Childress) Dunlap and Jordan and Permelia Ann (McCormick) Smith. Early was born in Boone County and at a young age his father died. His mother, Eliza, married Washington Pauley who lived in the head of Buckeye. Early lived with his mother and step-father Wash Pauley until he married his next door neighbor Gennetta Holstein. She lived at the mouth of Wood's Branch and was the daughter of Allen and Rebecca (Lacy) Holstein, and granddaughter of John and Elizabeth (Griffith) Lacy. Early and Gennetta were married in about 1879 and lived on Buckeye beside of his mother and stepfather. A short time later they moved to Big Hewett and built the above mentioned log house. Where they raised several boys and about three girls. We will tell about the four brothers who came to Cobb's Creek to live.

The first was Holbert Dunlap who married Florence Freele. She was raised in Tennessee. Holbert worked several years for the C&O Railroad before retiring. Holbert and Florence lived about 1,000 feet above the C&O depot at McCorkle with their son Holbert, Jr. I have been told that Holbert, Jr. was the second best bicycle rider on Cobb's Creek, surpassed only by Bunny Pauley, son of Bayless and Emma (Armstrong) Pauley. Holbert, Jr. is married and lives in Huntington, WV.

The next brother was McKinley Dunlap who to the best of my knowledge was never married. He was a small man who almost always had a smile. The things he enjoyed doing were

raising a garden and hunting ginseng. He lived the last twenty or so years with Holbert and Florence.

The next brother was named John Dunlap. They were several John Dunlap's. They all have a name to distinguish them from each other. This particular John Dunlap had two. He was called "Fiddling John" because of his ability to play the fiddle and the other was "Diamond John" which was used the most. Several stories have been told as to how he acquired this name. The story that I will tell goes like this. One morning John was looking across Little Coal River into the hill on the other side. The way the bright early sun was shining on this particular spot John saw something sparkling in the sunlight. He decides that it is diamonds and goes in search of them but never finds any. It was probably the reflection of the sun off the morning dew. Darrell Harmon, who used to live with John when he was a boy, said John told him that it could have been a dream.

John was married three times. The first marriage was to Grace J. Graley, daughter of George and Virgie (Brogan) Graley. His second wife was Virgie Griffith, daughter of Frank and Molly (Russell) Griffith. The next marriage was to Ann Midkiff from Fuquay's Creek. I would like to say that John was a fine man to talk to. He loved to talk about the bible and God more than any person I ever knew. John liked to fish, especially when Virgie was having a bad day. John also liked to do math problems. He said it kept his mind in good working order. It would be my opinion that God will provide a home for him in the next life.

The next brother is Ezra Dunlap who married Bessie Lee Dunlap. Bessie was the daughter of Charles Dunlap and Aunt Peggy Smith. Aunt Peggy was the daughter of Jordan, Jr. and Julie Ann (Dolin) Smith. Charlie Dunlap was the son of Charles and Elizabeth (McCormick) Dunlap.

It has been said that Ezra made a little moonshine in his younger days, but mended his ways and gave his life to the Lord. When I became acquainted with Ezra Dunlap he was in his 50's. I was a young boy and he would come through our pasture with his black and white fiest (dog) named Spot. Ezra would have a single shot 22-caliber rifle and a ginseng hoe. Ezra was doing what he liked and what he was best known for, digging ginseng. His dog, Spot, would tree squirrels and groundhogs and Ezra would shoot them out with the 22 rifle. One of his biggest pleasures in life was to go camping. One place was called the Dew Drop Inn Rock on Fork Creek, across the hill from McCorkle in Boone County. Another place was under a rock cliff down Little Coal River in the Boone Holstein Hollow, named for Daniel Boone Holstein. But Ezra's favorite place was under the old camp rock on Ivy Branch in the Clayton Justice Hollow.

A man by the name of Bill Church who had been a barber in Boone County drifted into Cobb's Creek. He was a small man who always wore a beard and looked like Gabby Hayes in the Western movies. Bill liked to camp. Ezra and Bill camped under the rock in Ivy Branch lots of times. It has been told that they hold a record for staying longer than anyone before or since. Ezra stayed for three months without leaving. After Ezra left Bill stayed three more days before he left. Bill came to the top of Ivy Mountain and moved into a one-room house that belonged to Ralph Page, Sr. After about three weeks Bill took sick and died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital.

When Ezra and Bessie were first married he worked in the coalmines at Ivy Branch and for Malleable Coal Co. on Ely. They lived in a company house near the mouth of Ely. Then they bought all of what is now Punkin Town. They traded the timber that was on the hill to Jack Brogan for enough lumber to build a nice big house with a porch across the front. Ezra and Bessie lived in this house and raised their seven children.

For several years after Bessie passed away, Ezra did what he enjoyed most camping, digging ginseng, and playing his mandolin. He and his son Edgel who played several different musical instruments would sit on their front porch and play, entertaining lots of people, one of whom was me when I was a teenager. After several years Ezra married Loannie Smith from Big Coal River. Loannie and Ezra lived together in a small house in Punkin Town bottom until his death. Ezra and Bessie are buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. I would like to say this about Ezra Dunlap, being the humble, kind-hearted man he was I am sure that on Judgment Day the Lord will welcome him home. Ezra and Bessie's children were as follows: Erschel, Nelson, Hillard, Delsie, Mabel, Harold, and Edgel. These children and grandchildren of Ezra and Bessie like to talk, laugh, and have a good time and are good to everyone they meet.

Van Buren Pauley, Sr.

Van Buren Pauley, born 1899 and died 1934, the son of Wilburn and Calley (Mooney) Pauley. He married Lola Dunlap, daughter of Lonsford and Rosie (Graley) Dunlap. In the late 1920's and the early 1930's Van Buren lived and operated a grist mill at the mouth of Ephraim Branch. He was the great-great grandson of Ephraim Pauley for whom the branch was named. By this time two main gas lines had been laid down Ely, so Van Buren hooked on to the gas lines. He converted a gasoline engine over to natural gas. With this converted engine, transmission and drive shaft he ground corn into cornmeal. People from all over Cobb's Creek, Ivy Branch, and the surrounding areas brought corn to be ground. Before corn can be ground into meal it needs to dry for about one year. But on this particular day someone brought corn, that was not properly dried. When uncured corn is ground it puts off a gas. The top and bottom stone has grooves cut into them. The grooves on the bottom stone are turned up and the grooves on the top stone are turned down to face each other. The turning of the top stone is what grinds the corn into meal. The stone rubbing the other stone causes sparks and these sparks ignited the gas that the uncured corn was producing. This caused an explosion that broke the top stone burr. A large piece of the stone struck Van Buren in the heart and killed him. Van Buren has a son, Van Buren Pauley, Jr. and some grandchildren and great-grandchildren who live on Cobb's Creek.

Cobb's Creek Winery

Cobb's Creek is well known for it's making of moonshine whiskey. But few people know about the winery and grape arbor that was located in the head of Buckeye and Ely Fork's of Cobb's Creek on the knob where Obie Gillenwater lives now. This was company land as it was called and owned by Cambridge Gas, which was owned by Ernest Hollingsworth. He was in partnership with Hawthorn Battle and Charles Howard. In the late 1920's they hired a Frenchman, named John Niles, who was brought here from France. He lived in what some called the Morgan House, so named for Charles Morgan, who was a superintendent for Harvard Gas and Oil Company, owned by Charles Howard. This was during the prohibition era, John Niles job was to plant the grapes, prune them, and keep boys like Roland, Rudy, and Asa Pauley out of the arbor. Asa said that "You were in big trouble when caught."

In the fall when the grapes were ripe Mr. Niles gathered them and took them into the basement of the Morgan House where they were run through a wine press, then placed into thirty

gallon stone jars, left to ferment, and then made into wine for Charles Howard, Ernest Hollingsworth, Hawthorn Battle, and their friends. No one from Summit Ridge or the surrounding areas got any of this wine. That is why very little was or is known about Cobb's Creek's winery.

This story was told to me by Asa Pauley, November 25, 2003.

The ABC Poem by Ezra Dunlap

- A is for Ada Armstrong, who's turned a new leaf.
- B For Bob Holley ,the grand whiskey thief.
- C For Cal Eskew, a good section hand.
- D For Delmar Dunlap, a good election man.
- E For Ernest Griffith, who is always kicking.
- F For French Smith, who steals Mary Priestley's chickens.
- G For Golden Jones, who likes to stay at home.
- H For Hugh Armstrong, who uses a razor's hone.
- I For Ina Graley, a lady in our town.
- J For Jim Pauley, who goes bumming around.
- K For Katie Pauley, who thinks she's a beaut.
- L For Leonard Allen, who's a snipe shoot.
- M For Minnie Armstrong, Ray and Freda's mother.
- N For Newt Bowman, I think I'll recover.
- O For Ove Hill, who wears a daily smile.
- P For Punk Walker, who keeps up the style.
- Q For Quiller Holstein, who vacated our land.
- R For Ray McCallister, the billy goat man
- S For Sesco Dunlap, who says I'm out of luck.
- T For Tom Armstrong, who drives Cabell's truck.
- U For Uncle Sam, who wore the red, white, and blue.
- V For Virgee Griffith, who wears a high heel shoe.
- W For Walter Griffith, who goes in a whirl
- X For Merry Christmas, for all good little boys and girls.
- Y For Yake Smith, who goes in a shumm.
- Z For Zona Hill, who pops her chewing gum.

This was given to me August 29, 2003 by Jamup Pauley.

McCorkle Jail

In the early years after the C&O railroad was built from the Forks of Coal River to Madison, they began to run a passenger train from St. Albans to Madison, it was called the Doodlebug. It would stop at the McCorkle depot to drop off mail, freight, and other items, and let off and pick up passengers. On this train was a man named John Austin. Mr. Austin was the conductor and one of his jobs was to collect tickets from the passengers after they had obtained them from the depot agent. There were several men that Austin dreaded to see board the Doodlebug. One was a cousin on my mother's side his name was Cornice Griffith. Cornice went

to Madison on the morning train and came back on the evening train. This particular day Cornice had spent too much time at a local bar so he decided to take over the train. Cornice's plan was to tie John Austin up with a rope. A struggle ensued and John gained the upper hand over Cornice and tied Cornice's hands with the rope. When the Doodlebug reached the McCorkle depot they took Cornice out back to the building that the railroad workers called the red house. The red house was originally built to house the depot agent and his family. John locked Cornice in it until he sobered up. The red house became the closest thing that McCorkle ever had to a jail. Cornice in his lifetime did lots of mischievous things but he was the kind of person who would do anything he could to help his fellow man. At one time he had connections with the state house and could get people their operator's license. The operator's license was referred to as Sears & Roebuck driver's license and lots of people in McCorkle and surround area had this kind of license, even my mother.

There could be a small book or possibly a large book written about the life of Cornice but I believe that before his death, he gave his life to the Lord and on Judgment Day he can join his wife who had departed this life several years before him. Cornice probably had more friends than any one who lived on Cobb's Creek. So ends this story of the McCorkle jail. This story was told to me in part by Cornice's son Paul Griffith on Jun 1, 2002.

Reese Loftis

Up on the side of the hill overlooking downtown McCorkle a man lived with his parents. He was never married. During World War II he served in both the army and navy. His name was Ona Loftis but almost everyone called him Reese. Reese had an uncanny ability of coming up with a quick and funny answer in almost any situation. He was a hard worker when he was on the job. In his spare time he liked to drink, but when the money ran out he would go back to work.

Once while nipping on the bottle Reese walked a short ways around the dirt road that leads from McCorkle to Pine Grove. He found a stick that looked like a gun. He picked it up, waited a short while and up the road came someone. Before they got close enough to see it was not a gun. Reese yelled out, "You come any closer I'll shoot."

They turned around and go back down the road then up McCorkle Hill to Reese's house and tell his father what is going on. So Reese's father tells his oldest son Billy, "We had better go get him before he hurts someone." As they walk around the road Reese sees them coming but doesn't know who they are. Once again he yells out, "Stop or I'll shoot!"

Very carefully Billy and his dad slip up to Reese. When they get close enough to see it is a stick. Reese's father slaps him around the side of the head and knocks him down. Looking up Reese realizes who they are and says, "Why Dad, and Bill if I'd known it was you I would have let you passed."

No matter where Reese was going when someone would say, "Where are you going Reese?" his answer would either be "Cincinnati" or "Naugatuck".

If someone would ask Reese where he was working his answer was "The feather factory at Blue Tom."

If someone asked him where he had been his answer was "The Blue Tom jail." Keep in mind that the only thing that was at Blue Tom was a tunnel, a railroad trestle and two or three houses.

If someone asked what time it was his reply was "Two Ninety-Eight".

Once him and a fellow from Mud River were digging a ditch for Crever Saul. They had been working for about thirty minutes and neither man had said anything to the other. Reese stood up, leaned on his shovel, and says to the man, "You wanta fight?"

The man replied, "Why would I want to do that?"

Once Reese was staying with Jerry Dunlap and a man wearing a real expensive suit of clothes knocked on the door. Reese goes to the door. The man says, "I am so and so and am from the Veterans Administration and I am looking for Ona Loftis." Reese's reply was, "You wanta buy a duck?"

I knew him and his dad real well, and the thing he always said to me was, "You know my dad?" and I'd say, "Yes Reese, I know him." Then he would reply, "You think I could whip Dad?" and I would say, "I kind of doubt it." Then his reply would be "He would kill me if I jumped on him."

Reese said that the cheapest cigarettes were O.P., Other Peoples.

Once Reese was out in the Midwest, was thumbing and three men in a truck picked him up. They were hauling a casket. It began to rain. And Reese got inside of the casket. A little later, the three men picked up two more hitchhikers, the two hitchhikers got sat down and Reese raises the lid on the casket and says, "Has it quit raining?"

Needless to say the two hitchhikers bailed off the back of the truck.

Ferry & Ford Runyan

Ferry and Ford were the first two children of Leslie and Orva (Pauley) Runyan. Les, as he was called, was the son of James and Martha Louella (Moore) Runyan. They were from Ohio. Orva was the daughter of John Willis and Martha (Lively) Pauley. Les and Orva owned a farm on the hill between main Cobb's Creek and Grassy Fork, close to the Lively Cemetery. I was told that when the wheat-thrashing machine came through Cobb's Creek, it was set up on Les and Orva's farm. The neighboring farmers would help each other harvest the wheat. Ed Eskew, the owner and operator of the thrashing machine, would run the wheat through the machine and this separated the seed from the stem. Then after the seed was thoroughly dry it was taken to the local miller and ground into flour.

Ferry Runyan, the oldest son, married Edith Pauley. Edith was from Fuquay's Creek. Ferry and Edith had two daughters who still live at Sod on this farm, their names are Sharon and Connie.

Les and Orva had three other children, Martha, Marie, and James. They all married and moved away from Cobb's Creek. Ferry and Ford worked thirty to forty years for Union Carbide before retiring. Working with them from Cobb's Creek, was Ezra Cecil. From the Garrett's Bend area they worked with their good friends Ray Torman and Emil Lee, the only two living at this time.

One day I saw Ford standing in his driveway. I pulled my truck off the road, got out and before long we started talking about my favorite subject, the old people who have went on before us. We talked about the old McCormicks, Livelys, and Pauleys. I have heard these stories from other people but still find them interesting. After a short time, we sat down on the ground at the edge of his yard. Somehow our conversations turned to digging house coal. Which is something he and I had both done in our past. Ford told me this story that I have never forgotten. He said that when he was young and before he left home, they had a fireplace in their house, and a wooden cook stove. He told about chopping wood for the cook stove and him, Ferry, and their

Dad going down into the hollow in front of their house to the coal bank, as it was called by the old timers, to dig house coal.

They had a pick, a shovel, homemade wheelbarrow, a horse and sled to haul the coal home. Ford said their utility bills ran fifteen cents a month. It cost five cents for a box of country or kitchen matches and ten cents for a gallon of lamp oil. The oil was used in their lamp for light and also used to start fires in the cook stove.

Ford married Virginia Mobley from Hayzlett Fork. Ford and Virginia have two daughters, Patsy and Nancy, and four sons, Richard, Kenneth, Charles, and Gary. All have left Cobb's Creek except Nancy, Richard, and Charles.

Okie and Dessie Graley

The first memories that I have, is living on Cobb's Creek, just below Big Branch in the small bottom known as the Dan Midkiff place. Before that it was known as the Harrison McClure place. Harrison and Sarah (McCormick) McClure lived there before Dan Midkiff. Among these memories was a small house with a porch that had a hand dug well underneath it and a well box built on the porch. This was the source from which we obtained our water. I remember catching my first fish out back, it was a creek chub. In the kitchen was a round table, being little I saw the underside more than the top. It had a round wooden pillar that reached from the bottom of the table to the floor and in four different directions went pieces of wood that sat flat on the floor to keep it from falling, on the ends of these four pieces of woods was carved eagles claws. In later years I asked my mother what went with that table, she couldn't remember what happened to it but they had bought it from Ezra and Melda Cecil. Across the road and on the side of the hill was a small chicken house, from which we gathered eggs, and the young chickens were fried, while older chickens that had quit laying eggs were boiled in water and my mother made dumplings, which she loved. Down below us and across the creek in the next bottom where Thomas Pauley, Jr. lives now, lived my uncle and aunt, Ora and Pansy Pauley and their six children. The only other memories that I have there are of Uncle French Midkiff riding by on his horse, which was the first horse, I ever saw, I knew then I liked horses and still do. He was a mail carrier, he carried the mail from the Sod post office, which was in a small building in the rock quarry where the Cobb's Creek Missionary Baptist Church Activity Building is now. It was run by Wanda McCallister. The mail was carried down main Cobb's Creek, than up Buckeye Fork, to the Sumerco post office, dropping off mail at each house. The post master at Sumerco was Mrs. Bertha A. Midkiff.

About that time my grandfather, George McCormick, who lived just below the mouth of Buckeye had moved from Cobb's Creek to Bull Creek on Big Coal River to skid logs for a sawmill man named Archie Hughes. We moved into his house and I have lots of memories of that place. One memory was going from there to Morton Griffith's house, my other grandfather. Morton lived on Grassy Fork, a short ways up Spring Branch.

At the mouth of Spring Branch in a bottom across the creek sat a house with a porch on the front toward the creek. In this house lived Okie and Dessie (Paul) Graley. Dessie's parents had lived there before them. I thought they were old people then, but they were a lot younger than I am now. We didn't have a car so we always walked by their house when we went to our grandparents. My mother would always stop and say a few words to them. I noticed even then that Dessie was the most kind hearted, soft spoken person I had ever saw. A short time later, my parents, built a house a short ways up Spring Branch, and we became next-door neighbors to

Okie and Dessie. I was about six years old and lived there until the age of twenty-one when I got married and moved in the next house below them. We lived there two years. Then moved into the bottom across in front of them and lived there thirteen years, making a total of thirty years I could see into their yard from where we lived.

I am writing this on the first day of December, 2002. Yesterday, Dessie passed away, and this has caused me to reflect upon the many years that I have known Okie and Dessie and their son, Paul. I would like to say they are the finest neighbors that anyone ever lived by. I never heard Dessie say anything bad to or about anyone or use any kind of bad language. The worst thing that I ever saw Okie do was throw a rock at a stray dog. Both of them attended Cobb's Creek Baptist Church and always did whatever they could to help their neighbors or anyone in need. Like the time my father got out of work and Okie came to our house with the biggest load of groceries I had ever seen. It just makes me wonder if there are neighbors like that anymore.

The Fiddle Contest.

This tale was told to me by Edgel Dunlap. He said that when he was a boy he challenged Wood Hensley to a fiddle contest to see who was the best fiddle player. Wood had moved into Ivy Branch in the late 1930's from Putnam County. Wood was a farmer and had been elected constable of Lincoln County. As I stated Edgel had challenged Wood and they had agreed to meet in the Long Ford bottom. They chose Gilmer Dunlap, Sesco Dunlap, and Ezra Dunlap to be the judges. Wood and Edgel sat down on a log, took out their bows, and began to rosinning them up. Wood pulled out his fiddle and stuck it up under his chin and played a few notes. Then Edgel did the same. The judges gathered around and Wood began to play, "Listen to the Mockingbird." After Wood finished Edgel began to play, "Listen to the Mockingbird." After Edgel finished playing the judges walked off to one side and conferred with each other. After about five minutes they came back and said they believed that Edgel was the best fiddle player.

Edgel said Wood told him that if he hadn't "Cut those monkey shines, I would have beaten you. "

Edgel said he could make that fiddle chirp like a bird and Wood couldn't, that was the way that he beat Wood.

Then Edgel looked at me and said, "Why David there was no way that Wood could have beaten me. I took my fiddle to school everyday and practiced."

Evetta Brogan

Evetta Brogan was born June 2, 1935, the daughter of Daner and Julie (Purdy) Brogan. She grew up on Cobbs Creek on their family farm and like most farm girls she did a lot of chores to help out. Her father was a farmer and rural mail carrier, carrying the mail on horseback for several years. When Daner was sick or had something else to do, Evetta would saddle up Old Bob, ride off the hill, and turn left up main Cobbs Creek to the Sod Post Office where Wanda McCallister was postmaster. The mail was put in saddle bags and Evetta tied them behind the saddle, rode down Cobbs Creek, picking up and dropping off mail and packages at each mailbox. Upon reaching the mouth of Buckeye, she turned right up Buckeye fork where the road was in and out of the creek. Upon reaching the junction of Route 214 she turned left and went to the junction of Summit Ridge Road and Route 214, to where Bertha Midkiff was the post master of the Sumerco Post Office. There Evetta dropped off and picked up mail before making the return

trip.

I saw a story on the evening news about twenty-five years ago. The story was situated in the mountains of Kentucky. An elderly gentleman who looked to be in his late 60s or early 70s was carrying mail on the back of a mule. The reporter said it was his last trip. The mail man was retiring. His replacement was going to deliver the mail in a jeep. The reporter also said he was the last mail man in the United States on horseback. I am sure the old mail man has passed away by now. This leaves me to believe that there are not many people living who have carried mail on horseback. The only one I know besides Evetta is her uncle, Desker Brogan. I believe it would be safe to say that Evetta is the only woman in the United States to have carried mail on horseback. Evetta married December 23, 1955 to Lowell Pauley, son of Homer Sr. and Mamie (Harless) Pauley. Lowell, in my opinion, is one of Cobbs Creek finest men. He is a gentleman in every way. P.S. after writing this story I found out that the mail is delivered into the Grand Canyon by men riding on mules. This leads me to believe you can't trust everything you hear on the evening news.

Spot, Buddy and the thirty minute rabbit hunt

When Buddy Dunlap was a small boy he had a dog named Spot, that liked to run rabbits. Buddy lived in the big two story white house below his grandfather Winfield Dunlap's store. This is located close to the junction of what is now Route 214 and Garrett's Bend Road.

One day Buddy takes his b. b. gun and old Spot for a walk up McCorkle Road. Just before he reaches Mule hollow Spot runs into the old field behind where Glen Gillispie lives now and jumps a rabbit. The rabbit runs up the hill and two men that were hunting in the field shoot the rabbit. Buddy walks up into the field and the two men tell him that if you let us use your dog we will split the rabbits with you. So out through the old field they go, and after about thirty minutes they kill three more rabbits. The men tie two of the rabbits on Buddy's belt. He puts his b. b. gun over his shoulder and walks home with the day's kill.

Chicken Stealing

No history written about southern WV would be complete without a story about chicken stealing. Every place I have ever worked and big tales were being told I always told this one. But I left out the names which I will do here. Even though most of the participants told me to use their names.

The story begins near the mouth of Ely when two local boys wanted to go camping at the mouth of Dick's Creek. Now keep in mind in that day and time young people didn't have cars they could jump in, drive to Charleston or some other place to have some fun or entertainment. You used what was called Shank's pony, you walked. Up Ely lived an elderly farmer. He had a small garden, a milk cow, one old mule, and some chickens that roosted in the chicken house at night. These two boys walked up the road to the farmer's house. One stayed at the road while the other knocked on the door. The door opens and the farmer says, "Come on in son."

They set down on two straight back chairs that had been made by the local chair maker Andy Smith. They talk about the weather and how their families were getting along, then the boy said to Mr. Farmer. "I would like to borrow a big pot." The farmer sends his wife to the kitchen. After a few minutes she returns with the pot. They talk a few more minutes. Then the boy said he would have to be going but he would return the pot the next day.

Meanwhile, outside his friend was in the farmer's chicken house, he was busy tying the chickens legs together. When his buddy came out of the chicken house he put a note on the door. So, down the road they went to Dick's Creek not to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken but Country Boiled Chicken. On the road to McCorkle they met three boys with their girl friends. They talked a little while and they decided to go with them.

The next morning the farmer got up and started to do his chores, when he goes to feed the chickens, he finds the note, and all of his chickens gone, except two. The note went like this. "We steal from the rich, and we steal from the poor, but we leave you hen and rooster to raise some more."

A little later that day the boy returns the pot. He finds the farmer very upset about the loss of his good laying hens which have disappeared without a trace. The farmer starts a one man investigation into the mystery. The boy lived just below the mouth of Ely. He said one day he was sitting in his yard and sees the farmer coming down the road. He said he walked across the walk bridge, or foot log as it was called then. He asked the farmer if he had found out who got his chickens.

The farmer replies, "Not yet."

He said every time he met the farmer he would ask him the same question. One day the farmer came down the road and walked across the foot log to his house.

Once again he asked, "Have you found out who got your chickens?"

The farmer says, "Yes, and you are one of them." Some of them paid the farmer five dollars, others had to hoe corn to pay for the chickens that they had took.

Denver, David, and Rudolph

In the late 1950's a boy named David who lived up on McCorkle hill with his grandparents. David wandered up Tiny Branch to Cobb's Creek's main moonshine maker's house his name was Denver. I never drank alcoholic beverages but was told by several people that Den as he was called made the best moonshine on Cobb's Creek. Upon reaching Den's house they exchanged greetings and had a little small talk. Den said to David, "I've got a moonshine still set just up the branch and I have the feeling it's being watched by the revenuers. It needs to be moved? Would you help", said Den.

David's reply, "I'd be happy to help."

So up the branch they go with Rudolph following close behind to where the still was located. They sat about tearing the still down, David and Den gets all they can carry and take it up Tiny Branch to another location. About the time they started back down the creek they hear something in the vicinity of where the remainder of the still was. So up the west side of the mountain they went, upon reaching the top they see the revenuers destroying the part of the still they hadn't moved. About that time Rudolph, who was called that because of his red nose, made a low growling sound and the hair stood up on the back of his neck. Den grabs Rudolph by the mouth and puts his nose within 3 inches of Rudolph's nose and says in a low voice, "Don't bark Rudolph. Don't bark."

Joseph R. McClure and Bill K. Wright

There has been numerous stories written of the parallels about the Presidents Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, and John F. Kennedy, a Democrat. Like one hundred years between their

terms in office and Lincoln was over the Civil War and Kennedy over the Viet Nam War, and numerous other things. On Cobb's Creek we have a similar story but will never be known by the masses. Joseph R. McClure, born circa 1839 and Bill K. Wright born 1949. These two men born 110 years apart never met but their lives will like the two presidents have similarities. Both men born in Boone County. Both men raised on Cobb's Creek. Joseph was the son of Elijah and Rhoda (Pauley) McClure. Bill the son of Ronda and Barbara (Pauley) Wright. Not long after reaching adulthood on the 22nd day of August 1864 Joseph joined Company M., 7th WV Calvary serving his country with distinction in the War between the States. Bill, like Joseph, shortly after reaching adulthood joined the US Marine Corps, 3rd Marine Division serving with distinction his country in the Viet Nam War. There is no doubt these two wars were the most devastating for both this country and the brave men who fought them. After the Civil War was over Joseph married a girl that was raised on Cobb's Creek, Nancy Hall. Joseph and Nancy built a two story house on Buckeye Fork, about one half mile above it's mouth. After the Viet Nam War Bill also married a Cobb's Creek girl, Karen Smith. They also built a two story log house on Buckeye Fork located about one mile above where Joseph's house was. Joseph made his living farming and was a Justice of the Peace for a while. Uncle French Midkiff, who was Joseph's son-in-law told me Joseph worked as a lawyer. Joseph's granddaughter Sofia Griffith called him a petty fogger which means he practiced law without a license. Joseph Richard McClure passed away November 9, 1914 kneeling in prayer at the Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church.

Joseph was elected to the House of Delegates in November 1902 on the Republican ticket. One hundred years later in November 2002 Bill was elected to the House of Delegates on the Democrat ticket. Bill like Joseph has farmed a little and raised cattle. His main career has been in the oil and gas industry. As he put it starting out several years ago, working as a rough neck in the southern West Virginia oil and gas fields. Climbing the ladder to become a drilling foreman with the Cabot Oil and Gas Company. In 1992 Bill answered the gas fields need for an environmental, chemical supplies, and laboratory testing service, by founding Southern Hydrocarbons Corporation. Which has become a very successful business. Then in 1999 his company expanded into the production consulting service. Bill's formal education began at the Midway Elementary School at Alum Creek. Graduating from Duval High School in 1968. He has attended numerous professional training schools in the oil and gas business. He is a charter member of the Lincoln County Economic Development Authority. He is currently serving as a board member of the Lincoln Public Service District since 1993. He was also a past member of Construction Workers Local Union 1353, Charleston, WV. Bill has completed a very successful two year term in the House of Delegates from the 19th District, serving Lincoln, Boone, Logan, and Putnam Counties. He has been married for over thirty years to the former Karen Smith of McCorkle, WV. They are the proud parents of a lovely twenty-five year old daughter, Haley Michelle, who majored in Education at the University of Kentucky. She now teaches a fifth grade class at Waddell Elementary School in Lexington, Virginia. Like most parents Bill and Karen are very proud of their daughter.

Hettie and Blake

Hettie C. Pauley, born 1895 at Sciota, WV in Lincoln County, passed away in 1951, and buried in Pine Grove Cemetery at McCorkle, was the daughter of Julian and Arilla (Griffith) Pauley. On the 23rd day of December 1922 Hettie married Floyd F. Pauley, not related, born in 1893 in Boone County, passed away in 1976 also buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. Floyd was

the son of Samuel and Lou (Dolin) Pauley. After they were married Hettie and Floyd lived in a house on Dick's Creek, which is about three quarters of a mile up Little Coal River from McCorkle.

Blake Dunlap was born Feb. 26, 1996, the son of Leslie Dunlap and grandson of John and Judy (Holstein) Dunlap, also of McCorkle, WV.

This story is about two people born 101 years apart.

Blake was born 45 years after Hettie passed away, Blake's grandparents are not old enough to have known Hettie, nor are they related. So what would connect these two people born so far apart?

In the summer of 2001 Blake was playing in Cobb's Creek in front of his grandparents house or as Blake calls it "Poppaws Big Creek". This particular day Blake was digging in the sand where he finds a bottle with a cork in it and a piece of paper inside. Eddie Pauley, Hettie's brother, lived about 500 feet up Cobb's Creek above John and Judy's house. And since Hettie didn't live on Cobb's Creek at that time it is possible she was visiting her brother, wrote the note, placed it in the bottle, and threw it in the creek, where it traveled about 500 feet and lay in Cobb's Creek over 70 years. When Blake finds the bottle he gives it to his Poppaw John. They took it to the house where his Mamaw Judy picked the rotten cork out of the bottle and very carefully removed the note.

On the back of this note is the date "February 19, 1928." On the front of this note, which was still in good shape at the time they found it. It says "Hettie Pauley, McCorkle, WV if you get this note you send it back to me soon. "

Nine generations

This is a story of nine generations of the first woman to settle on Cobb's Creek, Iva (Bailey) Lively through her daughter Sarah. Sarah married Adam Lacy. They had a daughter Elvira Lacy who married Harrison Griffith. They had a son Alfred Griffith. Alfred married Frances Jane Lively. They had a son Morton Alfred Griffith who married Blanche Waugh. They had a daughter Mortana Griffith. She married Dillard McCormick. They had a son David McCormick. I married Trudy Jackson. We have a son David Jr. never married and two daughters Le Ann she married Brian Bonnett and they have a son Cody and a daughter Hannah; Lana married Robby Wade and she has one son Elijah. Trudy and I, as are most grandparents, very proud of our grandchildren: Elijah, Cody, and Hannah. They are the ninth generation from Iva (Bailey) Lively, the first settler on Cobb's Creek. It is my hope they and their children will stay here and raise their families on Cobb's Creek until the Lord returns. It is my opinion West Virginia is the best state in the Union and Lincoln County the best county in the state and Cobb's Creek the best creek in the county to raise children.

"May God continue to bless the families of Cobb's Creek and this wonderful country the United States of America."

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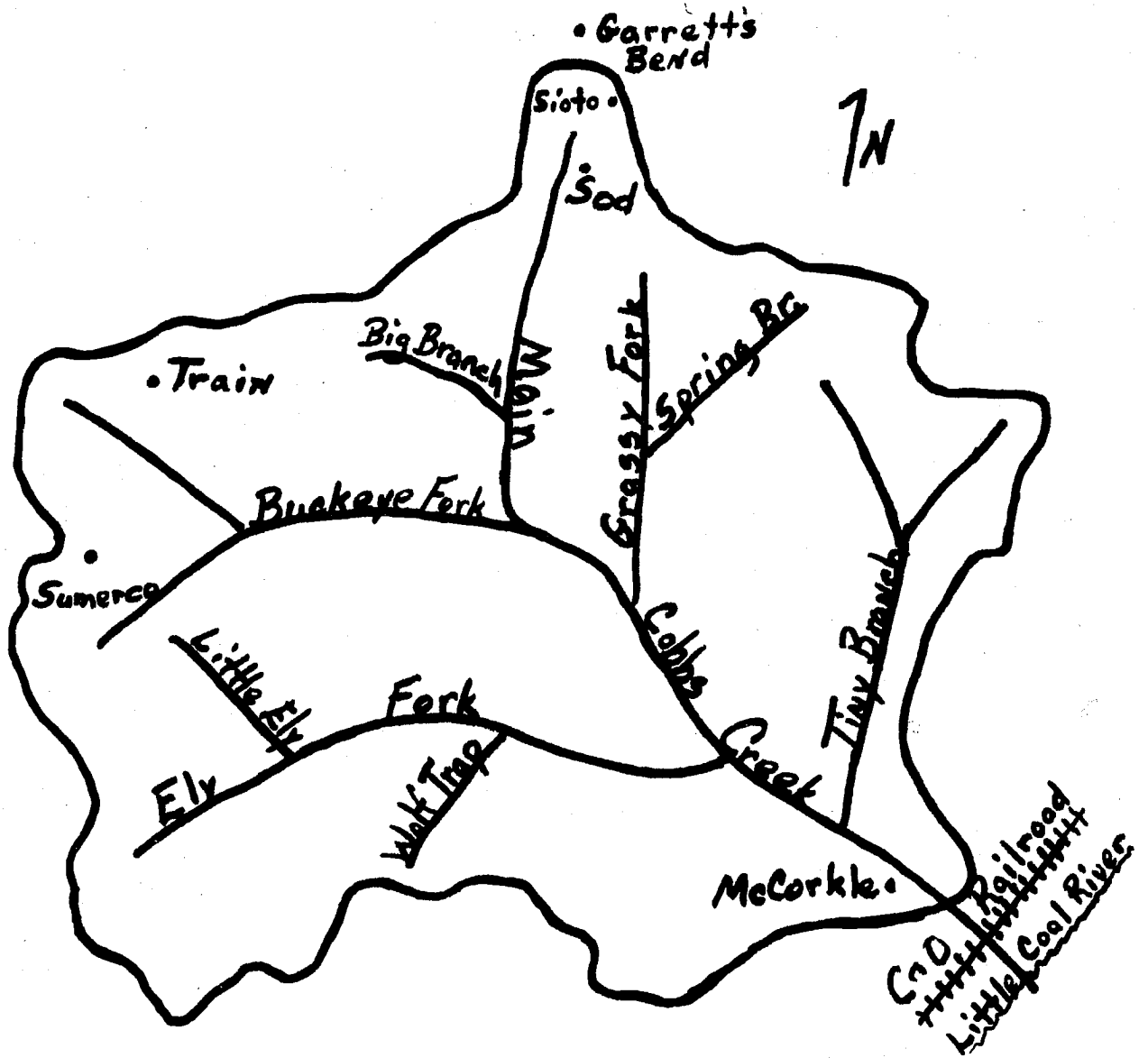
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The First Two Hundred Years of Cobbs Creek

By
David McCormick