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HISTORY AND PROGRESS  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF MARION,  
WEST VIRGINIA, *va.*

FROM ITS  
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT BY THE WHITES, DOWN TO  
THE PRESENT, TOGETHER WITH BIOGRAPHI-  
CAL SKETCHES OF ITS MOST  
PROMINENT CITIZENS.

BY  
GEO. A. DUNNINGTON,

Aided by Notes and Memoranda left by the late RICHARD P. LOTT.

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FAIRMONT, W. VA:  
GEORGE A. DUNNINGTON, PUBLISHER.

1880.

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## PREFACE.

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WE have designed in the following pages to relate in detail the principal events that have transpired in Marion county from its first settlement to the present. We are aware that the work has many imperfections, but they could not be helped. To write a history without having any authentic or written records to aid us, was almost akin to "creating something out of nothing." The early settlers of this section have all died, their children have, with a few exceptions, followed them; and many events of interest in connection with the early history have been lost in oblivion. We have endeavored to rescue as many as possible, however, and herewith present them.

In giving the history of the county since its organization, we have aimed to incorporate only the principal events which have trans-



pired, and which are worthy of being preserved. This part of the book is necessarily written in a somewhat rambling manner, for reasons which the intelligent reader can plainly discern.

A considerable amount of the information connected with the formation of the county, and on down to the present has been gleaned from the memoranda left by the late Richard P. Lott, whose purpose was to write a history of the county during that period, having been solicited to do so by the undersigned. The hand of Death interrupted him, however, ere he could commence the work.

In the narrative proper, we have made but little reference to the political history of the county—this will be found largely in the biographical sketches annexed. They are mostly of the men who have taken the most prominent parts in the politics of the county.

For much of the information received, we are indebted to Gov. F. H. Pierpont, Messrs. Charles Morgan, William Cochran, Robert P. Nixon, Zebulon Musgrove, George Merrill,



Luther Haymond and others ; besides Wither's Border Warfare, Doddridge's Notes on Western Virginia, old files of county newspapers, etc.

Hoping that this little volume will prove all that is expected of it, and thanking the public for their encouragement in the past, we are,

Your O'bt Servant,

G. A. D.

FAIRMONT, Feb. 1, 1880.



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HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF MARION.

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CHAPTER I.

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INTRODUCTORY.

**A**T the time when this section of Virginia was first known to the whites, it was occupied by a tribe of Indians known as the Massawomees. As settlements were extended westward and over the mountains, the Massawomees gradually retired until the country between the Alleghenies and the Ohio river was almost entirely unused by them as a regular place of habitation. There soon remained but few Indian villages, and those that did exist contained but small numbers of inhabitants. What is now the State of West Virginia, however, was used as a hunting ground by the savages, and as a battle ground by contending tribes.

In many parts of Marion and adjoining counties evidences of a prehistoric people are found. Imple-



ments of war, crockery, and curiously shaped instruments of various kinds are occasionally plowed up in the fields, and, in short, the signs are upon every side that some of the race of semi-civilized people, who inhabited this country ages before its discovery, dwelt in this immediate vicinity. Some years ago, some workmen, in preparing to build a bridge which spans Paw Paw creek, at the upper end of the village of Rivesville, unearthed three skeletons, which were those of giants, each measuring over seven feet in length. Upon "Fort Hill," about two miles north of Fairmont, were found traces of an aboriginal fort. Along the bank of the Monongahela river, and running through Palatine, where the earth has been washed away by freshets, can be seen traces of an old McAdamized road. It is some feet below the surface and can be traced for quite a distance. The bed of the road seems to vary from ten to fourteen inches in thickness, and the stone is broken with great regularity. The earth above the bed is black and presents somewhat the appearance of an alluvial deposit. It is very probable that this deposit formed the bed of what we now call a McAdamized road, at some former period of the world. Since the settlement of the county, skeletons have been found at various times in the vicinity of Boothsville and other towns.

Traces of the Massawomees are also found in many places. For instance, a mile below Rivesville near



the Morgantown and Fairmont pike, upon the farm of Mr. Wm. Arnett, there is a very interesting relic in the shape of a large rock, upon which is roughly cut a picture of an Indian leading a bear. Representations of turkey and bear tracks, and other figures are also upon the rock. About twenty-five years ago a large wild cherry tree was by a storm torn up by the roots, leaving this rock with its inscription exposed to view. Other interesting relics may also be found in the county.

After the Massawomees retired from the country lying between the mountains and the Ohio river, the sole permanent inhabitants of that region were the beasts and birds of the forests, until the white settlements were made. During the winter the Buffalo would find their way into Kentucky, and live among the cane-brakes to be found there. As spring approached they would again seek our luxuriant pastures, where they, with the abundance of other game, would fall victims of the savages from Pennsylvania and the country west of the Ohio, who came here in quest of food. As the various tribes who made this a hunting ground were at constant enmity, the fact that they all claimed the territory was sufficient to make it a field of contention; consequently, it was often made the scene of carnage and bloodshed.

Up to the year 1738 all that part of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge mountains was included in the





county of Orange. At the fall session of the Colonial Legislature, in the above year, the counties of Frederick and Augusta were formed out of Orange. Frederick county was bounded on the north by the Potomac river, on the east by the Blue Ridge, and on the south and west by a line drawn from the head spring of Hedgeman's to the head spring of the Potomac. Augusta county consisted of all the remainder of the State west of the Blue Ridge, and within the limits were included much of Virginia and West Virginia as they now are, and the territories embraced in Ohio, Indiana and parts of Western Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky. Nearly forty years afterwards, in 1776, the counties of Ohio, Monongalia and Youghiogania were formed out of the district of West Augusta, and at the same time the boundary between Augusta county and the district of West Augusta was fixed as follows: "Beginning on the Allegheny mountains, between the heads of Potomac, Cheat and Greenbrier rivers; thence along the Ridge which divides the waters of Cheat river from those of Greenbrier, and that branch of the Monongahela called Tygart's Valley river to the Monongahela; thence up the said river, and the West Fork thereof to Bingham's creek, on the northwest side of said West Fork; thence up the said creek to the head thereof; thence in direct course to the head of Middle Island creek, a branch of the Ohio; and thence to the Ohio, includ-



ing all the waters of the said creek in the aforesaid district of West Augusta—all that territory lying to the northward of the aforesaid boundary, and to the westward of the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland, shall be deemed, and is hereby declared to be within the district of West Augusta."

And to render the benefits of government and the administration of justice more easy and convenient to the people, this act formed out of West Augusta the three counties above mentioned. Several years afterwards, the greater part of Youghiogania county, by the extension of the western boundary between Pennsylvania and Virginia, fell within the limits of the former State. The residue was, by an act of 1785, added to the county of Ohio, and Youghiogania became extinct. All that part of the district of West Augusta lying to the northward of the county of Augusta, to the westward of the meridian of the head fountain of the Potomac, to the southward of the county of Youghiogania, and to the eastward of Ohio county, was comprised in the limits of Monongalia county. In 1784 Harrison county was formed out of Monongalia and West Augusta. As Marion county, nearly seventy years afterwards, was taken from the counties of Monongalia and Harrison, we will give an account of the early settlement of the territory in the two latter, now comprising the former.



## CHAPTER II.

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### FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

**I**N the beginning of the foregoing chapter mention was made of the Indians who occupied Western Virginia previous to the coming of the whites, and of their abandonment of the country as a place of residence. When, in 1754, David Tygart and a Mr. Files made the first attempt to settle this section of the State, the only Indians to be found composed the occasional hunting or war parties from the north and west. The two gentlemen named were probably the first white men who ever built cabins in Virginia west of the Allegheny mountains. Files settled at the mouth of the creek which now bears his name—where the town of Beverly now is—and Tygart settled a few miles further up the river, (which has since been called Tygart's Valley river,) in what is known as Tygart's Valley. They soon determined to abandon their settlements on account of the hostility of the Indians, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining breadstuffs for their families. Before they were enabled to carry out their determination the family



of Files fell victims to savage cruelty. A strolling party of Indians fell upon them and massacred them all save one—a boy—who escaped and warned the Tygart's of the danger in time for them to save themselves by flight.

Not long after this a settlement was made on Cheat river, a few miles east of where stands Morgantown, by a party of Dunkards, comprising Dr. Thomas Eckery and his two brothers. Dunkard's creek owes its name to the circumstances of their having camped at its mouth while they were engaged in exploring the vicinity for a suitable place to settle. They finally located in Dunkard's bottom, which lies on Cheat. They spent some years there unmolested by the Indians, although a bloody war was then waging. The Doctor left Cheat once to visit a trading post on the Shenandoah, to procure ammunition and other needed supplies. His story that he had lived on Cheat so long unmolested by the Indians, seemed so improbable to the people on the Shenandoah that they accused him of telling an untruth, and suspicioned him of being a confederate of the enemy. He was accordingly arrested and placed in confinement. In vain did he declare that he had never even seen a savage during his sojourn in Dunkard's bottom. He finally requested that a guard be sent with him to his little settlement, that he might be able to prove the truth of his statements. His request was complied with, and





upon arriving at the spot, only a heap of ruins were found where had stood the cabin, and the mutilated bodies of his brothers were lying upon the ground. Thus his story that they were not confederates of the Indians was awfully confirmed.

In the fall of 1758 Thomas Decker and others commenced a settlement on the Monongahela river, at the mouth of the creek since called by his name, but in the spring following it was broken up by a war party of Delawares and Mingoës.

These were the only attempts to effect settlements upon the Monongahela or its branches prior to the French and Indian war, and it was not until the year 1772 that any permanent settlements were made.

About the year 1772 settlements were made upon the upper branches of the Monongahela river. Captain James Booth and Mr. John Thomas established themselves upon what is now known as Booth's creek, near the present town of Boothsville, this county. Captain Booth settled at the place known as the "old Jesse Martin farm," and Mr. Thomas on the "old William Martin place." Withers, in speaking of this latter farm, in 1831, said: "It is perhaps the most valuable landed estate in Northwestern Virginia."\* About this time David Morgan, afterwards conspicuous for his personal daring and prowess, during the hostilities of the Indians, established himself upon

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\* "Border Warfare"—page 31.



the Monongahela about five miles below Fairmont, near the mouth of Prickett's creek. Among other emigrants settling here about this time, were the Pricketts, Ices, Halls, Cochrans, Hayes, Cunninghams, Hartleys, Barns, Haymonds, Flemings, Springers and many others, whose descendants now comprise the greater part of the population of Marion county. A great number of them came from the then colonies of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware, crossing the mountains by a route called Braddock's trail.


NOTE.—In a burying ground at Barracksville is the grave of the first white child ever born west of the Allegheny mountains. His name was Adam Ice, and he was born in 1767, at Ice's ferry, on Cheat, a short time previous to the removal of the Ice family to the settlements here, and died in 1851.



## CHAPTER III.

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### ABOUT THE LAND TITLES HELD BY THE SETTLERS.

F course, the main object of the early settlers in coming into this region was to procure for themselves and families homes, for land could be secured upon easy terms. Building a cabin and raising a crop of grain entitled the occupant to four hundred acres of land and a pre-emption right to one thousand or more adjoining, to be secured by a land office warrant. At first there was a kind of land title, denominated the "tomahawk right." This was made by deadening a few trees upon the premises, and marking the bark of one of them with the initials of the person making the improvement. A narration of the circumstances under which these land titles were held by the settlers, is here in order.

In the year 1754 Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, issued a proclamation by authority of his council, authorizing a fort to be built at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers (Fort Duquesne,) to oppose the encroachments of the French and their



Indian allies, and for the protection of his majesty's subjects in his colony—providing for sufficient military force to protect the same. In order to encourage volunteers to enter the military service, he set apart 200,000 acres of land above their pay—100,000 acres contiguous to the fort, and the other 100,000 acres on or near the Ohio river—to be laid off and granted to such persons “who by their voluntary engagements and good behavior in said service shall deserve the same.” The said lands were to be free of quit rents for the term of fifteen years.

After the conclusion of the French and Indian war, in 1763, Dr. Franklin, with a number of associates, petitioned the king of England for a grant of that territory lying west of the water sheds of the Allegheny mountains and south of the Ohio river, extending southwest along the Ohio to the mouth of the Big Sandy, and up the same to the water sheds of the Alleghenies. George the Third refused the petition on the grounds of having retained that territory for hunting grounds for the friendly Indians, in consideration of their valuable services, and issued his proclamation granting the erection of the governments of Quebec, East Florida, West Florida and Granada.\* The colony of Quebec lay northeast of New York and New England; East Florida constituted what is now the eastern part of the State of Florida; West Florida extended

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\*See Henning's Statutes—Appendix to vol. 7.





from the Apalachicola river, along the Gulf of Mexico, westward to Lake Pontchartrain, and thence northward to Lake Mauripas and the Mississippi river to 31° north latitude; thence due east on the line of this latitude to the Apalachicola river.

It will be seen that none of these grants include any territory west of the Mississippi river, nor west of the Allegheny mountains, except that region east of the Mississippi and below the thirty-first degree of north latitude, which comprises small portions of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. In this proclamation George the Third forbids any of the new colonies from granting any warrants of surveys or patents for any lands beyond the boundaries of their respective governments as described. Also, no governor or commander-in-chief of any of our other colonies or plantations in America do presume for the present, and until our further pleasure be known, to grant warrants of surveys, or pass patents for any lands beyond the heads or sources of any rivers which fall into the Atlantic ocean from the west, northwest, or upon any lands whatever, which not having been ceded to or purchased by us, as aforesaid, are reserved to the said Indians, or any of them.

It will be seen that there is a conflict between the proclamation of Governor Dinwiddie and that of the King. The Governor promises 200,000 acres adjacent to Pittsburgh. These lands, with a large amount of



others, were settled in West Virginia immediately thereafter. The Revolutionary war came on soon afterwards. The lands of the settlers were held under different rights, and the Legislature of Virginia, in order to settle all these titles, and to secure the settlers, passed the act of 1779, in which they recognized both proclamations, and gave no validity to that of the King. By this act of the Virginia Legislature, the previously uncertain titles of the lands settled here were made good, and the titles of many of the estates in Marion and adjoining counties are held under this law.



## CHAPTER IV.

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### THE CHARACTERISTICS AND HARDSHIPS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS.

AS soon as it was known east that this field of wealth lay west of the mountains, that "the land could be had for the taking up," and that settlements had been commenced here, hundreds flocked in from different parts of Eastern Virginia and Maryland. The spirit of emigration began to develop itself, and the motives which have since induced the peopling of our far West prompted the adventurer to overcome his youthful attachments, and wend his way into this dreary waste to assist in the foundation of what is now a powerful and progressive State. As has been well said, "former homes, encircled by the comforts of civilization, endeared by the grateful recollections of by-gone days, and not unfrequently as the spot where their tenants had first inhaled the vital fluid, were readily exchanged for the variety of untried being, the new scenes and changes which were to be passed before the trees of the forest could be supplanted by the fruits of the field, or society be



reared in the solitude of the desert." With the same cheerfulness, hardihood, and adventurous daring that characterized the pioneers years before in the laying of the corner stone of this vast empire, these brave men and women faced the hardships and dangers that presented themselves, and surmounted them all in a comparatively brief space of time. It was a natural consequence of their situation that their morals should suffer, and that their manners should become rough and uncouth. This has been the state of things in all new colonies.

Some of the early settlers, according to Doddridge, took the precaution to come over the mountains in the spring, to raise a crop of corn, leaving their families behind, and then return and bring them out in the fall. Others, whose families were not large, brought their wives and children with them in the spring. Sometimes, those who took the latter course would suffer for it, for the Indian meal they brought over the mountains with them would be expended too soon, and they were obliged to live without bread until the corn was ready to pull. Venison and the breast of the wild turkey then served them as a substitute for bread, and the flesh of the bear was denominated meat. But this was a hard way to live—it did not satisfy the cravings of the stomach, "which seemed to be always empty, and tormented with a sense of hunger."—"Light" bread was a luxury they seldom indulged in





or could get hold of, as was also butter. The venerable William Haymond, in a letter to Luther Haymond, in 1842, referring to the manners of living of the early settlers, as he remembered them, said: "I remember brother John and myself went to Ruble's mill, in Pennsylvania, distant eleven miles, and remained all night. Next morning, when we were on our horses to start for home, Ruble, or some other person, brought each of us a piece of light bread spread with butter. This I thought such a great feast that I have it in my mind to this day."

Of course, in these primitive times there were no carpenters, tailors, cabinet-makers, shoemakers, weavers, or any of the tradesmen who are now considered indispensable to a community. Every family was under the necessity of doing everything for itself. Hand-mills were used in most of the houses, with which each family ground its own corn. Their clothing was all of domestic manufacture. Linsey was the most substantial cloth they could make, and the women did the weaving. Every family tanned its own leather, made its own shoes and manufactured its own clothing. In short, these were the days of bridles, pack-saddles, rope-bridles, tread-mills, wooden plows, and flails. Almost every house contained a loom and a spinning wheel. All the women knew how to knit, spin, weave and sew, and with rare exceptions, they all wore narrow-skirted flannel dresses.



The men were usually habited in deer or coon-skin caps, red flannel jackets or hunting shirts, blue linsey breeches and moccasins. They knew nothing of our present McAdamized roads and elegant mud-pikes, neither had they any conception of the luxury of a cushioned saddle, a leather bridle, a nice buggy or a fine carriage; or the iron plow, threshing machine, reaper or steam mill. The nearest place where supplies could be procured was east of the mountains, and it was often that the barest necessities of life were suffered for when extremely heavy snows or freshets prevented any communication between the settlements and the stores.

As stated in the beginning of this chapter, the manners of society were very rude in those days. As an illustration of this, it may be in place to give an account of how a marriage was conducted. As a general rule the settlers married quite young, and, with very rare exceptions, their's were real "love matches." On this account their marriages proved mostly happy ones. The whole neighborhood would turn out *en masse* to a wedding, and considering the fact that a marriage celebration was about the only gathering "which was not accompanied with the labor of reaping, building a cabin, or planning some scout or campaign," this is not surprising. The ceremony usually took place before dinner, which was a substantial feast of beef, pork, venison and bear meat,



potatoes, cabbage and other kinds of vegetables. The tables would perhaps be constructed of a large slab of timber, hewed out with a broad-axe, supported by four sticks set in augur holes, and its furniture would consist of pewter dishes, wooden bowls and trenchers. The spoons were of pewter and often much battered. If knives were scarce, the scalping knives were brought from their sheathes and used to supply the deficiency. After dinner the dancing would commence and last until the next morning, while occasionally the jug would be passed around among the company. The figures of the dances were three and four handed reels, or square sets and jigs. The mazy waltz, the enchanting polka, or the enlivening schotische they knew nothing of. About nine or ten o'clock a deputation of young ladies would steal off the bride and put her to bed. The bridal chamber was usually in the loft of the cabin, and was reached by a ladder instead of a pair of stairs. The floor of the loft or chamber above was generally made of clap-boards loosely laid down and without nails. The ladder leading up stairs was hidden from view, being in a corner of the room, curtained off with hunting shirts, petticoats and other clothing, so thè exit of the bride was unnoticed. After this a deputation of young men in like manner made way with the groom, whom they would place beside his bride, and the dance would continue.



If seats were scarce, it was customary, and considered the height of gallantry, for the young men to offer their laps to the young ladies, and the girls accepted the proffered seats with perfect propriety. Occasionally during the night, the bottle would be sent up the ladder to the couple in the loft, and it would often be accompanied with refreshments of other kinds, such as bread, beef, pork and cabbage. The feasting and dancing would last for several days, until the company, from sheer exhaustion, would return to their homes to rest.

Such was the rude state of society in Marion county a hundred years ago.





## CHAPTER V.

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### COMMENCEMENT OF INDIAN TROUBLES— FORTS ESTABLISHED, Etc.

FOR a period of nearly ten years after the close of the French and Indian war in 1765, and previous to 1774, there were no outbreaks among the Indians of Northwestern Virginia, and the settlers were free from their depredations. This state of things would have doubtless continued had it not been for the unprovoked murder of three Indians by John Ryan, on the Ohio, Monongahela and Cheat rivers, at different periods during these years. The first of Ryan's victims was a chief of some distinction, known as Captain Peter, and the others were warriors on friendly terms with the whites. Several Indians were likewise killed in the vicinity by other settlers, while they were upon friendly visits.

Bald Eagle was an Indian on very friendly terms with the whites in this vicinity, and was in the habit of associating with them. While on one of his friendly visits to the white settlements, he was waylaid by three men, Jacob Scott, William Hacker and Elijah



Runner, and murdered in cold blood. Their wanton thirst for Indian blood thus gratified, they seated the body in the stern of a canoe and set it afloat in the Monongahela river, after thrusting in the mouth of the dead warrior a piece of "journey cake." Several persons noticed the canoe and its ghastly burden descending the river, but supposed he was merely returning from a visit to his white friends at the settlements at the head of the stream. Finally, below the mouth of George's creek, the canoe floated near the shore, where it was observed by a Mrs. Province, who recognized the unfortunate old man, had him brought to shore and decently buried.

These, and various other murders of a like character, in different parts of the colony, aroused the passions of the heretofore peaceful Indians, and they very soon re-opened hostilities and visited their terrible vengeance upon the heads of the innocent settlers, whenever opportunity afforded. Men, women and children everywhere fell victims to the savage ferocity thus excited. It was the opinion of many, however, that the hostilities of the Indians upon the American frontier at this time were not provoked by these or other massacres—that they were urged to war by emissaries of Great Britain and Canadian traders. It is true that the agents of Great Britain aided and encouraged the Indians in the war commenced by them in 1774, but that their prime incentive was the out-



rages perpetrated by the whites, together with the realization that the settlers were crowding them out of their lands—their rightful inheritance—there can be no doubt.

As soon as it was manifest that the Indians were intent upon waging a bloody war, the inhabitants on the frontiers of Northwestern Virginia proceeded to put themselves in a state of defense. Some took refuge in the forts, and others collected together into certain houses, which were converted into temporary fortresses. Many made their way to Fort Pitt, at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela river—the present site of Pittsburgh. It was then that there were a number of private forts established in various settlements. In Tygart's Valley the principal forts erected were Westfall's and Cassino's. About five miles below Fairmont on the Monongahela, at the mouth of Prickett's creek was erected Prickett's fort, which afforded protection to all the settlers on the upper Monongahela, in the vicinity of where now stands the towns of Fairmont, Palatine, Rivesville and Newport. Nutter's fort, near Clarksburg, afforded protection to the inhabitants on the West Fork from its source to its confluence with the Valley river. Jackson's fort was also established on Ten Mile, and was a rendezvous for the settlers in that neighborhood. These were the most important stations in this vicinity, but there were quite a number of private strong-



holds, in which two or three families only would take refuge, when signs of the Indians appeared in their immediate neighborhood.

The region of the upper Monongahela and those settlements now embraced in Marion county were not the scenes of active war, but suffered from occasional depredations by straggling parties of savages, who would detach themselves from the main bodies and descend upon our settlements. The great chief, Logan, justly celebrated for his prowess and eloquence led a party through the country from the Ohio to the West Fork, and committed several massacres in the vicinity of Simpkins. This was about the nearest that any regular war party came to this region. The straggling bands mentioned above, however, committed more dreadful deeds than did the regular war parties. Their acts of vengeance were accompanied with more terror to the unfortunate victims, because they were unlooked for. They would steal upon the settlers when least expected, and when they were not in a state of defence—when they were at work in their fields, or upon the unguarded family at home, and massacre them in cold blood.





## CHAPTER VI.

### MURDER OF JOSIAH PRICKETT—CONTINUATION OF INDIAN ATROCITIES—MURDER OF MISS COON—ATTACK ON FORT HARBERT.

AS soon as the news of the depredations committed by Logan and his band became known in the settlements of this vicinity, the inhabitants very much alarmed for their safety, retired immediately into the forts and other places of refuge. Strolling parties of savages were heard of occasionally; but no acts of violence took place in our settlements until the month of September. One day during that month Josiah Prickett and Mrs. Susan Ox left Prickett's fort, near Newport, for the purpose of driving up their cows. A party of Indians, attracted by the tinkling of the cow-bells, waylaid them on their return to the fort and succeeded in killing and scalping Prickett and taking Mrs. Ox prisoner.

It may be a matter of astonishment to the reader, that the settlers could thus recklessly expose themselves, by leaving the fort, knowing that Indians were lurking in the vicinity. Some explanation may be



found in the fact, that previous to this our settlers had been accustomed to come and go at will, hence the confinement of the forts was very irksome to them, and rather than pine under this present restraint they would hazard their lives in pursuit of their principal means of existence—game, or to attend to some duty connected with their farm work. Often, for weeks not a hostile sound would disturb the peaceful quiet reigning over the surrounding hills and valleys, until some settlers, deceived by the quiet stillness, ventured from his retreat, only to meet his death at the hands of the wily savage, who had awaited all this time for an unguarded moment in which to spring upon his deluded victim. Others, unwilling to risk the danger, would remain within the fort, tortured with the thought that their crops, long ago “ripe unto the harvest,” and for the production of which they had toiled many weary days, were rotting in the fields. This latter fact, coupled with the necessity of procuring the necessaries of life, would cause many to brave even death itself.

On the 10th of October of this year (1774), the battle of Point Pleasant virtually put an end to what has since been known as Gov. Dunmore's war, but the outrages by these strolling bands of Indians continued. Instead of following up the victory of Point Pleasant by a raid into the Indian territory and reducing their towns, the army disbanded, leaving the Indians at



liberty to make further inroads upon our frontiers, in the pursuit of vengeance on those who had recently sent so many of their bravest warriors to the "happy hunting grounds." The character of the relations between Great Britain and the American colonies was becoming more and more unfriendly, and the whole attention of the colonists was directed to it, leaving the frontier settlements for a time forgotten. The Indians, knowing that Virginia needed all her available strength to defend herself from the invading hosts of Great Britain, and could not extend any aid to the frontier settlements, took advantage of this state of affairs and re-opened hostilities, utterly ignoring the treaty of peace made after the battle of Point Pleasant. The respite, then, after the close of the Dunmore war, was but momentary.

Between Wheeling and Point Pleasant, a distance of nearly two hundred miles by the Ohio river, there was no obstacle to prevent the raids of the Indian war parties from their territories west of the river upon our settlements on the upper Monongahela and its branches; yet, for two years after the killing of Josiah Prickett, there were no serious outrages in this immediate vicinity. Subsequent to this, the next important event of the kind occurred in a settlement near the West Fork, in Harrison county, at the house of Charles Grisby. During the absence of Mr. Grisby, a party of Indians entered his house, and after plunder-



ing it of everything valuable, departed, taking with them Mrs. Grisby and her two children as prisoners. The husband and father returned soon after, comprehending instantly what had been done, and knowing the terrible danger of his wife and little ones, he hastily gathered together some of his neighbors and set out in hot pursuit. After following the trail about six miles, they suddenly came upon a ghastly scene, which put to flight all the hopes they had entertained of being able to recover at least two of the captives; for lying on the ground were the bodies of Mrs. Grisby and her younger child, both scalped and killed by their inhuman captors. The settlers, leaving two of their number to take care of the remains of the unfortunate victims, pushed forward with renewed exertions in pursuit of the Indians, earnestly desiring to overtake them and avenge the bloody deed; but they did not succeed, and were obliged to give up in despair and return home.

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Shortly after this, two Indians secreted themselves near Coon's fort on West Fork, waiting an opportunity to do some mischief; the occasion was not long in presenting itself, for a daughter of Mr. Coon came out of the fort for the purpose of performing some slight labor in a field near the roadside. Two men, Enoch Jones and Thomas Cunningham, came down the road, and after a short conversation with her, walked on. In the meantime the Indians were waiting for her to





come near enough for them to capture her without alarming the people in the fort; but she, turning suddenly, observed them and started to run home; instantly one of the savages shot at her, while the other rushed to her, tomahawked and scalped her before the eyes of the horrified men who had only gone a short distance down the road, yet were not near enough to render any assistance. The settlers immediately turned out in pursuit of the murderers, but no traces of them could be discovered.

In the month of March following, a party of Indians came suddenly on a number of children playing in a yard on Ten Mile. The children ran screaming to the house (which was serving as a place of refuge for the settlers in that neighborhood, and was known as Fort Harbert,) and apprised the inmates of the Indians approach. John Murphey, rushing to the door to see if danger really was near, was instantly shot and fell back into the house: the Indian who had fired the shot, not knowing there were other men in the house, sprang in and was instantly grappled by Mr. Harbert, who threw him upon the floor and struck him with his tomahawk. While maintaining his position over the prostrate savage, two shots were fired at Harbert from without—the first wounding him, and the second, passing through his head, killed him. In the meantime, Edward Cunningham was having a terrible struggle with a warrior who had



entered immediately after the first one. He drew up his gun to shoot the savage, but it flashed, and the two men closed in a hand-to-hand encounter. After a contest of some moments, Cunningham wrenched from the hand of the Indian his tomahawk, and buried the spike end of it in his back, while Mrs. Cunningham, rushing up to the savage, struck him with an axe, causing him to release his hold upon Mr. Cunningham and retire bleeding from the house. The third Indian who entered the door wore a cap made of the unshorn front of a buffalo, with the ears and horns still attached to it, presenting the most hideous aspect; a Miss Reece was standing near him and at her he aimed a blow which wounded her severely. Mrs. Reece seeing her daughter's terrible danger, seized the horrible head-dress of the savage by its horns, hoping to turn aside the blow, but it came off in her hands and the blow fell on the head of the girl. The father of the girl then attacked the Indian, but was quickly thrown to the floor, and the savage would have made short work of him had not Cunningham rushed to the rescue and tomahawked his assailant. During this time the rest of the Indians, who had been prevented from entering the door by the women, were engaged in securing such of the children in the yard as were capable of being carried away prisoners. These, evidently not relishing the idea of further attack, retreated, carrying



with them the children they had captured. In this attack one white person was killed in the house and four wounded.


In the yard eight children were either killed or taken prisoners, while the Indians had one killed and two wounded. This was the most serious of the Indian depredations of that year in this section, and, although it did not transpire within the boundaries of what is now called Marion county, but in Harrison, it is given here for reasons that are obvious. Some of the settlers concerned in the incident belonged to this vicinity, or were inhabitants of this county; it is therefore appropriate as well as interesting to give it in this connection.



## CHAPTER VII.

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### CAPTAIN BOOTH KILLED—CAPTURE OF CAPTAIN COCHRAN—DAVID MORGAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH TWO INDIANS.

N the 16th of June, 1778, Captain James Booth and Nathaniel Cochran were at work in a field on Booth's creek, near where the little village of Briertown is now situated. They were surprised by a party of Indians, who fired upon them killing Booth, and slightly wounding Cochran, who betook himself to flight, hoping to get beyond the range of the Indians' guns and escape; in this he did not succeed, for he was overtaken by them, made prisoner and carried into their towns.

The death of Captain Booth was mournfully regretted by the settlers, for he was a man of great energy, good education, and possessed extraordinary talents. He was probably the most prominent man in the settlements, and his death was felt to be a very great loss.

Cochran was afterwards taken by the Indians from their towns in Ohio to Detroit, where he was sold and remained a captive for a long period. While at De-





troit he made an attempt to escape, and would have succeeded had he not unfortunately taken a path which led him directly to the old Maumee towns, where he was recaptured, and, after being detained for a time, was sent back to Detroit. After enduring many hardships and suffering many privations, being traded backwards and forwards among the Indians of that section and Canada, he was finally exchanged, and found his way home.

A youth of scarce eighteen when taken by the Indians, he returned a man of thirty-five. He was afterwards a Captian in the militia, and lived to a ripe old age. Five of his children are still living in this state. They are William Cochran, the oldest, age 91, living at Worthington; James, father of Nathaniel Cochran of Fairmont, who lives in Jackson county; John, living near the mouth of Booth's creek; Mrs. Hannah Rowan, and Mrs. Polly Bowman, who live near Booth's creek.

Two or three days after the killing of Capt. Booth, the same party of Indians met Benjamin Shinn, Wm. Grundy and Benjamin Washburn returning from the head of Booth's creek, and Grundy fell a victim to the savages; going on farther, the Indians saw a boy about sixteen years old standing in the path leading from Simpson's to Booth's creek, mending his saddle-girth. They fired at him, and the ball passing directly through him, killing both himself and his horse.



These inroads made by the Indians in 1778 led the inhabitants to make greater preparations for security than ever before, fearing that when the winter was over hostilities would be again renewed. Many of the settlements received accessions to their number from the emigrants who were constantly arriving, and the population gradually increased until it was evident that the time was rapidly approaching when the progress of civilization would be so great that the uncivilized must give way before it, for every settler lessened the dangers of frontier life as he increased its power to repel them.

Their troubles were not yet over, however, for early in the year 1779, the settlers were alarmed by circumstances which led to the belief that Indians were lurking in the neighborhood. The inhabitants around Prickett's fort especially became alarmed and entered the fort; yet their fears seemed groundless, for days passed and no signs of the Indians were seen. A sense of security began to take possession of them; but as spring was rapidly approaching, the season when the savages usually commenced their depredations, they continued to make the fort their place of abode at night, but attended to their farm duties during the day. Among those who sought refuge in Prickett's fort was the David Morgan mentioned in a former chapter, who at the time was upwards of seventy years of age. About the first of April, being unwell



himself, he sent his two children—Stephen, a youth of sixteen (afterwards the father of the late Hons. William S. and Charles Morgan,) and Sarah, a girl of fourteen—to feed the cattle on his farm, which was on the opposite side of the river about a mile distant. Unknown to their father, who supposed they would return immediately, the children took with them bread and meat for a lunch, and resolved to spend the day on the farm, preparing the ground for watermelons. Accordingly, after feeding the stock, Stephen set himself to work, his sister helping him in various ways, and occasionally going to the cabin, a short distance west of where they were, to wet some linen she was bleaching. After the children left the house Morgan, whose illness increased, went to bed, and falling asleep, dreamed that he saw Sarah and Stephen walking about the yard of the fort, scalped. This dream, which under any circumstances would not tend to produce a comfortable feeling in the mind of the dreamer, caused Morgan no little apprehension, when on awaking he found the children were still absent. Taking with him his gun he immediately set out for the farm to see what detained them. Impressed with the fear that he would find his horrible dream realized, he ascended a slight eminence which overlooked the field where the children were, and was overjoyed to see them safe talking busily as they worked. Unobserved by them, he sat down to rest on



an old log, commanding a full view of them and the cabin, he had been there but a short time when, happening to look towards the house, he saw two Indians stealing from it towards the children. Fearing a sudden alarm would deprive them of their self-possession and unfit them for escape, Morgan retained his seat upon the log, and in a low voice, with as careless a manner as he could assume, told them of their danger and said, "run to the fort." The children instantly started and the Indians with hideous yells immediately pursued them. At this moment Morgan made himself known, and the Indians giving up the chase, sheltered themselves from his bullets behind two trees. Believing that discretion is the better part of valor, and not wishing to fight against such odds, Morgan then attempted to place himself out of danger by flight, but age and infirmity prevented his making much headway, and he soon realized that he would be speedily overtaken by the Indians, who were following in hot pursuit. Resolved to die game, he suddenly wheeled and made ready to fire at them, but seeing the motion they instantly sprang behind trees, and Morgan, wishing to save himself in the same manner, got behind a sugar sapling, but finding it insufficient for his protection he quitted it for a large oak a short distance further on. One of the Indians then took possession of the sapling he had just left, but seeing it could not shelter





him, threw himself down behind a log which lay at the root of the tree. This also was not sufficient to cover him, and Morgan seeing him exposed, fired at him. The ball took effect and the savage, rolling over on his back stabbed himself twice. Having thus rid himself of one of his pursuers Morgan again took to flight, the surviving Indian close upon him. There were now no trees to shield him, and the Indian could readily overtake him; and his gun being unloaded he had no means of defense. The race had continued for about ten yards, when looking over his shoulder Morgan observed the Indian almost upon him with his gun raised. Morgan watched closely the Indian's finger upon the trigger and as he pressed it sprang to one side, letting the bullet whiz harmlessly by. Seeing that a hand-to-hand encounter was inevitable, Morgan then aimed a blow with his gun at his adversary, who in return hurled his tomahawk at him, cutting off three fingers of his left hand and knocking the weapon from his grasp. They then closed, and Morgan, being a good wrestler in spite of his years, succeeded in throwing the Indian. He was not strong enough to maintain his position, however, for the Indian was soon on top of him, and with a yell of triumph began feeling for his knife, with which to dispatch him. Fortunately for Morgan, the savage, while in the house had seen a woman's apron, and, pleased with its bright color, had taken and bound it



around his waist above the knife; this hindered him from getting at the knife quickly and while he continued fumbling for it, Morgan succeeded in getting one of the Indian's fingers in his mouth. Finally the Indian found his knife, grasping it near the blade, while Morgan caught hold of the extremity of the handle, and as the redskin drew it from its scabbard, the old man closed his teeth on the finger he held with terrible force, causing the savage involuntarily to relax his grasp, Morgan quickly drew the knife through his hand and in an instant plunged it into his body; then, feeling the Indian sink lifeless back in his arms, he loosed his grasp and started for the fort. Meantime, Sarah, unable to keep pace with her brother, who by this time had reached the fort, followed in his footsteps until she came to the river where he had plunged in and swam across. She was making her way to the canoe when her father overtook her and they crossed to the fort together. After relating his adventures to the occupants of the fort, Morgan, well nigh exhausted, retired to rest, while a party of men went to the farm to see if traces of any other Indians could be found. On arriving at the place where the struggle had taken place the wounded Indian was not to be seen. They trailed him by the blood which had flowed from his side, and presently found him concealed in the branches of a



tree. As they came towards him he greeted them appealingly with the salutation, "How do do broder, how do broder," and surrendered himself into their hands. Then occurred a most shocking scene. The vindictive passions of the men were fully aroused, so that they tomahawked and scalped the wounded Indian—a proceeding worthy of savage warfare—and as if the measure of their revenge was not filled, they flayed him, tanned his skin, and converted it into shot pouches and belts.

The above incident took place on that part of Morgan's plantation which is a short distance north-east of the residence of the late George P. Morgan. David's cabin stood near where the burying ground of the Morgan family is now situated, and his body, with those of his family, rest within the inclosure.

About two months after this occurrence, as John Owens, John Juggins and Owen Owens were going to their corn field on Booth's creek, they were attacked by Indians, who killed and scalped John Owens and John Juggins, but Owen Owens succeeded in making his escape. A son of John Owens, who had been sent to the pasture for the horses, to use in plowing, heard the report of the gun, and not suspecting anything was wrong, came riding along on one horse, leading another. He was first observed by the Indians, and made aware of their presence by the bullets that came



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whistling past him. None of them took effect, however, and the Indians made a futile attempt to capture him by catching hold of the bridle reins, but he urged forward his horse and escaped unhurt.



## CHAPTER VIII.

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### HORATIO MORGAN—MASSACRE OF THE THOMAS FAMILY, Etc.

**T**HE bloody deeds committed by the Indians, created within the hearts of the settlers a bitter enmity toward them, and often led them to retaliate by the commission of about as barbarous acts as the savages themselves were guilty of, as in the case of the Indian with whom Morgan had the encounter, related in the last chapter. Their vindictive passions once aroused they would forget for the moment that they were civilized men, and the bare sight of an Indian, whether friendly or otherwise, would arouse this spirit of revenge in their hearts, and they would be led to commit acts which in their thoughtful moments they regretted. A striking incident of this kind occurred, in which Horatio Morgan, of Prickett's fort, was the principal actor.

While hunting one day, he unexpectedly came upon an Indian seated near a fire built on the river bank. Concealing himself behind a tree, Morgan watched the scene for some moments. Over the fire



was suspended a pot in which an Indian boy was stirring a mixture of herbs and water. The first mentioned savage—an old man—sat upon a log with his head bowed in his hands, evidently very sick, and the boy was boiling the gruel to relieve his sufferings, which appeared to be intense. Not a considerate thought for the pitiable condition of the old Indian seemed to enter the mind of Morgan, but raising his gun, after watching the scene awhile, he fired. The ball went crashing through the brain of the sick man, and he was forever freed from his sufferings. The boy, frightened at this sudden evidence that an enemy was at hand, took to the woods and made his escape.

Morgan was overcome with remorse the moment after he had fired the shot, and would have given the world to have been able to recall it. So stricken with shame was he at the cowardly advantage he had taken of the Indian, that it was not until years afterwards that he related the circumstance; and then it was with a feeling of deep regret at what he had so thoughtlessly done.

Early in the month of March, 1781, a party of Indians raided upon the settlements of this neighborhood, and on the night of the fifth arrived at the house of Captain John Thomas, on Booth's creek, near the site of the town of Boothsville. Elizabeth Juggins, daughter of the John Juggins whose murder is chronicled in a previous chapter, was visiting at the



house at the time. When the Indians arrived at the house the occupants were engaged in family devotion to God, and Captain Thomas was in the act of repeating the lines of the hymn, "Go worship at Emanuel's feet." Scarcely had he commenced when a gun was fired at him from without and he fell. The Indians then forced open the door and commenced the most dreadful tragedy that had yet taken place in this neighborhood. It was in vain that Mrs. Thomas implored the mercy of the savages for herself and children. She was answered with a blow from a tomahawk in the hands of a brawny warrior, and in quick succession six of her children lay weltering in their blood around her body and that of her husband. The savages then proceeded to scalp their victims, and to plunder the house, after which they left, taking with them one little boy as a prisoner. Miss Juggins, as soon as she observed Captain Thomas fall, realized the danger and threw herself under a bed, where she remained hidden from the view of the Indians all through the terrible tragedy. When the savages had departed she came out from her hiding place, and found that Mrs. Thomas was still alive, though unable to move. She asked Miss Juggins to hand her the body of her murdered infant that lay a short distance from her, and the young lady afterwards said that her pitiful glances around upon the bloody scene were enough to melt the stoutest heart. What a terrible





contrast between the scene now and the one of a half hour before! The unfortunate mother of the murdered family begged Elizabeth not to leave her; but, anxious for her own safety, the girl left the house and took refuge the rest of the night between two logs. In the morning she spread the alarm among the neighbors, who hastened to the scene of the enormities. Mrs. Thomas was found lying in the yard, where she had crawled and died during the night. Her body was terribly mangled by the tomahawk, and had been torn by hogs. The Indians had evidently made the place a second visit, for all that remained of the house and the bodies of Captain Thomas and his children was a heap of ashes.

After this massacre, the settlement on Booth's creek was forsaken; the settlers becoming alarmed for their safety, they went to Simpson's creek for greater security. Not long afterwards, John Owens, accompanied by some young men of the latter settlement, returned to his farm on Booth's creek for the purpose of threshing some wheat, and while Owens was upon a stack throwing down sheaves, several shots were fired at him by a party of Indians who were concealed a short distance off. He leaped from the stack and the men placed themselves on the defensive. It was soon evident that the savages had departed, and they concluded to go back to Simpson's, procure reinforcements and pursue the enemy. This resolve was acted



upon and the trail of the Indians was afterwards followed to a point some distance beyond Shinnston, where the savages were observed in camp and lying about their fires. The whites fired at them, but without effect, and the Indians took to flight, one of them turning and firing at the pursuers. The shot was returned by Benjamin Coplin, and it was supposed the Indian was killed, though his body was not afterwards found. The pursuit was finally abandoned, and the settlers returned to the place where they had found the Indians encamped, and took possession of the horses and plunder they had left behind them in their flight.



## CHAPTER IX.

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### CONTINUED HOSTILITIES OF THE SAVAGES —ATTACK ON THE CUNNINGHAMS AND CAPTURE OF MRS. CUNNINGHAM.

**A**MONG the settlers who came into the county about this time (1780-5,) were David Evans, one or two families of Witemans, Henry Leeper, Benjamin Veach, the Hölberts and others. The first three settled in the vicinity of Yellow Rock ford on the West Fork. Veach settled upon the farm now occupied by Mr. Zebulon Musgrave, a short distance west of Fairmont. Jonathan Nixon, from whom the Nixons of this county are descended, also located at this time near Boothsville. A great many other immigrants came into this region during these years following the close of the revolutionary war, and the population was thereby greatly increased, but the Indians did not cease their depredations.

Up to the middle of the year 1782, the knowledge of the surrender of Cornwallis, which virtually ended the War of Independence, had been kept from the Indians by their British friends; but it was now known



to them, and they began to fear that Virginia, now being rid of the English invaders, would concentrate her forces on her frontier and exterminate them at once. A grand council of several tribes convened at Chillicothe, and it was determined, by the advice of Simon Girty—a renegade white—to make the best of the present time, and prosecute with greater effort their war against the frontier, which resolve they carried out. More terrible raids than ever were made upon some of the frontier stations by large bodies of Indians,\* but our more secluded and less important settlements did not suffer so much as formerly.

There were no serious depredations in this immediate neighborhood until the year 1785, when six Indians came to the farm of Thomas and Edward Cunningham, on Bingamon creek, which empties into the West Fork a short distance above Worthington. The two brothers lived with their respective families in separate houses almost adjoining each other. Thomas was east of the mountains on a trading visit at this time, and his wife and four children were engaged in eating dinner, as was also Edward and his family in their house. Suddenly an Indian entered the former house and closed the door after him. Edward Cunningham, from his cabin, observed the proceeding, and after fastening his own door,

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\*The celebrated attacks upon Wheeling, (in which Elizabeth Zane distinguished herself,) Rice's fort, on the Ohio river, and the intermediate settlements between Fort Pitt and Wheeling, occurred during these raids.





stepped to a small window in the wall next the other house, and stood ready to fire the moment he should catch sight of the Indian. But the savage saw at once that if he retired from the house as he went in he would be exposed to Edward's fire; for, through a similar window, he had observed the latter's actions. As soon as he saw Cunningham at the window of the other house he fired at him, but Edward saw the aim of the savage in time to avoid it. The moment the redskin saw he had missed his mark he seized an axe standing in the room and commenced cutting his way out of the house through the back wall, so as not to expose himself to a shot from the other building by going out the front way. In the meantime another Indian came into the yard, and Edward fired at and wounded him.

All this time Mrs. Cunningham and her children, who were in the house with the Indian, had remained perfectly quiet, knowing that an attempt to escape would arouse his fury, and that if they succeeded in getting outside they would be killed by the savages in the yard. She hoped that he would withdraw without molesting any of them, after creating the aperture he had commenced. In this she was doomed to be sadly disappointed. When the opening was made sufficiently large, the savage approached the frightened group, and sinking his tomahawk into the brains of one of the children, threw the body into the



yard and ordered Mrs. Cunningham to follow. She obeyed, holding an infant in her arms and with two other screaming children clinging to her. She was then made the unwilling witness of the scalping of her murdered son. After setting fire to the house, the Indian retired with his prisoners to an eminence in an adjoining field, where two of his brethren were with the one wounded by Edward. The other two were in the yard watching for the opening of the door of the other house when the fire should drive the family from their shelter. When his cabin caught from the one already burning, however, Edward Cunningham and his son ascended to the loft, and throwing off the loose boards which formed the roof, extinguished the flames. In doing this they were in great risk of losing their lives, for the savages were shooting at them all the while, and the balls would frequently strike very close. Satisfied with the damage already done, the Indians finally abandoned for a time their designs against Edward and his family and made preparations to depart. They first tomahawked and scalped the remaining son of Mrs. Cunningham, and sank the hatchet into the head of her little daughter, whom they then took by the legs and beat her brains out against a tree. Mrs. Cunningham and her babe were carried off into captivity. The party crossed at Binghamon creek and concealed themselves in a cave, where they remained until after nightfall. They then



returned to Edward Cunningham's, and finding no signs of life, plundered and set fire to the house.

Fearful lest the Indians should renew the attack, the Cunninghams sought shelter in the woods, where they remained through the night, there being no other settlement nearer than eight miles. As soon as morning dawned they proceeded to the nearest house and gave the alarm, and a company of men was formed to go in pursuit of the Indians. After burying the bodies of the murdered children, a search for the savages was instituted, but the wily foe had so covered up their retreat that it was found impossible to discover any traces of them, and the men returned to their homes. Several days afterwards the search was renewed, owing to circumstances which induced the belief that the Indians had not yet left the country. The trail was found and followed nearly to the cave before mentioned, where it was lost, because of the great care the savages had taken to cover it up. Night finally compelled them to desist. One of the party—Major Robinson—happened to think of the cave that night, and mentioned to his companions his suspicions that the savages were concealed there.

Early next morning the cave was examined, but the Indians had departed during the night, and were by that time far beyond the reach of pursuit. During the search the day previous the Indians were in the cave, and so close were the men to its mouth several



times, that Mrs. Cunningham, as she afterwards said, could hear their voices. The savages stood ready to fire in case they should be discovered, and compelled her to keep the babe to her breast that its crying might not attract the attention of the whites.

It is beyond the power of pen to describe the sufferings of Mrs. Cunningham, mental and physical, during the journey to the Indian country. Obligated to walk the entire distance, she suffered internally from fatigue. Deprived of the necessary food, she herself almost perished from hunger, while the babe at her breast sought in vain for the milk it needed to sustain its little life—blood only came. Perceiving this, one of the Indians, with a tomahawk, put an end to its sufferings while it was still clinging to the breast. He then cast it to the side of the path, where it was left a prey for beasts. But these were not the worst of Mrs. Cunningham's trials. Her anguish of mind and the intensity of her bodily sufferings during the next ten days, cannot be described. During this whole time her only food consisted of three paw paws and the head of a wild turkey. When she arrived at an Indian town and was permitted for the first time to draw off her stockings, the skin and nails of her feet came off with them, by reason of the scaldings they had received by frequent wadings of water.

When they finally arrived at their own town, the Indians delivered Mrs. Cunningham over to the father





of the savage who had been wounded by Edward. It soon became apparent to her that she was reserved for some terrible torture; for she was not permitted to change her clothes, but was obliged to wear those she had on, though they were extremely dirty.\* One evening Simon Girty arrived at the village, and she resolved to plead with him to intercede for her deliverance, which resolve she acted upon the next day as soon as the opportunity offered. At first he was inclined to make light of her petition; but finally her tears and pleadings melted the hard heart of the wretched white savage and he relented. He paid her ransom and had her conducted to the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, and by them she was taken to a station in Kentucky. Here she was furnished with a horse, and after experiencing many hardships, reached Holstein, and from thence she proceeded up the valley and home. Her husband was not there to welcome her, having learned some days before that she had been ransomed and taken to Kentucky, and had set out in quest of her. Hearing at Holstein of her having been there, he returned, and the meeting between husband and wife in a few days was a glad one, though the recollections of the sad fate of their children caused them afterwards many hours of bitter grief.

\*This is a bad omen for a captive among the Indians.



## CHAPTER X.

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### A BOY'S ADVENTURE—THE INDIANS ON BUFFALO CREEK—LEVI MORGAN'S ADVENTURE.

**A**MONG the many incidents which serve to show the hardships to which the settlers were exposed, the following is not the least interesting:

Early in the month of March, 1786, Jonathan Nixon, with his eldest son, George—then a lad nine years of age—went from Edwards' fort\* to his farm, for the purpose of building a house and improving the land. After working two days in the woods, late on the second evening, Jonathan started for the house of John Tucker, where he spent the night, and directed his son to go back to the fort, a distance of five miles. The boy started but soon lost his way, and after wandering about in the forest for some time, he returned to the camp and laid down for the night. Next morning he awoke to find that a snow had fallen to the

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\*Edwards' fort was located upon the George T. Martin farm, five miles south of Boothsville.



depth of eight or ten inches. After a second unsuccessful effort to find his way to the fort, the little fellow returned again to the camp and lay down, covering himself with a blanket.

In the meantime, his father, on awakening at Tucker's and finding that the snow had fallen, concluded not to return to his work, but to go hunting instead in company with Isaac Tucker. Sometime during the day, the hunters happened to come near the camp where George was, and observed the boy lying there almost frozen and unconscious. It was only by great exertions on the part of the men that the brave little fellow was resuscitated.

In the fall of the same year (1786), John Ice and James Snodgrass, left home to look for some horses they had lost while hunting buffalo on Fishing creek, and were attacked by the Indians, killed and scalped. The particulars of this tragedy were never known. Their remains, when afterwards found, were torn very much by the wolves.

A few days after this occurrence, a party of Indians came to Buffalo creek. Mrs. Dragoo and her son were in a cornfield gathering beans, when the savages suddenly came upon them and took them prisoners. In hopes that the detention of their captives would be noticed, and parties from the house come to look for them, the Indians concealed themselves in ambush by the side of the path leading from the house. They



were not disappointed, for, uneasy at the continued absence of Mrs. Dragoo and her son, Nicholas Wood and Jacob Straight came out to ascertain the cause. The Indians fired at them, killing Wood, and Straight took to flight, but was after a short chase, captured. The wife and daughter of Mr. Straight heard the firing, and seeing the savages in pursuit of the husband and father, also fled—not, however, unobserved by the Indians, who gave chase. The daughter concealed herself in a thicket, and Mrs. Straight sought shelter under a shelving rock, neither of them being afterwards discovered by the pursuers, though they passed very close to where the mother was sheltered. After Straight had been captured he said to a warrior, “don’t kill me, and I will go with you.” “Will you?” said the monster, and raising the fatal hatchet, he sank it into the brain of the wretched captive. Mrs. Straight could hear all this from her place of concealment.

Mrs. Dragoo was afterwards murdered, being too infirm to travel to the towns of the Indians. Her son, who was then a lad of seven years, was taken into captivity and remained with the savages nearly twenty years. He married a squaw and became the father of four children by her. At length he forsook the Indians and returned to his home on Buffalo creek, bringing with him two of his children.

In the following year (1787), the Indians came





again to the settlement on Buffalo creek, near where stands the town of Farmington. Levi Morgan was not far from his home engaged in skinning a wolf which he had just caught in a trap, and on looking up from his occupation, observed three Indians coming toward him. One of them was mounted upon a horse, which Morgan recognized as belonging to a near neighbor, and he supposed at first that the rider was the owner. A second glance showed him his mistake, and seizing his gun, he sprang quickly behind a large rock near by, the Indians taking refuge behind a tree. Looking out from his shelter, he observed the savages watching the far side of the rocks, evidently expecting him to make his appearance there. He fired at them and killed one, and on attempting to reload his gun, was obliged to desist, owing to his powder having all been wasted, by reason of the stopper coming out of the horn while he was engaged in skinning the wolf. His only recourse then was flight, and he started off, one of the savages pursuing him. Finding his pursuer rapidly gaining on him, Morgan threw down his gun, hoping that it would tempt the Indian to delay a moment, but in vain. He then threw off his coat and shot pouch, but this design failed, and the Indian still gained upon him. Morgan finally thought of another plan to arrest the pursuit, and immediately acted upon the idea. Arriving at the summit of a hill up which he had taken his flight,



he halted, and making motions as if he observed some friends approaching from the other side, he shouted: "Come on! come on—make haste; here is one!" The Indian, supposing there were really some friends of Morgan ascending from the other side, turned and fled as precipitately as the latter had run from him. Levi, overjoyed at the success of his ruse, kept up the deception by shouting, "shoot quick, or he will get away!" hearing which the Indian seemed to redouble his exertions, and was soon out of sight. Morgan then hastened home, leaving his gun and coat for the savage.

Sometime after this, Morgan attended the treaty of Au Glaize, and met with this same Indian, who still had his gun. After good-humoredly talking over the circumstance, Levi proposed that they test each other's speed in a friendly race, to which the Indian assented and was beaten. Whereupon he rubbed his limbs and said, "stiff, stiff; too old, too old." Morgan laughed, and replied, "Well, you got my gun by outrunning me then, and I should have it back now for outrunning you," and he took it from the Indian, who yielded it cheerfully.

About this time (in the year 1791,) a small company of settlers, including Horatio and Levi Morgan, Jacob and John Hayes, and several others made an expedition from here to an Indian town on Sunfish creek, in Ohio, for the purpose of destroying it. Ar-



iving there they found the village deserted by the warriors, and the only remaining inhabitants a few women and children, and old men. They stole up to the outskirts of the town, where they could obtain a good view of the situation. Observing an old man sitting quietly smoking a pipe in the door of his wigwam, Levi Morgan told the rest of the party to watch him exhibit his extraordinary marksmanship, and taking steady aim at the center of the old man's forehead, fired. The ball did not vary a hair's breadth from the spot, and the Indian rolled over dead. This was a signal for the attack, and the men plundered the village and returned home, bringing with them several prisoners.



## CHAPTER XI.

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### MURDER OF THE McINTIRES—END OF INDIAN DEPREDATIONS.

**A** SHORT distance above Worthington, near the mouth of Bingamon creek, occurred the last of the depredations committed by the savages in this immediate neighborhood.

In May, 1791, as John McIntire and his wife were returning from a visit, they passed through the yard of Uriah Ashcraft. A few minutes afterwards, Mr. Ashcraft was startled by the growling of one of his dogs, and stepped to the door to see what had aroused him. He had scarcely reached the entrance when he espied an Indian on the outside. Closing the door he ascended the stairs and attempted three times to fire from a window at the redskin, but his gun snapped. He then observed that there were other Indians close at hand, and he raised a loud shout for help, hoping that friends in the vicinity might hear and come to his relief. The Indians presently retreated, and shortly afterwards three brothers of McIntire came up. Ashcraft explained the situation, and the four set out to





follow the trail of the savages. About a mile off they found the body of John McIntire, whom the Indians had overtaken, tomahawked, scalped and stripped; and concluding that Mrs. McIntire, whom they knew to have been with her husband, was taken prisoner, they sent to Clarksburg for assistance to follow the murderers and recover the captive.

A company of eleven men, led by Col. John Haymond and Col. George Jackson, started shortly afterwards in pursuit of the Indians, and followed the trail to Middle Island creek, where it appeared fresh. Col. Jackson proposed that six men should be chosen, who would strip as light as they could, and go ahead of the horses. William Haymond, of Palatine, who was one of the number, in a letter to Luther Haymond, fifty years afterwards, thus gives an account of what followed.

“George Jackson, Benjamin Robinson, N. Carpenter, John Haymond, John Harbert and myself (the sixth,) were those chosen. We stripped ourselves as light as we could, tied handkerchiefs around our heads, and proceeded as fast as we could. The Indians appeared to travel very carelessly, and as it was in May, and the weeds were young and tender, we could follow a man very easily. Arriving on a high bank, Jackson turned around and said, “where do you think they have gone?” With that, he jumped down the bank, and we proceeded down on the beach a short distance, when suddenly we were fired upon by



one of the Indians. We started in a run and had gone ten or fifteen yards when the other three fired. John Harbert and brother John caught sight of them first running up the hill and fired at them. Robinson and myself ran and jumped upon the bank where the Indians left their knapsacks, and I fired the third shot, the savages then being about fifty yards distant. \* \* \*. The Indian I shot bled considerable, and we trailed him for about a quarter of a mile, where he had cut a stick, which we supposed was to stop the blood. We followed him for about a mile, but the men thought it dangerous to go farther, thinking he had his gun with him, and would hide and kill one of us, and we returned. \* \* \*. The other Indians we did not follow, but on arriving at the place of attack found all their knapsacks, a shot pouch, four hatchets and all their plunder, including the woman's scalp.\* \* \* \* I have since heard that one of the Cunninghams, who was a prisoner with the Indians at that time, on his return said that an Indian came home and said he had been with three others on Muddy river (West Fork,) and killed a man and a woman; that they were followed; that they fired on the white men; and that the white men fired on them and wounded three, one of whom died

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\*It was thus ascertained that Mrs. McIntire had been murdered with her husband, and on the return of the party her body was found near where that of her husband had been.



after crossing the second ridge at a run). We were on the second ridge and near the second run). If this account be true, and the Indians we followed the same, we must have shot well."

After the murder of the McIntires, there were no more massacres by the Indians in this vicinity, though it was not until the year 1795 that Indian hostilities ceased altogether in Northwestern Virginia—when the rapid increase of the white population, and the determined measures adopted by the government, soon put an end to the Indian wars, and drove the tribes further west.



## CHAPTER XII.

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### PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION FROM 1785 TO 1819.

**A**FTER the close of the Indian hostilities, nothing of importance transpired for several years, except the rapid progress consequent upon the removal of all danger from attack by the savages.

Every month brought new comers who took up claims and began the work of clearing and fencing their farms. The population rapidly increased, and the counties of Monongalia and Harrison (which latter county had been formed in 1784,) were developing into wealthy and thickly populated communities. In October, 1785, Morgantown had been regularly established upon the lands of Zackquell Morgan. Fifty acres of his land lying upon a beautiful bottom on the Monongahela river, was "vested in Samuel Hanway, John Evans, David Scott, Michael Kearnes, and James Dougherty, gentlemen, trustees, to be by them, or any of them, laid off in lots of half an acre each, with convenient streets, which shall be, and the same are hereby established a town by the name of Morgantown."





At the same time an act was passed establishing the town of Clarksburg, in Harrison county. William Haymond, Nicholas Carpenter John Myers, John McAlly, and John Davison, were appointed trustees. These two towns were the only ones in this vicinity for some years, and they were made the marketing head-quarters for all the settlers of the surrounding country.

From time to time after this, other various improvements were made. Mills were erected along the rivers, the buildings constructed not so rough as those formerly put up, and stores began to be established.

On December 5th, 1793, an act was passed by the General Assembly providing for the clearing and extending of the navigation of the Monongahela and West Fork rivers, in the counties of Monongalia and Harrison, and trustees were appointed to receive subscriptions for the purpose. This was the first move ever made towards the improvement of the Upper Monongahela. The act also directed that "any person who should erect any dam across the said Monongahela or West Fork rivers, should at the time of making the same, erect a slope in or through the said dam, in such a manner as should admit the easy passage of fish; and also erect a sufficient lock at such dam for the convenient passage of canoes, batteaus and flat-bottomed boats, at least twelve feet wide, and keep



the same in good repair." Such improvements as these after a while became more frequent.

Owing to the advances made in civilization, many of the inconveniences incident to pioneer life, began to disappear and better accommodations were found on every hand. The mail facilities, especially, were much improved, a regular route being established, which allowed the citizens to communicate with the outside world at least once a month! Previous to this there had been no regular mails, and the inhabitants of the new country were not made aware of what transpired away from home, save through the medium of travelers that would be passing, or some settler who had been away visiting, or upon business, and would bring with him on his return a budget of newspapers or letters.

The war of 1812 with Great Britain did not affect this part of the country. Indeed, the inhabitants might scarcely have known that the war was waging, so little were its effects felt by them. A few volunteers, however, went from this region, but very few. The settlements here had furnished but few Revolutionary soldiers, owing to the fact that the men were all needed at home to defend their families from the savages just at that time, and now, in this second war, there was not so great a demand for volunteers; besides, we were so far removed from the immediate scene of the difficulties.



## CHAPTER XIII.

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### THE TOWNS OF THE COUNTY.

**I**N the year 1819, Fairmont (then called Middletown) was established and regularly laid out. The people of this vicinity, feeling a need of a town, determined to locate one, and held a meeting to decide upon a site. The farm of Boaz Fleming was considered by them the roughest and poorest, and least adapted to farming purposes, and having little idea that the new town would ever be more than a small hamlet, they finally selected his land. The new place was named Middletown, because it was about half way between the towns of Clarksburg and Morgantown, and served as a stopping place for travelers going to and fro between the two latter places. At that time much of Middletown was a laurel thicket, the only house being a log cabin occupied by Mr. Fleming, which stood near the corner of Jefferson street and Decatur Alley, or near where Mr. John Crane now resides. The old pear tree which stands in Mr. Crane's garden was planted by Mr. Fleming about the year 1800. A wolf trap stood near his house



at the time Middletown was laid out. The first house built after the laying off of the town was by Mr. Samuel Jackson, father of Messrs. Oliver and James R. Jackson, of Fairmont. The first child born in Middletown was E. M. Conaway, who is now in his fifty-ninth year.

From this time on to the organization of Marion county there were no events worthy of note happened within the territory now embraced therein, save the occasional laying out of a town, as the increase in population, and the need of a headquarters, would make it necessary.

In 1837, Rivesville was laid out upon the land of Elisha Snodgrass, and named in honor of Hon. Henry C. Rives.

In the year 1833, there had been a postoffice established at Robert Reed's tavern, near the forks of Booth's creek, and named Boothsville, in honor of Captain Booth, whose murder by the Indians is related in a former chapter, and in 1839 a small town was laid off by Reed, adjacent to the post office, and has since grown to be quite a flourishing village, with a population of one hundred and fifty.

In 1838, Palatine was established opposite Middletown on the east bank of the Monongahela river, when the land owned by William Haymond and John S. Barns, sr., who had jointly purchased it from Daniel and John Paulsley, the sons of Jacob Paulsley, who had





moved upon the land in 1793. The tract was originally purchased by William Haymond, sr., for \$140. Palatine is now the second town, in point of size and population, in the county. It contains at present about six hundred inhabitants, and is in a very flourishing condition. Here are located the Marion Machine Works, the oldest manufacturing establishment of any kind in the county. These works, over thirty years ago, manufactured the McCormick Reaper, the first reaping machine ever built for sale in the United States—a fact worthy of note. The Palatine Pottery is another very important branch of industry, which is located at this place. A large number of the male population of Palatine are employed in the several coal mines in the vicinity of Fairmont.

Fairview, one of Marion county's most flourishing villages, was laid off in the summer of 1845. The only houses now standing upon the ground embraced within the limits were those built by Isaac Cotton (now occupied by Dr. Enos Amos) and David Higgins. Fairview is about eleven miles northwest of Fairmont, and is a picturesque town of over one hundred and fifty inhabitants. It contains one of the largest steam flouring mills in this section of the State, and is the center of the trade of quite a large scope of surrounding country. Basnettsville is a small settlement lying about half a mile south of Fairview.

The third town in the county in population and



importance, and the second in point of wealth, is Mannington, lying eighteen miles west of the county seat, on the B. & O. R. R. It is also the youngest place, for previous to the year 1850 there were but few houses on the ground of what is now a beautiful and prosperous town. All the land upon which Mannington is built belonged to Geo. H. J. Koon and James Furbee, the descendants of whom constitute a large portion of the leading inhabitants. Mannington is one of the most prominent towns of this section of West Virginia, considerable business being done there. One of the most important branches of trade carried on is that of the manufacture of leather. Mannington sole leather received a prize at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, in 1876. Quite a large lumber business is also carried on here.

Worthington, Glover's Gap, Farmington and Barækville are other villages of considerable importance which have sprung into existence.

Newport, Winfield, Forksburg, Valley Falls, Nuzum's Mills, Texas, Benton's Ferry, Basnettsville, Bobtown, Houlttown and Barnesville may be classed among the smaller villages, some of them older than the county itself, but the majority are merely small stations upon the railroad which have been established since it was built.

Benton's Ferry takes its name from Mr. Benton, who keeps the ferry upon the Valley river at that



point. This ferry was established by Asa Bee, father of Ephraim Bee, of Doddridge county, who was succeeded by a family of Pettijohns, who gave way to John Mellett, which gentleman's son-in-law, Thomas Veach, afterwards had charge of it until Mr. Benton took possession.

Valley Falls takes its name from the falls that are in the Tygart's Valley river at this point. The river is a beautiful winding stream of gentle current, but at these falls the river descends, principally by three or four perpendicular pitches, some seventy feet in about a mile. They were discovered by Jonathan Nixon, in the summer of 1785, while he was upon a hunting excursion.



## CHAPTER XIV.

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### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY—THE FIRST COURT—THE JAIL, COURT HOUSE, &c.

**M**ARION County was formed in 1842 from parts of Monongalia and Harrison counties. From the time of the close of the Indian depredations the population had increased so rapidly that it was found necessary, for the conveniences of government to organize a new county, and the people of the southern part of Monongalia and the northern part of Harrison counties accordingly petitioned the Legislature for the formation of what was afterwards called Marion county, in honor of General Francis Marion, of Revolutionary memory. The choice of this name evidenced that the projectors of the new county had not forgotten their patriotism. Doubtless a foretaste of the ardent patriotism, so common about that time in Virginia, and especially of the mode of giving vent to its pulsations, acted as a stimulus in those days in keeping alive the names of those who flourished conspicuously in the great War of Independence, and in causing cities, towns and counties, as well as babies, both





black and white, to be named for them. At about that period there was no State in the Union had more burning patriotism than Virginia, and it usually manifested itself in feasting on ginger-bread and beer, hard cider and good whisky, at big musters and on Fourth of July occasions, and in naming children and corporations for great and renowned military men.

The delegate in the Virginia Legislature from this end of Monongalia county, in 1842, was William S. Morgan, and it was he who introduced the bill in the House. The measure met with considerable opposition, especially from the other delegates from Monongalia and one member from Harrison, but Mr. Morgan, assisted by Hon. William J. Willey, the State Senator from this district, and John J. Moore, Esq., a lobby member, he finally conquered all opposition and secured the passage of the bill, January 14th, 1842. Middletown was made the county seat. A year or two afterwards the name of the town was changed to Fairmont.

*Name was given by Chas. Nonper a lawyer who after as died in Texas*  
 On the 4th of April following, the first county court was held at the house of William Kerr, father of E. C. Kerr, of Fairmont, which stood on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets. John S. Barnes, Sr., Thomas S. Haymond, Thomas Watson and William Swearingen, justices of the peace, composed the court. John Nuzum, William J. Willey, Matthew L. Fleming, Isaac Means, Leonard Lamb, George Dawson, Le-



ander S. Laidley, Elias Blackshere, David Cunningham, Abraham Hess, John S. Chisler, Absalom Knotts, Benjamin J. Brice, Albert Morgan, David Musgrave, Hillery Boggess, William T. Morgan, John Clayton, Thomas Rhea, William Cochran, John S. Smith, John Musgrave, William B. Snodgrass, William Bradley, Thomas A. Little, Jesse Sturm, John S. Barnes, Sr., and Henry Boggess were the justices of the peace of the county. Zebulon Musgrave was appointed erier of the court, and the following attorneys were permitted to practice in court: Gideon Camden, William C. Haymond, Burton Despard, Charles A. Harper, James M. Jackson, John J. Moore, George H. Lee, Waitman T. Willey, Moses A. Harper, and Eusebius Lowman. The court adjourned to meet in the Methodist Episcopal (the recently demolished Protestant Episcopalian) Church, where the future sessions of the court were held until the court house was built.

Thomas L. Boggess was elected the first clerk of the county court, William C. Haymond was the first prosecuting attorney, and Benjamin J. Brice the first sheriff of the county.

The erier of the court was ordered to enter into a contract with Daniel M. Thompson for the upper room of his dwelling house for a jail, "provided said Thompson should make such improvements as would make it secure." The rent was five dollars per month and Thompson was appointed jailor. The prison was



a queer structure, to be sure. It was situated on Washington street, the same site whereon stands the dwelling now occupied by William E. Hough. It was a small log house, and the upper room, which the court ordered to be used as a jail, was only a half story high; had holes sawed out at the gable ends, giving it the appearance of an old fashioned Indian fort. Whether prisoners really stayed within the enclosure any longer than they were watched by sentinels from the outside is doubtful. Then, however, jails were mostly used for confining failing debtors, and it mattered but little whether they remained in or out of the enclosure of the jail. If they got out they were too poor to abscond. Some years afterwards, and when it had ceased to serve as a jail, the house was moved, and now stands some distance east on the same street—owned and occupied by James Murphy.

F. H. Pierpoint, attorney, was qualified at the May term of the court, and Dan'l M. Thompson was awarded the contract for building the court house for the sum of \$3,150.75, which were the principal items of business transacted that term. The court house was considered a fine building when it was completed. It bore such a contrast to the other buildings in Fairmont at that time that it no doubt presented an imposing appearance. Since the recent improvements in the county seat, however, and the erection of so many handsome



business houses, the contrast is the other way. The court house, together with its grounds, occupies about one-third the space between Jefferson and Monroe streets, on the North side of Main, and is a large two story brick, surmounted by a cupola, containing a splendidly toned bell. Six heavy columns grace the front of the building and support the gable, which extends over a pavement in front of the door. In the first story are contained the county offices—that of the clerk of the county court on the right of the entrance, and the circuit court clerk's office on the left. On either side of the hall-way leading to the back of the building are various other offices. In the second story is the large court room, and two jury rooms. In front of the building is a large yard, containing shade trees, and in the rear is the jail, with the sheriff's residence, which buildings are new, having been erected in 1877 at a cost of about \$8,000. The business of the county has increased, and continues to increase, to such an extent that it will soon be found necessary to tear down the present court house and build a greater and more convenient one—which, it is hoped, will be more creditable to the county in point of architectural beauty, than the one now standing.

In those days everybody that could possibly make it convenient came to town during the sitting of the county court. Especially was this the case on the





first and second days of each term. They were set apart as general trading days. On these days, men, women and children came to town with their horses, cattle, grain, butter, eggs, chickens, and soap, and exchanged them for such articles as supplied their demands and necessities. Court days, were famous, too, for ending disputations in fisticuffs and drinking whisky. All the quarrels and wranglings among the baser sort of the people of the county were referred to county court days for final adjustment, and they usually ended in knock-downs and bloody noses.

Thomas S. Haymond and John C. Clayton were the first representatives of the county in the House of Delegates, and William J. Willey in the Senate. Monongalia, Preston, Randolph and Marion, composed the Senatorial district. Messrs. Haymond and Clayton were delegates of more than average ability; especially is this merit accorded to Mr. Haymond.

Mr. Willey, the Senator, was a resident of the county; was noted for his many eccentricities, and for his abilities as a legislator. He was by no means a handsome man, and for this reason was not called upon to divide his time with the ladies of Richmond, but was enabled to devote himself solely to the best interests of his constituency. It is related of Mr. Willey that when he used to go to Richmond as a representative he was as fond of personating the pecu-



liar style of dress of the people as he was of representing their local interests in the Legislature. On one occasion he went to Richmond dressed in blue linsey breeches and brown linsey hunting shirt.



## CHAPTER XV.

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### THE IRISH RIOT—THE GREAT FRESHET— COMPLETION OF THE RAILROAD—SUS- PENSION BRIDGE BUILT, ETC.

**M**ARION county made no rapid strides in the “March of progress,” until the year 1849, when a decided increase in her population commenced, the tide of immigration following closely in the footsteps of the engineers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, who completed their survey during this year. Some of the immigrants, however, were not of the most desirable character, and the history of Marion county at this time teems with stories of the feuds of the Irishmen who were employed in constructing the railroad. These Irishmen, fresh from the bogs of Connaught and the Lakes of Killarny, brought with them all their local feuds and prejudices. They had not been in this country long enough to learn that “all men are born free and equal,” so that in their work it was necessary to keep the men of the different clans apart, for certain as a Fardowner met a Connaughtier, a fight ensued—the



fact that they were of different clans being sufficient cause for the most active hostilities. The Connaughters who were employed at Benton's Ferry concluded one morning to make an attack on the Fardowners at Ice's Mills, a few miles distant, settle all old scores, and by one grand stroke drive them from the county. Accordingly they formed themselves into a band two hundred strong, and made a descent on Ice's Mills. The Fardowners, taken entirely by surprise, threw all work aside and fled in dismay to Fairmont for protection. The Connaughters pursued them closely, firing off an occasional gun, or stopping to beat a poor fellow who was down, until, with shouts and Irish yells, they came rushing down the hills into the town. Here pursued and pursuers were brought to a stand still, for the citizens soon recovering from their astonishment turned out *en masse* and arrested every assailant they saw, so that in a very short time eighty-eight men were in jail. Not a very remarkable feat, when it is known that the raw Irishmen offered no resistance when being arrested. So great was thier terror of the law that a negro slave captured six men by simply grasping each by the arm and saying, "I arrest you, sir, you must go to jail." The prisoners were kept until the next day when nearly all were released. Shortly after, the remaining few were given their liberty, thus ending the Irish riot, long famous in the annals of Fairmont.





In the summer of this year, 1849, the construction of three turn pikes—one leading to Weston, another to Beverly and the third to Fishing Creek—was begun. This enterprise, coupled with that of the railroad, was the greatest incentive to industry and progress the people of Marion had ever received.

The year 1852 is notable in the history of Marion county for three important events: The great flood, the completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the building of the wire suspension bridge connecting Fairmont and Palatine.

The great flood, which destroyed thousands of dollars worth of property, occurred on Monday the 5th of April, 1852. By reason of the heavy rains that had fallen the day before the West Fork and Monongahela rivers rose with fearful rapidity until 3 o'clock on Tuesday, rising at the rate of five feet per hour during part of the time—when the Monongahela at Fairmont attained a perpendicular height of forty-three feet above an ordinarily low stage of water, and eight feet higher than a great rise in 1807. The destruction of property, particularly on the West Fork, was very great. On Monday about forty houses floated by Fairmont. How many passed during the night was unknown. Among them were the mills of Mr. Griffin, of Harrison county, and Mr. Lucas, of Worthington, and the mill and carding machine house of a Mr. Brice, of this county.



“In the town of Worthington every house, except one and the parts of two others, was swept away, and with them a large quantity of household goods. We insert the following, clipped from the account of the freshet, which appeared in the Fairmont *True Virginian* the Saturday after the flood :

“The apothecary shop of our friend Dr. P. Davis, was seen passing by our town with cases, books and medicines apparently uninjured. A cat was in a window, seemingly surveying, with much composure, the roaming element on which it was riding. A portion of his property was rescued and brought to shore. The only house which remains in Worthington, is the brick standing back from the river, and a part of that of R. Parish, occupied by T. P. Lilly as a hotel, and a part of W. Hood's house. Mr. Hood lost his store house and the greater part of his goods. The mill of Mr. Hoult, below town, has also been carried away by the flood. But little damage, comparatively, has been sustained by the citizens of this place or Palatine. The greatest sufferers are the Messrs. Jacksons and William Gallahue. The mill property of the former has been considerably injured, but it is supposed that \$700 will cover the loss. The house of Mr. Gallahue, near the lower ferry, with all his household goods and much of his provisions laid in for the year, and a small house below his, on the river bank, were swept away. It is impossible to enumerate all the cases of loss and suffering. One hundred thousand dollars will hardly cover the damages sustained by the citizens of this county alone. The railroad has also been



greatly injured, and it is apprehended that its completion to this point will be delayed some two weeks. What has been the injury in Taylor county, we have not learned, but not much, we hope and suppose. And we sincerely hope it may not be as bad in Harrison as has been estimated by persons up the river. The 5th of April, 1852, will long be remembered as an important epoch in the history of this county, being the date of, by far, the greatest freshet within the memory of our oldest inhabitants, or known to them by tradition.

“P. S.—Rivesville also has sustained very great damage. Several of the best houses there have been carried away. Among them are the house and shop of S. F. Morris, the warehouse at the Pawpaw bridge and the bridge, all the stabling and out-buildings of Mr. Snodgrass, besides smaller tenements and shops.

“Newport, a little village on the opposite bank of the river, between this and Morgantown was completely inundated, and we learn that one or two of the houses there were floated off. Almost every hour since the freshet we have received intelligence of some additional disaster. There seems indeed to be no end to the destruction of property.

“The Tygart’s Valley river was not so high as it was in 1846, and but little or no damage, therefore, has been sustained on that river. The great rise was in the West Fork.”

On the 23d of June of the same year the completion of the railroad to Fairmont was celebrated. The President and Directors of the Company, together with a large number of gentlemen from the cities of



Baltimore, Cumberland, Wheeling, Martinsburg, etc., and a large number of Marion county citizens, assembled in an arbor erected for the occasion, at a place now known as "the Y," about half a mile below town. We again clip from the *True Virginian* of June 26th, 1852:

"According to appointment the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, a portion of the City Council, with a large number of other gentlemen from the city of Baltimore, from Cumberland, Wheeling, Martinsburg, &c., and also a portion of our county men as the guests of the Company assembled at the arbor erected for the occasion, about half a mile below town, near Mr. U. Barns', on the evening of the 22d inst., to celebrate the completion of the road to this point. The train from Baltimore did not arrive until about 8 o'clock in the evening, owing to a temporary obstruction at the Big Tunnel. This was a disappointment to many of our citizens who had come a long distance to see the cars arrive, but who were compelled, in consequence of the lateness of the hour, to leave without gratifying their curiosity.

"Immediately after the arrival of the cars the company were seated at the table which was well filled with the choicest viands and every luxury of the season—not omitting that "which brings good cheer." The company was a very large one, consisting of several hundred. In a short time the Hon. Mr. Swann, the President of the Railroad Company, was called out for a speech, and most ably did he respond to the call. We would like to give, at least, the head of his chaste





and elegant address, but the want of time and room forbid at present. He was followed by Mr. Young, of the Baltimore City Council, who introduced to the audience Mr. H. D. Brooke, of the Fourteenth City Ward, and in a speech, rich, racy and *musical*, he put the crowd in the very finest humor. He was followed by Mr. F. H. Peirpoint, and him by Mr. A. F. Haymond. These gentlemen made most excellent and appropriate speeches in their usual eloquent style. Mr. B. H. Latrobe was then called to the floor and made a highly interesting speech. He was followed by a Mr. Grey, who dilated upon the services of Mr. George Brown, of Baltimore, which brought that gentleman to his feet, but only to call out Mr. Latrobe, the distinguished attorney for the Company. This gentleman made an eloquent and beautiful speech. He was followed by Col. T. S. Haymond, which wound up, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the truly agreeable and interesting entertainment. It was the feast of reason and flow of soul. Between the speeches, that fine and justly celebrated brass band from Baltimore discoursed some of the sweetest music, employing none but sweetest notes for the occasion. Every attention was shown the visitors and strangers, and the regret was that their stay could not have been prolonged. They left about 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The occasion was one which merited the celebration, and the celebration was worthy of the occasion."

Shortly afterward the road was completed through to Wheeling, passing through the following towns and villages in Marion county: Valley Falls, Nu-



zum's Mills, Benton's Ferry, Texas, Flemingsburg, [Johntown], Fairmont, Uztown, Barnesville, Barrackville, Farmington, Mannington and Glover's Gap. At Flemingsburg, which lies a short distance below the confluence of the Tygart's Valley and West Fork rivers, one mile west of Fairmont, the Monongahela is crossed by the railroad by means of a magnificent iron bridge, constructed at great cost to the company. The viaduct is 650 feet long and 35 feet above low water surface. This bridge was destroyed by the Confederates during the War of the Rebellion, but shortly afterward was rebuilt.

The suspension bridge across the Monongahela river, connecting Fairmont and Palatine, which was finished during this year, was built under the direction of Mr. James L. Randolph, assistant engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars. The State of Virginia subscribed twelve thousand and the citizens of Fairmont and Palatine eight thousand dollars of stock. The residue necessary to complete the bridge was borrowed and afterwards all paid from the tolls of the company. This bridge, seen from a distance, is a most beautiful structure, hanging like a spider's web from the massive stone towers that rise above, supporting it on either side—a very long and high web, however, for the distance from tower to tower is five hundred and sixty feet, while the bridge is fifty feet above the wa-



ter at its ordinary stage. The platform which connects the bridge proper with the land is eighty-five feet in length.

April 22d, of this year, the county was divided off into seven districts or townships, pursuant to an act passed April 3d, by the Legislature. The commissioners who performed the work were Austin Merrill, Benjamin Fleming, George M. Ryan, Elijah B. Ross, Z. Musgrave, M. Vangilder, John Conaway, J. C. Beaty, Aaron Hawkins, and Jacob Straight. The names of the districts were: Boothsville district, No. 1—voting place at William Shaver's; Palatine district, No. 2—voting places at the store of Hezekiah Boggess, and the house of Enos Nuzum; Eastern district, No. 3—voting places at Meredith's tavern, and the house of Henry S. Pride; Fairmont district, No. 4—voting places at the court house in Fairmont, and Conaway & Son's store in Barrackville; Pawpaw district, No. 5—voting places at Basnett's store in Basnettville, and at the house of Amos Snodgrass in Milford; Worthington district, No. 6—voting places at Thomas P. Lilly's tavern in Worthington, and Col. W. J. Willey's store in Farmington; Mannington district, No. 7—voting places at the tavern of Alexander Talkington in Mannington, and at the tavern in Beaty's Mills.

Afterwards the names of the districts were changed to those they now hold and they were called *townships*;



they are now, however, called *districts* as before. The names of the districts at present are as follows: Fairmont, Union, Grant, Winfield, Pawpaw, Lincoln and Mannington. The name "township," was changed to "district" by a new constitution made in 1872.





## CHAPTER XVI.

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### THE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY.

**I**N the year 1815, a Presbyterian minister, who had been holding a series of meetings in the neighborhood of Fairmont, preaching wherever he could obtain a room large enough to contain the people, effected a regular church organization. This event took place in a barn on the farm of Asa Hall, near Barnesville, and is believed to be the first permanent church organization within the bounds of Marion county, though there is one at Gilboa which claims to have a prior existence. The former organization, now known as the Presbyterian Church of Fairmont, in 1822 built a frame church on the ground afterwards occupied by the old brick building that has recently been demolished, which stood on Jefferson street, opposite the Mountain City House. This frame church was of the most primitive description. No lath or plaster covered its walls, and no ceiling reflected the light of the tallow candles in their dim candle-sticks fastened to the posts, or held in position against the



wall by two nails driven into the studding. In 1850, this church gave place to the old brick that, in turn, has been pulled down to help furnish material for the handsome Presbyterian Church that now stands on the corner of Jefferson and Jackson streets, built in 1879.

The first brick church built within the town of Fairmont was the recently demolished Protestant Episcopal Church, which was built by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and used by them until the building of their present commodious place of worship on Main street, in the year 1852. Among the events which took place within its walls, are some of secular as well as of religious interest, for here the first court that ever convened in the county, held its regular sessions, and it continued to be used for that purpose until a court house was built.

In 1834, the Methodist Protestant denomination built a frame church on Quincy street, and after a lapse of seventeen years, it was pulled down to make room for the substantial brick structure which now stands on the same ground. This latter church, erected in 1851, is still used as a place of worship by the Methodist Protestant denomination.

It seems hard to realize, on looking at an old log building, now used as a barn, standing at Yellow Rock Ford, two and a half miles from the mouth of the West Fork, that this was ever a church. It was,



however, the first Baptist Church ever built in this region, though the exact date of its erection is unknown. Here Joshua Hickman, and other celebrated clergymen, preached the Word to the inhabitants of the surrounding country.

The Roman Catholic Church, of Fairmont, was built in 1858, and is the only regular organization of the kind in Marion county, though there are quite a number of that faith, especially along the route of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

As time passed on other churches began to dot the green hills and vales of the county, until now there are a great number of all denominations, and all are prosperous, comprising in their membership the bulk of the population. There is scarcely a home in the county that is inaccessible to a church of some kind. The only African church in the county is in Fairmont, and is called the African M. E. Church.

For many years Marion county has had good schools, and especially is this true since the establishment of the free school system. Among the principal instructors of her youth during the few years previous to and during the civil war, were J. L. Morhead, George W. L. Kidwell, B. F. Martin, Alexander Steele, Miss Mary J. Shore, Prof. Lanigan, and others. The Fairmont Male and Female Seminary, under Prof. W. R. White, from 1856 to 1864, was a very successful institution, being an educational power in the community, and



having students from all parts of the State, many of whom now occupy prominent positions in life. Prof. White is the author of the "Alphabet Made Easy"—a very popular primer in general use throughout the country.

Since the establishment of the free school system the progress of Marion county in educational matters has been rapid, until now every advantage to gain a common school education is afforded the youth. Upon every hand are neat, convenient school houses, provided with first-class teachers. The following table from the report of the county superintendent, J. N. Satterfield, for 1879, will serve to show the reader the condition of the schools in Marion county in that year, financially and otherwise:

Total value of all school property in county,	\$70,062.75
Aggregate value of buildings,	60,825.00

Number of common schools in county,	103
Number of graded schools in county,	5
Number of high schools in county,	1
Total number of schools,	109
Whole number of buildings,	105
Number of districts,	5
Number of sub-districts,	102

#### YOUTHS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 21.

Number of white males,	3,304
Number of white females,	2,927
Number of colored males,	15





Number of colored Females, . . . . .	18
Total number of males, . . . . .	3,319
Total number of Females, . . . . .	2,945
Whole number of youths between ages of 6 and 21,	6,264
Of these, the whole number attending school is	4,710
Number of males, . . . . .	2,644
Number of females, . . . . .	2,066
Average daily attendance, . . . . .	3,164
Average age of pupils, . . . . .	11.5
Number of male teachers . . . . .	94
Number of female teachers, . . . . .	26
Whole number of teachers, . . . . .	120

A branch of the State Normal School is located in Fairmont, and as it is celebrated throughout the State for its excellence, and an institution of which Marion county may well be proud, it deserves special mention: The act establishing a system of free schools was passed December 10, 1863, and it was immediately found that there was need of well trained teachers. The State did not at first provide for a school for teachers and many such institutions were started as private enterprises. The first of these was the Fairmont Normal School, which was opened in in 1865, by J. N. Boyd, then editor of the *National*, in the basement of the M. P. Church. The success of this school prompted the citizens to take steps towards securing such an institution permanently in Fairmont, and in the winter of 1865-6 a bill proposing to establish a State Normal School at that place was in-



troduced into the Legislature, but that body adjourned without taking any action upon the bill. The citizens of Fairmont formed a joint stock company under the title of "The Regency of the West Virginia Normal School," and secured a charter for the same. The incorporators were Oliver Jackson, Jacob C. Beeson, Ellery R. Hall, John N. Boyd, Dennis B. Dorsey, James J. Burns, T. A. Fleming, J. H. Brownfield, T. A. Maulsby and A. Brooks Fleming. A board of directors was elected, of which Oliver Jackson was President, Ellery R. Hall, Secretary, and J. J. Burns, Treasurer. A lot was purchased of Judge E. B. Hall for \$1,500 and the wing of the present building was begun in the summer of 1867. It was 68x40 feet and two stories high. In February, 1867, the Legislature voted \$5,000 to this school, on condition that \$2,000 additional be paid by citizens of Marion county. The condition was complied with and the institution passed into the hands of the State. In 1872 the main building, which is 80x40 feet, and three stories high, was erected. The entire cost of the building has been about \$20,000, of which the State gave \$10,000 and the district of Fairmont the remainder. After its purchase by the State, Prof. W. R. White, who had been the first state superintendent of free schools, was the first principal of the Normal School. Prof. White secured of Dr. Sears, agent of the Peabody fund, a gift of \$500 for the normal department and



\$1,000 for the model school, which donation was continued through the four years following. In 1870, Prof. White resigned, and was succeeded in the Principalship by Prof. J. C. Gilchrist (now Principal of the State Normal School located at Cedar Falls, Iowa), who continued in office until the late Dr. J. G. Blair received the appointment, in 1871. The latter gentleman retained the office until his death, December 22d, 1878. In 1874 the Normal and Public Schools were separated, and from this time on the benefits of the separation have been felt by both schools. On the death of Dr. Blair, Miss M. L. Dickey, who had for eight years been the first assistant teacher, was appointed to fill his place, which position she now holds. Dr. Blair was a man of profound learning and bore an almost national reputation as an instructor, and it is conceded by the friends of the school everywhere that Miss Dickey, whose reputation for talent and tact in disciplining and teaching a school of this kind is enviable, is well worthy to fill his place. The lowest number of students attending the school at any one time during its existence was 30, and the highest 221. They come from all parts of the State, and many have been from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1879, 19 counties of West Virginia were represented in the school. The faculty at present consists of Miss M. L. Dickey, Principal; Miss Lucy Fleming and Prof. U. S. Fleming, assistants; and Mrs. A. M. J. Pinnell, teacher



of music. The building is provided with a commodious hall or chapel, containing an organ, and is capable of holding five hundred people, a large main school room, library and apparatus room, the several necessary class rooms, and a music room, appropriately furnished with a piano, etc. The school has two prosperous literary societies—the Mozart Society and the Normal Lyceum. This latter organization has recently laid the foundation of a library.

The Normal School is worthy the encouragement of the county, for it not only reflects great credit upon the community, but it is a source of considerable revenue.






## CHAPTER XVII.

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### THE FIRST STEAMBOAT—THE BANKS OF MARION COUNTY—JOURNALISM IN THE COUNTY.

N the 11th of February, 1850, the first steamboat that ever followed the Monongahela river to its head arrived at Fairmont. It was called the *Globe*, and its appearance created intense excitement among the citizens. Fairmont is the proper head of navigation of the Ohio river, for it is here that the Monongahela is formed by the confluence of the two smaller streams, the Tygart's Valley and West Fork rivers; and the *Globe*, in making the trip, proved successfully that the river was navigable to this point. At various times during several years following, other boats came this far up the river, and during the high water of 1852, the *Thomas P. Ray* and others made regular trips for some time. It was no unusual thing for the Fairmont newspapers of those days to contain reports like the following, which are clipped from the *True Virginian* of March 13th and April 10th, 1852, respectively:



## "PORT OF FAIRMONT.

"ARRIVAL, MARCH 6TH,

"Steamer THOS. P. RAY, *departed same day.*

"Our town was cheered with the welcome *whistle* of the Steamer *Thomas P. Ray*, on Saturday last. The river, though unusually high for boats to run above the slack water, seemed to offer little resistance to her powerful engines. The trip was made in less time, we are informed, than any boat that has preceded her. Her principal lading was salt and whisky."

## "PORT OF FAIRMONT.

"The favorite Steamer, *Thomas P. Ray*, Captain Hughes, arrived on Wednesday, the 7th inst., about 10 o'clock in the evening, with a heavy cargo of groceries, salt and merchandise of different descriptions for various persons.

"She left this port on Thursday morning about 10 o'clock with tobacco from Logan & Carr's and other articles of traffic. The *Thomas P. Ray* is a finely finished boat, and the officers are spoken of as gentlemen and are accommodating men."

The most recent arrivals of this kind at the "Port of Fairmont" were the *West Virginia*, a small boat, which landed July 5th, 1873, and returned to Morgantown the same evening, and the *Elector*, a large side-wheel steamer, arriving January 24th, 1876, and departing the following day.

The arrival of the *Globe* aroused considerable enthusiasm in the breasts of the people of Marion



county on the subject of slack-water. Meetings were held, and steps taken to secure permanent navigation. Major O'Bannon, editor of the *Democratic Banner*, agitated the question in the columns of his paper, and took a strong personal interest in the matter. A company was formed called the Monongahela Navigation Company, and books were opened to receive subscriptions of stock, Major O'Bannon, making journeys to Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Baltimore and other places, delivering addresses before the Boards of Trade, and endeavoring to interest capitalists in the project. The matter did not receive sufficient and substantial encouragement from the people of the county, however, and the enterprise soon fell through. The following, clipped from a lengthy editorial on the subject in the *Banner*, will show how the press labored to secure slack-water; and the reader may infer from it that the citizens did not encourage the thing as they should—after the excitement incident to the arrival of the *Globe* had worn off:

“Improve this river, and this place becomes at once the grand entrepot for all the trade on the line of the railroad for thirty or forty miles, and south of us for fifty miles, intended for the Pittsburgh market, and all the trade within striking distance of the river, intended for Baltimore. This is not all: this place becomes the mart for the entire region of country south and south-west, and north and north-east of this for some forty miles. Real estate within ten miles of



this river, would immediately advance from twenty-five to fifty per cent. Omit to make this improvement and that same property is bound to depreciate in the same ratio. Is it not time then for the people to wake up? We would like to see a lively interest felt and evinced on the subject. Too great lethargy has been resting on the people in relation to this matter. There is too much at stake to slumber over!"

In the year 1853, and the month of October, the First National Bank of Fairmont was organized as a State Stock Bank. It was afterwards, in 1858, changed to a free banking system, with Oliver Jackson as President, and Thomas F. Conaway, Cashier. It was made a National Bank on the 2d of April, 1865, with Jacob C. Beeson as President, and Joseph E. Sands, Cashier. The handsome banking house and cashier's residence now occupied by the bank, was erected in 1875, at a cost of \$35,000.

The Mountain City Bank began business August 1st, 1874.

In 1875 the Farmer's Bank, of Fairmont, began business with William Ridgely as President, and Jacob N. Gould, Cashier, the latter gentleman having been previous to this time a teller in the First National Bank.

These are the only banks in the county.

The first newspaper issued in Marion county was published at Fairmont, and called the *Marion County Pioneer*, Lindsey Boggess, editor and proprietor, and





afterwards R. Fulton Cooper took charge of it. It was issued about the year 1840. This was followed by the *Baptist Recorder*, of which Dr. W. D. Eyster was publisher and proprietor, Joseph Walker, editor, and Daniel S. Morris, printer. Then came the *Democratic Banner*, edited and published by Morris, which commenced publication in March, 1850. Mr. Morris sold the *Banner* in 1851 to A. J. O'Bannon, who in a short time changed the name of the paper to *The True Virginian and Trans-Allegheny Advertiser*, associating with him in the publication Benjamin F. Beall. Afterwards Beall's interest was transferred to George P. Morgan, when the last part of the name was dropped, it being called then simply *The True Virginian*. W. F. Drinkard purchased the paper in 1853, and continued to publish it until 1861, when it ceased to exist. During the last years of its existence William MacDonnell, celebrated for his humorous style of writing, was the local editor. The political complexion of the paper was Democratic.

In 1853 the *Fairmont Republican* was issued by J. M. Scrogin, and edited by Dr. W. W. Granger, during the following year. Next the *Methodist Protestant Sentinel* made its appearance, conducted by Dr. D. B. Dorsey, then by Rev. Samuel Young. In 1862, Col. A. F. Ritchie launched upon the sea of journalism the *Fairmont National*, whose corps of editors comprised J. T. BenGough, J. N. Boyd and Timothy B. Taylor. Then



followed, in 1866, the *Vedette*, a Republican paper, edited and published by J. N. Boyd and Timothy B. Taylor, in turn, who disposed of the paper to Josiah Dillon, who changed the name to *The West Virginian*, and it was afterwards purchased by Henry W. Rook and Charles M. Shinn. In 1873, Mr. Shinn assumed entire control of the journal, and in 1875 sold it to the present proprietors, A. H. Fleming and Lamar C. Powell. The paper is now in a prosperous condition, and is the organ of the Republican party of Marion county. The office was destroyed in the great fire of 1876. A new one was speedily purchased by the proprietors, and the paper continued, being much improved in appearance by reason of its new dress.

After the suspension of the *True Virginian*, in 1861, the Democratic party of Marion county had no paper again until 1870, when the *Liberalist* was started by Fountain Smith & Son, who in a few weeks disposed of it to J. R. Grove. James Morrow, jr., then became its editor and William S. Haymond its local editor. The *Liberalist* lived barely through the Presidential campaign of 1872. In February, 1874, Major W. P. Cooper commenced the publication of the *Fairmont Index*, which has since been the organ of the Marion county Democracy. In April, 1876, the fire which destroyed the *West Virginian* office, likewise almost totally burned the *Index* material. The little that was saved from the flames, together with the books of



the office, and the good will of the business, were purchased of Major Cooper by Clarence L. Smith and George A. Dunnington, who continued the publication of the sheet, enlarging it to its present proportions. In February, 1877, after having conducted the paper through the Presidential campaign of 1876, Smith and Dunnington disposed of the *Index* to the present proprietors, William A. Ohley and Albert J. Dick. This paper has also quite recovered from the effects of the fire, and the Democratic party can at last boast of one organ which is permanently established.

The Mannington *Ventilator*, an Independent paper, was published by E. S. Zeveley in 1875 and 1876, but it did not live but a portion of each year.

*The West Virginia Real Estate Journal*, published monthly at Fairmont, by Thomas H. B. Staggers and Charles J. Corbin, was started in August, 1879, and is the latest journalistic venture in the county. It is principally devoted to the real estate interests of Marion and surrounding counties.

With this last exception all the journals mentioned above have been weeklies. The only daily paper that has ever been published in the county was the *Normal School Daily*, published by R. S. Miller and W. S. Meredith, at Fairmont, during the progress of commencement at that institution in June, 1879.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### THE WAR OF THE REBELLION—DIVISION OF THE STATE, ETC.

**A**FTER the events related in the sixteenth chapter nothing of great interest transpired in the county for several years. The War of the Rebellion, which broke out in 1861, attracted the attention of citizens to other scenes than the comparatively insignificant things that were happening in Marion, and many of those who were fit for service enlisted in the conflict either upon one side or upon the other. Those whose sympathies were with the South (and they comprised a large number of the most prominent men in the county) left their farms and houses and joined the Confederate Army—many taking with them their families, and leaving their property to be confiscated by the Government. After the close of the war the majority of them returned, while a few remained in the South, having taken up their permanent residence there. During the four years struggle which followed the passage of the Ordinance of Secession in Virginia, Marion county furnished many





brave soldiers for both sides. Some left home never to return alive, and their bones lie in the fields of the Sunny South, or upon the mountains and in the valleys of their native State. Others returned battle-scarred veterans, and have lived to see the chasm, which divided the opposing hosts, bridged, and to forgive and try to forget the bitter past. Men who for four long years fought upon opposite sides—each striving for what he conceived to be the right—now, as in days of old, partake of one another's hospitality, and calmly and good-naturedly discuss their political differences of the past and of the present.

The county of Marion fortunately was not embraced in that part of Virginia which was so long the seat of active war; consequently her citizens were in a measure spared the terrible scenes which were enacted in other portions of the State. The only event of any special interest which transpired within the county was the raid of the Confederate General Jones on the 29th of April, 1863. The principal object of the raid, which was extended throughout the State—was to destroy property and obtain for the Confederate Army horses and provisions. On the morning of the day above mentioned the army entered Fairmont and proceeded at once to take possession of the town. The railroad bridge, mentioned in a former chapter, which crosses the Monongahela one mile above Fairmont, was destroyed, and at this place



the Confederates had a short skirmish with a company of Union men. There was also considerable skirmishing during the entire day in and around the town. It was the intention of the Confederates to burn the suspension bridge between Palatine and Fairmont, but the idea was finally abandoned. Governor F. H. Pierpoint was at this time the Union Governor of the State, and his home being in Fairmont, it was sought out by the raiders, and his library taken from the house and burned in the street. The arrival of Mulligan's Union battery in the evening was too late to do effective service, for Jones and his men had taken their departure. This was the nearest Marion county came during the war of having anything like a battle within her borders. In the skirmishes during the day several men on both sides were wounded, but none were killed.

As this county is within the limits of what is now the State of West Virginia, it is proper to give in this connection a brief account of the formation of the State, which occurred in 1863, and the causes which led to it.

For many years before the adoption of the new constitution of 1852 there had been considerable dissatisfaction among some of the best men of Virginia on the subject of equal representation, and threats of dividing the State had been made by those of the western portion. This alarmed the eastern men, and in



1847 they passed in the Legislature an act making it treason for any person to instigate others to establish a usurped government within the State. Any person so doing, either by writing or speaking, were liable to be confined in jail not exceeding twelve months, and fined not exceeding one thousand dollars. This law was intended to suppress the discussion of the subject of a division of the State. In order to satisfy the people of the west on the subject of equal representation, the constitutional convention of 1851-2 fixed the basis of representation in the House of Delegates on the population. This gave the western part of the State a majority in the House; but in the Senate the representations were still by districts, and some of the districts of western Virginia, with populations of from fifty to sixty thousand were represented by one Senator—no more than the districts in tidewater with populations of less than twenty thousand each. The westerners, in order to procure this compromise from the east, were obliged to consent to a clause in the constitution to the effect that all slaves under the age of twelve years should not be taxed, and all over that age were to be valued at three hundred dollars for the purposes of taxation. This produced great dissatisfaction in the west. They had but few slaves, and the constitution provided that all other property should be taxed *ad valorem*—so that a pig or a calf, a month old on the first day of Februa-



ry, was taxed at full value, while young negroes were not taxed. The constitution did not prohibit the taxing of incomes and salaries, and the Legislature taxed incomes of over one thousand dollars at two per cent, while negroes were taxed at forty cents on the hundred dollars; so to give an extreme case, a merchant's clerk with a salary of eleven hundred dollars paid twenty-two dollars tax, and a negro valued at three hundred dollars, paid one dollar and twenty cents—the clerk paying as much as about fifteen slaves. The slaves might be hired out at two hundred and fifty dollars a year, and thereby yield their master an income of nearly four thousand dollars, but this income was not taxed because the slave had already been taxed. These inequalities of taxation produced, as above mentioned, great dissatisfaction. It was oppressive, and prepared the minds of the people to throw off the yoke at the first opportunity. The war gave them this opportunity, and they took advantage of it.

The Union citizens of the State called a convention composed of the members elected to the General Assembly, on the fourth Thursday of May, 1861, and in addition thereto, doubled the number of delegates that each county was entitled to in the popular branch of the Legislature. The Capital of the State, being in the hands of the Secessionists, the convention assembled at Wheeling on the 11th of June, 1861, to take into consideration what was best to be done





for Virginia. The convention declared the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General vacant, (because the incumbents had joined the Confederacy) and proceeded to elect officers to fill their places for the term of six months, until their successors should be duly elected. Francis H. Pierpoint, of Fairmont, was chosen Provisional Governor, and at the expiration of the term named he was regularly elected Governor of what was known as the "Restored Government of Virginia." After the State was divided Pierpoint removed the seat of Government from Wheeling to Alexandria.

On the 20th of June, 1863, West Virginia was made a State. It passed through the forms of legislation prescribed in the Constitution of the United States for the formation of a new State, and was made one of the States of the Union. Thus were the threats of the past fully carried out, and the erection of the State of West Virginia was not altogether one of the results of the Rebellion, but of oppression in the days previous to the Rebellion. Wheeling was made the temporary Capital, and the business of the new State was immediately entered upon, with Arthur I. Boreman as Governor.



## CHAPTER XIX.

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### THE MINING INTERESTS—THE FIRE AT FAIRMONT—MARION MILITIA, ETC.

**A**FTER the war had ceased, and the discharged soldiers returned to their homes, they went to work with energy upon the farms or in the shops which had so long remained idle. During several years following, until about the year 1870, very little was done, however, towards the development of the resources of the county, and the people of Marion lived a comparatively humdrum existence. About the year mentioned capitalists became interested in the mineral resources of the county, and large amounts of coal lands were purchased by them along the line of the railroad. In quick succession the West Fairmont, the American, the New York, the Marion and the Central Mines were opened and set to work, each employing quite a number of miners and making large shipments of coal. The three first named mines were owned by Eastern companies. The Pierpoint and Watson and the O'Donnell are the oldest mines in the county, having been in operation for several



years previous to the opening of the others. The West Fairmont and the Central (the latter owned by an individual, Mr. O. Jackson, of Fairmont,) do quite a large coke business—the West Fairmont especially, burning and shipping large quantities. The latest coal mine of any importance which has been opened in the vicinity of Fairmont is the Gaston Mine, owned by Mr. J. O. Watson. It is at present doing a large business and employing a considerable number of hands. Shortly after the opening of the Marion Mine it was consolidated with the West Fairmont, and they were afterwards known as the West Fairmont and Marion Gas Coal and Coke Company.

The commencement of these industries did more to bring wealth and population into the county than anything since the building of the railroad, and had it not been for the memorable "panic," which brought such distress upon the commercial interests of our country generally, and the high rates of freight charged by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for carrying coal to the markets, they would have, ere this, reached gigantic proportions. For some time the American, New York and Pierpoint & Watson Mines have been idle, partly for the reasons above mentioned, and partly for reasons known only to the proprietors. The O'Donnell, the Gaston, the West Fairmont and Marion, and the Central, have recently received fresh



contracts, and are at present running steadily, giving employment to quite a number of men.

On September 21st, 22d and 23d, 1870, was held the first annual fair of the Marion County Agricultural, Mechanical and Mineral Association, upon their grounds near Fairmont. The Association continued to hold annual fairs until 1877, when the last one was held—it being unsuccessful. For the first three or four years the exhibitions were very creditable and the receipts of the Association were good. A new interest in the products of the county seemed to be awakened and the spirit of competition interested the farmers to such an extent that the good effects of the fairs were materially felt. Owing to the lack of interest on the part of some of the Association, however, and to other reasons, there have been no exhibitions for three years, and the splendid grounds owned by the company are lying comparatively idle—used only for picnic and holiday celebration purposes.

Passing over a period of nearly six years, during which time nothing of importance transpired within the bounds of the county, and the industries mentioned in the beginning of the chapter were daily proving of great benefit to Marion, and the citizens generally were hard at work improving their lands, and enjoying universal prosperity, we come to the year 1876—memorable in the history of the United





States as the great Centennial year, and also in the history of Marion county for other reasons. In this year, on Sunday morning, the second of April, occurred the great fire which destroyed the principal business portion of Fairmont, the county seat, besides rendering eleven families homeless. When discovered, the fire was burning up the steps leading to Foreman's photograph gallery and Bean's furniture room, between Swisher & Carpenter's and Pendergrast's store rooms, on Main street, and before the alarm could be given the two latter buildings were wrapped in flames. Efforts to quench the fire were futile, and nothing of importance within the buildings were saved. The stores of T. F. Brock and M. A. Chisler and the residence of Dr. Brownfield were then destroyed, and, spreading across the street, the flames, with fearful rapidity burned the entire block between Jefferson and Bridge streets down to Decatur Alley, except the residence of Mrs. Sommers (now occupied by Mr. John Crane). A strong wind from the north-east blew great flakes of burning shingles as far as across the river into Palatine, and the scene was one of great excitement.

There being no fire engines in the town, the only means at hand by which the flames could be extinguished were buckets of water in the hands of the citizens—and even the women and children worked steadily carrying water and salt and assisting to



remove goods from burning houses, or to pull down buildings. The wind finally changed and the flames were brought under control. The principal losers in the fire were Dr. J. H. Brownfield, residence; M. A. Chisler, grocery store; Swisher & Carpenter, dry goods store; Israel Foreman, photograph gallery; Barton Bean, stock of furniture; A. R. Menear, furniture store; J. W. Lott, produce dealer; John Fisher, meat market and residence; Francis Christy, dwelling and tailor shop; Stone & Bebout, hardware store; Mrs. Fitzgerald, dwelling and millinery store; Monahan heirs, three buildings; John Schubach, bakery; E. C. Kerr, shoe store and dwelling; Jane Laidley's heirs, dwelling; Thomas M. Fleming, household goods; Miss Maria Vanzandt, millinery goods; Mrs. Ella Horan, millinery and notion store; A. G. Hall, post office, book store and residence; J. E. Fleming, grocery store; *Index* newspaper office; J. O. Watson, business house; F. M. Fleming, shoe and hat store; M. A. Chisler, business house; Chas. Corbin, cigar manufactory; Stephen Oakes, barber shop; Mrs. E. Arnett, building containing millinery and notion store; M. M. Comerford, drug store; C. B. Carney, drug store; *West Virginian* newspaper office; Mrs. Anna Turney, business house and dwelling.

In addition to the above property, which was totally destroyed, the following persons had property scorched by the flames or damaged considerably by



water: Mrs. M. M. Sommers, residence; B. A. Fleming, residence; Captain T. A. Maulsby, steam mill; R. C. Dunnington & Co., stock of dry goods.

The fire was thought by many to be the work of an incendiary, and circumstances were strong to induce this belief, but the guilty parties were never brought to light. A large portion of the loss, which was about \$75,000, was covered by insurance, the money from which helped the losers by the fire to replace the burned buildings with new and handsome ones. Almost the entire burnt district has been rebuilt, and in the places of the old structures are elegant modern brick business blocks and residences, so that now there is no town in West Virginia the size of Fairmont, that can boast of as fine business houses. The citizens of the town scarcely consider the fire of 1876 as a calamity, since, from that time, they date an era of improvements in Fairmont. Large and costly buildings have been erected, streets have been graded, new streets have been opened, old buildings have been improved, and other important improvements have taken place. The town and its suburbs have a population of probably two thousand, which is constantly increasing. Besides its coal interests, the county seat contains other branches of trade which contribute largely to the revenue of the town and county. Cabinet shops, a foundry, a planing mill, and steam and water power saw and flouring mills



are among the most important, while a mile north of town is situated the Barnesville Woolen Factory and flouring mills, and within a mile, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, up the river, is a large saw mill and lumber yard and a brewery.

The Fourth of July, 1876, is memorable throughout the country for having been the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. On this day the citizens of Marion county assembled at the county seat and celebrated the event by an immense procession, and a grand picnic upon the fair grounds. Addresses were delivered, the Declaration of Independence read and patriotic airs were played by the bands. At night a grand display of fireworks took place from Hamilton's Hill in Fairmont. An immense crowd of people took part in the celebration, and it was a day long to be remembered in the annals of Marion county.

Since the war there had been no military organizations in this county, owing to the poor provisions that the State had made for its militia; but in the summer of 1877, a military spirit seemed to take possession of many of the young men in Fairmont, and the organization of a company was effected. This company was named Davis Light Guards, in honor of Hon. Henry G. Davis, United States Senator from this State, and E. W. S. Moore was elected captain, with Samuel N. Jackson and Ed. L. Watson first and





second lieutenants, respectively. The company soon grew very proficient in drill, well disciplined, and celebrated in military circles throughout the State. Captain Moore, removing from the State, resigned in 1878, and Sergeant J. W. Lott became captain. Upon Captain Lott's promotion in the summer of 1879 to the position of major in the First Regiment, in which regiment the company holds the position of Company "B," Lieutenant Jackson became captain. Shortly afterwards Jackson resigned, having received an appointment in the postal service, and Lieutenant Watson was made captain, with Clarence L. Smith as first lieutenant, and J. M. McCoy as second lieutenant. Shortly after the organization of the Davis Light Guards, the Delaplain Guards, of Mannington, were organized and named in honor of Col. R. M. Delaplain, of Wheeling. Charles E. Wells was made captain, with A. N. Prichard and A. N. Parish, as first and second lieutenants. In the fall of 1879 Lieutenant Prichard was elected captain, Captain Wells resigning. A. N. Parish shortly after also resigned, after being elected first lieutenant, and Everett Koon was elected second lieutenant. This company has also gained considerable notoriety for its proficiency in drill and the excellent and soldierly conduct of its men. The Martin Guards, of Fairview, named in honor of Hon. B. F. Martin, M. C., was organized in 1878. Captain Clarke is the commanding



officer, and James Seals and A. B. Yost the lieutenants. The company is composed of a fine looking body of men, is well drilled and in a prosperous condition. The last and largest military organization effected in Marion county was the Garrett Rifles, named for John W. Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. This company was organized in 1878, with Ellis A. Billingslea as captain, E. L. Basnett, first lieutenant, Waitman Satterfield, second, and Joseph P. Fleming, third. About the first of January, 1880, the office of third lieutenant was abolished, and Billingslea and Satterfield having resigned their offices, Lieutenant Basnett was made captain of the company. Third Lieutenant Fleming was promoted to the office of first lieutenant and George W. Merrill was made second lieutenant.

Thus, Marion county possesses four excellent military organizations, all well equipped, uniformed and armed with breech-loading rifles. Two of the companies, the Davis Light Guards and the Martin Guards, wear grey uniforms, and the remaining two companies wear blue. In October, 1878, a grand Military Reunion and Sham Battle was held on the Marion County Fair Grounds, under the auspices of the Davis Guards, at which time the military from Wheeling, Burton and Mannington, and the University Cadets and battery from Morgantown were present and participated. On the 17th of October,



1879, a similar entertainment was held at the same place, at which time the Davis Light Guards were awarded a prize sword for their proficiency in drill over the Waynesburg (Pa.) Blues, who had previously won a sword at a competitive drill in their own State.


The militia of Marion county, and, indeed, of the entire State, is self-sustaining, the State furnishing them nothing save arms and company equipments.



## CHAPTER XX.

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### THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTY—THE POLITICAL COMPLEXION—CONCLUSION.

ARION county is about forty miles long, with a mean width of fifteen miles. It is watered by the upper Monongahela, the West Fork and Valley rivers and their branches. At the time of its organization, in 1842, it contained between six and seven thousand inhabitants, and at present the population will probably reach seventeen thousand.

The surface of the county is hilly and well timbered; much of the soil is fertile, producing wheat, corn, oats, rye, flax and potatoes and beans—and, in fact, almost all kinds of vegetables and grain, while its adaptation to grazing is unexcelled. No better grass growing land can be found anywhere. The finest grass for grazing purposes may be grown upon its highest hills—some of which rise over 1,000 feet above the meadow lands of the valleys. The soil is generally of a rich loamy clay and will produce all the staples common to the Middle States of the Union. There is but little land in the county too rough for cultivation. Such of it as cannot be used for the production of grass, wheat,





corn, oats, etc., can be profitably turned into vineyards and orchards. The county is abundantly watered, thus affording an ample supply of pure water for all kinds of live stock.

The earth is stored with iron ore, fine stone of various kinds, glass sand of a superior quality, and with coal of different kinds, and of the very best quality. Excellent potter's clay is also found in many sections of the county. Marion lies within the boundaries of the great Monongahela Valley coal fields. In some places in the county the veins of coal are from ten to twelve feet in thickness, below which, and separated chiefly by a heavy bed of sand stone, there lies a thinner stratum of a more highly bituminous character. Prof. Rogers, in speaking of these coal fields, says: "We may form some idea of the vast extent of these coal seams from the fact that from some distance above Clarksburg [the southern borders of Marion county] they may be followed with scarcely any interruptions throughout the whole length of the Valley of the Monongahela down to Pittsburgh."

In the fall of 1875, Captain T. P. Roberts was employed by the Government to survey the river from Morgantown to Fairmont. Upon his arrival at the latter place the citizens tendered to him and his men a reception at the Continental Hotel. Being called upon there for an expression of his views, he made



some remarks, from which the following extracts are taken :

“The improvement of our navigable rivers is a subject worthy of very careful consideration, and I am glad that I have the opportunity to express to you, gentlemen, the warm sympathy I have, as an American citizen, for this present proposed undertaking, namely, the improvement of the Upper Monongahela from Morgantown to Fairmont by means of locks and dams.

“About thirty-five years ago my father, W. Milnor Roberts, superintended the improvement of the Monongahela from Pittsburgh to Brownsville, as the company's chief engineer. I recollect hearing him say that upon the occasion of the opening of the slack-water navigation, he prophesied that before thirty years would pass by, the demand for coal in the southern cities along the Ohio and Mississippi to the Gulf would be so great that at least fifteen million bushels of it would be shipped annually from the ports above Pittsburgh. \* \* \* His prophecy was ridiculed by some ; but the facts showed that instead of fifteen million bushels being shipped from the Monongahela Valley, in 1870 the quantity was nearly ninety million bushels.

“Gentlemen, I propose to follow in my father's footsteps, and attempt a prophecy also, and it is not so hard now in the light of experience, which is this : That in less than twenty years the shipment of coal from the Monongahela Valley will exceed three hundred and fifty million bushels per annum. Already there are engaged in the trade one hundred and twen-



ty-five staunch steam tow-boats, and three thousand barges and boats, forming an aggregate of one million three hundred thousand tonnage, owned in Pittsburgh; a tonnage greater than all the rest afloat in the Mississippi Valley from the Gulf to the lakes, greater than the combined tonnage of New York and Boston, our great maritime centers."

After stating several other important facts, he proceeds to say:

"As you West Virginians mine coal for about one-half of what is paid in Pennsylvania, I am firmly persuaded that it would pay to extend the slack-water up to the eleven-foot vein between Morgantown and Fairmont. At least I shall certainly, in my report to Colonel Merrill, of the United States Engineer Corps, urge the extension of the slack-water to Fairmont. It is only here, in my opinion, that it should terminate. Here, properly speaking, is the head of navigation of the Ohio river. Here there is an outlet to the seaboard over the grand-trunk line, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad."

An important branch of industry carried on in Marion county is the raising of live stock—horses, cattle, sheep and mules, and selling of the same. It has become quite a business as well as an extensive source of revenue. Taking into consideration the wonderful adaptation of the soil for grass, it would not be surprising that the future attention of the farmer is chiefly turned to raising horses cattle and sheep. Since corn is a more sure crop than wheat in



nearly every part of West Virginia, it is thought that our farmers will speedily see the importance of using more of their lands for its production. Corn fed into hogs would yield a much larger profit than wheat.

Fruit growing is rapidly becoming a source of profit. Apples and grapes are each year becoming more and more an object of consideration. Much of the upland, which is unsuited to the production of grain, is admirably adapted to the planting of orchards and vineyards.

At the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, in 1876, Marion county resources were well represented in the way of exhibits. The following report is from the catalogue of West Virginia exhibits:

#### MARION COUNTY.

Bituminous coal, from the "Pittsburgh Seam," as worked by the Gaston Mine, at Fairmont. Seam is eight to nine feet thick. The coal is especially adapted to gas.

Coke, . . . . .	67.5
Volatile matter, . . . . .	32.5
	<hr/>
	100.0
Ash in coal, . . . . .	2.1
Sulphur in coal, . . . . .	0.95
Sulphur in coke, . . . . .	0.69
Sulphur in volatile matter, . . . . .	0.27

Two thousand two hundred and forty pounds of coal has a maximum production of 11,043.2 cubic feet of sixteen candle power.

Bituminous coal from the "Redstone" seam, which





in Marion county lies fifty to eighty feet above the "Pittsburgh," on the land of R. S. Radcliffe. The thickness at the place whence the specimen was taken is six feet four inches.

Water, . . . . .	1.009
Volatile combustible material, . . . . .	40.967
Fixed carbon, . . . . .	50.327
Ash, . . . . .	7.797

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100.000

Sulphur in coal, . . . . .	4.263 per cent.
Sulphur in coke, . . . . .	2.865 per cent.

346. Carbonate of iron, from 18-inch seam,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Nuzum's Mill, on the land of A. E. Garloe.

349. Limestone, from a heavy stratum on the land of R. S. Radcliffe.

351. Fire-clay, from Glade Fire Brick Company, Nuzum's Mills. Seam  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , great heat is required. Capacity of the works, 4,000 bricks per day. This clay is superior to that from Mount Savage, as it contains no trace of oxide of iron (the greatest enemy to a refractory nature in fire-clay), while Mount Savage has 1.5 per cent. (C. E. Dwight, chemist.)

Hygroscopic water, . . . . .	0.70
Combined water and organic matter, . . . . .	8.35
Silica, . . . . .	45.86
Alumina, . . . . .	44.23
Lime, . . . . .	0.24
Magnesia, . . . . .	0.36
Oxide magnese, . . . . .	trace.
Oxide of iron . . . . .	none.
Potash and soda, . . . . .	trace.
Loss, . . . . .	0.26

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100.00



352. Potters' clay, used at Palatine. From land of R. M. Hill.

353. Yellow corn. }  
354. Wheat. } R. E. Fleming.

355. Pupils' work. Fairmont Normal School.

356. Pupils' work. Public School, Fairmont.

Taking into consideration all the resources of Marion, and the advantage it holds out to new-comers, it is safe to say that the future of the county is a bright one. There are few counties in the State of West Virginia, in whose hills are stored more wealth, and which possess greater advantages or offer better inducements to immigrants, than Marion.

At present the political complexion of Marion county is Democratic, by a small majority—the voting population being slightly over three thousand. In some parts of the county the Greenback party polls a considerable vote. There is but little feeling of animosity existing between the different factions—the voters generally casting their votes for their favorites without respect to party. From the fact that the lines are not drawn closely, several Republicans hold office in the county, notwithstanding the Democratic majority.

Among those who have represented the county in the Legislature, and who did good service while there, are David Cunningham, Richard Thomas, Benjamin Fleming, F. H. Pierpoint, Z. Kidwell, William T. Wil-



ley, U. N. Arnett, sr., Charles Wells, A. W. Knotts, Robert Lowe, A. B. Fleming, W. B. Ice, Alf. Prichard, John S. Barns, Jesse Flowers, John Righter, and many others. Much of the political history of the county will be found in the biographical sketches which follow this chapter.

The times for holding courts in the county are as follows: Circuit Court, Judge Fleming, April 18th and October 28th; Clarence L. Smith, Clerk. County Court, Colonel Austin Merrill, President, second Tuesdays in January, March, May, July, September and November; John B. Crane, Clerk; H. Manley, Sheriff.



## Pen Sketches of Prominent Citizens.

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HON. WILLIAM S. MORGAN.

The subject of this sketch was born near the present site of Rivesville, this county, (then Monongalia) September 7, 1801. He was a son of Stephen Morgan, whose father, David Morgan, figured prominently in the early history of the county. He passed most of his life upon his father's estate, until he arrived at the age of twenty-one, when he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church, and was a circuit rider from 1822 to 1827. Mr. Morgan was a self-made man in the strict sense of the term, being self-educated, with the exception of the little learning he received at the old time country schools.

In 1835, he was chosen to represent his district in Congress and was re-elected in 1837. While a Representative he was chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. He did not seek for office and declined the nomination for a third term, after which he was appointed a clerk in the House of Representatives. In 1841, he was sent to the Virginia Legislature, and secured the passage of the bill forming Marion county in 1842, and was elected a member of the Legislature from the new county, the same year. In 1844, Mr. Morgan was Presidential Elector





for this district upon the Democratic ticket, and in the year following received an appointment to a clerkship in the United States Treasury Department, which position he held until 1861. During the two years following (1861-3) he was engaged in painting in water colors for the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, and produced numerous illustrations for the works on Oology, by Prof. S. F. Baird and Mr. Elliott. These illustrations were pronounced by critics to be the most accurate that could be procured. He invented and presented to the Institute a machine used in drawing the outlines of eggs, which is still in use there.

He was a man of extraordinary endowments, and his knowledge of the sciences was very accurate. American natural history and botany were his favorite studies, and he was one of the best botanists in the country. Mr. Morgan numbered among his personal friends some of the most distinguished of American scientists.

After leaving Washington, he lived with his brother-in-law, Colonel Austin Merrill, at Rivesville, until his death. While on a visit to his son, in Washington, on the 3d of September, 1878, he died of malarial fever, and was buried in the Congressional Cemetery, of that city.

Marion county has produced few such men as William S. Morgan, for he was, indeed, an extraordinary character, as his career shows. Possessed of noble impulses, a great intellect, and many christian virtues, he was universally beloved, and died mourned by all who knew him.



## HON. ZEDEKIAH KIDWELL.

Dr. Zedekiah Kidwell, was one of the prominent characters whose life was closely identified with the political history of Marion county, and the entire Congressional district which he represented in Congress twice in succession. He was born in Fairfax county, Virginia, January 4, 1814, and died in Fairmont, West Virginia, April 26, 1872. He belonged to one of those old Virginia families whose ancestry were English emigrants of noble blood. The Doctor was a son of Captain Kidwell, who figured in the war of 1812, and contributed no little in various ways to the opening up and improvement of West Virginia, his business being that of a contractor and bridge-builder.

When a youth, Zedekiah received nothing more than a practical English education in the schools of his native county, but he was a good scholar, acquiring knowledge with ease, and was proficient in his studies. In after years he read and wrote a great deal, proving himself a rapid thinker and writer. At the age of nineteen he entered upon the study of medicine with Dr. Grinnell, of Fairfax Court House. In the fall of 1834 his father removed to Clarksburg, and here the student was interrupted in his professional studies, two or three years being spent in teaching, clerking in a store and assisting his father in his business. In 1837, he resumed the study of medicine with Drs. Wilson and Carr, of Fairmont (then Middletown), and upon the death of Dr. Carr he entered upon the practice of his profession in partnership with Dr. Wilson.



In 1841 and 1842, Dr. Kidwell took a very active part in procuring the formation of Marion county, and entered political life as a delegate to the Virginia Legislature in 1844—being re-elected several times. He now became an active and influential politician in the Democratic party, and in the Presidential campaign of 1848, was elector for his district, upon that ticket. His labors, about this time, were enormous for one man, and he brought on hemorrhage of the lungs from speaking in the open air while hoarse, which came near terminating his life. After a long illness, he rallied, and entered again upon the active duties of life, being obliged, however, to give up the practice of medicine. He entered upon the study of law, and it was not long until he was admitted to the bar. In 1852, he was again drawn into politics and was elected to represent his district in Congress. He served two terms—from 1853 to 1859. At the close of the second term he was elected a member of the Board of Public Works of Virginia, which office he filled until the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion. He was never a defeated candidate and was the most popular man in his district. President Buchanan tendered him the office of sixth auditor of the Treasury, but he declined to accept it.

Dr. Kidwell stood high in Congress, and was a faithful legislator. His report in opposition to the construction of the Pacific Railroad, on the route and under the circumstances then proposed, was considered an able document, and elicited high praise from many of the leading papers of the country. He also made an able speech in Congress upon what was known as the "Louisiana question." It was through his agency



that Wheeling was made a port of entry in 1854. He was one of the "immortal seventy" who held out so long pending the fierce struggle which resulted in the election of Banks as Speaker of the House. He was an able stump speaker, and the late Governor Wise, of Virginia, pronounced him the ablest campaign manager in the State. His public life terminated with the commencement of the War. He was a hearty sympathizer with the South and Southern principles in the great struggle, and the course he took was a pure matter of conscience with him.

Of his private character, much that is good can be said. He was an earnest christian, and a member of of the M. P. Church, Fairmont. He gave liberally of his means to the support of various charitable institutions, and was widely celebrated for his kindness and benevolence to the poor.

#### HON. FRANCIS H. PIERPONT.

The subject of this sketch is a man whose history is inseparably connected with that of Virginia during a period when the eyes of the whole world were directed upon her. Ex-Governor Francis H. Pierpont was born on the 25th of June, 1814, and is the son of Francis and Catharine Pierpont,\* the former a son of John Pierpont, who settled near Morgantown about the close of the Revolutionary War. His parents removed to a plantation on West Fork while he was

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\*PIERPONT is the correct name, though it is often spelled PIERPOINT. In giving John Pierpont a title, a careless clerk thus misspelled the name, and the infant heirs were afterwards obliged to assume the superfluous "i" in consequence.





quite a child, where they lived some twelve years, at the end of which time they moved to Fairmont. Here he worked upon his father's farm and in his tan-yard until he arrived at the age of twenty-one years, when he determined to acquire a collegiate education, and selected Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., distant 180 miles from his home as the place where he would prosecute his studies. No railroads, and scarce a stage coach then connected the little village of Fairmont with the outside world; hence this journey was undertaken and accomplished on foot. Up to this time he had had but the advantages of a common school education, pursuing his studies under many adverse circumstances, and he entered the preparatory department of the college—graduating in four years and a half. Gordon Battelle, Bishop Simpson, Bishop Kingslea and Homer Clarke were connected with the college at that time, and between them and Mr. Pierpont a strong and lasting friendship was formed.

After graduating he taught school in West Virginia for eight months, and for a year in Mississippi, during which time he studied law. The failing health of his father brought him home from Mississippi, and he entered upon the practice of law in Fairmont, in which he was engaged until the breaking out of the Rebellion. He was during this time actively engaged in politics, though never a candidate, nor held any office, except that of Presidential Elector, until he was made Governor. He was a thorough Abolitionist, and did more than any other man in West Virginia to cultivate anti-slavery sentiment. By public speeches and through the press, Mr. Pierpont de-



nounced the oppressive clause in the new constitution, regarding the taxation of the slaves of the east, and the unjust taxation of the free labor of the west,\* and attached to it all the odium possible. After the passage of the Ordinance of Secession in 1861, he addressed the people at all places he could reach in the western part of the State, urging them to resistance, and was threatened with arrest for resisting the civil authorities of the State; but with extraordinary pluck he defied all threats in the very face of the military organizations.

Mr. Pierpont was strongly in favor of a division of the State, but at the convention of May 12, 1861, he opposed a movement to organize Western Virginia into a new State, giving for his reasons that it was premature. He then induced the convention to appoint a Committee of Vigilance to determine "what was best to be done for Virginia." He laid his plans before this committee—which were to ask the General Government to organize the State Government by declaring vacant the offices of all Secessionists holding office in the State, call a convention at Wheeling, June 18th, to elect a new Governor and State officers, and call it the "Restored Government of Virginia." The matter was decided feasible and the programme was carried out. Mr. Pierpont was unanimously made Provisional Governor by the convention, and at the end of the year he was regularly elected Governor by the people. At the expiration of two years he was re-elected for four years more. After the division of the State, in 1863, Governor Pierpont removed the seat of

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\*See Chapter xviii.



government from Wheeling to Alexandria, where he had a small Legislature. After the surrender of General Lee he removed the seat of government to Richmond, arriving there in the spring of 1865. Here his old neighbors and fellow citizens who had joined the Confederacy, greeted him cordially. The long and cruel war that lay between them and him was forgotten, and they greeted each other with almost dramatic feeling.

In a few months after his arrival, Pierpont had completely restored the State Government. Nearly the whole Judiciary was changed, and it has been said by the leading journals and statesmen of the south that he gave Virginia the best Judiciary it ever had. It is worthy of note that there never was a word of suspicion, or any dishonest transaction about any officers connected with the State Government during his administration. He was the first Governor of Virginia who ever proclaimed a Thanksgiving.

At the expiration of his term of office, Governor Pierpont returned to his boyhood's home in Fairmont, where he has since resided. During these years he has served one term in the Legislature, and was a Judge in the shoe and leather department of the Centennial Exposition, at Philadelphia, in 1876. In 1871, he was elected President of the General Conference of the M. P. Church, held at Pittsburgh, being the only layman that has ever held that position, and for which he received many congratulations from the press and clergy throughout England and America. The position is equivalent to that of a bishop in the Episcopal Church.



## COL. THOMAS S. HAYMOND.

Thomas S. Haymond was one of the most prominent characters of his day in the county. He was a son of William Haymond, jr., whose father was one of the earliest settlers of this region of the country—and a man who was celebrated for his intelligence and benevolence. Colonel Haymond was born upon his father's estate, in this county, January 15, 1794, and died in Richmond, Virginia, in the spring of 1869. He received a fair education, and his studious habits, coupled with his rare natural endowments, soon won for him a great and good reputation, which clung to him through life. When quite a young man, scarcely thirty years of age, he represented his native county in the Virginia Legislature, and while there held the respect and gained the admiration of his constituency for the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. In the fall of 1840, Mr. Haymond was sent to the United States House of Representatives by the people of his district, and while there he proved himself an able legislator and an efficient worker for the best interests of his State. At the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, he removed south, and was in Richmond at the time of his death. For sometime previous to the war, Mr. Haymond held the office of colonel of a regiment of militia; hence the title which is generally prefixed to his name.

## HON. BENJAMIN F. MARTIN.

Though at present not residing in Marion, Mr. Martin is a native of the county and spent a great portion of his life here. He was born near Farming-





ton, October 2, 1828. He is a son of Jesse Martin, of that place, upon whose farm he lived and worked until he was twenty-one years of age. He was chiefly educated at Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., where he graduated with college honors in June, 1854. After returning from college he taught school in Fairmont for eighteen months, during which time he studied law. He was admitted to the bar and commenced to practice in March, 1856, removing in the following November to Pruntytown, where he has since resided. In 1872, Mr. Martin was a member of the Constitutional Convention of West Virginia, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Baltimore the same year, voting against the nomination of Horace Greeley. In the campaign which followed, however, he yielded him active and earnest support. In 1872, he was a candidate for Congress from this district, on the Democratic ticket against Hon. J. M. Hagans. Both candidates claimed the election and the seat was contested—resulting in the declaration of the election of Hagans. In 1876, Mr. Martin was elected to the Forty-sixth Congress, and in 1878 he was re-elected. His term of office expires January 1, 1881. Mr. Martin is an efficient and faithful Representative and is very popular among the people of his district.

#### HON. A. BROOKS FLEMING.

The subject of this sketch, Judge A. B. Fleming, was born October 13, 1839, upon his father's farm, two miles west of Fairmont. He is the son of Benjamin F. and Rhoda Fleming, the latter a daughter of Rev.



Asa Brooks. Until he arrived at the age of twenty he worked upon his father's farm about half of each year, attending school the other half. In 1859, he commenced the study of law at the University of Virginia; was admitted to the bar and commenced to practice at Fairmont, in 1862. In the year following (1863) he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Marion county, which office he held until 1867. He was married September 7, 1865 to Carrie M., daughter of James O. Watson. In 1872, Mr. Fleming was elected on the Democratic ticket a member of the West Virginia Legislature, and was re-elected in 1875. While in the Legislature he rendered much important service to the State, fulfilled faithfully his duties as a legislator, and worked earnestly for the best interests of Marion county. In February, 1878, he was, by the Governor, appointed Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit (composed of the counties of Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Wetzel, Monongalia and Marion), to fill the unexpired term of Judge Lewis, deceased, until a successor could be elected, and in the October following was elected by the people to fill the vacancy. His term of office will expire January 1, 1881.

For a number of years past Judge Fleming has been engaged in mining enterprises in connection with his father-in-law, Mr. Watson, and in farming, and has succeeded in accumulating quite a competency. He is an able jurist, and is a gentleman of fine literary and business attainments, while his entire political and private life have been above reproach, being very popular among his fellow citizens of all parties.



## JOHN W. M'COY, ESQ.

The above named gentleman is a member of the Marion county bar, and is a lawyer of considerable reputation throughout the State. He was born near Middlebourne, Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the 14th of September, 1826; worked on his father's farm until he arrived at the age of twenty-one, going to school in the winters; was principally educated at the Clarksburg Academy; was admitted to the bar in 1854, and commenced the practice of law at Middlebourne. He lived there until the spring of 1868, when he removed to Fairmont, Marion county, and has since resided there. In 1858, Mr. McCoy was elected prosecuting attorney of Tyler county, and was re-elected in 1860. In 1870, he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney of Marion county, and at the expiration of his term was re-elected. In 1879, a bill organizing the county courts of Marshall, Wetzel and Marion into a circuit with a judge, was brought before the Legislature, and by that body put to the vote of the people of the three counties. Mr. McCoy was almost unanimously nominated for the judgeship of the new court. At the polls he received an overwhelming vote for the office, but the bill—known as the "County Court Bill"—was defeated, thus leaving Mr. McCoy a judge without a circuit. The large vote he received upon this occasion served to show his exceeding popularity among the people. Mr. McCoy is considered one of the best read lawyers in the State, and, as a counsel, has but few equals.



## HON. J. C. BEESON.

Jacob Clark Beeson, son of Jesse and Anna Beeson, was born in Martinsburg, Berkeley county, this State on the 29th day of January, 1814, where he passed his life until March, 1857, when he came to Fairmont and engaged in the hardware business. He has since resided in that place, filling many important places of public trust. He was mayor of Fairmont, and member of the council at various times from 1862 to 1878, and in 1853, was elected Treasurer of Marion county. In 1866-7, Mr. Beeson represented this county in the West Virginia Legislature, being elected on the Republican ticket. Among other positions which he has held are those of President of the board of supervisors of the county, and President of the First National Bank of Fairmont, which position he now holds and has held for some years. Mr. Beeson, having accumulated a competency, some years ago retired from the mercantile business, and has since lived a comparatively inactive life at his beautiful home in Fairmont. He is a popular and influential citizen of the town and county.

## HON. U. N. ARNETT.

This gentleman is well known throughout the State of West Virginia as a politician, having for some years taken an active part in the politics of his county and State. He was born March 7, 1820, and is, therefore, now sixty years of age. He is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Arnett, who lived near Rivesville, this county, where Mr. Arnett now resides, his calling being that of a farmer and grazier.





His boyhood was passed upon the farm, working at that calling in the summer, and in the winter attending the common schools of the day. He entered public life in 1851, as a representative of Marion county in the Virginia Legislature, serving in that capacity for a period of six years. From that time up to 1870, he served at various times as a justice of the peace and as foreman of the grand jury, which latter position he held for over twenty years. In 1872, Mr. Arnett was a member of the constitutional convention of West Virginia, and was soon afterwards elected State Senator from his district, which office he held for four years, two years of the time serving as President of the Senate. Mr. Arnett is a Democrat, and is one of the most popular men of his party in the county. He also possesses many friends belonging to other parties, they recognizing in him an honest opponent, and a faithful and distinguished legislator during the time he served in the Senate. He is one of our most wealthy citizens, and is the proprietor of a beautiful home, upon his estate on the Monongahela river, near the town of Rivesville.

#### JUDGE A. F. HAYMOND.

The subject of this sketch was born on the 15th day of December, 1823, upon his father's farm, about three miles from Fairmont. He is a son of Colonel Thomas S. and Harriet A. Haymond. He attended the country schools in the neighborhood of his home until he arrived at the age of thirteen, when his father sent him to school at the Morgantown Academy, which institution he attended for about two years, and was then sent to the William and Mary College,



at Williamsburg, Virginia, for a term of nine months. He did not return to the college after this session, on account of ill health, but began the study of law at home, and in the office of Edgar E. Wilson, at Morgantown. In 1842, when he was but nineteen years of age, he was admitted to the bar, and immediately commenced the practice of law in Fairmont, which profession he continued to follow here until the breaking out of the Rebellion, serving in the meantime for several years as Prosecuting Attorney of Marion county. In the spring of 1853, he was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature from this county, and again in 1857. He was a delegate from Marion to the Virginia Convention of 1861, and strongly opposed all movements towards Secession. He continued to oppose Secession until after that ordinance was passed and the war had fairly commenced, when he felt in his conscience that it was his duty to acquiesce, and go with his native State. He accordingly acted upon the promptings of his conscience and entered the field against the Union early in January, 1862. He remained in the military service of the south until the surrender of General Lee at Appomatox Court House, in April, 1865, when he was surrendered and paroled with Lee's army. He returned to Fairmont in June, 1865, and shortly afterwards resumed the practice of law. Mr. Haymond, however, was soon prohibited from the practice of his profession in the State courts by the "lawyer's test oath." Sometime afterwards, on a petition of Union citizens of Marion and Monongalia counties, the Legislature of West Virginia passed a special act permitting him to practice in the State courts without taking the test oath, this being



the first act of the kind passed by the Legislature. By an act of Congress he was afterwards relieved of his political disabilities, incurred by reason of his participation in the Rebellion. In 1872, Mr. Haymond was a member of the constitutional convention at Charleston, West Virginia, and on the 22d of August, of the same year, was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of the State. In October, 1876, he was re-elected to this high office for a term of twelve years, commencing January 1, 1877. He is one of the most popular men in the State, and at the late election received a very large majority over his opponents, running considerably "ahead of his ticket." He was ever popular as a lawyer and as a citizen, and in the position which he now holds, he gives universal satisfaction, being one of the ablest jurists in the State, and one of the most dignified and learned Judges upon the bench. He is a man of whom his fellow citizens in Marion county are proud, because of his many intellectual and social qualities, as well as of his great popularity throughout the State.

JAMES MORROW, JR., ESQ.

The position which the above named gentleman occupies among the legal fraternity of West Virginia is second to none. He is one of the brightest and best known lawyers in the State, and is a distinguished citizen of Marion county. Mr. Morrow was born in that portion of Brooke county, Va., which now comprises Hancock county, West Virginia, in the year 1837, and passed his boyhood days upon his father's farm, attending school in the neighborhood, and laying the



foundation of his after life of usefulness. He received a classical education in the neighboring States of Pennsylvania and Ohio—"the people of the Northern Pan-Handle being in that day," as Mr. Morrow himself humorously expresses it, "obliged to resort to their more highly cultured neighbors for the humanizing agencies of higher education and harvest whisky." At the age of twenty years he commenced the study of law and continued to prosecute his legal studies until the year 1862, when he was admitted to the bar in Illinois. Three years afterwards, in 1865, he located in Fairmont and has since engaged constantly in the practice of his profession in Marion and adjoining counties. In 1871, he represented Marion county in the West Virginia Legislature—the first session of that body after the removal of the Capital to Charleston—and was a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He was a member of the Special Court in the contested election case of Harrison against Lewis for the office of Judge of this circuit, and wrote the opinion of the majority of the Court; he was also counsel for Auditor Bennett and Treasurer Burdette in their impeachment trials before the West Virginia Senate. In 1870-71, he occupied the editorial chair of the Fairmont *Liberalist* for some months.

There are few such men as James Morrow in the State. He possesses rare legal abilities, and as an orator has few superiors. By his quiet humor, sparkling wit, cutting sarcasm, eloquent and dignified language and manners, as well as by his great knowledge of the law, he has attained an enviable reputation as a pleader in court, while as a public speaker he is ex-





ceedingly popular. Aside from his abilities as a lawyer, Mr. Morrow is a gentleman of culture and refinement from a literary and social standpoint.

ROBERT B. LOTT, ESQ.

In these days of political trickery and thirst for office, it is a rare thing to see a man who, for almost a score of years, has held one office and proved satisfactory to his fellow citizens of *all* parties, and against whom there was never a word uttered, but whose praise is sounded by all men, be they friends or foes. The subject of this sketch was such a man. Robert B. Lott was born June 19, 1835, at Washington, Pennsylvania, and when he was about three years of age his parents removed to Fairmont (then Middletown) where he passed nearly all the remainder of his life. Here he received a common school education and always bore a reputation for studious, sober and industrious habits. This reputation, formed in his youth, clung to him through life. When a young man he worked some as a tanner, but finally gave that business up, and became engaged as a grocer, which calling he followed until elected clerk of the Circuit Court of Marion county in 1861, which office he continued to fill for several terms in succession, and until a few months previous to his death in 1879. During the latter part of the War of the Rebellion he served in the Union army, leaving the office in charge of a deputy, but after his discharge in 1865, he again assumed control. Although of Republican principles in his politics, he was very popular throughout the county among citizens of all parties, because of the



excellence and faithfulness with which he discharged the duties of his office. During the last few years of his life he was afflicted with hemorrhage of the lungs, and in the summer of 1878, in the hopes that it would benefit him, he visited Colorado, the fame of whose health-giving climate had reached him. This being the year for the election of clerks, he was pressed to become a candidate for re-election. He refused, however, giving for his reasons, the poor state of his health. So earnest was the request of his Republican friends, (in which they were joined by many Democrats) that he finally, but reluctantly, consented to become a candidate. He was in Colorado during the entire campaign, and the fact of his absence and non-participation in the canvass, together with the bad state of his health (many feeling sure that he would not live to fill the office should he be elected) contributed largely towards his defeat, by the Democratic nominee, Mr. Clarence L. Smith, who defeated him by twenty-six votes. After the election, Mr. Lott's health being somewhat improved by the western climate, he deemed it prudent to take up his residence there with his family until he should recover sufficiently to again make Fairmont his home. He accordingly returned for his family, and bidding his many friends in the county adieu, he departed for Greeley, Colorado, where on the fifth of March, 1879, following, he died, his disease having made too much headway for the climate to prove permanently beneficial. His remains were brought to Fairmont, where they were followed to the grave by an immense concourse of friends, besides the masonic and military organizations of the town. In speaking of his death,



the Fairmont *West Virginian* said among other things: "Having few faults and many virtues; possessing a character above reproach, and a name blemished by no unworthy act, 'Bob' Lott goes down to the grave in honor, his memory cherished by warm personal friends in every quarter of Marion county, and throughout the State."

RICHARD P. LOTT, ESQ.

Richard P. Lott, a brother of Robert B. Lott, was born in the town of Washington, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1833; he died in Fairmont, West Virginia, September 7, 1879, in the forty-seventh year of his age. This brief statement compasses the life history of a remarkable man, yet the task of appropriately elaborating that statement is by no means an easy one. He who occupies a position in his community so prominent as that occupied by Richard P. Lott, cannot have his connection with that community severed, whether by death or other cause, and pass away beyond the portals unregretted, his deeds forgotten. As viewed from the active field to which our common humanity is summoned, his was largely an isolated existence. From his early youth through a life full of work and a career of much usefulness, he was the weary bearer of the burden of deformity, and, to a great degree, of physical helplessness.

At the early age of three years he fell a victim to an uncontrollable disease, the effects of which proved to him a grievous misfortune, since thenceforward he was a hopeless cripple, utterly unable to walk. The despair he felt when his terrible affliction became



fully confirmed, and as even in his youthful fancy he confronted himself with a future barren of those pleasures found only in equal participation with his fellows in life's pursuits, can be imagined, but not fully realized by one not similarly situated; and none but those who held his most intimate confidence in his manhood can estimate the intensity of the dark shadow that seemed to cloud his life when he allowed himself to contemplate his limited sphere. Yet possessed of a rare faculty for suppressing his emotions he seldom betrayed the thought. For reasons obvious he was never able to attend school, excepting occasionally during one term in his early youth, when he was conveyed to and from the school house by others; he was, therefore, a self-educated man. Without other occupation he early turned his attention to books; and as he progressed in his studies, a strong desire for knowledge was engendered. He soon became master of the elementary, then of the more advanced branches; and not content with these he took up the more difficult studies, including the languages, and his zeal and ambition found reward in success. As he grew older he became a close observer of public affairs, and entered intelligently and with force into discussions of all topics demanding public attention, none enjoying an "intellectual battle" more than he. Having a taste for newspaper writing, he used the press as the channel through which to present his views upon questions of public import, and was ever welcomed as a contributor by all the journals in whose columns he sought space. He was a logical reasoner in debate, wielding a vigorous pen, yet writing with a graceful freedom that won respectful at-





tention from friend and opponent. Since he so closely identified himself with the politics of the day, he may be regarded as having been a "public man" in this respect, and in that field evidenced ability that, had he been favorably situated, would have won him distinction, and honors at the hands of the people. Originally he was of the Democratic school and an ardent admirer of Stephen A. Douglas—entering upon political thought and action at the most brilliant period of that eminent gentleman's career, Mr. Lott took an active interest in his fortunes up to the assembling of the Charleston Convention of historic fame. With a clear perception, he foresaw the disasters awaiting the "Little Giant," and, in common with thousands of others, he recognized in the proceedings of that convention the gathering of the clouds portending the storm of civil war, and with an earnest desire for peace, he regretfully transferred his allegiance elsewhere. Espousing the cause of the Union, he addressed himself to the task of assisting in the perpetuation of the Federal Government. He was not prepared to endorse Mr. Lincoln, however, and cast his ballot for Bell and Everett. He afterwards became a warm supporter of the Lincoln administration. During the campaign of 1860, and the years of turmoil that followed, Mr. Lott was a constant contributor to the political literature of the day. He vigorously opposed the ordinance of secession, and to him, probably, as much as to many others more pretentious, is due the large vote cast in opposition to that measure in the western part of the Old Dominion. When Virginia seceded, and war was inevitable, he



was among the foremost advocates of the proposition for a new state.

Though a constant writer for the press, Mr. Lott's name rarely appeared in print, he preferring to employ a *nom de plume* for all his productions. He was, however, at one time the recognized local editor of the *Fairmont National*. Early in the year 1861, he was placed in charge of the Fairmont Postoffice, and throughout the war, and for a period of eight years thereafter, as deputy and as chief, he discharged the duties of the position with signal ability, and to the satisfaction of the public. This was the only office he ever held.

For several years preceding his death, Mr. Lott was the subject of a disease emanating principally from his previous affliction, and he was finally compelled to abandon all occupation, which he did with great reluctance. At last, yielding to the summons, he passed away, closing an honorable life with the same practical stoicism that had characterized him 'midst his long years of suffering. A firm, true hearted friend, an intelligent, high-minded man and patriotic citizen, he passed into the unknown realms, leaving impressed upon the hearts of a whole community, endearing remembrances of "DICK LOTT."

FONTAIN SMITH, ESQ.

The subject of this sketch is a native Virginian. He was born and reared in the interior of the state, and is now upwards of fifty years of age. He commenced the study of law in 1848, and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He came to Marion county in the Spring of 1857, locating at Mannington, where he



engaged for a short time in school teaching, while he practiced in the courts of this and adjoining counties. The Marion county bar at that time was composed of a number of gentlemen of eminent ability—such men as ex-Gov. F. H. Pierpoint, who has since attained a national reputation, James Neeson, Esq., now one of the most distinguished members of the Richmond bar, Hon. A. F. Haymond, at present a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, Hon. E. B. Hall, who afterwards presided over the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of West Virginia, (since made the Third,) now a resident of California, Hon. B. F. Martin, present Representative in Congress, Albert S. Hayden, Ellery R. Hall, and others. In 1860, Mr. Smith, being conservative in his political opinions, espoused the cause of Stephen A. Douglas, for President, and was appointed by the Douglas convention, elector for the Senatorial district, composed of Marion, Wetzel and Tyler counties. In the following year he was nominated a candidate for a seat in the memorable convention, which convened in Richmond in February, 1861, and passed the Ordinance of Secession. He was defeated, however, in the contest by Hons. A. F. Haymond and E. B. Hall. He was a pronounced Union man, and ardently opposed to secession. In the Spring of 1861, he was elected to the Legislature of Virginia, but refused to take his seat in that body, the convention having passed the ordinance of secession. However, when the State Government was re-organized at Wheeling, he co-operated with the authors of that movement. In the organization of the Legislature under the restored government, he was made Chairman of the House Committee on



Courts of Justice. In the year 1868, Mr. Smith, at the Grafton democratic convention, was tendered the nomination for Congress from his district, but declined it. He was, in 1872, with Messrs. A. F. Haymond and U. N. Arnott, elected a delegate to the constitutional convention of West Virginia, and for a short time in this year was engaged with his son in the editorial management of the *Liberalist*. Since 1872, Mr. Smith has been living a comparatively quiet life in Fairmont, and has taken no very active part in politics. He is one of the leading members of the Marion county bar, and controls a large practice in this and surrounding counties. He is a gentleman of considerable literary and legal attainment; is fluent and forcible in an argument, and a popular and eloquent speaker. He is one of the most prominent men of his county, and is the father of Clarence L. Smith, the present clerk of the circuit court, who is a young lawyer of acknowledged ability.

ALBERT S. HAYDEN, ESQ.

Albert S. Hayden, Esq., was born in Fayette county, Pa., in the year 1825, and lived there until he arrived at the age of twenty-two years. He removed to Fairmont in June, 1847, where he has since resided, engaged in the practice of his profession, which is that of a lawyer. He received an excellent education in the schools of his native county, and studied law in the office of Hon. Robert P. Flenniken, afterwards United States Minister to Denmark, during the administration of President Polk. Mr. Hayden, being of a very modest disposition, and having no political aspirations or desire for office, has never held any im-





portant public offices, except that of district court clerk, which position he held from 1852 until 1861, a period of nine years. In his political beliefs he is democratic. He is one of the most popular lawyers at the Marion county bar, and is respected throughout the county as a man and a citizen. Mr. Hayden's genial disposition has made him many personal friends, and his acknowledged superior legal and literary attainments, have distinguished him among his fellow citizens as one of the most prominent men of the county.

CHARLES M. DAVISON, ESQ.

Mr. Charles M. Davison, Superintendent of the West Fairmont Mines, is a prominent business man of the county, to whom is due, in a great measure, the success of these mines, and the fact that they are now in operation, employing a large number of hands. He was born on the 23d of February, 1840, in the city of Bogota, United States of Colombia, South America; his parents, who were citizens of this country, resided there at that time. His father and mother returning to the United States of America, when he was between three and four years of age, he accompanied them, and was raised in the city of New York. Mr. Davison is a gentleman of culture, having received in his youth a good education at the public schools of New York, and at the Irving Institute, at Tarrytown on the Hudson, close to Washington Irving's residence. At the age of twenty-one he was married to a Brooklyn lady, and after spending some years in traveling, during which time he made several trips to different portions of the Globe in search of fortune, he finally



came to Fairmont, in 1870, to take the business management of the West Fairmont gas coal and coke mines, which position he has since held. During his residence in Marion county, he has gained a reputation as a man who is foremost in the advocacy of any business enterprise which tends to the development of the resources of the county, and is very popular as a citizen. Socially, he is one of the most popular men of the county. He is a member of very high standing in the Masonic fraternity, and one of the few men in the state who have attained to the thirty-second degree. He is also a member of high standing in the I. O. O. F. lodges of Fairmont, the Patrons of Husbandry of the county, and Knights of Honor of Fairmont.

#### OTHER PROMINENT MEN.

In addition to the foregoing citizens, there are in Marion county many others who are also deserving of special mention in this connection. The space at our disposal, however, will not permit us to give even a short life sketch of each one separately. Those whose biographies appear in the foregoing papers are Marion county men who have been most conspicuous in politics, or whose intellectual attainments and valuable services, rendered from time to time, entitle them to be called the leading men of the county. There are others whose names are closely identified with the political and business interests of the county, who may be classed among the prominent citizens of Marion. Among the latter is Mr. James O. Watson, proprietor of the Gaston coal mines.\* Mr. Watson has

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\*Mr. James Boyce, of Baltimore, and Judge A. B. Fleming, of Fairmont, are associated with Mr. Watson in the ownership of the Gaston mines.



been engaged in developing the mineral and agricultural resources of the county for a number of years, and is one of the leading land holders. He is a man of great enterprise, and is probably the best known business man in this community. Shortly after the organization of the county, he was clerk of the circuit court, and took some part in politics, and was, at the same time, engaged in the mercantile trade at the county seat. For some years, however, he has taken no active interest in political affairs, but has diligently applied himself to his mining and agricultural pursuits, and has contributed largely to the opening up of the county. His present mines, which are situated on West Fork, are connected with the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, at the forks of the river, by a railroad about one mile in length. Mr. Watson's handsome residence is near his mines, and situated about a mile from Fairmont. He communicates with his office in town by means of a Bell telephone, the first and only telephone line used in Marion county. Mr. A. J. Stone is the superintendent of the Gaston mines, and is one of the leading business men of the community. Mr. Morgan D. Orr, of the O'Donnell mines, is another prominent man who is very popular for having contributed largely to the business interests of the county. Mr. Oliver Jackson, proprietor of the Central mines, is and has been for years one of the leading business men of the county. Previous to the opening of his own, he was for some time superintendent of the West Fairmont mines, and was for some time engaged in the dry goods business in Fairmont. Among other prominent business men may be named Mr. Joseph E. Sands, cashier of the First National Bank of Fair-



mont; Jacob N. Gould, cashier of the Farmer's Bank; Captain N. D. Helmick, superintendent of the Marion Machine Works, Palatine; William Ridgely, president of the Farmer's Bank; Peter Amos, of the firm of Peter Amos & Son; Daniel Tennant, of the firm of Tennant & Co., of Fairview, proprietors of the two largest steam flouring mills in the county; F. H. Burt, of the firm of F. H. Burt & Sons, Mannington, proprietors of the Mannington Tannery; George W. L. Mayers, of the Mountain City Planing Mills; John Wigginton, proprietor of the Iron Foundry, Fairmont; Joseph and Elias Nuzum, of the Fairmont Furniture Company; James Barnes, superintendent of the Barnesville Woolen Factory, and many others.

Among the men who have held office, or figured most prominently in the political affairs of the county in the past, (in addition to those whose biographies are given,) and those who are at present conspicuous in politics, and may consequently be classed among the men of prominence and influence, we may name Messrs. Thomas L. Boggess, Thomas G. Watson, William J. Willey, James Neeson, John S. Barnes, David Cunningham, Richard Thomas, William B. Ice, Benjamin Fleming, Ephraim B. Hall, Ellery R. Hall, John J. Moore, Frank Conaway, William C. Brice, W. M. Dunnington, Jesse Sturm, John C. Clayton, Alfred Prichard, James H. Furbee, Alfred Hood, A. W. Knotts, C. E. Wells, William C. Haymond, Amos Prichard, Robert Lowe, S. W. Hall, Elias Blackshere, John B. Crane, Lindsey B. Haymond, C. L. Smith, U. N. Arnott, jr., Thomas H. B. Staggers, Jacob Hayden, and others.

THE END.

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