

*The*  
Hamrick and Other Families

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Indian Lore

*By*  
Mayme H. Hamrick

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**Mayme H. Hamrick**

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**Indian Lore**





**Mayme H. Hamrick**



TO THE MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM E. DODRILL, BENJAMIN HAMRICK,  
AND COLONEL ISAAC GREGORY,  
PIONEERS IN WEBSTER COUNTY,  
OF WHOM I AM A DIRECT DESCENDANT,  
THIS BOOK IS  
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.  
BY THE AUTHOR.





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## Sketch

Mayme Herbert Hamrick, the author, was born in Webster County, West Virginia, February 27, 1893. She is the second daughter of Adam Dolliver and Margaret Ellen Hamrick.

In a rural school, in the settlement of Hamricks, Gregorys, and Dodrills on Elk river, Miss Hamrick began her education, subsequently graduating from the Webster Springs high school. In her senior year she was a debater on the literary team that won for the high school the first contest for a loving-cup. She qualified as a teacher in the Teachers' Training Schools and West Virginia Wesleyan College, and taught in the public schools of Webster County seven years.

Entering George Washington University in 1919 she began the study of law. In 1923 she graduated from Duquesne University, the first woman to obtain the law degree from that institution. She subsequently studied at West Virginia University, and the Byron King School of Oratory.

In 1924 Miss Hamrick was admitted to the bar in West Virginia, the eighth woman of the State to be so admitted. It was before Chief Justice Taft, the only President who ever became Chief Justice, that she was admitted in 1928 to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Eager to gain experience she began the general practice of law in Huntington following her admission to the West Virginia Bar, and continued until 1927. It was that year she was appointed attorney in the Treasury Department of the United States and assigned to the Western District of Pennsylvania. In 1930 she was transferred

to the Department of Justice with headquarters in Philadelphia. In 1933 her work was moved to Washington, D. C. where she is employed in the Department of Justice. She has assisted in the litigation work pertaining to tax and bond cases during the entire eleven years she has been attorney for the government. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bar Association. Her name is included in *Who's Who Among Women Lawyers*, for the year 1938.

Miss Hamrick's interests and activities have not been limited to success in the legal profession. She formerly was a member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club, and the Altrusa Club. Early in life she became active in the cause of Temperance, and in 1927, was State President of the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union in West Virginia. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the American Historical Association. She is second vice-president and publicity director of the West Virginia State Society of the District of Columbia, in which organization she has been active five years. Both Dr. J. O. Knotts and Mrs. Elizabeth G. Robinson include her name in their lists of prominent West Virginians.

Miss Hamrick is a direct descendant of William Dodrill, Col. Isaac Gregory, and Benjamin Hamrick who were among the first settlers and pioneers in Webster County, and whose descendants have always played a vital rôle in the history of the county. Her grandmother, Rebecca Dodrill, who married James M. Hamrick, was a granddaughter of "English Bill," the first of the Dodrills to settle in the county. Her great-grandfather Ben-

jamin Hamrick, married Nancy Gregory, a daughter of Col. Isaac Gregory, the first of the Gregorys to settle there. Her great-great-grandfather was Benjamin Hamrick, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Benjamin and William Hamrick, the pioneers, and James Dodrill, her great-grandfather, in 1835, built the first schoolhouse ever erected in Webster County and hired the first teacher, Benoni Griffin, a son-in-law of William Hamrick.

The facts I set forth in this sketch support the statement that no West Virginian is more competent than the author of this book to write the history of the Hamricks, and of the families with whom they lived. It was among these people that she grew to womanhood; and her success in college and courts left her love for her people undiminished. In this book they will find local history and genealogy rescued from precarious places, and gleaned at the cost of money, time, and labor from the scattered traces of their ancestors. In a national sense, Miss Hamrick's study is a contribution welcomed by the school of historians, who, under the leadership of Turner and Paxson, have attempted a thorough and accurate presentation of the history of the American frontier.

Berlin B. Chapman.

Fairmont State Teacher's College  
Fairmont, W. Va.

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## Introduction

The original purpose of compiling the data contained in this book, was to give a complete story of the early history of the Hamrick family of Webster County. Two years of research have covered the history of the family for only two hundred years beginning in 1740. To go further into the past would require more time and research than can be given to the subject at this time. The data required to complete the early history of the family will be found, if available at all, either in the records of the counties that composed the original thirteen colonies, or in the possession of some of the descendants of Patrick Hamrick. It is to be remembered that the colonies were divided into many counties just as the states are today. In the course of years many government buildings have been destroyed by fire, and all the records lost through that or some other agency. Moreover, it appears that families migrated in the pioneer days, and did not always leave a record of themselves. The writer hopes it will be possible to complete the early history of the family of Patrick Hamrick, by visiting the numerous counties of the State of Maryland, and searching the Land, Court and Miscellaneous records in each county. This would be a tedious but interesting task. If tradition is wrong and Patrick Hamrick did not first settle in the Maryland Colony, then some method of research could be directed through the state historical and genealogical societies.

The easiest and most accurate way to obtain a story of family ancestry, is to find it in the possession of some one of the present generation. Indeed, that appears to be

the only way, after the passing of so many years. In connection with this brief sketch numerous letters have been written, and newspaper articles published, in the south and southwest, where many persons of the name Hamrick, are prominent in social and professional life. The replies and inquiries received indicate great interest in a history of the Hamrick ancestry, but no knowledge of it. It is therefore believed and hoped that the publication of the data in this book, will have the effect of assembling other data in connection with the history of the Hamrick family.

While gathering information relative to the history of the Hamrick family, the writer was asked to publish some facts pertaining to the early history of other families of Webster County. Data has been collected with reference to the Dodrill, the Gregory, and the Griffin families, and a short history of such families is incorporated herein.

The Indian stories have been selected because of the place of occurrence. Geographically, these tragedies occurred in the localities where the early settlers of Webster County, including the above mentioned families, first built their homes.

No literary merit is claimed by the writer of this book; the only thought and purpose in reducing the manuscripts to book form, being a response to hundreds of inquiries from interested members of the Hamrick, and other families. If the book is received and read with appreciation, the writer will have realized a desire that prompted many hours of tedious work in collecting and assembling the data recorded in these pages.

Assistance given the writer by her father and by those in possession of documents, photographs, and family

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records, as well as help given by persons having knowledge of facts, is gratefully acknowledged.

Mayme H. Hamrick.

Webster Springs, West Virginia.

July 18, 1938.

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## The Pioneer

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I studied some portraits of women and men  
Who lived in the last century,  
To me all the faces seemed happier then—  
Or is that a fallacy?

Gazelle-eyed, smooth of brow, reposeful of mien,  
All the women appeared to be,  
And the brows of the men were unfurrowed, serene.  
No lines of perplexity.

Yet in ease and finance the men have progressed.  
And the women from hoop-skirts are free.  
Why, why should our faces disclose such unrest  
While we boast of more liberty?

—Hamilton.

The region west of the Alleghenies in West Virginia, to which the first settlers came, was a rich and beautiful hunting ground of the Indians. The northern and southern tribes were in constant hostilities. Collision between the white settlers and the aborigines was inevitable. The Indians drove the settlers back to eastern Virginia, and killed many of them during the French and Indian wars, but the settlers returned at the close of the war and occupied the deserted farms. Pontiac's war began soon thereafter when he came in the guise of friendship, and many of the settlers were murdered. Those who escaped fled to Virginia, and the Greenbrier Valley was not occupied again by white men until 1769. That year pioneer cabins were erected far and wide through the forest. Although there were many invasions by the Indians afterward, the colony was so firmly established, that it was never again destroyed.

The Indians never owned or possessed the land in West Virginia, although in 1763, by proclamation, the King of England prohibited settlements west of the Alleghenies, until such time as the land was purchased from the Indians. Governor Fauquier of Virginia issued three proclamations to settlers to evacuate lands in Western Virginia when no settlers were there.

The Greenbrier Valley in West Virginia, was the gateway to the Kanawha Valley, and thus to the Ohio Valley. Greenbrier County and vicinity was, therefore, the place of one of the first settlements west of the Alleghenies. The first house or camp was built there in 1749. The Greenbrier Company owned a large tract of land in Greenbrier County and sent John Lewis to survey the land. The land was found to be fertile and settlers were immediately attracted to it. Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, on one occasion in a report to the colonial secretary in London said of the early settlers, "They acquire no attachment to place, but wandering about seems engrafted in their nature; and it is a weakness incident to it, that they should forever imagine the lands further off, are still better than those upon which they are already settled."

Whatever may have been written or said about the pioneers, or early settlers, they were men and women equal to the situation that confronted them. Into the vast region filled with wild romantic beauty, they pressed westward, eager for fresh hunting grounds and virgin farms. Traders came first and bartered with the Indians, becoming familiar with the Indian trails and paths. The white man, hunter, trader, or settler, blazed the road along Indian trails as he went along so that change of season would not mislead him. Over these trails or paths,

the early settlers came to West Virginia. Early Dutch and French traders became interpreters between the Indians and the white men.

The pioneers worked with their hands and were efficient in the occupations and trades that made life livable and existence possible in a wilderness. They spun and wove the flax and wool on spinning wheels and looms of pioneer days and made their own clothes; they tanned the leather and made their own shoes. The women did their own washing, ironing, and housework, and in addition many of them worked in the fields. All food was produced at home for both man and beast. Salt was obtained from a distance of four or five hundred miles and was used scantily. Sorghum and maple sugar were used almost exclusively in the place of the refined sugar of today. Parched corn and wheat were often used for coffee. There was no starvation nor freezing among the people. The outgrowth of all these hardships and deprivations, was a strong, independent, self-reliant citizenship led by statesmen who were moulders of right thinking on public questions.

During the period of more than a century, the moccasin worn by both men and women in the pioneer days, has been discarded for the factory made leather shoe; the hunting shirt for the modern coat and vest; the carriage and wagon have been replaced by the modern automobile and truck; and the tallow candle and kerosene lamp have been replaced by electric power lights. Into the homes have come the telephone and the radio. The press, through efficiently edited newspapers, has been an agency in developing a common interest between the people of the cities and the rural sections.

One author has pictured the change thus. "The moccasin tracks of the old pioneers have long since been obliterated by the march of modern civilization . . . . The first settlers who dared the dangers of frontier life in the unbroken wilderness of the Elk, the Gauley, and the Holly, have crossed the great divide. Their achievements are only traditional history. . . . Pioneer history in this country ceased with the subjugation of the hostile Indians, the partial clearing of the forests, and the introduction of modern methods in house construction. It ceased when men and women began to put aside their home-spun clothes and buy their wearing apparel made to order. What real tragedies and comedies could be written from the experiences of the first settlers who moved into the Elk and Gauley valleys. They left their homes and their friends in the east and followed the course of the setting sun, braving the fury of the Indians and the many privations and hardships incident to pioneer life. . . . No Withers, Doddridge, or Kerchival has chronicled their deeds in burning words of perpetuity. Their deeds are living monuments in the memory of older persons of the present generation. The younger members of the present generation know nothing of what the pioneers did or accomplished except what they have been told by the children of the actors in the great drama of the subjugation of the wild."<sup>1</sup>

### Trading Posts

The earliest English Trading Post was with the Colony on the James River, Virginia, where pelts and corn were traded in 1614, when some needy Indian Tribes came to

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<sup>1</sup> Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints, by W. C. Dorrill.

purchase maize. In 1615, a trading post was established by the Dutch at Albany, New York. The trading post was generally a large square, enclosed by a stockade. Diagonally at two corners were turrets, with openings for small cannons and rifles in each turret, so as to defend two sides of the wall. Within the stockade were the storehouses, quarters for men and room for general trade. The nearest trading post within reach of the early settlers of Webster County, West Virginia, and the one used by them, was located at New Market, Virginia. Later, a trading post was established at Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County.

### Coin

In Virginia, beads early became the "Current coin" in trade with the Indians. In 1640, and 1643, wampum was made legal tender in New England, and was extensively used in trading with the Indians. During the next century trade was mostly by barter, or in the currency of the colonies.

### Forts

Forts offered great protection to the pioneers in the wilderness. There were forts in every settlement, into which the people could retire when danger threatened, and which were capable of withstanding the assaults of savages, however furious they might be. All of the men of a community belonged to a fort, usually the one nearest. They remained in their homes until an alarm was given that the Indians were near, then every family hastened to the fort.

Forts consisted of cabins, blockhouses and stockades, surrounding a square. The whole fort was bullet proof. The walls on the outside were ten or twelve feet high,

with port holes at proper distances. The roofs always sloped inward.

The early settlers of what is now Webster County belonged to Donnally's Fort, located in Greenbrier County, two miles from the present village of Frankfort. Fort Donnally was built by Col. Andrew Donnally, and preserved the settlers from destruction at the time of the terrible Indian Raid of 1778. The settlers were warned of the approaching savages at that time, by two scouts, John Pryor and Philipp Hammond, who dressed and disguised as Indians, traveled day and night from Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant, to Fort Donnally. They successfully made the journey by passing the Indians at Meadow River, and had they not succeeded in so doing, the entire Greenbrier settlement would have been destroyed. The fort at Lewisburg, ten miles from Fort Donnally, was not attacked in 1778. The last known alarm to have been given to the settlers of Greenbrier County was in the year 1793. The intended Indian attack, for some unknown reason never took place, although the settlers were warned of danger, and hastened to the fort where they remained for several days.

### **Indians and Webster County**

As heretofore stated, the Indians never possessed the land in West Virginia, although the history of every county within the state is closely associated with Indians and Indian Tribes. All that is positively known is that the Indians were here when the white man came, and from whence they came, will always be an unsolved mystery.

Webster Springs in Webster County, was discovered by Abram Meirs, prior to 1785. It was named Fork Lick,

being at the junction of the Elk and Back Fork rivers. When Webster County was created by act of the Virginia General Assembly, January 10, 1860, from Nicholas, Braxton and Randolph counties, the statute provided that the name of the seat of justice should be called Addison. In 1903, the West Virginia State Legislature changed the name to Webster Springs. Fork Lick, the location of the Salt Sulphur Spring, attracted buffalo, deer, elk and all kinds of wild game. The Indians knowing that the spring attracted the wild game in abundance, and that the hills and valleys adjacent to it were choice hunting grounds, caused the trails and paths through the county to pass through the Fork Lick. This is evidenced by the large number of flint arrow heads found in different parts of the county, particularly in Fork Lick District. On the opposite side of Elk River from Mill Run, near "Miller's Bottom," arrow heads were found in large numbers. This is at a point near the river where cliffs project from the hill, and it is believed that the game passed along the river bank between the rocks and the river shore, and the Indians concealed themselves among the rocks and shot the animals at close range. This is known as Indian Pass.

There has been found some evidence of an Indian settlement at Cooperswood Run, on Elk River, ten miles above Webster Springs. Indian Slab Rock, which is on Point Mountain, bears marks and drawings, believed to have been a record made by Indians. At Steps Low Gap on Point Mountain, the Indians maintained a camp when hunting in that locality. Indian arrow heads made of flint have been found in that vicinity quite recently.

The Elk River in Webster County was named by the Shawnee Indians, Elk Tiskelwah, "river of fat elk."

It cannot now be ascertained that there ever was within Webster County, the wigwam of an Indian who claimed it as his home. Hunting parties moved through the county, made their camps here and there for a while, and passed on.

### **Webster Springs**

Surrounded by McGuire Mountain, Miller Mountain, Point Mountain and the Gauley Mountain. Webster Springs, the location of the famous Salt Sulphur Springs.



**The Salt Sulphur Springs**

is a place of scenic beauty. In past years visitors from all parts of West Virginia, as well as from many of the states, came to spend the summer season in the cool mountain climate and drink the health-giving water.



### **The Webster Springs Hotel**

In 1897, the first unit of the beautiful Webster Springs Hotel was built in the spacious level surface lot near the famous spring. The hotel was completed in 1902. Consisting of three hundred rooms equipped with Turkish and Russian baths, it was the second largest hotel in the state. It was destroyed by fire in 1926.

The population of Webster Springs has increased rapidly since 1930. The growth has been due to the development of the coal-mining and lumber industries. Two



**The Webster Springs Hotel**

hard surfaced roads have been built to the town. One of these roads was extended from Buckhannan by way of Hacker Valley. The other road is by way of Summer-ville and Cowen.

## The Name Hamrick

The name Hamrick is believed to be a derivation from English, although the name does not appear as such in any book of English, German, Irish or Dutch names.

If the name is English, it is derived from Hambridge, or Handbridge, the old English form of that name being Heam-bry-cg. If Hamrick is English, and derived from Hambridge, it is a place name, and means an important bridge, or the place of a bridge.

The name is not real Irish and does not appear as a similar name in books of Irish family names, or place names. It is to be remembered, however, that Irish families have, in the course of time, either through force or through choice abandoned their original Celtic names and adopted English names.

Among the German names, there are Hamerich, Hammerich, and Hemmerich. The possibility of change is quite convincing, as many Germans have modified their original names, and a relatively simple modification of Hammerich would result in spelling the name Hamrick. If the name is German, it is derived from the old German first name, Haman-rikas. This was a personal name meaning, "kingly garment, kingly protection, mighty protection, or costly garment."

In America, the name Hamrick appears in the Colonial records and the records of the Revolutionary War. The spelling varies little, the name appearing as Hambrick in some of the records.

## The Hamrick Family

The Hamricks of West Virginia are descendants of Patrick Hamrick, who settled in Prince William County, Colony of Virginia, prior to 1740, having moved from the Maryland Colony. According to tradition, Patrick Hamrick had twelve sons, who moved with him and settled in Prince William County.

Until recently, no known efforts have been made to establish through research the historical facts concerning the early history of the family, and particularly, the ancestry of the Hamrick family of West Virginia.

The records of the Colonial Government of Maryland have been carefully searched. They fail to disclose the name Hamrick. This does not mean that Patrick Hamrick did not live in that colony, but at this time, no record of his having lived there has been found.<sup>1</sup>

### Settled in Virginia

Patrick Hamrick obtained a land grant from Thomas Lord Fairfax, December 10, 1740. The grant consisted of 118 acres of land in Prince William County, Colony of

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<sup>1</sup> The records of the early emigrants to America between the year 1600, and the year 1740, have been carefully examined. The only emigrants by the name Hamrick are found on the lists of passengers of the ship *Snow Lowther*, which sailed from Rotterdam, and arrived at Philadelphia, October 14, 1731. The passengers on that ship were 33 men and 45 women and children. The children under the age of 16 years are not listed. Six of the adults listed are: John Yerke Hamricke, Hans Jerg Hamerick, Amaryllis Eliza Hamrick, Paul Hamrick, Margaretta Hamrick and Clara Hamrick. The above mentioned lists are found in "Pennsylvania German Pioneers," Vol. I, by Strassburger. This book can be found in the Ernest Pratt Central Library, Philadelphia, and the Library of Congress, Washington.

Virginia. Prince William County had been formed in 1731, from Stafford and King George counties. The deed is on record in the Virginia State Land Office, Richmond, Virginia.<sup>2</sup> The description of this tract of land as disclosed by the deed is somewhat indefinite. It states as follows; "from the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax, Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, . . . to Patrick Hamrick, of King George County . . . a tract of waste land in the County of Prince William, containing 118 acres, . . . ."

In 1741, the Poll of Burgesses of Prince William County was made, and the name Patrick Hamrick is listed thereon.<sup>3</sup> This establishes the fact that he was a land owner and more than twenty-one years of age in the year 1741. It is not known how long he had lived on his land before he caused it to be surveyed and obtained the deed thereto.

The above mentioned deed is the earliest record that has been found of Patrick Hamrick.

### Fauquier County

In 1758, Frederick Fauquier became Governor of Virginia. The next year, 1759, he created a new county from Prince William County, which he named Fauquier, in honor of himself. It was in that portion of Prince William County that Patrick Hamrick had taken the land grant, and he automatically became a resident of Fauquier County. Patrick Hamrick was the first of the name Hamrick to appear on the records of Virginia, as disclosed by an examination of the records of the Virginia State Land Office, and State Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

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<sup>2</sup> Book E, page 224; 1732 to 1742.

<sup>3</sup> Book E, page 524; 1741.

### Will Books Lost

Three early Will Record Books are lost from the records of Prince William County. These lost books, alleged to have been confiscated during the Civil War, would probably give the names of the family of Patrick Hamrick, but such books cannot be located. After the passing of two hundred years, the only hope of obtaining this data is to find it among the records in the possession of some of the descendants of Patrick Hamrick.

Tradition and history say that Benjamin Hamrick of the American Revolution was a son of Patrick Hamrick. As heretofore stated, the names of the twelve sons of Patrick Hamrick have not been found among the available records.

The records of Fauquier County, of which Warrenton is the seat of government, disclose that one, Benjamin Hamrick, was married and living in that county prior to 1773. That is the date of the execution of the Last Will and Testament of John Sias.

John Sias obtained a land grant of 639 acres of land from Thomas Lord Fairfax in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1740,<sup>4</sup> the same year Patrick Hamrick obtained title to his land in Prince William County.

In 1779, the Last Will and Testament of John Sias was admitted to record in Fauquier County.<sup>5</sup> That Will gave, "to my daughter, Mary Hamrick, five pounds current money." At November Term of Court, 1779, an order was entered summoning, "Mary Hamrick, wife of Benjamin Hamrick, to appear to contest the proof of the Will of John Sias."

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<sup>4</sup> Book E, page 194. Virginia State Land Office, Richmond, Va.

<sup>5</sup> Will Book I, page 386.

As is clearly disclosed by these records, one, Benjamin Hamrick, married Mary Sias, daughter of John Sias, and was living in Fauquier County prior to 1773. While there is no authentic proof, circumstances and records indicate, that Benjamin Hamrick above mentioned, was the son of Patrick Hamrick, and that Benjamin Hamrick of the Revolution was the son of Benjamin and Mary Sias Hamrick.

## **Benjamin Hamrick of the Revolution**

The Hamricks of Braxton, Webster, Randolph and Pocahontas counties, are descendants of Benjamin Hamrick, a soldier who fought in the American Revolution. He was born in Prince William, now Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1755. In November, 1775, he enlisted in the military service of the colonial government of Virginia, as a "Minute Man," and served for a period of six months. He was at that time twenty years of age. He engaged in the battle of Great Bridge, on the bank of the Elizabeth River, commanded by Colonel Edward Stevens. In October, 1776, he enlisted in the Third Virginia Regiment under Captain John Chilton, and marched from Williamsburg to Alexandria, Virginia, and from there to New York, where he joined the regular continental army.<sup>1</sup>

### **At Brandywine**

Benjamin Hamrick participated in several of the most decisive battles of the Revolutionary War. The records disclose that he was at the capture of Trenton on December 26, 1776, when General Washington one sleety night crossed the ice-clogged Delaware river, captured one thousand prisoners, and seized a large amount of equipment. He fought at the battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777. He engaged in the battle of Brandywine Creek, September 11, 1777, at which battle General Lafayette was wounded. On October 4, 1777, he engaged in the battle of Germantown, near Philadelphia.

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<sup>1</sup> Records of the Revolutionary War, War Department, Washington, D. C.

### **With Washington at Valley Forge**

In September, 1777, General Howe with the British Army entered Philadelphia. General Washington, having been defeated at Brandywine and Germantown, decided to go into encampment at Valley Forge for the winter. On December 19, 1777, he with eleven thousand half-starved, half-clothed soldiers, broke camp at White-marsh and marched toward Valley Forge. One writer of the Revolutionary period has described the journey thus—"On that cold winter journey to Valley Forge. Mrs. Washington rode behind her husband on a pillow. General Washington followed the last remnant of the army from the encampment riding a large white charger. The trail of the soldiers could easily be followed by foot-steps stained with blood."

Benjamin Hamrick was attached to the third and fourth Virginia Regiments under Captain John Blackwell, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Heth, while at Valley Forge. At the time he entered said encampment he was a private, receiving six and two-third dollars per month. In April, 1778, he was commissioned corporal, and received seven and one-third dollars per month Virginia currency. During the period of service in 1777, and 1778, Benjamin Hamrick was frequently assigned to scout duty, as disclosed by the records of the War Department.

### **The Terrible Winter of 1777**

Entering Valley Forge in December 1777, the men immediately began to lay out the encampment and build huts from hewn logs. From the time the soldiers entered the camp, many ill from exposure and hunger, the days



were a succession of hardships. "Barefeet, naked legs, tattered remains of an only pair of stockings, shirts in strings, faces wain and thin, with appearance of being forsaken and neglected." During the six months the army was encamped at Valley Forge, many of the men were disqualified for duty because of lack of clothing. Many horses starved to death and a whole day would pass without food to distribute to the soldiers. In one communication written by General Washington while there, he said, "Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great, and such as wound the feelings of humanity." At Valley Forge, Major General Fredrick Von Steuben trained the soldiers, and the little State Armies were welded into the Army of the United States.

Although in great difficulty and distress General Washington was not without confidence and hope in the final outcome of events. It was Isaac Potts, a resident of Valley Forge, who told of having seen General Washington apart from the camp, "his horse tied to a sapling, kneeling in audible prayer, his cheeks diffused in tears." On June 19, 1778, Washington broke camp at Valley Forge and marched toward the Delaware river, his little army of eleven thousand men having been reduced to seven thousand, by death from disease and exposure during that terrible winter.

General Washington is known to have visited Valley Forge only once afterward, and that was in 1796, during his second term as President of the United States. Tradition and history record, that upon his visit at that time he had so changed, the old inhabitants of the Valley Forge community, whom he was so anxious to see, did not recognize him.

### Valley Forge Today

As viewed today Valley Forge is one of the most beautiful and most picturesque of the many parks in America. Situated on the West side of the Schuylkill River, partly on the crest of the hill, twenty-two miles from the city of Philadelphia, it consists of several thousand acres. Valley Forge was first called Mount Joy—named by William Penn, who, while surveying that territory became lost, and after ascending to the top of the hill, immediately discovered the correct location of himself, and being so overcome with joy, applied the name, "Mount Joy."

Prior to the Revolutionary War, Valley Creek at the base of the hill was called Mount Joy Forge, that being the location of iron works. The iron used was hauled from Warwick Furnace in Chester County. The Mount Joy Forge was destroyed by the British who burned it September 18, to 21, 1777.

This place on Valley Creek was the headquarters of General Washington during the terrible winter of 1777 and 1778, in a house erected by John Potts in 1759, and at the time of the Revolution, the home of his son Isaac Potts. The land is a portion of Mount Joy Manor, which William Penn granted to his daughter, Letitia, on October 27, 1701. The house, a two story, five room dwelling, is in excellent condition, and its appearance today is precisely as it was at the time General Washington lived there. The Valley Forge Park Commission has furnished the house with the choicest pieces of furniture of the Revolutionary period. In the Washington Memorial churchyard at Valley Forge only one grave among the three thousand is marked, but, "For a century the eyes of struggling nations have turned toward Valley Forge,

and lips in every language have blessed the memory of Valley Forge."

### **At Yorktown**

The exact movements of the regiment to which Benjamin Hamrick was attached, subsequent to 1779, are not disclosed by the records of the War Department. It is known however, from corroborating affidavits filed with the Secretary of War in 1832, by comrades of Benjamin Hamrick, that he served throughout the Revolutionary War, and was in the service in Virginia, at the time of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781.<sup>2</sup>

### **Married in Fauquier County**

Benjamin Hamrick married Nancy McMillian, daughter of John and Martha McMillian, in Fauquier county, Virginia, while on furlough from the continental army in 1779. The date of the marriage is given in an affidavit of Joseph McMillian filed on behalf of Benjamin Hamrick when the latter made application for a pension under the Act of Congress of 1832. In the affidavit the affiant says, "he (Benjamin Hamrick) came home on furlough and visited his father who lived just three miles from my father. He married my sister and built a house and lived with my father."

### **Pioneer in Greenbrier County**

That Benjamin Hamrick was one of the early settlers in Greenbrier County, Virginia, now West Virginia, is disclosed by the early tax lists and census records, now in the Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Virginia. The

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<sup>2</sup> Pension Records of the Revolution, Washington, D. C.

oldest available lists, disclose the heads of families living in Greenbrier County, between 1783 and 1786. The name of Benjamin Hamrick, is on that, and each successive list, until 1796. That he removed from Fauquier County between 1781, the date of the surrender of Cornwallis, and 1785, is definitely known. As the boundary of Greenbrier County, formed in 1777, embraced the territory that is now Kanawha, Nicholas, Braxton and Greenbrier counties, and part of Monroe County, it is difficult to locate the place to which he first came and established his residence. One writer has stated that he first came to Cherry Tree Bottom where the town of Richwood, Nicholas County, is now located.<sup>3</sup> His residence was near that place at the time of the alarm of an intended Indian Raid in 1793. At that time he hastily gathered his family and abandoned his residence and fled to Donnally's Fort, in Greenbrier County, near the present village of Frankfort. The distance traveled on that journey was more than one hundred miles. When all danger of further interference had passed, he is believed to have settled on Birch River.

In 1820, Benjamin Hamrick was living in Nicholas County. In 1826, he petitioned the General Assembly of Virginia for a pension for service rendered in the military service of the Colony of Virginia and the continental army. The petition<sup>4</sup> specifies the residence of the petitioner as Nicholas County but does not designate the exact location of his residence. That he was totally disabled, due to exposure, privations and hardships, experienced during the Revolutionary War, is clearly set forth in his petition. The bill for pension, although passed

<sup>3</sup> *Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints*, by W. C. Dodrill.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

by the Lower House, was rejected by the Senate of the General Assembly, in 1826, and 1827.<sup>5</sup> It was in support of the above petition, that Joel Hamrick executed an affidavit in which he stated that he remembered when Benjamin Hamrick went to war, "That I saw him leave his grandfathers and go to join his troops."

On October 10, 1832, Benjamin Hamrick appeared before the Circuit Court of Nicholas County and submitted a petition for pension under the Act of Congress of 1832. Actual proof of service in the Revolutionary War appears to have been necessary in order to qualify for a pension and such proof was required of the soldier. Benjamin Hamrick, having lost his discharge, brought before the Court a comrade who served with him at Brandywine and Valley Forge, Benjamin Lemasters. One Joseph McMillian, also filed an affidavit on his behalf. It was in that affidavit, hereinbefore referred to, that Joseph McMillian stated Benjamin Hamrick married his sister in 1779. The petition of Benjamin Hamrick was transmitted to the Secretary of War, by Samuel Price of Nicholas County. The pension was allowed by the Secretary of War, and the petitioner received eighty dollars per annum, beginning in 1831.

In 1836, Braxton County was created from Nicholas and Kanawha counties. It is believed that Benjamin Hamrick at that time lived in the portion of Nicholas County that was included within the boundary of Braxton County, and automatically became a resident of the last mentioned county.

In the Biographical Encyclopedia of Early Virginians,

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<sup>5</sup> House of Delegates Journal, Virginia General Assembly, 1826-1827.

the author states, "Benjamin Hamrick served through the entire Revolutionary War. He married Nancy McMillian in eastern Virginia and they came to Greenbrier County and then to Elk River, and located near the present site of Frames Mills, where he lived until 1838, when he moved to Webster County where he died in 1842. He raised a family of eight sons and three daughters."<sup>6</sup>

The same author states that Frames Mills is now called Frametown. However, careful study of early place names in Braxton County, suggests two separate places of early settlements called Frames Mills. One is at a point on Birch River near Birch River Post Office where William Frame at an earlier date maintained a grist mill. The other is on Elk River sixteen miles southwest of Sutton where James Frame had a mill. The latter place is now called Frametown. As an investigation has not disclosed the exact location where Benjamin Hamrick lived in Braxton County, it is not known where Nancy McMillian Hamrick lived at the time of her death.

About the year 1838, Benjamin Hamrick removed to Webster County, where he spent the remaining years of his life with his son Benjamin, who lived six miles above Webster Springs in the Elk River Valley. He rode horseback on that journey accompanied by his two sons, Benjamin and David, who had gone to Braxton County for the purpose of returning with him to Webster County. He died in 1842, at the age of eighty-seven years, and is buried in the cemetery located on the north side of Elk River six miles above Webster Springs, at the place of settlement of his son, William Hamrick, the noted hunter, and later the home of a grandson, Squire Adam Hamrick,

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<sup>6</sup> Early Virginians by H. H. Hardestys.

and the present home of a great-grandson, Watson Hamrick.

Benjamin Hamrick is believed to be the only soldier of the Revolutionary War whose grave is within the present boundary of Webster County.

The sons of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick were—Benjamin, William, David, Peter, Enoch, Cyrus, Joe and John. Sarah is the only daughter whose name can be given at this time, although there were three daughters.

Such data as is available will be given of each in the order named.

## **The Descendants of Benjamin Hamrick of the Revolution**

### **BENJAMIN HAMRICK**

Benjamin Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, was born February 10, 1782, in Fauquier County, Virginia. He came to Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia), with his parents about 1785, when that section of the state was a wilderness, inhabited by hostile Indians. He was eleven years of age in 1793, when an alarm was given of an intended Indian raid on the settlements in Greenbrier County, and made the memorable journey through the forest from Cherry Tree Bottom to Fort Donnally, with his parents and other members of his family. The distance traveled on that hasty journey was more than one hundred miles without stopping to take nourishment or rest.

### **Pioneer**

In 1811, Benjamin Hamrick married Nancy (Agness) Gregory (1792-1873), daughter of Colonel Isaac, and Sarah Given Gregory. They were married by Edwin Hughes. The record of this marriage is found in the office of the Clerk of the County Court, Kanawha County.

In 1812, Benjamin Hamrick came to what is now Webster County, West Virginia, and built his home on the north side of Elk River, five miles above Webster Springs, then called Fork Lick. This historic home, was a large two-story substantial log building, about fifteen by thirty feet, with a large stone chimney at either end, and a porch along one side. It sat on the crest of a small hill



surrounded by lower sloping surface land. A pioneer in that sparsely settled section of West Virginia, he owned a large tract of land adjoining that of his brother, Wil-



**The Pioneer Home of Benjamin Hamrick, built in 1812**

liam Hamrick, the noted hunter, who settled in the same locality the same year.

#### **War of 1812**

September 3, 1814, Benjamin Hamrick enlisted in the War of 1812 at Beverly, Randolph County. He went to Lewisburg, and from there to Norfolk, Virginia, where he served in Captain Wamsley's Company of Virginia Militia. He was discharged January 27, 1815, at Fort Nelson, Norfolk, Virginia. He walked from Norfolk to his home a distance of four hundred ninety miles.

### Webster County

The section of West Virginia, that comprises Webster County, was an isolated wilderness in 1812 at the time Benjamin Hamrick built his home in the Elk Valley. Wild game of all kinds was plentiful. Fish could be found in the streams in abundance. Although the Indians no longer frequented that territory, the Moccasin tracks could be seen on the trails through the forest, and Indian arrow heads and other weapons of Indian warfare had been left behind, and can be found even to this day. There was no school, no church, and not more than three homes in the Elk Valley in the Webster County Community. The nearest seat of Government was Beverly, Randolph County, a distance of more than fifty miles.

In 1841, a petition was signed by Benjamin Hamrick, two of his sons, his brother, William, and three other citizens requesting the General Assembly of Virginia to change the boundary lines of Braxton, Nicholas, and Randolph counties, to make the citizens of what is now Webster County, subject to the jurisdiction of Nicholas County. The request was granted. The distance to the seat of government of Nicholas County was about the same as the distance to the other seat of government, but there was better road over which to travel.

Seven years later, in 1848, a movement began for the purpose of having a new county created out of parts of Nicholas, Braxton and Randolph counties. After certain preliminary notices had been posted, the election was held in the Autumn of 1851. In the interested section, the portion that is now Webster County, the polls were opened in the home of Mrs. Mary Arthur, at Fork Lick, now Webster Springs, December 8, 1851. Nineteen votes

were cast, all in favor of the new county. Benjamin Hamrick was one of the voters, and his son Addison Hamrick, was acting clerk. This was the first election ever held in what is now Webster Springs.

In 1859, Benjamin Hamrick, joined with his sons and grandsons and many other interested citizens, in a petition which was presented to the Virginia General Assembly, in December of the same year, requesting that a new county be created from Nicholas, Braxton, and Randolph counties. The General Assembly passed the Act creating Webster County, January 10, 1860.<sup>1</sup>

### **The First School House**

In 1835, Benjamin Hamrick and his brother William Hamrick, and James Dodrill, erected the first schoolhouse in Webster County. The building made of logs with a large wood, stone and clay chimney at one end, was heated by means of an open fireplace. The wood used as fuel was prepared by the boys of the school during the recess and lunch periods. Certain students were detailed by the teacher in turn to cut and saw the wood from trees that grew nearby in abundance. This schoolhouse was built in the vicinity of Wolf Pen Run, on Elk River.

Reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic were the subjects taught in the school. The Bible was the text used in the reading classes. The teacher was hired by William and Benjamin Hamrick and James Dodrill for a term of three months. Benoni Griffin, a son-in-law of William Hamrick, taught the first term in the Hamrick School, and Frank Duffey taught the second term. Four-

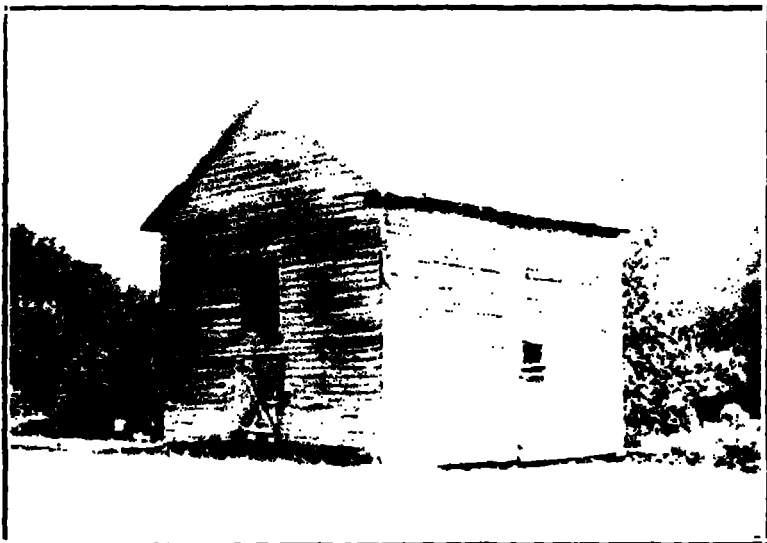
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<sup>1</sup> House of Delegates Journal, Virginia General Assembly, 1859-60.

teen students attended the first term at the Hamrick School.

### **First Church Organization**

The first church organization in Webster County, of which there is any record, took place about the year



**The Hamrick Barn, where the first Church services in Webster County were held in 1833**

1834, at a meeting in a barn erected by Benjamin Hamrick, on his farm in the Elk Valley. This organization was effected by Addison Hite, who was the first Methodist minister to preach in Webster County. He preached his first sermon in the Hamrick Barn in 1833. This is believed to have been the first religious services held in the county. Addison Hite was a Circuit Rider at the time

of the above-mentioned organization, and his circuit embraced what is now a part of Lewis, Webster, Braxton, and Upshur counties. William Gregory, a brother-in-law of William and Benjamin Hamrick, lived at Leatherwood Creek, nine miles above Webster Springs. He was appointed classleader of the class organized in the Hamrick Barn. He was a devout Christian man and faithful upon attendance at this place of worship. Adonijah Harris, who lived at the McGuire Low Gap, near Webster Springs, was appointed assistant classleader.

The quarterly meetings held in the Hamrick barn attracted large crowds of people and were often continued for several days. People came from distances as remote as Summersville and Flatwoods, to attend these meetings and to enjoy the hospitality of the early settlers. The first Southern Methodist minister, to preach within the limits of Webster County, was a man named Protzman. He preached his first sermon in the county in the Hamrick barn about 1844. This historic barn, although changed somewhat in outer appearance, is in use today after more than one hundred years.

### **Died During Civil War**

Benjamin Hamrick died June 12, 1863, at the home he built in 1812. He is buried in the cemetery where his father, Benjamin Hamrick, the soldier and pioneer settler, is buried. Many of his descendants reside in Webster, Randolph, and Pocahontas counties.

The Benjamin Hamrick home became the home of Jane Hamrick Dodrill, a daughter of Benjamin Hamrick, and her husband, Robert Dodrill, during their lives. It has recently been replaced by a modern frame building and is the present home of Robert H., and Lee Miller.

The children of Benjamin Hamrick, and Nancy Gregory Hamrick are: Isaac G., Allen, William F., James M., Sarah, Jane, Christopher M., Anna, Mary, Addison M., and Margaret Elliott. A short sketch will be given of each in the order named.

### **Isaac G. Hamrick**

Isaac G. Hamrick, born in 1812, was married to Nancy Dobbins in 1834. He resided with his father. His occupation was stone-mason and builder. In 1858, he assisted in building the Braxton County jail. While working on the jail he became afflicted with pneumonia fever and died at the age of forty-six years.

He had two daughters—Sarah Jane, and Margaret.

**Sarah Jane**, never married.

**Margaret**, married D. Lambert, and lived in Pocahontas County, near the head waters of the Greenbrier River.

### **Allen Hamrick**

Allen Hamrick was born in 1813. He married Martha Miller in 1839, and resided on Miller Mountain north of Webster Springs, in Webster County. He was a blacksmith and also engaged in farming. He had three sons and three daughters—Marshall, Lee, Henry, Sarah, Margaret and Mary (Polly).

**Marshall**, married Rebecca Pritt and lived in the Elk Valley below Webster Springs.

**Lee**, married Martha Cogar and lived on the Back Fork of Elk River in Webster County.

**Henry**, married Nancy Patton, and lived on Sugar Creek in Webster County.

THE DESCENDANTS OF BENJAMIN HAMRICK 45

**Sarah**, married Thomas Cogar and resided on Sugar Creek in Webster County.

**Margaret**, married James Payne and lived near Skelt. West Virginia.

**Mary** (Polly), married William Woods and lived near Webster Springs in Webster County.

**William F. Hamrick**

William F. Hamrick, was born in 1816. He married Sarah Miller and resided on Gauley River near the mouth of Turkey Creek. He was a farmer and hunter. He died in 1865. He had two sons and five daughters.—Addison, John, Anne, Nannie, Margaret, Rebecca and Ruhama.

**Addison**, never married.

**John**, married Margaret Jane Dodrill, daughter of James Walton and Rebecca Dodrill. He lived on Gauley River at the home place of his father.

**Anne**, married Joseph Dodrill and resided on the Elk Mountain three miles from Bergoo, West Virginia. She died in 1915, and is buried in Meadowland Cemetery, near Bergoo.

**Nannie**, married Terry Starcher and lived at Cherry Falls, one mile above Webster Springs, in Webster County.

**Margaret**, married Nathan Smith and lived in Glade District, Webster County.

**Rebecca**, was the second wife of William Gregory Hamrick. She resided on Point Mountain for several years, and later moved to Webster Springs. She died in 1914. (See William G. Hamrick).

**Ruhama**, never married.

**James Miller Hamrick**

James M. Hamrick was born in 1817. In 1836, he married Rebecca Lewis Dodrill, daughter of James and Elizabeth Gregory Dodrill. He built his home seven miles above Webster Springs, on the Elk River, and lived there until his death in March, 1890. The home, a large log



**James M. Hamrick, the First County Supervisor of Fork  
Lick District, Webster County**



house, is still in use and is the present home of a grandson, Clarence Hamrick. His principal occupations were farming and hunting. He was the first postmaster at the Bernardstown, West Virginia post office, having served for a number of years. He was the first County Commissioner, then called County Supervisor, of Fork Lick District, Webster County. He was elected to that office in 1865.

Rebecca Dodrill Hamrick died in 1857. He then married Delilah Salisbury. He was the father of six sons and six daughters—Agness, Arthur C., George D., Jane, Benjamin Franklin, Elizabeth, Moore, Margaret, and Adam Dolliver, of the first marriage; and Sampson Ballard, Phoebe Ann, and Rebecca, of the second marriage.

**Agness**, was born November 24, 1837. She married John Cowger and lived in Randolph County, near Blue Springs, at what is commonly known as Cowger Mill. Her husband operated a water mill on the head waters of Elk River for many years. She died in 1922.

**Arthur C.**, was born November 3, 1839. He married Mary Dyer, and lived on Williams River, twelve miles southwest of Webster Springs. He taught school for some time, and engaged in farming. In 1865, he was elected assessor of Webster County, being the first officer to serve in that capacity in the county. He owned a fine farm and an orchard of the choicest fruit trees. He died November 18, 1896. He is buried near his home. He had one son and three daughters—Rachael, Annie, Martha and Luther.

**George D.**, was born September 18, 1841. He married Anna Strong, and lived near Baltimore Run on Elk River. He engaged in farming. He was the father of

four sons and three daughters. He died in 1906. His children were—Frank, Henry, Harrison, Robert, Naomi, Rebecca and Levey.

**Jane**, was born September 26, 1845. She married Addison Sycafoose and lived at Upper Elk, fifteen miles above Webster Springs in Webster County. She died in 1926, and is buried in the private cemetery near her home. Her children were—Jasper, Franklin, Newton, and Martha.

**Benjamin Franklin**, was born June 20, 1843. He married Martha Jane Hamrick, and built his home on Point Mountain where he cleared a large farm. He helped to build the first church erected in that community, and was the first classleader of the Point Mountain church organization. He died in 1895 and is buried in the Point Mountain Church Cemetery. He was the father of four sons and three daughters—Anzina, Susan, Ballard S., Dolliver, Lucresia Olive, Tamblyn, and Parker Moore. Ballard S., is a Methodist minister in West Virginia. Dolliver, formerly City Clerk of Clarksburg, West Virginia, now lives in New York state. Tamblyn is a teacher. He, and his brother, Parker Moore, are veterans of the World War.

**Elizabeth**, was born June 16, 1847. She married William Gregory Hamrick and resided on Point Mountain nine miles above Webster Springs. She was the mother of the late Charles Elliott Hamrick. She died in 1879, and is buried in the private cemetery near her Point Mountain home. (See William Gregory Hamrick).

**Moore**, was born April 15, 1849.\* He married Susan Ham-

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\* Died Nov. 13, 1938 during the publication of this book. See "Tribute" in the appendix.



**The four sons of Benjamin Franklin Hamrick**

rick, and built his home on Point Mountain in Webster County, about 1878. He has a fine farm all of which he cleared of forest. It is on a part of this farm that the Hamrick Reunion is held annually. Mr. Hamrick was postmaster of the Waneta, West Virginia post office for twenty-two years. He is the father of five children—Fleming S., Louie, Talbott, Abbie and Farmer. Far-

mer is a veteran of the World War, having been wounded twice while in France, but served throughout the war. Fleming S., a carpenter and undertaker, died in 1934.

**Margaret**, was born August 27, 1851. She married Levi Skidmore and resided in Braxton County. She was the mother of four children—Charles, Hanson, Phoebe and Ida Mae.

**Adam Dolliver**, was born January 9, 1854. He lived with his father, James M. Hamrick, until the latter's death in 1890. He married in November of the year his father died, and built his home on a farm adjoining that of his father's farm. He engaged in farming. For many years he was active in the Farm Bureau of Webster County, having served as a director of that organization. His wife, Margaret Ellen Hamrick, is the daughter of Peter and Nancy Gregory Hamrick.

Adam Dolliver Hamrick and Margaret Ellen Hamrick are the parents of seven children, two having died in infancy. Rebecca Viola, Mayme Herbert, Otha Huling, Portia Jane, and Franklin Moore. Rebecca Viola, and Portia Jane, are teachers residing in Huntington; Otha Huling, is a veteran of the World War, and lives with his mother and father; Franklin Moore, formerly a teacher, also resides in Huntington.

**Sampson Ballard**, was born May 25, 1860. He married Abbigail Townsend, about the year 1886, and built his home on a part of his father's farm on the Elk River in Webster County, where he resided his entire life. In 1880, he entered the teaching profession and taught school in Webster County. He then engaged in farming and lumbering. He maintained a small sawmill and

gristmill near his home, and for a number of years kept a country store. Early in life he qualified to practice law but never pursued the profession. In 1922, he was elected Commissioner of the County Court of Webster County, and served a term of six years. He succeeded his father as postmaster of the Bernardstown postoffice, and maintained that office for forty years. The postoffice was in his home. Mr. Hamrick was a devout Christian and was the leader of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Class for more than thirty-five years. In this leadership he was widely known and loved. Cheerful, friendly and charitable, his friends were legion.

Abbigal Townsend Hamrick, died in 1930. He then married Lina Hogan Fisher. He died July 9, 1934. His death was mourned by the people of the entire county where he lived. His children are—Clarence, Grace, Gay, Effie, Ruth, and Martha Katherine. The last named is the only daughter by the second marriage.

**Phoebe Ann**, was born September 5, 1863. She married Jacob Hamrick and resided on Point Mountain in Randolph County, at what is known as the Flint Place. Here her husband kept hotel for several years. In 1900, she moved to Mingo, Randolph County, where she resides at the present time. She is the mother of two sons and one daughter—Darius, Mintie, and Arden.

**Rebecca**, born October 20, 1865, married John Dodrill, son of Addison and Elmira Gregory Dodrill. She lived twelve miles above Webster Springs on Elk River, at Bergoo Creek, until 1916, at which time she moved to Webster Springs. She died in 1934.

Mrs. Dodrill was the mother of six sons—Roscoe, who died while young; Sampson Dolliver, who was killed in the World War. He was wounded in battle, and died before reaching a base hospital in France. He is buried in France. Walker, died in the service of the United States at Camp Lee, Virginia. Rucker, a veteran of the World War resides in Webster Springs. Forest, a physician and surgeon, resides in Detroit, Michigan. Hobert, a teacher, lives in Webster County.

### **Sarah R. Hamrick**

Sarah R. Hamrick was born January 21, 1820. She married George W. K. Miller, and resided on Back Fork River near Webster Springs, in Webster County. She was the mother of three sons and three daughters—Alfred, Marion, Jane, Nancy, Alex and Melvina.

**Alfred**, married Ellen Hamrick, daughter of Isaac and Margaret Griffin Hamrick, and lived with his mother and father.

**Marion**, married Rebecca Cogar, and resided four miles above Webster Springs, in the valley of the Back Fork River. He was an aggressive farmer and orchardist. Mr. Miller was married twice. His children by the first marriage are—Florence, Carrie, Mary, Laura, Julia, and George Heaston. After the death of Rebecca Cogar Miller, Mr. Miller married Margaret Cogar. His children by this marriage are—Martha and Emma.

**Alex**, married Eva Cogar and resided at Webster Springs. He was the father of four daughters, all of whom are living at the present time (1938). Lenora (Mrs. S. P. Allen), and Margarite (Mrs. W. L. Woodell), both of Webster Springs. Mrs. Evelyn Curry, and Mrs. Nina Lyons, reside in Kentucky.

**Jane**, married Addison Miller, and resided on Gauley River near Beaver Run.

**Nancy**, married John C. Payne, and resided on the Elk River at what is now the village of Elkhorn, in Webster County.

**Melvina**, never married.

### **Jane Hamrick**

Jane Hamrick was born in 1832. She married Robert Dodrill and lived at the old home place of her father, her entire lifetime. She died in 1909. She had no children.

### **Christopher M. Hamrick**

Christopher M. Hamrick was born July 15, 1824. In 1844, he married Eva Gregory, daughter of Joseph and Mary Miller Gregory. He built his home on the south side of Elk River six miles above Webster Springs in Webster County. His chief occupation was farming. He died in 1882. He was the father of six sons and five daughters—Vincent, Judson, Thornton, Martin, Bernard, Meletis, Julia, Katherine, Caroline, Lena, and Francena. **Vincent**, married Margaret Dodrill, daughter of George and Levicy Given Dodrill, and resided his entire lifetime on the home place of his father in Webster County. His principal occupation was farming. In the period of the Civil War, he joined the troops of the Confederacy, and served two years. He was elected Justice of the Peace of Fork Lick District in 1888, and was re-elected each succeeding term thereafter, except one, until his death in 1921. His children are—Emma, Ellen, Julia, Acatee, Levicy, Robert Hampton, and Martin Elliott. Robert Hampton, was elected Assessor of Webster County in 1924. He died during the term of office.

Martin Elliott, is a member of the faculty of Frostburg College, in the state of Maryland.

**Judson**, married Jane Dodrill and resided on the south side of Elk River, six miles above Webster Springs, where he engaged in farming. He died in 1919. He was the father of two sons and two daughters—James, Samuel, Malinda, and Delilah.

**Thornton**, married Francena Cogar, and went to Alderson, West Virginia, where he lived until 1907. He then removed to Webster County where he resided until his death in 1924.

**Martin**, married Susan Dyer. He was a lumberman and contractor and spent most of his life in that work. During the Civil War, he joined the Confederate Army and spent about two years in that service. He was the father of two daughters—Sarah, and Eva Jane.

**Bernard**, married Francena Miller and resided in Webster County. He died in 1931 and is buried in Meadowland Cemetery at Bergoo, West Virginia.

**Meletis**, married Pricilla Conrad, and resided in Webster County. He later moved west to the State of California.

**Julia**, never married. She resides with her sister, Mrs. Lena Dodrill.

**Katherine**, married James Knapp, and resided in Nicholas County.

**Caroline**, married John R. Baughman, and resided at Cherry Knob in Webster County. Her children are—Albert, Meletis, and Clementine.

**Lena**, resides at Bergoo, West Virginia. Her husband, Henry M. Dodrill, was a son of George and Levicy Given Dodrill. He served as a member of the Board of Education of Fork Lick District for a term of six years.



He was classleader of the Leatherwood Methodist Church organization for more than thirty years.

**Francena**, married Samuel Gregory Dodrill, son of George and Levicey Given Dodrill, and has for a number of years resided on a farm one mile below Bergoo, West Virginia. She formerly lived at Cooperwood Run the place of the Indian Camp prior to the pioneer settlements. Her children, Lena, Lillian, Phoenia, Vincent, R. Moore, and Henry, all reside in Webster County, except R. Moore Dodrill. He is a former principal of the Webster Springs High School, having served four years as State Secretary of Education of West Virginia.

**Anna M. Hamrick**

Anna M. Hamrick, was born October 13, 1826. She died Dec. 30, 1844. She never married.

**Mary Hamrick**

Mary Hamrick, was born August 30, 1828. She died April 6, 1834.

**Addison M. Hamrick**

Addison M. Hamrick was born September 18, 1830. He married Hanna Cogar, and resided near Webster Springs, just opposite Lover's Leap, on the south side of Elk River. He participated in the first election ever held in Webster Springs, in 1851, acting as clerk of said election. His occupation was farming. He was the father of four sons and three daughters—Julian, Cornelius, Nancy, Jane, Nelson, Alfred, and Quince.

**Julian**, married John Woods, and resided on the Back Fork River, in Webster County.

**Cornelius**, married Biddie Salisbury, and lived near Webster Springs, in Webster County.

**Nancy**, married Kyle Given, and resided in Glade District, in Webster County.

**Jane**, married Samuel Given, and lived in Glade District.

**Nelson**, married Crosby Hunt.

**Alfred**, married Anna Barker.

**Quince**, never married.

#### **Margaret Elliott Hamrick**

Margaret Elliott Hamrick, was born April 25, 1832. In 1853, she married Henry C. Moore, and resided on Point Mountain in Webster County until 1863, when she moved west to the state of Iowa. She had two sons and three daughters—Frank, Nimrod, Julia, Nancy and Mary. The writer is unable to give the names of the persons these descendants married. They live in the states of California, Illinois and Iowa.

## **WILLIAM HAMRICK**

William Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, was born in Greenbrier County Virginia, now West Virginia, in 1789. He was four years of age at the time of the alarm of an intended Indian Raid on the settlements of Greenbrier County, and was carried on that memorable journey of more than one hundred miles through the forest to Fort Donnally, by Jack McMillian.

### **Pioneer**

When William Hamrick was twenty-three years of age, he built his home on the north side of Elk River, in what is now Webster County, West Virginia, five miles above Webster Springs, then called Fork Lick. That section of what is now West Virginia was a wilderness, without highways through the forest, and without bridges over any of the many streams. He married Jeanette (Jennie) Gregory (1796-1873), daughter of Col. Isaac, and Sarah Given Gregory, May 14, 1813.

### **War of 1812**

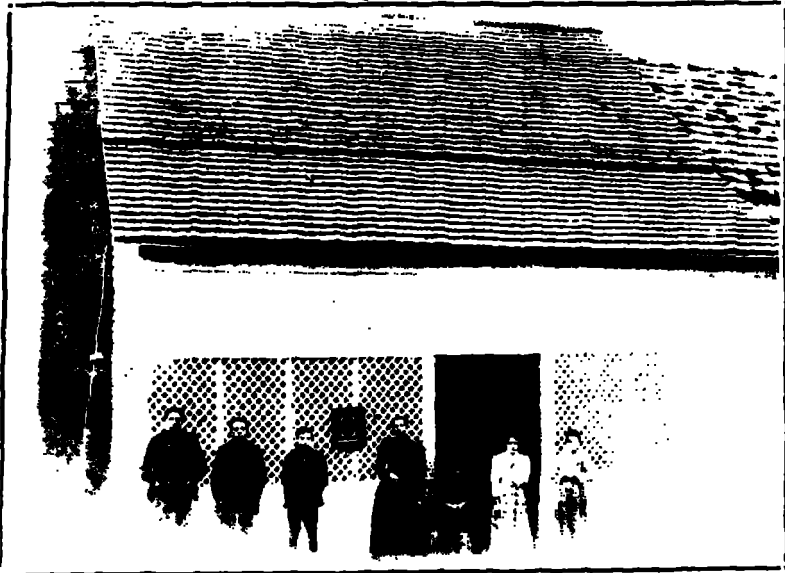
In 1814, William Hamrick enlisted in the war against Great Britain and went with his brother, Benjamin, to Norfolk, Virginia, where he served in Captain Wamsley's regiment until his discharge December 15, 1814.

### **Noted Hunter**

William Hamrick was a celebrated hunter. He always kept a pack of well trained dogs for the chase. He knew the favorite haunts of the animals that roamed the woods in abundance. His hunting explorations were always suc-

cessful. He frequently killed one hundred deer and fifty bear in one season. To the amusement of his many friends he enjoyed relating the exciting anecdotes of the chase.

The meat of the animals made excellent food, and the hides and furs were used in the making of clothing for



**Pioneer Home of William Hamrick the noted hunter, built in 1813**

the family. There was little if any commerce in Western Virginia, prior to 1850. The nearest trading post was New Market, Virginia, a distance of four hundred fifty miles. Hides and furs were sold there. Later, a trading post was established at what is now Lewisburg, West Virginia, a distance of one hundred fifty miles from Webster County.

### **First School House in Webster County**

In 1835, William and Benjamin Hamrick and James Dodrill, built the first schoolhouse erected in Webster County, and hired the teacher, Benoni Griffin, for a term of three months. The school building made of logs stood on the north side of Elk River, near the mouth of Wolf Pen Run. William Hamrick participated in the movement in 1841, to have a new county formed from Randolph, Nicholas, and Pocahontas counties. As a result Webster County was created by act of the General Assembly of Virginia, January 10, 1860.

### **Died in Nicholas County**

While on business in Nicholas County, about the year 1850, William Hamrick died suddenly, and the body was not returned to the home in Webster County for burial. He is buried in Nicholas County on the farm formerly owned by a Mr. Robinson. He was the father of four sons and seven daughters—Nancy, Isaac, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Rebecca, Adam, Rachael, Benjamin, Isabel, and William G. A short sketch will be given of each in the order named.

### **Nancy Hamrick**

Nancy Hamrick, born March 17, 1815, married Benoni Griffin in 1834. She lived in Pocahontas County until 1852, when she moved to Wainville in Webster County. In 1862, she moved to Salem, Harrison County, where she was living at the time of her death. She was the mother of twelve children: Jane, William H., Isaac H., Rachael C., Charles R., George C., Elizabeth R., Jona-

than S., Newton J., Mary E., Valinda S., and Matthew W. **Jane**, died at the age of 24 years unmarried.

**William H.**, died at the age of eighteen years unmarried.

**Isaac H.**, married Mary S. Lynch, of Webster County.

After the death of Mary Lynch Griffin, he married Diana M. Galbert of Harrison County. He was a soldier in the Union Army, Company E, 3rd. West Virginia Cavalry. He served in the West Virginia State Legislature in 1871, representing both Webster and Pocahontas counties. He took the first census of Webster County in 1870.

**Rachael C.**, died at the age of two years.

**Charles R.**, died at the age of eighteen years.

**George C.**, a soldier in the Union Army, Company E, third West Virginia Cavalry, was killed at the battle of Rocky Gap, in 1863. He never married.

**Elizabeth R.**, never married.

**Jonathan S.**, never married.

**Newton J.**, married Jane Haskins.

**Mary E.**, died at the age of seventeen years unmarried.

**Valinda S.**, married Susan Haskins.

**Matthew W.**, married a Miss Elliott.

### Isaac Hamrick

Isaac Hamrick was born May 9, 1818. He married Margaret Griffin, daughter of Jonathan and Rachael Sharp Griffin, and lived on Point Mountain, four miles above Webster Springs, in Webster County. He is buried in a private cemetery near the Pleasant Grove Church. His wife who died at the age of 93 years, is buried beside him. He was the father of four sons and two daughters—Jonathan, Levi, Nathan, Mildred, Ellen and Andrew.

**Jonathan**, married Rebecca Jane Hamrick, daughter of Peter and Nancy Gregory Hamrick, and resided on the farm of his father on Point Mountain, four miles above Webster Springs in Webster County. In 1909 he moved to Saint Petersburg, Florida, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was the father of ten children: Florence, Martha, Serdelia, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, Hays, Lettie, Isaiah, and Cassie.

**Levi**, married Almarinda Cogar, daughter of George Cogar, and resided near the home of his father in Webster County. He was the father of three children: Coski, Benson, Elick. They reside in Webster County.

**Nathan**, married Isabel Harrah and resided in Greenbrier County.

**Mildred**, married Robert A. Lilly, of Randolph County and resided in Barbour County, West Virginia. She died in 1937 at the age of 87 years. Her husband, a policeman, was killed while on duty in 1901.

**Ellen**, married Alfred R. Miller, and resided on the Back Fork of Elk River, in Webster County.

**Andrew**, died while young, unmarried.

### **Sarah Hamrick**

Sarah Hamrick, born June 16, 1820, married William Benjamin Dodrill, son of John and Margaret Lewis Dodrill. They moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1874, where they made their home. Both are buried at Prairie Home, Nebraska. Sarah Hamrick Dodrill was the mother of nine children—James Chambers, Savina, John W., Jennie, Rebecca, George, Benjamin, Isaac, and Nannie.

**James Chambers**, was born January 10, 1846. He married Mariah Hamrick, and resided for a number of years in

Nebraska and Kansas, then moved to McLoud, Okla., where Mrs. Dodrill resides at the present time. Mr. Dodrill died in 1908.

**Savina**, married Thomas Smith.

**John W.**, married Leah Culver. He later married Mollie Moore and lived at Whittier, California.

**Jennie**, married Seth Mastin and resided at LeFeria, Cameron County, Texas.

**Rebecca**, married Charles Jackson and lived at Whittier, California.

**George**, married George Bollen.

**Benjamin**, married Nan Simmons.

**Isaac**, married Emma Northrup and resided at Stockton, Kansas.

**Nannie**, married Arch Vanney, and resided at Waverly, Nebraska.

#### **Elizabeth Hamrick**

Elizabeth Hamrick, born August 2, 1822, married James Cogar and resided on the Gauley Mountain between Leatherwood and Gauley River in Webster County. She was the mother of two sons and four daughters—Margaret Jane, Melcina, David, Naomi, Martha and William.

**Margaret Jane**, married Marion Miller and resided on Back Fork River, four miles above Webster Springs.

**Melcina**, married Thornton Hamrick and resided in Summers County, West Virginia.

**David**, married Nancy Gregory, only daughter of Currence and Harriett Payne Gregory. He resided on the farm of his father on Gauley Mountain.

**Naomi**, married George Gregory, and resided on Mill Run in Webster County.



**Martha**, married Homer Davis.

**William**, married Margaret Payne and resided on Gauley Mountain.

### **Mary Hamrick**

Mary Hamrick, was born September 28, 1825. She married William Dodrill, son of James and Elizabeth Gregory Dodrill, and resided on Elk River about three miles above Webster Springs, opposite the town of Barton, West Virginia. She was the mother of four children—Bennett, Elizabeth, Jane and Nancy.

**Bennett**, married Harriett Gregory, and resided on the farm where his father had lived, until 1916, when he moved to Webster Springs where he resided at the time of his death in 1931. He was the father of eight children—Ira, Nettie, Ella, Ora, Mary, Jennings, Leah and Rufus M. The last named is a minister in the Baptist Conference, and is now in that work at Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Elizabeth**, married Charles Bourne of Calhoun County. She resides in Webster County, four miles above Webster Springs. Her husband was the local mail carrier in the Elk Valley, between Webster Springs, and Samp, West Virginia, for a period of almost twenty years. Three round trips were made between the two points each week. The distance covered each trip was forty miles. The mail was transported on horseback. Mr. Bourne died in 1936. The children of the family are—Clayton, Oliver, Mary, Richard, Edgar, Mellie, Rosa, and Earle.

**Jane**, married John Gregory, and resided on Point Mountain in Webster County. Her children were—Lida,

Frank, Mary, Hinkle, Isaac, Bennett, Harriett and Morgan.

**Nancy**, married Henry Miller, son of Robert Miller and resided three miles above Webster Springs, in Webster County. Two of her children, Ona and Lona, reside in Webster County; Renick resides in Maryland; Isaac died in young manhood.

### Rebecca Hamrick

Rebecca Hamrick was born July 7, 1827. She married James Walton Dodrill and resided on Birch River in Nicholas County. She possessed an excellent memory and having lived in the pioneer and Civil War Period of the history of West Virginia, her knowledge of historical facts and events was unbounded.

She was the mother of thirteen children. Two children died in infancy. Her children that grew to manhood and womanhood were—Margaret Jane, Sarah Ann, Martin, Melvina, Isabel, John N., William Christian, Elizabeth, Addie, Nannie and James Rush.

**Margaret Jane**, married John Hamrick, and lived on Gauley River at the mouth of Turkey Creek, in Webster County.

**Sarah Ann**, married Cyrus Newman Dyer, on December 25, 1875, and resided at Beaver Run, in Webster County. She died in 1919. She was the mother of eleven children, two of whom died in infancy. The nine children that grew to manhood and womanhood were—Bettie, Luther L., John R., Jennie, Flossie, James Morgan, Martin Homer, Nannie, and Newman H. Luther L. Dyer and John R. Dyer are lawyers, and live in Webster County. Newman H. Dyer is a physician.



Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill, daughter of William Hamrick, the pioneer, and mother of William Christian Dodrill, the author of "Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints."

**Martin**, married Mary L. Baughman, of Nicholas County, and resided all of his life on his farm on Mill Creek in Nicholas County. His children are—J. Bernard, Samuel S., Dayton, Lucy, Newman V., Ira E., Daisy A.,

and Nannie A. J. Bernard Dodrill is a physician, and Samuel S. Dodrill is a dentist.

**Melvina**, married John Frame. She resided on Anthony's Creek in Nicholas County. The children of this union were—Lee, Sarah, Pat, Jeanette, Wade, Ray, Martin, Exy and Lilly.

**Isabel**, married Hanson Pierson of Braxton County. They moved to Woodstock, Illinois. The children of this union were—James, John, George, Homer, Rebecca, William, Mary and Myrtle.

**John N.**, married Jeanette McClung of Hookersville, West Virginia, and resided near Birch River, in Nicholas County. His children are—Ward, James, Cora, and Dewey.

**William Christian**, naturalist, ornithologist, author and educator, was born on Birch River, Nicholas County, September 7, 1860. As a boy he worked on the farm, and at the age of twenty-one years entered the teaching profession in his native county. In 1895, he came to Webster County, where he taught school for almost thirty years, having taught his first Training School for teachers at Haynes, in 1890.

During his teaching career he was principal of the Camden Public Schools, the Webster Springs Public Schools, and a teacher in the Webster Springs Normal School. He was recognized by all as the leader in his profession in Webster County, and was known by every boy and girl throughout the county.

He made a special study of animal, fish and bird life. He was an expert fisherman. A student of the great school of nature, he spent much time along the beautiful streams of Webster and Nicholas counties, angling for trout or listening for the call of his favorite song-

ster among the many beautiful birds that visit or inhabit those localities. He knew every bird by color, song or place of nesting, that visits or inhabits Webster County, and the exact season of its coming.

William Christian Dodrill possessed an excellent memory. His mother, Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill, had learned from her father, William Hamrick, the pioneer, the story of hardships and privations of the early settlers in Webster County. This she related to her son together with the stories of heroism and tragedies of which she had personal recollection. Interested in state and national history, he not only made a mental note of the many things his mother told him, but frequently wrote and published through the county press articles of special interest to the citizens of Webster County. In 1915, he compiled his notes and press articles, and published them under the title "Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints," a story of pioneer days in Webster County, together with a short family history of many of the early settlers. This book, containing almost three hundred pages, is a living monument to his memory.

He died in 1921. He is buried in the cemetery near his old home on Birch River in Nicholas County.

**Elizabeth**, married Joseph Thomas Davis, of Webster County. She resided in Glade District, Webster County. The children of this union are—Prudence, Verdie, James Dorr, William Olan, and Ardela.

**Nannie**, married Isaac L. Gregory. She resides at Mill Run in Webster County. Her husband, a blacksmith and farmer, is the son of Currence and Harriett Payne Gregory. Nannie Dodrill Gregory is the mother of five

children. One died in infancy. The following grew to manhood—J. Roy, Okey, Ardie W., and Olen.

**Addie**, never married.

**James Rush**, married Mandy Ashley of Nicholas County.

His children are—James, Sylvester, Arden, Sherman, Rebecca, Dewey and Louise.

### **Adam G. Hamrick**

Adam G. Hamrick was born September 4, 1829. In 1850 he married Rebecca Mollohan (1827-1862), and lived at the home of his father five miles above Webster Springs in Webster County. In 1862, he moved his family to Randolph County to reside for the period of the Civil War. During the sojourn in Randolph County, Mrs. Hamrick died. She was buried in Randolph County. One son and five daughters were born to this union—Martha Jane, Lucinda, Susan, Luverna, Emma Ellen (1859-1862), and James Lee.

Mr. Hamrick was elected Justice of the Peace of Fork Lick District, Webster County in 1865, and served for a term of four years. In 1864, he married Elizabeth Hamrick (1843-1934), and to this union three sons and eight daughters were born—Naomi, Emma, Harriett, Nancy (1871-1890), Rebecca, Mary, Wallace, Willis, Watson, Margaret Diana, and Almarinda (1889-1890).

**Martha Jane**, was born August 25, 1851. She died in 1904.

She married Benjamin Franklin Hamrick, of whom a complete sketch has been given.

**Lucinda**, was born August 25, 1853. She married Adam G. Hamrick, son of Peter and Nancy Gregory Hamrick.

**Susan**, was born May 14, 1856. She died in 1924. She

married Moore Hamrick, and resided on Point Mountain, in Webster County.

**Luverna**, was born March 15, 1858. She married Adam Hinkle Hamrick, son of John and Jane Gregory Hamrick. A sketch is given in another part of this history.

**James Lee**, was born January 14, 1862. He married Harriett Payne, and for a number of years resided on Red



**Squire Adam Hamrick, son of William Hamrick the noted hunter**

Oak Knob. Later he moved to Grassy Creek where he spent the remainder of his life. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

**Naomi**, was born October 4, 1865. She married George Payne, and resided near Webster Springs in Webster County.

**Harriett**, was born July 18, 1869. She married Creed Rigglesman, and lived in Randolph County.

**Emma**, was born June 15, 1867. She married Alfred M. Payne, in 1885. She resided in Webster Springs, Webster County. She served as postmaster in Webster Springs for a number of years. She died February 21, 1937. Her children are—Ida, Sherman, Orlando, and Roy.

**Rebecca**, was born April 4, 1875. She married Theodore Gregory and resided near Webster Springs in Webster County. She was the mother of one son and one daughter—Lee and Masie.

**Mary**, born December 22, 1874, married E. H. Gillespie. She resides in Webster Springs, Webster County. Her children are two sons—Clarence and Marston.

**Wallace**, born October 27, 1876, married Nancy Gregory, daughter of A. Hinkle and Rhoeue Gregory. He resides on Grassy Creek, near Kovan, West Virginia.

**Willis**, born January 4, 1879, married Etta Gregory. He resides on Point Mountain, in Webster County.

**Watson**, born March 12, 1881, married Harriett Gregory. He resides at what was formerly the home of his father, and the pioneer home of his grandfather. His children are—Eskridge, Mary and Elbert.



**Margaret Diana**, born May 3, 1884, married Calvin Brady. She resides at Laurel Fork, Webster County, West Virginia. She is the proud possessor of the historic Bible which belonged to her grandfather, William Hamrick. It contains the Family Record.

#### **Rachael Hamrick**

Rachael Hamrick, born February 27, 1832, married Arthur Bickel. She resided four miles above Webster Springs, near the present location of the Pleasant Grove Church. Following the Civil War, she moved west, and the writer is unable to give the names of her descendants.

#### **Benjamin Hamrick**

Benjamin Hamrick was born May 11, 1834. On January 1, 1856, he married Naomi Mollohan, oldest daughter of George D. Mollohan of Braxton County. He resided at Leatherwood in Webster County, where he engaged in the mercantile business, farming and live stock raising for a number of years. He then retired and moved to Webster Springs where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of great industry, an ardent and loyal church member and a loved and respected citizen. He died in 1906. He is buried in the Hamrick Cemetery at Webster Springs. This cemetery was given to the public by him before his death. His family, consisting of fourteen children, is one of the largest and most prominent in Webster County. Arnold M., Isaac P., Adam J., William Grant, Felix D., Eli C. (Rimfire), Diana, George F., Mary M., Jane, Simpson, Ellis, Mariah, and Rebecca.

**Mariah**, married James Chambers Dodrill and moved to Nebraska, then to Kansas. Later she removed to Mc-

Loud, Oklahoma, where she resides at the present time.

**Arnold M.**, married Angeline Dodrill, daughter of Charles Mc. Dodrill, and resided on Point Mountain in Webster County.

**Isaac P.**, married Sarah Davis, and lived for a number of years in Webster County. He later moved to Charleston, then to Greenbrier County. He died in February, 1938.

**Adam J.**, married Melvina Miller, and resided on Leatherwood Creek, near Bergoo, West Virginia. He engaged in farming and the raising of live stock. He was active in the county Farm Bureau for several years. His home located in the valley of Leatherwood Creek, surrounded by a grove of beautiful evergreen trees, was one of the most attractive in Webster County.

After the death of Mrs. Hamrick in 1908, he married Sarah Dodrill, and after her death, he married Addie Liggett of Richie County. He died in 1935, and is buried in the Meadowland Cemetery, near Bergoo. His children—Benson, Cecil, Flossie, Elsie, and Rettie, live in Webster and Randolph counties.

**Diana**, married A. Harmon Gregory and resided near Mill Run in Webster County. She was the mother of two daughters and four sons—Levi, Orlando, Freeman, Noah, Alice, and Virgie.

**William Grant**, married Katherine Hamrick and resided on Red Oak Knob in Webster County. He later moved to Bergoo where he engaged in the mercantile business. While living there he married Elizabeth Baldwin. He is a skillful hunter and is familiar with the geographical location of all the hills and streams in

Webster County. He is a noted bear hunter and has killed bear in Webster County quite recently. He has spent some time in the west where he owns a large ranch. He resides in Webster Springs at the present time. He married Miss Luna Ward of Nicholas County in 1927.

**Eli** (Rimfire), married Zella Cogar. He resides in Webster County.

**Jane**, married Nathan Hamrick and lived for several years at Red Oak Knob in Webster County. She moved to Webster Springs in 1909. She was the mother of three sons and three daughters. Mrs. Hamrick died in October, 1937. Her children are—Everett, May, Olive, Rhoda, Simpson, and Raymond.

**Simpson**, formerly a teacher, married Mattie Longmire, of Oklahoma. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan College graduating in the class of June, 1901. He entered the ministry, and has served thirty years in that work. His field of service includes, in addition to the West Virginia Conference, the Oklahoma Conference and the Oregon Conference. He is retired at the present time and resides near Salem, Oregon.

**Rebecca**, married Cameron Beale. She has lived for several years in Pocahontas County. Mr. Beale died in 1936.

**Felix**, married Etta Miller. He is a farmer and dairyman. He lives at Rodney, Ohio.

**Ellis R.**, was born at Bergoo, Webster County, West Virginia, March 13, 1879. He was educated in the public schools of Webster County, and West Virginia Wesleyan College. He was of impressive physique, being six feet, six inches tall. The State of West Virginia

selected him as its model for the statue located on the capitol grounds at Charleston, personifying the typical mountaineer.

In 1901, Mr. Hamrick engaged in the crude oil industry and for ten years served as General Field Superintendent for the Ohio Fuel Oil Company. He resigned in 1918, and moved to Gallia County, Ohio, near Gallipolis. In 1928, he was elected to the General Assembly of Ohio, and served in the 88th General Assembly for the years 1929 and 1930. Interested in local, farm and civic organizations, he effected legislation pertaining to distribution of gasoline tax to townships; the organization of Farm Bureaus and co-operative marketing among the farmers.

Mr. Hamrick married Georgianna Ambler, daughter of Lutellis and Rebecca Wells Ambler of Saint Marys, West Virginia.

He died July 26, 1932, at Charleston, West Virginia. He is buried at Rodney, Ohio.

**George F.**, was born in Webster County, West Virginia, July 15, 1882. He received his early education in the free schools of Webster County, and West Virginia Wesleyan College, at Buckhannon. In 1907, he married Frazie Morton of Braxton County and took up his residence in Webster Springs, where he was employed as a clerk in one of the principal department stores of the town.

Finding the work to his liking he entered the mercantile business independently in 1912, operating a large department store in Webster Springs. In this occupation he was very successful. He also engaged

in the work of the only undertaking and embalming establishment in Webster County at that time.

Mr. Hamrick was a shrewd business man and a diligent and industrious worker. He possessed the rare quality of associating friendship and kindness in business, and thus became the friend of all with whom he came in contact. He died in March 1919. His un-



George F. Hamrick

timely passing was a shock to the entire community. He had two daughters—Hope and Ethel.

**Mary M.**, a teacher was educated in the public schools of Webster County and West Virginia Wesleyan College. She resides in Clarksburg, Harrison County, where she has taught school for several years. She never married.

### Isabel Hamrick

Isabel Hamrick, was born June 9, 1836. She married George Martin Dodrill, son of John and Margaret Lewis Dodrill, and resided on Popular Run in Nicholas County. She was the mother of nine children—James Walton, William H., Rebecca, Maggie, Agnes Jane, Mary, John F., Martha and Luther.

**James Walton**, married Jennie Hoover of Nicholas County. His children are—Bell, Homer, George, John, Rose, Lilly, Tebitha, and Walter.

**William H.**, married Emma Pierson of Braxton County, and to this union one daughter was born—Mollie Pierson.

He later married Mattie Hanna of Webster County, and to this union, the following children were born—Roxy, Lemon, Carl D., Velmer, Madge, Martin, and Shirley.

**Rebecca**, married William Boggs, of Webster County. The children of this union are—Martin, Edgar, and Lulu. Rebecca Dodrill Boggs, later married Charles Harris of Braxton County. Her children by this marriage are—Harry and Earle.

**Maggie**, married Thomas Duffield of Braxton County. Her children are—Belle and George.

**Agnes Jane**, married Duffy Gibson, of Braxton County. Her children are—Ruanne, James, and Homer.

**Mary**, was married three times. She first married Link Thomas of Webster County. Her children by this marriage are—Deloras, Loraine, and Roland. She later married Andy Weese, and her children by this marriage were—Cora and Patrick. Her husband by the third marriage was Jack Brewster.

**John F.**, married Rhine Pierson of Braxton County. His children are—Blaine, Orval, Ethel, Elsie, Della, Charles and John Kermit.

**Martha**, married Melvin Cobb, of Webster County. She was the mother of six children.

**Luther**, married Fannie Brown of Braxton County. He was the father of five children.

### William Gregory Hamrick

William G. Hamrick, was born June 16, 1838, in Nicholas County Virginia, now Webster County, West Virginia. He was the youngest son of William Hamrick, the pioneer and noted hunter, and his wife Jeanette Gregory Hamrick. On June 12, 1862, William G. Hamrick enlisted in the Union Army in the Second War for Independence. He served throughout the war in the Tenth West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, having engaged in the following battles: Buckhannon, Va., Beverly, West Va., Droop Mountain, Va., Leestown, Va., in 1863; Maryland Heights, Md., Snicker's Ferry, Va., Winchester, Va., Martinsburg, West Va., Berryville, Va., Fisher's Hill, Va., Cedar Creek, Va., Hatcher's Run, Va., in 1864; Petersburg, Va., Rice's Station, Va., and Appomattox, Va., in 1865.

Mr. Hamrick was wounded at Cedar Creek, Va., while acting as color bearer, but served throughout the war. He was with Grant at Appomattox, and was the proud possessor of a heart shaped piece of the apple tree under which the surrender was negotiated. This historic souvenir is now in the possession of his son, Blaine, who lives at Clarksburg, West Virginia. He was discharged at Richmond, Virginia, June 25, 1865.

William G. Hamrick returned to Webster County, and built his home in the Point Mountain Community. In 1867, he married Elizabeth Hamrick. He was elected Collector of Revenue of the District, Randolph, Pocahontas and Webster counties, in 1868, and served ten years. He assisted in building the Point Mountain Church, the first church house in that community. He was classleader of the Pleasant Grove Church Class for several years.

The children of William G. and Elizabeth Hamrick are—Mary A., Josephine, Viola, James, Charles Elliott, and Wade. Elizabeth Hamrick died in 1879, and was buried near the old home on Point Mountain. After her death he married Rebecca Hamrick, and to this union five children were born—Stella, Blaine, Stephen, Benjamin and Ada.

**Mary A.**, married L. A. Thomas, and for a number of years resided at Erbacon, Webster County. She then moved to Richwood, Nicholas County, where she resides at the present time. Mr. Thomas died July 31, 1930.

**Josephine**, married J. E. Heckert, and resides at Weston, West Virginia.

**Viola**, married Scott Morgan, and resided near Pickens. She died in 1908, and is buried in the Morgan Cemetery near Pickens.



**James**, married Florence Miller and resided at Webster Springs. He later moved to Richwood. He is buried at Levisy, West Virginia.

**Charles Elliott**, was born June 3, 1875. He was educated in the public and select schools of Webster County. After teaching school for a number of years he entered



**Charles Elliott Hamrick**

West Virginia Conference Seminary, now West Virginia Wesleyan College, in 1899. He graduated in the Benjamin F. Martin Class in 1903. The same year he was received into the West Virginia Conference. In 1904, he was married to Ivy B. Bender, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Bender, of Chapel, West Virginia.

Mr. Hamrick served in the East Buckhannon Circuit, Buckhannon Circuit, Adamston, Fairview, Williamstown, North Street, Wheeling and Grafton. He had a strong conviction that he had been called to preach the gospel and to lead men to the feet of his Master. Quiet, unassuming, studious, thorough, systematic, faithful and loyal, he became the most outstanding pastor and evangelist in the state of West Virginia.

He was stricken with pneumonia fever while conducting a series of revival services in his church at Grafton, and died March 15, 1921. Funeral services were conducted by the District Superintendent assisted by thirty ministers. He is buried in Grafton. His children are—Hayward, a physician; Randall, a member of the faculty of Wesleyan College; and Ruth Elizabeth, a teacher in the Buckhannon High School.

**Wade**, married Louise Gerber of Denver, Colo., and lived there until his death in 1930.

**Blaine**, married Addie Hamilton, a teacher of Tyler County, West Virginia. He was educated in the public schools of Webster County, and West Virginia University. He is an attorney residing in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

**Stella**, is a teacher, having taught school in Webster and Harrison counties. She resides in Clarksburg.

**Stephen**, married Miss Holy of Pittsburgh. He died at Oakland, California, quite recently.

**Benjamin**, married Venus Davisson, and later Mae Ridnour. He resides in Quincy, Illinois. He is engaged in selling electrical equipment.

**Ada**, married Glen Claggett, and resides at Bridgeport, West Virginia. She is a graduate of the Webster Springs High School and Wesleyan College.

## DAVID HAMRICK

David Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, was born in Greenbrier County, Virginia, now West Virginia. He married Elizabeth Miller, and moved to the Upper Elk section of what is now Webster County, and built his home near Whittaker Falls, about the year 1820. He was a pioneer in that locality and the large house he built overlooking the Elk River was made of logs from the surrounding forest, the place being a dense wilderness. This log house had a large stone chimney at one end, the smoke conductor for a large open fireplace. David Hamrick was the father of sixteen children, nine sons and seven daughters. One son, Franklin, died at the age of twenty-one years, unmarried. The others are—James, Peter, John, Benjamin, William, Levi, David, George, Anna, Nancy, Margaret, Rebecca, Jane, Francina, and Elizabeth.

### James Hamrick

James Hamrick married Jane Miller, and resided at Upper Elk near the home of his father. To this union six children were born—Julia, Thomas, Peter, Robert, Kanzada, and Elizabeth. Kanzada died in infancy. After the death of Jane Miller Hamrick, James Hamrick married Mary Sycamore. To this union six children were born—Minerva, Asa, Melvina, Phoebe, Isaac, and Jonathan. Isaac died in infancy. After the death of his second wife he married Rebecca Baughman. Four children were born to this union—David, Martha, Patrick, and Elizabeth.

Julia, married George Wolverton and lived in Webster County.

**Thomas M.**, was born July 29, 1849. In 1872, he wedded Jane Baughman, daughter of David and Mattie Baughman, and resided in Webster County, near Bergoo. He was the father of ten children—Jackson, Asa, Hanson, James M., Lee, Sidney, Adam, Verdin, Martin and Selestie. Mr. Hamrick died April 1, 1937.

**Peter**, married Jane Cutlip, and lived at Upper Elk in Webster County.

**Robert**, married Martha Louke.

**Elizabeth**, married Matthew Kelly, and resided near Philippi in Barbour County.

**Minerva**, married Adam T. Dodrill, and resided in Webster County.

**Asa**, married Rebecca Jane Dodrill.

**Melvina**, married John Daff.

**Phoebe**, married Sanford Hamrick.

**Jonathan**, married Ellen Ware.

**David**, married Cora Dodrill, and resides at Bergoo Creek in Webster County.

**Martha**, married John Baughman, and resided at Laurel Bank in Pocahontas County.

**Patrick**, married Myrtie Hamrick, and resides in Webster County. His children are—Arthur, Virgil, Odie, Marvin, and Freeman.

**Elizabeth**, married Heaston Dodrill.

### **Peter Hamrick**

Peter Hamrick was born in 1821. He married Nancy Gregory, daughter of Adam and Rebecca Dodrill Gregory. He built his home in the Upper Elk community

about the year 1850. He was an aggressive farmer and a successful hunter. The large log house built by him is in excellent condition today, after having been in use for more than seventy-five years.

Nancy Gregory Hamrick died in 1865. Mr. Hamrick then married Margaret Daff Hevener. The children of the first marriage are—Adam G., Isaac, Jacob, Bernard, Lee, Levi, Rebecca Jane, Martha and Margaret Ellen.

The children of the second marriage are—Harmon, Elihu, Walter S., Stoffer, Albert, Frances, Dolly, Alice, and Nettie.

Peter Hamrick died in 1903. He is buried beside his first wife in the cemetery near his home.

**Adam G.**, was born in 1849. He married Lucinda Hamrick and resided at Upper Point Mountain in Webster County, near the Randolph County line. He was a farmer and stockman. He retired about 1915, and is living with his son Baker Hamrick in Webster Springs. Mrs. Hamrick died in 1911. She is buried at Montereyville, Randolph County. The children of Adam and Lucinda Hamrick are—Roy, Baker, Grover, Sevina and Lina. The two last mentioned reside in the west. The others reside in Webster and Randolph counties.

**Isaac M.**, was born in 1854. In 1882 he married Martha J. Sharp and resided at Upper Point Mountain near Wanaeta, West Virginia. In 1893, he moved his family to the west and resided in Council Grove, Kansas, where he lived until 1898. He then moved to Blackburn, Oklahoma, where he resided until his death in 1930. He was the father of six sons and six daughters—Elizabeth, Richard, Bernard, Clint, Lesta, Lennie, Nellie, Gilbert, Joseph and Imogene.

**Jacob**, married Phoebe Hamrick and resided at the "Flint Place," on Point Mountain, in Randolph County. He engaged in keeping hotel there for a number of years, after which he moved to Mingo, Randolph County, where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He died in 1926. He was the father of two sons and one daughter—Darius, Arden and Mintie.

**Bernard**, married Susie Meeks, and resided at Cloverlick in Pocahontas County. He engaged in the livestock business and marketing of fresh meats. He now lives at Cass, West Virginia.

**Lee A.**, married Manda Hanna and resided at Upper Point Mountain near Waneta, West Virginia. He engaged in farming. He also transported the United States mail from Bernardstown Postoffice on Elk River, to Waneta, West Virginia, for a number of years. Mrs. Hamrick died in 1936. The children are—Myrtie, Gertie, Rosa, Edna, Lucy and Pearle.

**Levi**, moved west to the state of Kansas at the age of sixteen. He married Jennie Riley. Subsequently, he moved to Seattle, Washington. While living in Kansas, he served as deputy United States Marshall. He is the father of eight children all of whom live in the west—Marie, Flint, Nortie, Alva, Ray, Don, Harvey, and Dora.

**Rebecca Jane**, married Jonathan Hamrick, and resided four miles above Webster Springs, near the Pleasant Grove Church. In 1910, she moved to Saint Petersburg, Florida, where she died in 1912. She is buried in Florida. She was the mother of ten children—two sons and eight daughters. (See Jonathan Hamrick).

**Martha**, married Napoleon Conrad, and resided at Mont-  
 erville. Randolph County. Her husband was a shoe-  
 maker by trade. He also engaged in farming. The chil-  
 dren of this union are—Ernest, Clayton, Nettie, Luther,  
 Eliza, Addie, Susie, Laura, Virgil and Guy.

**Margaret Ellen**, was born May 22, 1860. She remained  
 at home with her father until 1884, when she went to  
 Bridgeport, Connecticut, where she was employed  
 until 1890. She returned to West Virginia, and mar-  
 ried Adam Dolliver Hamrick, son of James M., and  
 Rebecca Dodrill Hamrick. (See Adam Dolliver Ham-  
 rick).

The children of Peter Hamrick and Margaret Daff Ham-  
 rick:

**Harmon**, married Serena Hamrick and resides at Mingo,  
 Randolph County. He is a blacksmith by occupation.

**Elihu**, married Mary Miller, daughter of Marion and  
 Rebecca Cogar Miller. He resides at Cloverlick, Poca-  
 hontas County, and is engaged in farming and livestock  
 raising.

**Walter S.**, married Lena Dodrill. He resided at the home-  
 place of his father until 1923, at which time he removed  
 to Webster Springs, where he engaged in the hotel  
 business. In 1924, he was elected Justice of the Peace  
 of Fork Lick District, Webster County, and has been  
 re-elected each succeeding term since that time. He  
 also served one term as Mayor of Webster Springs,  
 from 1932 to 1936. He was the first Chairman of the  
 committee for the organization of the Gregory-Ham-  
 rick Reunion, which held its first meeting on Point  
 Mountain in 1928. His children are—Elihu, Lelah,  
 Lettie, Eula, Avis, and Lenora.



**Stoffer**, married Rosa Rigglesman. He is a blacksmith by trade. He lives at Greenbank, Pocahontas County.

**Albert**, married Maggie Fisher, and later Ellen Dodrill.

**Frances**, married Susie Tracy, and later Susie Daff.

**Dollie**, died in young womanhood. She never married.



**Walter S. Hamrick, First Chairman of the Hamrick-  
Gregory Reunion Committee**

**Alice**, married George Fisher. She resided at Valleyhead in Randolph County.

**Nettie**, married Wade Riggleman. She resides in Randolph County.

### John Hamrick

John Hamrick, married Jane Gregory, daughter of Adam and Rebecca Dodrill Gregory and resided at Upper Elk on a farm adjoining that of his brother Peter Hamrick. His children are—Adam Hinkle, Jackson, Spencer, Nathan, Calvin, Wesley, Henry, Catherine, Tobitha, Rebecca, Nancy, Sarah, and Della.

**Adam Hinkle**, married Luverna Hamrick and built his home on Red Oak Knob, near Bergoo, West Virginia. He was suddenly killed in an accident when driving a team of horses drawing a sled, on the road between his home on Red Oak Knob, and Leatherwood, one winter morning in 1895. The sled coasted out of the road and over a precipice dragging the team and driver to their death. He is buried in Meadowland Cemetery, Bergoo, West Virginia. Mrs. Hamrick is buried beside him. His children are—Retta, Elza, Myrtle and Carrie.

**Jackson**, married Malinda Hamrick and to this union two children were born—Price and Attie. Malinda Hamrick died in 1908. He then married Nettie Hevener. He resides on Leatherwood Creek in Webster County.

**Spencer**, married Delilah Hamrick. He had one son, Calvin. Delilah Hamrick died in 1903. He then married Alice Hite. He resides in Randolph County.

**Calvin**, married Nettie Dyer, and resides in Randolph County.

**Wesley**, married Cenie Dyer. He resides in Randolph County.

**Henry**, married Portia Beatty. He resides in Greenbrier County. One son Kenneth, is a physician, at Marlinton, Pocahontas County.

**Catherine**, married Wm. G. Hamrick, and resided on Red Oak Knob in Webster County. Her children by this marriage are—Lennie and Hughling. She later married Jacob McAtee, and resides in Randolph County.

**Nathan**, married Jane Hamrick, daughter of Benjamin and Naomi Mollohan Hamrick. He resided at Red Oak Knob, Bergoo, West Virginia, until 1909, at which time he moved to Webster Springs, where he resides at the present time. He is the father of three sons and three daughters—Olive, Everett, May, Rhoda, Simpson, and Raymond.

**Tobitha**, married George Hogan. She resides in Randolph County.

**Rebecca**, married Jacob Conrad.

**Nancy**, married George Cowger.

**Sarah**, married Jacob Ware.

**Della**, married Oliver Beckwith.

### **Francina Hamrick**

Francina Hamrick, married David Cutlip, and resided at Upper Elk for a short time, then removed west to the State of Utah. Her children Emma, Ida, and Alva, moved to the west with her. No information is available at this time as to their descendants.

**Jane Hamrick**

Jane Hamrick, married Milton Conrad. She had no children. She resided for some time in Webster County, then moved west.

**Levi Hamrick**

Levi Hamrick, married Clara Wamsley, and resided in Monterville, Randolph County. His children are—Eliza, Randolph, Emma, Minnie, and Elliott.

**Eliza**, married Henry Beckwith.

**Randolph**, married Mary Hall.

**Emma**, married George Westfall.

**Minnie**, married John Hannah, and later Weymouth Conrad.

**Elliott**, married Cora Swecker. He is a merchant and resides at Monterville, Randolph County. Mrs. Hamrick died in 1937.

**Rebecca Hamrick**

Rebecca Hamrick, married Marion Dobbins, and resided near Bergoo in Webster County. She later moved to the vicinity of Diana, West Virginia. Her children were—Henry, Lee and Jane.

**Henry**, married Lucinda Clifton, and moved to Akron, Ohio, where he died quite recently.

**Lee**, married Elizabeth Hannah, and lived in the vicinity of Diana, West Virginia.

**Jane**, married Walter Cool, and resided at Diana, in Webster County.

**David Hamrick**

David Hamrick, married Fidiliah Dodrill, daughter of James and Elizabeth Gregory Dodrill. He resided at Baltimore Run in Webster County. He was the father of two sons and three daughters—Henry, Joseph, Rena, Melvina and Naomi.



David Hamrick, son of David Hamrick the pioneer,  
who settled at Whittaker Falls in 1820

**Joseph**, married Elizabeth Baldwin Workman. He was a merchant and resided at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek, in Webster County. His children are—Walter, Ella, Melvina, Roy, Homer, Coy, Walker, Lester, Nettie and Gertrude. Mr. Hamrick died in 1902.

**Rena**, married Harmon Hamrick, and resides at Mingo, Randolph County. She has no children.

**Naomi**, married Jasper Cowger, and resided in Randolph County. After the death of Mr. Cowger she married William Hogan.

**Henry**, married Diana Hamrick and resides at Chestnut Bottom Ford in Webster County. His children are—Rena, Kennedy, Homer, Charlie, Warrick, Ida, Zetta, Ina and Dorthy.

**Melvina**, married Sampson Conrad and resides in Randolph County.

### **Benjamin Hamrick**

Benjamin Hamrick was born in Randolph County, now Webster County. He married Mary (Polly) Cowger, and resided at Bergoo Creek in Webster County. He was a farmer. On February 9, 1884, when returning to his home from Webster Springs, in company with George Cowger, he met with a tragic death. At that time there was no bridge across the Elk River at the crossing three miles below Leatherwood Creek, and the horses were forced to wade the river. On the day of the tragedy Mr. Hamrick had crossed the river on his way to Webster Springs, but on his return the river had swollen to flood stage from recent rains. He was riding a fine horse accustomed to bearing its rider in deep water, and for that reason he felt no fear in attempting to cross the river,

and reach his home. Mr. Cowger was reluctant to take the risk. In order to persuade his companion to cross the river, Mr. Hamrick proposed to exchange horses with him. This was done and they proceeded. Mr. Cowger reached the shore safely mounted upon the well trained steed. About the middle of the stream the horse Mr. Hamrick was riding fell, and both horse and rider were carried downstream in the flood waters. Although search was made daily, the body was not recovered until thirteen days later, approximately one and one-half miles below the place of the tragedy. The body was found by Nathan Smith, an expert boatman. The inquest was held before Squire William Chapman, and the body was interred in Meadowland Cemetery, at Bergoo, West Virginia.

Mr. Hamrick was the father of the following children—Lewis, Phoebe, Lilly, Jerry, Conrad, Diana, Chrystenna and Patrick.

**Lewis**, married Serena Conrad, and later Melvina Fisher.

**Phoebe**, married Francis Cowger. She resides near Bergoo, West Virginia. Mr. Cowger died in May, 1938.

**Lilly**, married Elizabeth Hamrick, in 1894. He resides at Bergoo. Mrs. Hamrick died in 1937.

**Jerry**, married Maggie Ruckman.

**Conrad**, was born February 24, 1861. In 1883, he married Effie Cowger. He resided near Chestnut Bottom Ford, in Webster County. He died in 1937.

**Diana**, married Henry Hamrick and resided at Chestnut Bottom Ford. She died in 1910, and is buried at Meadowland Cemetery, Bergoo, West Virginia.

**Chrystenna**, married Albert Green and resides near Skelt, West Virginia.

**Patrick**, married Martha Sycafoose, and resides at Upper Elk.

**Anna Hamrick**

Anna Hamrick, married Washington Cutlip and resided at Upper Elk in Webster County. Her children are—David, Jane, Margaret and Nancy.

**David**, married Francina Hamrick, and later Mary Shiplett.

**Jane**, married Peter Hamrick, and resided at Upper Elk.

**Margaret**, married Adam Hamrick, of Braxton County. She died in 1936.

**Nancy**, married Jacob Louke.

**Nancy Hamrick**

Nancy Hamrick, married Robert Miller and resided on Miller Mountain, north of Webster Springs. Mr. Miller engaged in farming. He was accidentally killed during a storm while working on his farm. Nancy and Robert Miller were the parents of the following children—Thomas, Henry, David, Anna, and James.

**Thomas**, married Elizabeth Clifton.

**Henry**, married Nancy Dodrill, daughter of William and Mary Dodrill. He resided three miles above Webster Springs, in Webster County. His children are—Renick, Isaac, Ona and Lona.

**David**, married Minerva Louke.

**Anna**, married George Goff.

**James**, married Sarah Starcher.

**Margaret Hamrick**

Margaret Hamrick, married Ab Cogar and resided for a while in Webster County. During the Civil War she



moved to Upshur County, near Buckhannon, West Virginia.

**George Hamrick**

George Hamrick, married Caroline Hamrick, daughter of Seth Franklin, and Jane Young Hamrick, of Braxton County.

**William Hamrick**

William Hamrick, married Margaret Gregory and resided at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek in Webster County. To this union the following children were born—Rebecca, Mariah, Sarah, Sanford, Levi, John, George, Jackson, Nannie, and Elmira.

**Rebecca**, married Marshall Mullins.

**Mariah**, married William Green.

**Sarah**, married Jefferson Cool.

**Sanford**, married Phoebe Hamrick.

**Levi**, married Rosena Gregory.

**John**, married Rachael Baughman.

**George**, married Sarah Lynch, and later Flossie Lynch.

**Jackson**, married Rebecca Gregory.

**Nannie**, married Jerry Conrad.

**Elmira**, married Thomas Cool, and later Charles Dodrill.

**Elizabeth Hamrick**

Elizabeth Hamrick, was born March 16, 1843, at Upper Elk, Randolph County, West Virginia. She was united in marriage December 8, 1864, to Adam G. Hamrick. She died in 1934, at the age of ninety-one years, being the last survivor of the large family of David Hamrick, her father. (See Adam G. Hamrick).

## **PETER HAMRICK**

Peter Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, married Rebecca Mollohan, and settled on Birch River in Braxton County. The records of Braxton County show that he was a member of the first Grand Jury drawn in the newly created county of Braxton. The Grand Jury was organized April 11, 1836, and convened at the second term of the Circuit Court, September 12, 1836.

Peter Hamrick had three sons and eight daughters—Benjamin, George, Mary (Polly), Nancy, Jane, Mariah, Rachael, Susan, Martha, Lucinda, and Henry.

### **Benjamin Hamrick**

Benjamin Hamrick married Sarah Fulks. When the Civil War began he joined the Confederate Troops and died during the period of the war.

### **George Hamrick**

George Hamrick married Caroline McCoy. He died while in the service of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

### **Mary Hamrick**

Mary (Polly) Hamrick, married Washington Pierson.

### **Nancy Hamrick**

Nancy Hamrick married Henry Barnett.

### **Jane Hamrick**

Jane Hamrick married Arthur Dodrill, son of John and Margaret Lewis Dodrill, of Nicholas County. They resided in Webster County.

**Mariah Hamrick**

Mariah Hamrick, married Franklin Dodrill, son of John and Margaret Lewis Dodrill, of Nicholas County. They resided in Nicholas County.

**Rachael Hamrick**

Rachael Hamrick married Randolph Brown.

**Susan Hamrick**

Susan Hamrick married Burton Pierson. One daughter, Mrs. Isabel Given, resides in Sutton, West Virginia.

**Martha Hamrick**

Martha Hamrick married Jonathan Duffield.

**Lucinda Hamrick**

Lucinda Hamrick married Jasper Pierson. She died in 1936, and was the last survivor of the children of Peter Hamrick.

**Henry Hamrick**

Henry Hamrick, married Sarah J. Duffield.

## **ENOCH HAMRICK**

Enoch Hamrick, oldest son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, settled at Twin Churches, Muddelty, Nicholas County. He first married a Miss McMillian, and to this union six children were born—Joel, Absolom, Nancy, Elizabeth, Mary and Malinda. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Sisk. The children by this marriage were—William, Jane, Katherine and Eliza.

Enoch Hamrick died at the home of his daughter, Malinda Hamrick Rose, on Steer Creek, Braxton County, and is buried in that vicinity. Such information as is available, relating to his family, is set forth as follows:

### **Joel Hamrick**

Joel Hamrick, married Elizabeth Gillespie, first, and after her death he married Phena Berry. He was the father of four children—Jonathan, William, Julia, and James.

### **Absolom Hamrick**

Absolom Hamrick died in young manhood.

### **Nancy Hamrick**

Nancy Hamrick died at the age of twenty-two years, unmarried.

### **Elizabeth Hamrick**

Elizabeth Hamrick, married a Mr. Taylor and resided in Upshur County. She had no children.

### **Mary Hamrick**

Mary Hamrick, married John Dobbins, and resided in Jackson County.

**Malinda Hamrick**

Malinda Hamrick, married William Rose and resided on Steer Creek in Braxton County. She was the mother of six children—Wesley, Riley, Julia, Ring, Jane and Ashbury.

**William Hamrick**

William Hamrick died at the age of eight years.

**Jane Hamrick**

Jane Hamrick married William Perkins. She was the mother of two sons, Renix and Francis.

**Katherine Hamrick**

Katherine Hamrick, married Thomas Skidmore and resided in Braxton County. She was the mother of nine children—Eliza, Isaac, Levisa, William, Morgan, Franklin, Margaret, and Marcellus. William, Franklin and Marcellus were teachers.

**Eliza Hamrick**

Eliza Hamrick, married Meletus Barnett. She had one child who died in infancy.

## **SARAH HAMRICK**

Sarah Hamrick, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick, was married to William Montgomery, in Nicholas County about the year 1824. She was the mother of one son, Seth Franklin Montgomery. In 1837, William Montgomery left Nicholas County, and went to the state of Illinois. Her son, Seth Franklin, then took his mother's name, and was thereafter known as Seth Franklin Hamrick. Sarah Hamrick died in 1863.

## **Seth Franklin Hamrick**

Seth Franklin Hamrick, was born February 15, 1826, in Nicholas County, Virginia, now Braxton County, West Virginia. January 29, 1846, he married Jane Young, daughter of John and Susanna Walker Young. John Young was a soldier in the war of 1812, having served in the states and Canada. His son, Robert J. Young, served in the Civil War as one of the state guards. In 1846, Seth Franklin Hamrick located on a farm on Steer Creek, Braxton County, near the post office, Shock, West Virginia. He was a noted hunter and a successful farmer. He is known to have killed five deer in one day. He also engaged in lumbering and stock raising. He operated a threshing machine in Braxton and Gilmer counties for many years. During the Civil War he served as one of the State Guards.

Seth Franklin Hamrick and Jane Young Hamrick, were the parents of the following children—Sarah Caroline, born November 15, 1846; Susanna Walker, born May 11, 1848; William Morgan, born March 23, 1850; James Martin, born January 1, 1852; John Franklin, born

December 21, 1853; Nancy Jane, born December 12, 1855; Rebecca Ann, born March 12, 1858; Seth Mark, born September 23, 1860; Mary Susan, born December 9, 1862; Henry McClellan, born July 18, 1865; and Ruama Sabine, born June 12, 1868. Susanna died in the month of October, 1850.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note: See *Early Virginians*, by H. H. Hardesty.

## Some Descendants of the Hamrick Family

An interesting chapter could be written about the present generation of the Hamrick Family. Many are engaged in professional and scientific work. The family, although for many years past having resided in Virginia and West Virginia, has now scattered to all parts of the United States, and it would be impossible to give a complete list of the names of those prominent in the Arts and Professions. However, a few are given here, for the principal purpose of preserving the names in this record.

**J. Bernard Dodrill**, son of Martin and Mary Baughman Dodrill, and grandson of James Walton, and Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill of Nicholas County, is a successful physician in Webster County. He married Mabel Hereford of Greenbrier County, and has two daughters, Geraldine and Bernardine. **Samuel S. Dodrill**, brother of J. Bernard Dodrill, is a prominent dentist in northern West Virginia. He married Estella Gardener of Webster County, and has three sons: Bernard, Gordon, and Carlin.

**Forest Dodrill**, son of John and Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill, and grandson of James M. Hamrick, is a prominent surgeon in Detroit, Michigan.

**Ballard S. Hamrick**, son of Benjamin Franklin and Martha Jane Hamrick, is a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Conference, having served in that work for the past thirty-five years. He married Mary Gregory and has five children—Clifford, Dorsie, Carl, Esta and Theresa. One son, **Clifford Hamrick**, is a surgeon in the United



States Navy, assigned to duty on the high seas, with headquarters at San Diego, California.

**Kenneth Hamrick**, son of Henry and Portia Beatty Hamrick, and grandson of John and Jane Gregory Hamrick, is one of the leading physicians of Pocahontas County. He resides at Marlinton.

**John R. Dyer**, son of Cyrus N., and Sarah Ann Dodrill Dyer, and grandson of James Walton, and Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill, is a prominent lawyer in Webster Springs, Webster County. He served two terms as Circuit Clerk of Webster County. **Luther L. Dyer**, brother of John R., is also a lawyer in Webster County. **Newman H. Dyer**, another brother, is a physician in McDowell County, West Virginia. One sister, **Flossie H. Dyer**, is assistant to the State Tax Commissioner of West Virginia.

**Ralph Hamrick**, son of Roy and Berdie Hite Hamrick, was educated in the public schools and the high school of Webster County, and Columbia University. He is employed in one of the large banking firms of New York City.

**R. Moore Dodrill**, son of Samuel G., and Francena Hamrick Dodrill, is a prominent educator in West Virginia. He was the first principal of the high school at Webster Springs in Webster County. He served as State Secretary of Education from 1928 to 1932. At the present time he is engaged in school work in McDowell County.

**Hayward Hamrick**, son of Charles Elliott, and Ivy Bender Hamrick, is a physician, associated with the Jefferson Hospital, in the city of Philadelphia. His only brother, **Dr. Randall Hamrick**, is a member of the faculty of Wesleyan College. His sister, Ruth Elizabeth, is a teacher in the Buckhannon High School.

**Martin E. Hamrick**, son of Vincent and Margaret Dodrill Hamrick, is an educator, having graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College, West Virginia University, and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a member of the faculty of Frostburg College, Frostburg, Maryland. He married Hazel Weaver, and has one son, George Vincent. **Robert Hampton Hamrick**, brother of Martin E., served one term as Assessor of Webster County. **Clyde Hamrick**, only son of Robert Hampton Hamrick, is a teacher in the Webster Springs High School.

**Newton Francis Sycamore**, son of Addison and Jane Hamrick Sycamore, is a lawyer of Webster County. He served one term as member of the State Board of Regents of West Virginia, and represented Webster County in the West Virginia State Legislature, in 1928 and 1929. He married Elva Stalnaker of Braxton County.

**Roy B. Cartright**, son of James W., and Margaret Skidmore Cartright, and grandson of Thomas and Katherine Hamrick Skidmore, is an educator, and at the present time is principal of the Cassaway High School in Braxton County.

**Leonard Riggleman**, son of Creed and Harriett Hamrick Riggleman, is a minister, and at the present time is serving as President of Morris Harvey College, Barboursville, West Virginia.

**Rufus M. Dodrill**, son of Bennett and Harriett Gregory Dodrill, and grandson of William and Mary Hamrick Dodrill, is a minister in the Baptist Conference. He is engaged in that work in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Charles T. Dodrill**, son of Benjamin Franklin, and Jerusha McElwain Dodrill, and grandson of Arthur and Jane Hamrick Dodrill, is a lawyer of Huntington, West Virginia. He was formerly a teacher, having spent six

years teaching in the Philippine Islands. He married Blanche Henderson of Nicholas County, and has two children—Charles Franklin, and Beatrice Rose. **Everett Dodrill**, brother of Charles, is also a lawyer located in New York City. He married Carrie Hunker of Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Fredrick Hamrick**, son of James Lee, and Harriett Payne Hamrick, was educated in the public schools and the high school of Webster County. He attended the State Normal Schools and qualified as a teacher, later engaging in that profession. At the present time he is a successful banker in the city of Akron, Ohio.

**William Olan Davis**, son of Thomas Joseph, and Elizabeth Dodrill Davis, and grandson of James Walton, and Rebecca Hamrick Dodrill, is a prominent aviator. He married Lillian Rouse, and resides in Huntington, West Virginia.

**Charles E. Hamrick**, son of Ellis R., and Georgianna Ambler Hamrick, was born September 12, 1912, at Blue Creek, West Virginia. He graduated from Gallia Academy High School in 1933, and Ohio State University in 1937. While at Ohio State University he engaged in athletics and played on the football team when Ohio State met the principal universities of the United States in 1934, 1935, and 1936. On January first, 1937, he played on the Eastern Team, in the East-West Game in Keyser Stadium, San Francisco, California, sponsored by the shriners. He played in the All-Star Game, at Soldier's Field, Chicago, Illinois, September 1, 1937, sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. On September 6, 1937, he engaged in the All-Star Game, at Cotton Bowl Stadium, Dallas, Texas, sponsored by the Texas Centennial. He was named All-American in the years 1934, 1935 and 1936.

**W. Holt Wooddell**, son of William L.. and Margarite Miller Woodell, and great grandson of George W. K.. and Sarah Hamrick Miller, is a graduate of the Webster Springs High School, and West Virginia University. He is a lawyer and at the present time is serving as Assistant Attorney General of West Virginia.

## Hamrick-Gregory Reunions

The reunion of the Hamrick family and the Gregory family, is held at the Moore Hamrick Farm on Point Mountain, fifteen miles above Webster Springs, in Webster County. These two families have joined together annually since the first meeting in August, 1928. At that time the organization was effected by a committee of men who decided the time and place of meeting and gave notice of such through the county newspapers.

The place of meeting was in the large chestnut grove, on the Farm of Moore Hamrick, the gathering being in the nature of a picnic outing, Mr. Hamrick having opened his premises and invited the two families to spend the day in such manner as they wished. While there were not more than one hundred persons present, all appreciated the need of such a meeting, and indicated their approval of having similar meetings in the future. The following year the same committeemen, announced the meeting and planned the programme.

The program consisted of music by local talent, and speaking. Much of the time during the day, however, was spent in exchanging greetings, and in friendly conversation. Lunch was provided by each family bringing a basket, or picnic lunch, which was served by the ladies of the group.

People came to the first meeting from Webster, Nicholas, Randolph and Pocahontas counties. The popularity of the event increased annually, and at the ninth anniversary in 1937, at least half of the states were represented, and several families drove from the city of Washington to be present for the day. It was estimated that

between four and five thousand persons assembled on the grounds of the Moore Hamrick Farm for the day.

These meetings have always been held in the grove. Fortunately, every day designated as the time of meeting during the ten years of the organization has been fair, and the complete program has been carried out. The beautiful chestnut trees under which the people stood and enjoyed the program at the first meeting, have died from blight, but the large grove of maple sugar trees on the same farm furnish comfortable protection from the sun. Temporary seats are placed by the committee just prior to the time of meeting and a speaker's platform is erected. The past three years a modern sound system has been used, and has aided greatly in the success of the meetings.

The growth of the organization has been due largely to the efforts of the Committee. Walter S. Hamrick has served throughout the nine years having been elected chairman in 1935. The members of the first committee were Walter S. Hamrick, Moore Hamrick, Sampson B. Hamrick, Fleming S. Hamrick, A. D. Hamrick, Albert McAtee, and Jacob Hogan. Other members elected to the committee, between 1928 and 1935, were: Talbott Hamrick, Miss Portia Hamrick, Alva L. Gregory, and Sherman Gregory. The speakers appearing on the program during the meetings from 1928, to 1936, were: Attorney Luther L. Dyer, Attorney W. L. Wooddell, Judge H. G. Kump, Judge Jake Fisher, Attorney Mayme Hamrick, Reverend A. F. Gregory, Squire Walter S. Hamrick, Henry W. Dodrill, Attorney John R. Dyer, Dr. Martin E. Hamrick and Hon. John Wolverton. The committeemen for the year 1936 were: W. S. Hamrick, Chairman, Elihu Hamrick, of Linwood, Stoffer Hamrick, Sherman Gregory, and Jacob Hogan. The speakers for

the same year were: Reverend A. F. Gregory, Prof. R. Moore Dodrill, Attorney Blaine Hamrick, Dr. Kenneth J. Hamrick, and Judge Jake Fisher.

The committeemen for 1937 were: Walter S. Hamrick, Chairman, Jacob Hogan, Treasurer, Ernest Conrad, Elliott Hamrick, T. S. Gregory, and Albert McAtee.

The speakers for the year 1937 were: Rev. A. F. Gregory, Eli C. (Rimfire) Hamrick, and Rev. Rufus M. Dodrill.

Stoffer Hamrick of Pocahontas County, was elected chairman of the committee for the year 1938, and the following were elected members of the committee: Walter S. Hamrick, Jacob Hogan, Ernest Conrad, Elliott Hamrick, T. S. Gregory and Albert McAtee.

The tenth annual meeting of these two families will be held on August 28, 1938, and a large number of people from different parts of the state are expected to be present. Honorable Jennings Randolph, Member of Congress from the Second District of West Virginia, has been invited to be present. He will deliver the principal address during the morning.

## The Dodrill Family

William E. Dodrill (Doddridge), known as "English Bill," settled near Boggs, in what is now Webster County, in 1799. He was an excellent tailor by trade using the skins and furs from the wild animals to make handsome clothing. These garments were sewed with silk thread and lined with bright colored silk lining. When finished they were sent East and sold to the colonists. Some were worn by men and women on occasions of State and could be obtained only by those of wealth.

William E. Dodrill married Rebecca Lewis Dougherty of Greenbrier County in 1784. He had four sons and four daughters. His descendants became prominent men and women in the history and development of Webster, Nicholas and Braxton counties.

The sons are—James, John, George, and William Jr. The last named died at the age of twenty-one, unmarried.

The daughters are—Martha, Nancy, Mary and Rebecca.

### James Dodrill

James Dodrill, married Elizabeth Gregory, daughter of Colonel Isaac and Sarah Given Gregory, and resided two miles below Leatherwood Creek, on Elk River in Webster County. He was a farmer by occupation. He had six sons and five daughters—George, William, Joseph, Isaac, Robert, Charles, Fidiliah, Rebecca, Sarah, Virginia and Isabel.

**George**, married Levicy Given, daughter of William and Elizabeth Given, and resided one mile below Leatherwood Creek, on Elk River. His children are—Samuel



G., Henry, Sampson, Margaret, Jane, Rebecca, Delilah, Emeline, and Nancy. The last named died in infancy. **William**, married Levicy Miller. The children by this marriage were Hulda and Serena. He later married Mary Hamrick, daughter of William and Jeanette Gregory Hamrick. He resided on a farm opposite the town of Barton in Webster County. His children by this marriage were—Jane, Elizabeth, Bennett, and Nancy.

**Isaac**, married Maria Conrad. He had no children.

**Robert**, married Jane Hamrick, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy Gregory Hamrick, and resided on the Benjamin Hamrick Farm. He was a distiller of apple brandy. He had no children.

**Joseph**, married Anna Hamrick, and resided on Gauley Mountain. His children were—Thomas, Homer, Dayton, Lawrence, Sarah and Hester.

**Charles**, married Margaret Given. He resided on Point Mountain. He was well known throughout the county having participated in public celebrations and civic affairs. He led the movement to maintain temperance in Webster County for many years. His children were—Isaac, Luther, Walter, James, Angeline, Virginia, Elizabeth, and Samuel.

**Rebecca**, married James M. Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy Gregory Hamrick. (See descendants of Benjamin Hamrick).

**Fidiliah**, married David Hamrick, son of David and Elizabeth Miller Hamrick. They resided on Elk River near the Bernardstown community. The children of this union were—Henry, Joseph, Naomi, Rena, and Melvina.

**Sarah**, married Joel Dobbins of Calhoun County. The names of her children are not available at this time.

**Virginia**, married David Weese.

**Isabel**, married Matthew Givens.

### John Dodrill

John Dodrill, married Margaret Lewis of Greenbrier County. He resided all of his life at the mouth of Popular Run, a tributary of Birch River, in Nicholas County. He was the father of the following children: William, James Walton, B. Franklin, Martin, Arthur, Addison, Dianah, Rebecca, and Margarette Ann.

**William**, married Sarah Hamrick, daughter of William and Jeanette Gregory Hamrick. (See descendants of William Hamrick).

**James Walton**, married Rebecca Hamrick, daughter of William and Jeanette Gregory Hamrick. (See descendants of William Hamrick).

**Martin**, married Isabel Hamrick, daughter of William and Jeanette Gregory Hamrick. (See descendants of William Hamrick).

**Addison**, married Elmira Gregory, daughter of William and Rebecca Sands Gregory. He lived in Webster County.

**Benjamin Franklin**, married Mariah Hamrick, daughter of Peter and Rebecca Mollohan Hamrick, of Braxton County. His children were—Rebecca Jane, John J., James P., Ballard, Samuel, and Addie.

**Arthur**, married Jane Hamrick, daughter of Peter and Rebecca Mollohan Hamrick, of Braxton County. His children are—B. Franklin, John H., Cornelius, Ruie, Martha and Emma.

**Dianah**, married Jacob Cutlip, and lived in Braxton County.

**Rebecca**, married William McCoy, and resided in Nicholas County.

**Margarette Ann**, married Morgan Baughman, and resided on Birch River.

### **GEORGE DODRILL**

George Dodrill, moved west and located in Pickaway County, Ohio. His descendants live in that section of Ohio.

### **MARTHA DODRILL**

Martha Dodrill, married James Mollohan of Braxton County. One of her sons was a prominent minister of Braxton and Webster counties during the Civil War period. His name was Charles. Wesley Mollohan, a son of Charles, was known as one of the most successful lawyers of West Virginia.

### **MARY DODRILL**

Mary Dodrill, married George Mollohan. She resided in Braxton County. The writer is unable to give the names of her descendants.

### **NANCY DODRILL**

Nancy Dodrill, married Joshua Stevenson. The writer is unable to give the names of her descendants.

### **Rebecca Dodrill**

Rebecca Dodrill, married Adam Gregory, son of Colonel Isaac. and Sarah Given Gregory, and lived in

the vicinity of Mill Run, at what is now the town of Barton, West Virginia. She was the mother of the following children—Nancy, Jane, Currence, Mattie, Mary and Sarah.

**Nancy**, married Peter Hamrick.

**Jane**, married John Hamrick.

**Currence**, married Harriett Payne. He lived at the home place where his father lived, near the present location of the town of Barton, in Webster County. His family, thirteen sons and one daughter, is one of the largest in Webster County. A. Hinkle, David, Peter, William, Theodore, Benjamin, Shepard, John, George, Isaac, Alfred, Jesse, Isaiah and Nancy.

**Mattie**, married David Baughman.

**Mary**, married John R. Cogar.

**Sarah**, married Samuel Miller.

## The Gregory Family

The Gregory Family of Webster County was founded by Colonel Isaac Gregory, who came to the county from Bath County, Virginia, about the year 1800. It is one of the largest families of the county.

Col. Gregory married Sarah Given, in Bath County and brought her with him to the new home he built overlooking the Gauley River, near Beaver Run.

The home, a large hewed-log house had a cellar under it walled with cut stone. The nails used in erecting the building were made in a blacksmith shop in Bath County, Virginia, and carried through the wilderness on horseback. The first meeting of Free Masons in Central West Virginia took place in this new home of Colonel Isaac Gregory on Gauley Mountain. Col. Gregory became dissatisfied with the location on Gauley Mountain, and about the year 1812, moved to the Elk Valley, in what is now Webster County, and built a new home in the vicinity of Mill Run, five miles above Webster Springs, then called Fork Lick.

Col. Gregory was a noted hunter. He killed the last buffalo known to have been killed in Webster County, just before the war of 1812. This buffalo was killed on the mountain between Elk and Back Fork rivers, and the place has since been called Buffalo Bull Knob. He also engaged in farming.

In 1813, Col. Gregory was elected Justice of the Peace of Randolph County. In 1814, he raised a company of soldiers and went to Norfolk to fight the British. He died in 1852, and is buried in the Gregory Cemetery near his pioneer home in the Elk Valley of Webster County.

He was the father of nine children, four sons and five daughters—William, Robert, Joseph, Adam, Mary, Isabel, Nancy, Elizabeth, and Jeanette.

**William Gregory**

William Gregory was born in 1804. He married Rebecca Sands and lived at the mouth of Leatherwood



**William Gregory, the Classleader**

Creek in Webster County. He was the classleader of the first Methodist Church organization in the county. He conducted funeral services, and frequently performed the ceremony of marriage. It was in the home of William Gregory, that the election was held in 1863, during the Civil War Period.

He died in 1872, and is buried in Meadowland Cemetery, at Bergoo, West Virginia. His children were—Nancy, Margaret, Jane, Adam, Elmira, Sarah, Mary, and Levicy.

### **Joseph Gregory**

Joseph Gregory, married Mary Miller. His children were—Isaac, James, Jackson, Curtis, Asa, Perry, Eva, Melcina, Sarah, Hannah, and Delilah.

### **Robert Gregory**

Robert Gregory, married Elizabeth Nottingham. He had one daughter, Margaret.

### **Adam Gregory**

Adam Gregory, married Rebecca Dodrill, daughter of William Dodrill, the pioneer, and his wife Rebecca Dougherty Dodrill. He resided near the home of his father, where the town of Barton is now located. His children by this marriage were—Nancy, Jane, Currence, Mattie, Mary, and Sarah. After the death of Rebecca Dodrill Gregory, Adam Gregory married Maggie Cogar. The children of this union were four sons and five daughters—Harriett, Harmon, Margaret, Thomas, William, Rebecca, Lucinda, Noodie, and Isaac.



Adam Gregory, son of Col. Isaac Gregory



**Nancy Gregory**

Nancy Gregory, married Benjamin Hamrick. (See Benjamin Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick).

**Jeanette Gregory**

Jeanette Gregory, married William Hamrick, the noted hunter. (See William Hamrick, son of Benjamin and Nancy McMillian Hamrick).

**Mary Gregory**

Mary Gregory, married George Lynch and resided in the Little Kanawha Valley. She was the proud mother of twelve sons, who settled in Gilmer, Harrison and adjoining counties. The writer is unable to give their names.

**Isabel Gregory**

Isabel Gregory, married John Lynch and resided below Webster Springs in the Elk Valley.

**Elizabeth Gregory**

Elizabeth Gregory, married James Dodrill, son of William and Rebecca Dougherty Dodrill, and resided in Webster County three miles below Leatherwood Creek. A complete sketch of this family is given in connection with the Dodrill Family.

## The Griffin Family

"The Griffin Family is of Welch descent and has always been considered a hardy, industrious, and honorable family, some of them living to a remarkable old age, and were especially noted for a tenacious memory which they possessed, and which many of them retained until extreme old age. Some of the members of this family took considerable interest in education, and public affairs of the country, many of them were teachers, and some of them office holders.

"Benoni Griffin, the grandson of Benoni Griffin, who was the first to come to America, and the son of Jonathan Griffin, taught the first school in the Elk Valley in the present limits of Webster County, on Elk River near Lynch Point. He represented Webster County in the Lower House of the State Legislature for two terms in 1863, and 1864, being the First and Second Legislatures of the new State of West Virginia. He was a man of strong convictions and was firm and loyal to what he believed to be right. He opposed the doctrine of secession, and in 1861, when the election was being held at Wainville, Webster County, on the question of secession, Mr. Griffin made a speech to the voters against secession. Isaac Griffin, the son of Benoni Griffin, was also a teacher in Webster County for a number of years. He took the census of the county in 1870, and was elected to the Lower House of the State Legislature in 1871, representing at that time both Webster and Pocahontas counties, which composed one delegate district. Jonathan Griffin, a brother of Benoni Griffin, mentioned above was also one of the pioneer school teachers of Webster County.

"Benoni Griffin, the first to settle in America, came from Wales and settled in the State of Connecticut. He married a Miss Seely of that State. To this union were born four children, Abraham, Samuel, Mary and Jonathan. The mother died in Connecticut, and the father moved with his children to the state of Virginia, and later moved to Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Abraham moved to Ohio; Samuel moved to the State of Indiana; Mary married Hugh Brown, and settled at Marietta, Ohio, and little is known of the descendants of the first three children mentioned above, but Jonathan Griffin has many descendants in Webster County and in other sections which will appear from the following:

### **JONATHAN GRIFFIN AND HIS DESCENDANTS**

"Jonathan Griffin was born in 1776, died in 1857 at the age of eighty-one years. He married Rachael Sharp of Pocahontas County, about the year 1806. He had seven children, named as follows: Abraham, Margaret, William, Benoni, Rachael, Jonathan and Samuel.

"Abraham lived in Pocahontas County, and married Nancy Waugh of Pocahontas County, to which marriage were born seven children which were given the following names: James, who married Lucinda Flemmins of Pocahontas County, to which marriage one child was born called William, but was killed by lightning; Malinda, who lived in Pocahontas County but never married; Diana, who married Jacob Buzzard of Pocahontas County and to whom two children were born, a boy and a girl. Eliza, who married William Pritt of Randolph County. They lived in Pocahontas County, and nothing definite is known as to their children; Mathias, who was a sol-

dier in the Confederate Army, and was killed during the Civil War. Sarah died during the Civil War in 1861, and nothing definite is known as to the marriage of Margaret.

"Margaret, married Isaac Hamrick of Webster County. They lived on Point Mountain and reared the following children: Andrew, who died when young. Ellen who married Alfred R. Miller, who lived and raised his family on the Back Fork of Elk River in Webster County. Jonathan, who married Rebecca Jane Hamrick, daughter of Peter Hamrick, who lived on Point Mountain where his father lived until a few years ago when he moved to Saint Petersburg, Florida. Levi, who married a Miss Almarinda Cogar, a daughter of George Cogar, and who also raised his family and lived for a number of years near the home of his father. Mildred, who married Robert Lilly of Randolph County. Nathan, who married a (Isabel) Miss Harrah.

"William, married Elizabeth Rogers and lived in Pocahontas County for a number of years and later moved to Oklahoma. To this union were born eleven children as follows: Joseph, who died of fever and unmarried, in 1861. James, who was a soldier in the Civil War and died during the war. Levi, who also died in the army during the Civil War. The remainder of the children, Samuel. Adam, Andrew, Sarah, Octavius, John, William and Peter, nothing definite is known of them or their marriages.

"Benoni, married Nancy Hamrick, in Nicholas County about 1834, moved to Pocahontas and lived there until 1852. He later moved to Wainville, Webster County, and in 1862, moved to Salem, Harrison County, at which place he died and is buried. To this marriage were born twelve children named as follows: Jane H., who died at

the age of twenty-four years, unmarried. William H., who died of fever at eighteen years of age unmarried. Isaac H., who married Mary S. Lynch of Webster County. After the death of his first wife, he later married Diana M. Galbert of Harrison County. Rachael C., died when two years of age. Charles R., died when eighteen years of age. George C., who was a soldier killed in battle in 1863, unmarried. Elizabeth R., died unmarried. Jonathan S., also died unmarried. Newton J., married Jane Haskins. Mary E., died at the age of seventeen years, unmarried. Valinda S., married Susan Haskins. Matthew W., married a Miss Elliott.

"Rachael, married Charles Ruckman, who was a teacher and minister, and lived in Pocahontas County. He later moved to Ohio, and joined the East Ohio Conference. They had the following named children: Julia A., a teacher, never married; Leonidas T. and Morgan, also Jonathan, none of whom were married, the two last mentioned having died when young.

"Jonathan, married Margaret Rader of Webster County in 1850. He and his wife spent most of their lives on the Rader Farm near Upper Glades, Webster County, at which place both of them died and are buried. The following children were born unto them: Nancy R., who married Lough Hickman; Laura, who married Cornelius Ruddle of Gilmer County. Sarah, who died when young.

"Samuel, was never married. He lived to be quite old."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The above sketch is copied from a manuscript now in the possession of Mrs. F. H. Scanes, Indiana Avenue, Adamston, West Virginia.



**Henry C. Moore who married Margaret Elliott Hamrick, youngest daughter of Benjamin Hamrick  
(See Biographical Sketch, Henry C. Moore)**

## Henry C. Moore

Henry C. Moore was born in Clinton, Maine, in 1817. In 1853, he married Margaret Elliott Hamrick, youngest daughter of Benjamin and Nancy Gregory Hamrick, of Webster County. He built his home on Point Mountain and engaged in teaching school. At the beginning of the Civil War he joined the Union Army and became a pilot for General George B. McClellan in his Western Virginia Campaign. In 1861, he was a delegate to the First Wheeling Convention where he represented Webster County in that capacity for one week.

During the Civil War Confederate Troops burned his home in Webster County, and in 1863, he went west to the State of Iowa, where he spent the greater portion of his later years experimenting in aerial navigation. Mr. Moore was a man of great intelligence and forceful personality. His influence among the citizens of Webster County is remembered to this day. He was an excellent surveyor. In 1860, he surveyed the lot for the Public Square in Webster Springs, and divided the town into lots at the same time.

Mr. Moore had five children, all born in Webster County. Frank, Nimrod, Julia, Nancy, and Mary. They went with him to the State of Iowa, and became citizens of that and other western states. Mr. Moore died in 1910.

## Indian Lore

As the sun's rays are dying,  
And hushed the sweet bird songs,  
Night insects not yet gathered  
In humming noisy throngs:

When over quiet roadways  
A crescent moon hangs low,  
Seeming to tip a fir tree,  
In ladder-reach to glow:

An old redskin would tell you  
To hang a powder horn  
On the moon's bow of silver  
And dry months will be born.

If the new moon tipped upward  
To hold the horn it meant  
That it would hold rain water,  
'Twas so the legend went.

—Hamilton.



## LEWIS WETZEL

John Wetzel, the father of Lewis Wetzel, settled at the mouth of Wheeling Creek in West Virginia, in 1772. Besides Lewis, there were four sons and two daughters—Martin, George, John, Jacob, Susan and Christianna. These men were hunters and Indian fighters, but Lewis was the most daring. He was born in 1764.

At the age of thirteen years, Lewis, and his brother Jacob, age eleven, were taken prisoners by the Indians. The Indians took them to a camp the second night, and after retiring, the Indians fell asleep. Lewis whispered to Jacob that they must go home. They started, and after traveling a distance Lewis thought of his moccasins, and returned to the camp and got a pair for each of them. They then started, but had gone only a short distance, when they discovered they were being pursued by the Indians. They stepped aside in the bushes and let them pass. On the return of the Indians, they did the same. They were then pursued by two Indians on horseback, whom they dodged in the same way. They reached Wheeling the next day after crossing the Ohio River in a raft of their own making.

Lewis Wetzel is described as being five feet ten inches tall, having broad shoulders, deep chest, long limbs, and walking erect. His eyes are described as black, wild and rolling. His complexion dark. His black hair long and beautiful fell below his knees when combed. The savages longed to secure his scalp. He was a man of few words but firm decision, loving his friends and hating

his enemies. He had few equals and no superiors. His courage, will and energy appeared never to be exhausted.

An annual custom of Lewis Wetzel was to take a hunting trip to the Indian country each Autumn. While on one of the hunts he came upon an Indian camp where there were four Indians. At midnight he entered the camp with his rifle and tomahawk. As the warriors were sleeping he killed three of them before they could awake and arise. The fourth fled into the darkness and escaped.

During another hunting tour he entered a deserted cabin and climbed into the loft to sleep. In a short time six savages entered, built a fire and prepared their supper. Soon thereafter they all fell asleep. Wetzel climbed down and concealed himself outside behind a log. Next morning, as one of the savages came out, Wetzel shot him dead, and then fled into the forest.

At the age of twenty-five years, while serving under General Harmer at Marietta, Ohio, Wetzel killed a friendly Indian Chief. He was arrested and confined to the fort. Having been given the freedom to walk about the fort, he escaped, made his way to the Ohio, swam the river, without the use of his hands that were in heavy iron hand cuffs, and went to the cabin of a friend. He was afterward captured, but set free.

Lewis Wetzel could anticipate the artifices of the Indians and was skilled in the use of a rifle and tomahawk. During his life he had killed twenty-seven Indians, and conquered as many as forty at one time, alone. He could load and shoot a rifle while running and seldom if ever miss his mark. The Indians were heard to say, "White man's gun always loaded." He died in 1808.

**DEATH OF CORNSTALK**

Cornstalk was the distinguished chief and warrior of the Shawnee Indians. He was born in Augusta County, Virginia, now Greenbrier County, West Virginia, about the year 1740. His name in the Shawnee language was "Keigh-tugh-quā," blade or stalk of maize plant.

He appears to have first attracted prominence on October 10, 1759, when he led an attack against the Gilmore family on Carr's Creek in Rockbridge County, Virginia. This massacre is one of the most daring and cruel on record. He is next heard of during Pontiac's conspiracy, in 1763, when he led a large war party from the Sciotos' towns against the Virginia frontier, including Muddy Creek and Clendenning farm, near Lewisburg, on the Levels of Greenbrier. In 1764, he was sent to Fort Pitt in fulfillment of the terms of the treaty, but later effected his escape.

Nothing more is heard of him until 1774, when he became famous as leader of the Indians at the battle of Point Pleasant. This battle was one of the largest and most obstinately contested struggles that ever occurred on the western frontier, lasting from sunrise to sunset. The line of battle was at times a mile long. The Indian Army comprised the best of the Ohio tribes. It is said that Cornstalk's towering form could be seen gliding from point to point, rebuking the fearful, and reassuring the wavering. His deep voice could be distinctly heard above all the din of battle as he urged his dusky crew to the conflict, and shouted, "Be Strong!" "Be Strong!" He was assisted at the battle of Point Pleasant by his son Ellinipsico, and other prominent chiefs.

Cornstalk is recognized as having had intelligence far above that of the average Shawnee. He was graceful, attractive, and commanding in appearance. He had ability as an orator and expressed himself in a manner of grandeur and majesty. He is said to have counseled his associates to observe peace before Dunmore's War, and also after the treaty of Fort Charlotte.

In the year 1777, Cornstalk, and Red Hawk a Delaware Chief, came to the fort at Point Pleasant on a visit. The Fort was commanded at that time by Captain Arbuckle and Colonel Stewart. During their visit at the fort, Ellinipsico, a son of Cornstalk, came to the Ohio River and was rowed across to visit his father. The following day, a man named Gilmore was killed near the fort by two Indians as he was returning from hunting. Immediately, the men in charge of the fort became suspicious of Ellinipsico, and decided to kill all the Indians visiting in the fort. They approached the fort maddened with rage and carrying their loaded firelocks in their hands. Ellinipsico appeared frightened, but Cornstalk encouraged him by saying, "Don't be afraid my son, the Great Spirit sent you here to die with me, and we must submit to his will. It is all for the best." Cornstalk rose, and with great dignity advanced to meet them, receiving eight or nine balls in his body, and sank to instant death without a groan.

A monument to Chief Cornstalk has been erected in the courthouse yard at Point Pleasant.

### ANN BAILEY

Ann Bailey born in Liverpool, England, in 1742, came to America with her parents, two brothers and two sisters, about the year 1761. They settled at Jamestown, Virginia.

Ann Bailey was noted for courage, endurance and virtue. At the age of nineteen, she took an interest in frontier life and started for the frontier alone. After many days travel she reached Fort Union, Lewisburg, and became a spy among the Indians. She possessed strong intuition and knew when Indians were near. She could mingle among them without danger. Carrying a rifle and scalping knife, she rode a pony which she called "Liverpool," through the forest. Her only food consisted of wild game she killed and cooked over a campfire.

She acted as scout and messenger for the settlers, and when ammunition was to be transferred, she would travel from Point Pleasant to Williamsburg, or Chillicothe, without fear. On one occasion she was overtaken by a terrible snowstorm in the vicinity of Sewell Mountain. In order to protect the ammunition from becoming wet, she sought refuge in a large hollow log after tying the bridle of the pony around her ankle. An Indian appeared and attempted to steal her pony at which time she withdrew from her shelter and reprimanded the Indian for thieving. Fearing that she might invoke the anger of the Great Spirit upon him he fled.

She married Richard Trotter, a soldier who was killed at the battle of Point Pleasant. When she heard of her husband's death a strange wild dream seemed to possess her. She donned male attire and ranged the wilderness, so long as the Indian wars lasted.

She was round-shouldered, small of stature and fleet of foot. She was an accomplished huntress and could kill a deer off hand while it was running. She was fearless of man and beast.

She lived to be one hundred fourteen years old and died near Gallipolis, Ohio.

### MURDER OF WILLIAM WYATT

William Wyatt was a superstitious person who believed in dreams, witches and evil spirits. He was, however, an industrious farmer, having become a tenant on the land of one John Jones at Clifton, near the mouth of Paint Creek, in West Virginia. He was about thirty years of age, his family consisting of a wife and one child.

One night in the year, 1780, he had a dream that he was lying in a fence corner near the house, and was bitten by a rattlesnake and died from the effects thereof. Because of the dream he was afraid to go to the field alone the following day, it being the season of corn gathering. His wife volunteered to go with him, and taking her sewing she sat on the fence keeping lookout for Indians while her husband pulled blades from the corn. Noon time came and no unusual happenings. They went to the house, ate dinner, and returned to the field where Mrs. Wyatt resumed her sewing and he continued to pull blades from the corn. They had been at work only a few minutes when they were fired upon by three Indians who had concealed themselves behind a fodder stack close where Mr. Wyatt was working. Mrs. Wyatt escaped unharmed by fleeing to the house. The dead body of Mr. Wyatt was found, his scalp having been removed and carried off by savages.

### MRS. SMITH MURDERED IN WEBSTER COUNTY

Mrs. Smith lived in Pocahontas County near where the town of Edray is now located. She and a Mrs. Drennan, and a little son, were captured by the Indians and were being taken through Webster County by a trail leading down the Elk River past the Fork Lick, now Webster Springs, to the Indian Camp in Ohio.

At Miller's Bottom, five miles above Webster Springs, Mrs. Smith became weary and tired and was unable to keep up with the Indians. The Indians murdered her with the tomahawk, scalped her and threw her body in the Elk River, and continued their ruthless journey.

### STROUD THE PIONEER

Adam Stroud, of German descent, located on the Gauley River in 1772. He is believed to have been the first white settler in Webster County. The exact point on the Gauley River where he first settled is not known, but it was near the town of Cowen, within what is known as the "Glades."

In the summer of the year 1785, Mr. Stroud left his home to go to Bulltown to obtain a supply of salt. This rare and useful commodity was manufactured at that place by a tribe of friendly Delaware Indians. On his return to his home a few days later, he found his entire family consisting of his wife and seven children murdered, their bodies all lying in the yard, their scalps having been taken off, and the cabin having been burned to ashes. His cattle had been killed or driven away.

He traced the trail of the killers to the vicinity of Bulltown. Then desolate and alone he made his way to a settlement on Hacker's Creek, in Harrison County. William White, William Hacker, Jesse Hughes and John Cutwright made their way to Bulltown and it was believed murdered Captain Bull, and all the Indians living there, and threw their bodies in the Little Kanawha River; although when they returned they denied having seen an Indian in their absence.

John Cutwright died in 1852, when he had reached the age of one-hundred and five years. On his death-bed, as

related by one historian, he told of the killing of Captain Bull and all of the Indians found in the village of Bulltown. Their bodies were thrown into the river.

The true facts as to the murderers of the Stroud family will never be known. The real perpetrators are believed to have been a tribe of Shawnees passing through on their way to their settlements beyond the Ohio River.

These Indians, Captain Bull and five families of his relations, had come to the Little Kanawha, and made their home at Bulltown in Braxton County, after their New York homes had been burned by the whites. They were friendly with the whites. It was here that salt was manufactured by these inoffensive Indians and supplied to the settlers in Webster, Lewis, Braxton, Gilmer and Upshur counties before the Civil War.

#### **"TACKETT'S PINE"**

Lewis Tackett was one of the early settlers in the Kanawha Valley. He settled at the mouth of Coal River, and constructed Tacketts Fort, a short distance below the mouth of Coal River, and founded a settlement.

Tackett was feared and dreaded by the Indians and always surrounded himself in the settlement by men of similar caliber.

In 1787, he and two other men went down the Kanawha Valley, hunting for game. They were only a short distance from the fort when they were fired upon by seven stalwart Indians. The two men fled and escaped, but Tackett was captured by the savages.

The Indians immediately decided to take him to their Sciota Towns in Ohio, and he knowing that such meant certain death to him, resolved to escape at the first opportunity. The savages bound his hands with buckskin



thongs and took his rifle from him. They then started in the direction of the Ohio River. After traveling a few miles, they ascended the hillside for a short distance, and on arriving at the foot of a large pine, which stood on the point above Buffalo, West Virginia, they tied him securely to the tree. He feared he would be burned alive, but soon learned that such was not their purpose. After having strapped him securely to the tree the Indians started back toward the fort. He tried every possible means to free himself, but in vain. He tried to reach the thongs with his mouth but failed; he tried to break them but to no avail. He observed clouds rising and heard thunder. As lightning flashed about him he quietly resigned to the fate that awaited him, appearing powerless. He thought of prayer as the storm rolled nearer and the stalwart pine swayed to and fro and rain fell in torrents.

Suddenly, he felt the cords that bound him loosening. He strived to liberate himself and succeeded. With the speed of a deer he bounded down the mountain side, swam the Great Kanawha River, and soon was safe in the fort.

This place has since been known as "Tackett's Pine."

### THE BOZART FAMILY

John Bozart lived in the Buckhannon settlement near Buckhannon, West Virginia, but within Randolph County.

In 1795, the Indians made a raid on the Buckhannon settlement and took captive Mrs. Bozart and two of her children, after killing three or four of the smaller ones. At the time of the raid Mr. Bozart and two sons, George and John, were hauling grain to the barn near the house. Having heard screams and shrieks they hastened to the

house to determine the cause. George approached the house first and escaped being shot by falling to the ground just as he saw an Indian raise the gun and press the trigger. The Indians, believing George to be dead pursued the father, who escaped by running. George, expecting to be scalped, lay upon the ground anticipating the approach of an Indian at which time he planned to catch him by the legs and throw him to the ground.

Not being noticed by the Indian, George arose and fled. He overtook his brother who was lame and offered him every assistance, but seeing a savage rapidly pursuing them, he knew it meant sudden death for both of them if he remained with his brother. He ran through the woods and soon overtook his father who was surprised to see him.

Mrs. Bozart and two sons were taken by the Indians to the Indians' towns in the Ohio Valley. They were later surrendered to General Anthony Wayne at Greenville, September 9, 1795, by a party of sixty or seventy Shawnees.

### **"THE CAPTIVE BELLE"**

In 1774, the Shawnee Indians scalped and killed five children of John Lybrook, in Giles, New River, while they were playing by a stream. They also captured a woman, Mrs. Margaret Hall, and took her to Ohio where she remained in captivity until 1794. During that time she was transferred to the Delawares, where she was adopted by a young chief.

These Indians were a civilized tribe having cattle and being able to make butter, fritters and pancakes. Mrs. Hall remained with them for some time. A young Indian Chief fell violently in love with her, proposed to marry,

and upon her refusal, threatened her life.

She fled seventy miles distance on horseback to her foster sister and brother, but was pursued by the chief who insisted that she should marry him. He made an effort to strike her and the foster sister threw herself between them and received a slight wound in the side, the point of the knife striking the rib. The Indian girl seized the knife, broke it and threw it away. The foster brother also defended her on his return from hunting game. The disappointed lover was driven away and later killed in battle.

Mrs. Hall was returned to her people.

### THE STORY OF ROBERT HUGHES

Robert Hughes settled at a point on the Kanawha River opposite Paint Creek. He was a noted hunter, trapper and fisherman.

He built a fish trap at the mouth of Paint Creek, and always visited it soon after daybreak each morning. Indians were numerous in the vicinity, and they, knowing of the fish trap and the regular morning visits made by Hughes, arranged his capture.

Early one morning Hughes accompanied by his nephew crossed the Kanawha River in a canoe, and leaving the guns in the canoe, prepared to wade in to raise the traps. Five Indians appeared and made them prisoners. They were marched up Paint Creek a distance of thirty miles, the party keeping in the bed of the Creek the entire distance, to prevent the whites from following the trail.

Hughes spent two years with the Indians and learned the customs and the Shawnee language. He was a good hunter and was frequently trusted by the Indians to go

to the woods alone to kill game. On one of these hunts he made his escape.

He traveled by night and concealed himself by day. It required four days to reach the fort at Point Pleasant. He remained at the fort for several weeks and then returned to Hughes Creek, named for him, eighty-three miles up the Kanawha River.

The young nephew, taken prisoner with him, was never heard of again.

### THE MORRIS CHILDREN

Henry Morris was an early settler in Nicholas County, having settled there prior to 1792. He was adventurous, and his going to Nicholas County amid the savages, was against the wishes of his relatives and friends. Hunting and trapping made the wilderness attractive to him and in company with John Young, a celebrated hunter and trapper, he settled at what is known as Peter's Creek.

The greater portion of his time was spent in close proximity of the cabin, as in the valley of Peter's Creek, beavers, otters, muskrats, foxes and turkeys were found in abundance.

Henry Morris had two daughters, Betty age fourteen, and Peggy age twelve years. One summer afternoon about sunset, they were sent down a path a few hundred yards to drive the calves up to the house. A short distance, and within sight of the house, they were seized by the Indians, tomahawked and scalped. Their screams were heard by Morris and Young, who ran out to find one dead and the other dying. The dying girl exclaimed, "Father, I am killed," and expired. The bodies were buried on the banks of Peter's Creek.

Mr. Morris took the remainder of his family and all of his furniture and started to Kelly's Creek Fort arriving next day. He sadly lamented the loss of his two daughters and resolved he would thereafter kill every Indian who came his way. On several occasions this gave the early settlers trouble as it was with difficulty that they prevented him from killing friendly and peaceable Indians.

George A. Alderson, a citizen of Nicholas County, erected a monument at Summerville, in memory of the Morris children killed on Peter's Creek. The monument is dedicated to the pioneers of Nicholas County.

### **WILLIAM CARROLL**

William Carroll settled in Kanawha County prior to 1789, having built a log cabin four miles below the mouth of Kelly's Creek. The Clendennin settlement was a village where Charleston now is located.

One Spring day Carroll sent his family to the Kelly's Creek fort and then started to the Clendennin settlement on horseback. While on his way he discovered a group of Indians concealed in the pawpaw bushes, and he leaped from his horse just as they fired. Two balls hit the horse killing him instantly.

Kelly ran over a bottom land surface several hundred yards, the Indians pursuing him closely. He leaped into the river and swam, diving and swimming alternately, to evade the shots from the rifles of the savages. Upon reaching the shore he ran along the bank for a distance of ten miles to the Paint Creek settlement and thus made his escape.

The Indians then went to his home, plundered it, set fire to it, killed his milch cow, and then fled.

Where late the war whoop's hideous sound  
Alone disturbed the silence round;  
Where late the godless wigwam stood,  
Deep in the unbounded range of wood:  
Where lately, armed for deadly strife,  
With tomahawk and scalping knife,  
The Natives strove;  
Now dove-eyed Peace triumphant reigns,  
And o'er the cultivated plains,  
In converse sweet, dust maids and swains,  
Contented rove.

## A Tribute to Uncle Moore Hamrick

"And the night shall be filled with music,  
And the cares that infest the day  
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs  
And as silently steal away."

At the close of the Autumn season before the first of snow, Uncle Moore Hamrick died at his Point Mountain home in Webster County, West Virginia, November 13, 1938. Funeral service was held in the Point Mountain Church November 15, by Rev. L. C. Harris, Rev. A. F. Gregory, and Rev. S. N. Miller, and interment was made in the churchyard cemetery. He is survived by two sons and two daughters—Mrs. Martha Louie Hogan of Randolph County; Mrs. Abbigail Josephine Hogan and Talbott Hamrick of Webster County; and Farmer Hamrick of Kanawha County. One son, Fleming S. Hamrick, died in 1934. He is also survived by one brother and one sister—Adam Dolliver Hamrick of Webster County, and Mrs. Phoebe Ann Hamrick of Randolph County.

Uncle Moore was born April 15, 1849, in Randolph County, Virginia, now Webster County, West Virginia, the son of James M. and Rebecca (Dodrill) Hamrick; the grandson of Benjamin and Nancy (Gregory) Hamrick; the great-grandson of Benjamin and Nancy (McMillian) Hamrick. His great grandfather participated in the American Revolution, and came to Western Virginia following the surrender at Yorktown in 1781.

Uncle Moore attended the private schools and early public schools in the Elk Valley of Webster County. He

was named for his uncle, the late Henry C. Moore, who was one of his teachers in the private schools. On December 20, 1877, he married Susan Hamrick, daughter of Squire Adam and Rebecca (Mollohan) Hamrick, and built his home on Point Mountain in Webster County where he resided for sixty years. He engaged in farming. His home was the location of the Waneta, West Virginia, post office for a period of twenty-two years. For the past ten years the Moore Hamrick farm has been the annual meeting place of the Hamrick-Gregory families.

Uncle Moore enjoyed the unique privilege of having lived in the same community his entire life. He was twelve years of age at the time of the war between the states and remembered vividly those days of strife and bitterness, as well as the period of reconstruction and peace that followed. He remembered when Webster County was formed in 1860, and the event of the admission of the State of West Virginia to the Union in 1863. His educational opportunities were limited but he availed himself of such as there were and supplemented what he learned in school by reading and study. Although he did not travel extensively, his intellectual qualities were not commonplace. His kind and gentle spirit, his high moral standards, and his rare sense of honesty, won for him the admiration of all who knew him. Throughout his life and in a period of many changes, he represented the best traditions and the highest ideals of the community where he lived. The appreciation of his character and the influence of his example will continue to grow year by year.

The span of life of an individual is short when compared with time which is limitless. As compared with the average life, Uncle Moore was given more time here than



most men. He survived many of the friends of his youth. He was born in the late pioneer period in West Virginia, and was privileged to see many developments in his home county. The strong and accurate memory which he retained through the years was indeed a connecting link between the past and the present. Although he was not spared a tedious and painful illness during the few weeks preceding his death, the seasons had been kind to him, and the years rested gracefully upon him. He had reached the good age of eighty-nine years.

Uncle Moore was a good citizen and a loyal friend. To him home, church, school, friends, and good government, were the worth-while things of life. He inherited a deep religious conviction. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in young manhood and remained a loyal and faithful member thereafter. He believed in prayer. He believed in the existence of an omnipotent Power and its influence and guidance in his daily life. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8. "Thou shalt guide me by thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." Psalm 73:24. He was a devout and sincere Christian. He had implicit faith in the resurrection, and belief in the life everlasting, as promised in the New Testament. "I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come again to receive you unto myself: where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3.

Not only will Uncle Moore be missed by his family and neighbors in the local community, but he will be missed by a large group of relatives and friends in many parts of the country. His home by the side of the road, on one of the principal highways, was a landmark in the county. Many a weary traveler in years long past found

shelter by his fireside, and many friends enjoyed his hospitality.

In reminiscence, we see his familiar form at the gate and recall his friendly countenance. We would wish for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still. In anticipation, we feel the silence of his Point Mountain home, and we see the vacant chair at the annual reunion of our family. But Uncle Moore would not have us to mourn his passing. He lived in preparation of the call to the great beyond, the next natural step that all must take. In that spirit we pay tribute to one we loved, in the hope of a perfect reunion hereafter.

"So long thy power hast blest me, sure it still  
Will lead me on  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,  
Till the night is gone:  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since and lost a-while."

By Mayme Herbert Hamrick  
1437 Rhode Island Ave. N. W.  
Washington, D. C.