HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Harlan County, Kentucky

By

Elmon Middleton

JAMES TAYLOR ADAMS &
JAMES TAYLOR ADAMS II

Big Laurel, Virginia

1934

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Preface

EMBRACING within its borders the highest mountains in Kentucky, towering at some of its peaks more than a mile above sea level, Harlan County nestles in the heart of the Cumberland Mountains. Its rugged and broken surface, clothed as it is, from its lowest depths to its highest knobs, by the verdant hues of nature's growths, watered by streams of silvery blue, and dotted with miniature valleys, it affords a scenic beauty unsurpassed in America.

From the heights of the principal mountains, where the clouds and fog at early morn enshroud the towering peaks, the panoramic view presents crystal, thread-like streams winding down the valleys. These constitute the source of the

Cumberland River, and divide Harlan County into four major sectors. There, the view shows Cumberland River branching off into Clover Fork and Martins Fork, at Harlan, the County Seat, and receiving the inflow of Poor Fork a mile and a half below the forks.

The same soil of Harlan County which now vibrates to the tread of tens of thousands of human feet, veils beneath its surface the remains of some of the most unique characters of frontier days. It bears witness to some of the strangest incidents and most humane interests yet unpublished. Its domains hold many of the traditions of mountaineer life, and furnish noteworthy incidents of striking courage, hospitality, independent aggressiveness, and practical application of Christianity, sympathy, mercy and charity, as well as the exaggerated fighting spirit which outsiders so often attribute to the mountain people. Contrary to popular belief, the old time mountaineer in Harlan County prefers his peaceful, simple life to that of shooting at his neighbor. They are imbued with the principle that "they treat you right and make you treat them right". The stranger sojourning at the

home of the Harlan County backwoodsman, is given the bed, if there is only one, and the family sleeps on the floor; true to their reputation for generous hospitality. If he had only one potato, he would break it apart and give the sojourner half. When sickness or other misfortune befalls him in cultivating season, his neighbors volunteer and hoe out his corn and crops, and sit over his bedside throughout the nights to administer to his needs. When his neighbor's domestic stock has strayed or fallen into a pit, he will assist in restoring it as a neighborly deed. He often has a unique way of expressing himself, and though he may not be so well versed in "book larning" he can make himself plainly understood. At a store building in this mountain section a stranger crowded his way to the warm heating stove, and, feeling irritated at any obstruction, kicked aside a dog that was lying in front of the stove. A tall man leaning on the counter nearby straightened quickly, and, with eyes glowing with anger, addressed the stranger fiercely: "Hyar, stranger, if you kick that dog agin', in twelve months from now you'll be dead exzactly one

year". The mountaineer of Harlan will exchange shots with his enemy in a heated controversy, but feed him when he is helpless and hungry. Though upon provocation he might take a man's life, he will not rob him of his substance of life. Generally speaking, this mountaineer is an individualist. He forms his own opinions, minds his own business, and takes orders from no man, except from his Maker, and then wants to be sure that he is right. A self-styled preacher back in Harlan County went to a member of his congregation and informed him that he had seen a vision and the Lord commanded him to cut down all the peach trees the member had in his garden. The member told him to go ahead if the Lord said it. The preacher cut down the peach trees, and in a few days came back again and informed his member of another vision, in which, he said, the Lord told him to kiss the member's wife (and she was a pretty wife). But the member becoming skeptical, said "preacher, first I want you to make damn sure you got that order right". Usually he is well versed in the Bible. When a man kills the Harlan mountaineer's brother, his mind is more prone to

dwell on that part of the old testament reading "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" and to forget the other parts that admonish "Revenge is mine, sayeth the Lord" and "Pray for them that despitefully use you". However, one in these mountains loses heavily when a member of his family is slain, because his family life forms the chief basis of his happiness and companionship, the family being closer associated with each other and the ties being stronger in the mountains than in the bustling cities.

Harlan's early settlers and their descendants have led a secluded life, but none the less happy, though filled with many hardships. Surrounded with mountains which formed almost an impenetrable barrier, with inadequate roads that were little more than animal paths, impassable most of the year, the inhabitants were deprived of the newer merhods of living that were rapidly developing in the more easily accessible regions of the country. Hedged in as they were, they retained until the early twentieth century, the old methods and customs brought into their county by the early settlers of the eighteenth century, while

in the meantime the rapid development of the high standard of living was spreading all about them, even far to the west of their secluded habitation. Organized law was slow to rise into ascendancy in this sparsely settled region. Each man's honor, together with his skilled use of his rifle, backed up by the other members of his family, remained for a long time the highest law he recognized, while the county government was slowly gaining in power over the clannish settlers. These men and women were of Anglo-Saxon descent, whose immediate ancestors had emmigrated from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, where, in their days, the clannish rule was markedly prevalent. The mountain people, and in particular those of Harlan County, have been largely misunderstood, because they have been talked about, and made the subject of articles, by writers who formed their general impression from inadequate observations of the peculiarities of our people, which they judged to be their fundamental characteristics. Such writers fail to delve into the subject far enough to apprehend that the customs brought into this section by the first settlers were

the foremost of the time, that the language spoken is derived from the Chaucerian language, and that many of the families dwelling in humble cabins in this County are descendants of the nobility and political refugees of England.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Early Settlements

THE FIRST white settlers of Harlan County were the family of Samuel Howard (then spelled Hoard). When they first set foot on Harlan soil, in 1796, they found an almost impenetrable forest, interspersed so thickly with cane breaks that in many places they had to cut their way through. This adventuresome and aggressive family, migrated from a well developed section of Virginia, to establish a settlement in an unknown land, filled with hardships and dangers. What brought this family at this time to this wild region now known as Harlan and what attractions there were to induce them to settle amidst such adversities, is yet a matter of conjecture. At that time the fame

of the Blue Grass Region of Kentucky, its fertile soils, the accessibility of its lands, and its beauty, had already spread throughout Virginia. There and at other attractive farming regions the Indians, with their treacherous dangers, had already been driven out, while in the densely forested section of Harlan, roving Indians still lurked, passing North and South through the Appalachian Mountains, reluctant to relinquish their last claim upon the "dark and bloody hunting ground". Upon several occasions the members of this first family of Harlan County had narrow escapes from straggling Indians. One morning when Hannah Howard had almost reached the milk gap, near the present site of Ivy Street, in Harlan, two of the cows started fighting. As they fought they knocked down the rail fence, and a large Indian who had been hiding in the fence corner, with tomahawk in readiness for the much coveted scalp, jumped up to avoid being trampled upon, and fled into the forest. Hannah Howard said the cows saved her life.

This first family pitched camp for a temporary home under a cliff near the railroad "Y", now in

the City of Harlan. There, under the cliff, the first white child was born in Harlan County, Wix Howard, who was the grandfather of our present (1932) County Judge, Hamp H. Howard. Six sons and four daughters were born to Samuel Howard, of whom John N. Howard moved to Missouri, Dred Howard settled in Breathitt County, and Samuel, Adrian, Wix and Andrew, established homes in Harlan County. Two of the girls married Hensleys and the other two married Napiers.

Life was hard for them at first. During the first two summers the frost killed out the corn and prevented it from ripening. The cane and undergrowth was so thick along the bottoms, upon which the City of Harlan was built later, it was a trying task to clear fields for cultivation. Before the first winter was over their supplies were exhausted, and they were compelled to live through most of the winter on practically nothing except wild meats. But fortunately for them, game was plentiful and easily taken. One morning Samuel Howard went bear hunting on Beech Fork Creek, and, before breakfast, killed seven

large fat bears, using only seven shots from his hog rifle. Little did they dream, however, that this wild section, which yielded to them during these trying years such a scant living fraught with dangers and hardships, would in the twentieth century lavish immense hidden treasures upon others; that the rugged earth which promised so little to them was secretely holding for future generations one of the richest bituminous coal deposits in the United States, that it would yield an industrial power for the use of many parts of our nation and for a part in the conveyance of our fighting forces to foreign fields.

The early inhabitants of Harlan County were practically self-sustaining. Very little bartering was done. They raised their own sheep and made their own woolens. The families tanned their own leather and made shoes for the entire family until late in the nineteenth century. Maple sugar made from the native sugar trees, sorghum molasses ground from their cane patches, and honey, was their only sweetening, sugar not being brought in until late in the nineteenth century. Fresh vegetables in the summer, dried and canned

vegetables and fruits prepared by the family and wild meats, constituted their foods for the year. Trading with the Virginia side was developed a little after the Civil War, but it was so difficult to travel the roads, and impassable in the winter, travel was not developed to any appreciable extent until the railroads were extended into Harlan in 1910.

The Howards, Turners and Middletons were among the first five families to settle in Harlan County. Other early families were the Hensleys, Napiers, Smiths, Cawoods, Kellys, Sargents, Brittains, Cornetts, Creeches, Gilberts, Joneses, Wynns, and Saylors. These and a few other families who settled here before 1850 intermarried so that about all of the natives can trace their ancestors back to Revolutionary War soldiers. Samuel Howard, who first settled here, served seven years under George Washington, and was serving at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. In relating the surrender of Cornwallis, Howard said that George Washington first took the sword of Cornwallis, and after examining it, handed it back to him, remarking

"This is a very fine sword" and then called one of his officers to receive it as a token of surrender.

The early settlers in Harlan, as in other places, found the housing problems difficult to solve. There was an abundance of timber for log houses, but not enough help for handling the heavy logs in building the houses. Therefore, practically all the early houses were built of poles, with clay mud daubed in the cracks for protection from the wind and cold weather. The members of the family were able to construct their houses from medium sized poles. Pole houses preceeded the log houses in Harlan. Later as the settlements became a little more populous, they started calling in their neighbors for help and building log houses. In many portions of Harlan County, pole houses and log houses are still standing, and some of them are in use. While their houses were under construction, these first families had to seek shelter under cliffs or in other places that offered protection. George Buckhart came from Virginia and settled at the head of Cranks Creek shortly after Samuel Howard built his house at Harlan. He made shingles and

Item from The Daily Atlas, Cincinnati, June 6, 1849. (copied from Draper manuscripts 3OOC34 of State Hist. Soc. of Wisconsin)

"The oldest man in America.-- Geo. Buckhart, living in Harlan county, Kentucky, is one of the most extraordinary men of the age, and is perhaps the oldest known to be living. He is one hundred and fourteen years old; was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and has lived for several years in a hollow sycamore tree, of such large dimensions as to contain his family, consisting of a wife and five or six children, bed and bedding, cooking utensils, &c."

Quotation from letter from Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D.C. to Dr. Swanson, Crete, Neb.:

"...From the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R. 1402, it appears that George Burghart, Burkhart or Buckhart was born February 9, 1741. He applied for pension March 17, 1835, while residing in Knox, Harlan county, Kentucky, and alleged that while living on the Alleghany, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, early in the Revolution, he was enrolled in the Pennsylvania Militia and served under Captains John Miller, Solomon Miller, Samuel Davis and Delap, three months in every summer during the war, as Indian spy and guard and was in an engagement with the Indians at French Town. The claim was not allowed as proof of service as required by the pension law was not furnished. In 1854, son Isaac, was a resident of Harlan county Kentucky. There are no further family data..."

covered over a large hollow oak stump, and moved his family into this hollow stump. It was so large they cooked and slept in it. To this family was born a son, Isaac Buckhart, while they were living in the stump. For further protection from animals they built a brush fence around it, and herded their small flock of sheep within this fence at night. One day a large bear tried to catch one of their sheep while it was feeding in the mountains nearby, and the sheep ran back and jumped over the brush fence into the inclosure. The bear rushed on to the fence, and while it was trying to climb over the brush, George Buckhart's wife shot and killed it. Old George Buckhart was married the second time at the age of 118, and danced that night to the tune of some old ballads of some of the old time fiddlers. He lived seven years after his second marriage, and died at the age of 125.

The early settlers at first found the Indians who were living in Harlan County, but not the roving bands, friendly and hospitable towards them. They would give the white man their best furs to sleep on, and divide anything with them.

Evidently this is how the mountain people of Harlan County learned the generosity and hospitality for which they are noted. But later, as the Indians became alarmed at the growing danger of losing their land to the white men of this County, they grew hostile. The more hostile Indians were soon driven out, but the friendly bands remained until compartively recent years. Some married white people, and today there can be found in Harlan County a few people who boast that they have Indian blood in them. However, the mass of the natives of Harlan County have to this day retained their unmixed strain of Anglo-Saxon blood. The chief tribes of Indians in Harlan County were the Cherokees and Quadrules. The Quadrules inhabited Wallins Creek, and the Cherokees were scattered in smaller bands throughout the County, some of them, also, living on Wallins Creek. The Quadrules were friendly and mingled freely with the whites. The Cherokees usually were unfriendly, and lived more secluded from the whites. The Quadrules were very adept at spinning and weaving woolens and flax and making beautiful pottery.

Often they did the spinning for the white people. The women wore beautifully colored clothing, and were just as fond of pottery of many bright colors. They made this pottery from the clay around Wallins Creek. S. J. C. Howard, who died in Harlan just a few years ago, and who was formerly County Attorney of Harlan, gave many interesting accounts of this colony of Quadrule Indians at Wallins. When a boy he used to hunt and fish with these Quadrule Indian boys. They lived as a trbe at Wallins Creek until after the Civil War, and then many went West when the Indians were colonized by the Government. It is said that the Quadrule Indian girls were very beautiful. Some of the older Indians returned to Wallins Creek after the colonization, and later scattered about through the County. After the mass of the Indians from Harlan moved West, it is reported that occasionally some of them would return, and take back packages of very heavy material, which they would allow no one to see, and which the old settlers thought was some kind of valuable minerals. There is now living an old Cherokee Indian, who goes by the name of Sam

Whitson, whom people sometimes see coming from his little hut near the top of Black Mountain at Croxton. He still wears his coal black hair in long plaited braids, dangling down his back. There have been found in Harlan many interesting Indian relics in recent years. Some few years ago an Indian mound was unearthed just off of Main Street in the City of Harlan, by laborers excavating for buildings. All kinds of flints, arrowheads, tomahawks, a little pottery, beads, and Indian skeletons were found. Throughout a large portion of Harlan County Indian relics and bones have been found, giving evidence of their tribal life of earlier days.

The earlier settlers of Harlan were very skilled hunters. The few who could not afford or procure a rifle, devised all kinds of traps for ensnaring the game that abounded plentifully. Bear pens were made of logs or large poles, with a trap door that was sprung by the bear pulling at the bait, which enclosed him securely. The lack of a rifle did not baffle these hardy settlers in their search of wild game. These men were strong and hardy, and accustomed to hardships and difficulties. An

account is given of the hunting spirit of Carr Hall and Jim Hall, brothers, who hunted without rifles in the days when Harlan was the habitation of bears, deer and panthers. One night their dogs treed something, and when Jim and Carr reached their dogs they could see the animal's eyes up in the tree. Jim said he would knock it down with a rock, not knowing at the time it was a panther. He struck it between the eyes with a large rock so hard it fell out of the tree. Being addled by the rock, it someway got hung under a log. Jim Hall ran up and held it by its hind legs, and Carr ran to the other side of the log and knocked it in the head with an ax. It was a panther that measured nine feet in length. On another occasion their dogs ran a big bear into a small pool of water, where it was so deep the dogs had to swim, but the bear could wade around. Every time the dogs would swim near the bear, it would reach out and slap them under the water. Jim and Carr saw that the bear was getting the best of their dogs, and they wanted the bear. Jim gave Carr the ax, and ran in and seized the bear by one hind leg. While Jim was holding the bear, Carr ran in and

knocked it in the head with the ax. Another true account is given of Wood Kelly's experience with a bear. Wood Kelly, who is now living, at the age of 92, was hemmed in a corner of an old rail fence by a large bear. He quickly pulled one of the rails off of the fence, and hit the bear across the head with it, crushing its skull. Some of the bears killed around Harlan, tipped the scales at five hundred pounds.

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

Civil War Period

THE INHABITANTS of Harlan County have never been slackers in time of war. Most of Harlan's early settlers were Revolutionary War veterans. Many of them volunteered and served in the War of 1812, some of whom took part in the battle in which the famous Indian Chief, Tecumseh, was killed. Several men who fought in that battle claimed the distinction of having fired the shot that killed this chief who was dreaded by all the whites, but who was the greatest Indian leader among all the Indian tribes. One of Harlan County's earliest inhabitants, Walter Middleton, claimed to have fired the shot that ended Chief Tecumseh's career. It is told that he boasted of this in the presence

of some Indian captives he was guarding shortly after the battle, and one of them tried to kill him. One of the Cawoods from Harlan served under George Rogers Clark in his famous march from Kentucky to the North and in his battles along the Canadian Border. Their unsurpassed skill with the old flint-lock rifle made Harlan's inhabitants very valuable soldiers.

When the Civil War came, the people of Harlan were divided. Some joined the Union Army and some united with the Confederate forces. Others, who were torn between their patriotism and loyalty to the Union on the one hand and their love for their close relatives in Virginia and the Carolinas, undertook to remain neutral. To some, this was a war between the Democrats and the Republicans. There also seemed to be a territorial division between the people of Harlan County, which was very marked as to their feelings for the Union or for the Confederacy. Harlan County is naturally divided into four major sections by its mountains and rivers. Clover Fork section, through which flows the Clover Fork Branch of Cumberland River, is a narrow valley

approximately forty miles in length, bounded on the South and North by Little Black and Big Black Mountains. Martins Fork section, through which flows the Martins Fork Branch of Cumberland River, and empties, at a right angle, into the Clover Fork, is a narrow valley approximately thirty-five miles in length, bounded on the East and West by ranges of the Little Black Mountain and Black Mountain. Poor Fork section, approximately twenty-six miles in length, is bounded on the North and South by Pine Mountain and Big Black Mountain. The lower Cumberland section, approximately sixteen miles long, is bounded on the North and South by Pine Mountain and ranges of Black Mountain. Sympathy for the South prevailed on Clover Fork, while sympathy for the North, or Union, was prevalent on Poor Fork. Generally, the Federal Forces passing along Poor Fork were unmolested, but whenever the "Rebels" made their way along Poor Fork, they had to be on constant guard against ambush from the natives, and several times large bands of "Rebels" were fired upon by mere handfulls of natives. On Clover Fork the

opposite was the rule. The "Rebels", or Confederate troops, passed freely up and down Clover Fork, with little danger from ambush, while the Federal troops marching along Clover Fork were almost certain to run into a hail of bullets at the hand of a daring few, who would disappear into the mountains after firing.

Though Harlan County was in a remote part of the state, with roads yet very bad in comparison with other parts of the Country, the inhabitants here suffered severely from the ravages of the Civil War. The roads by this time had been improved some, and in the Summer were passable for wagons between Harlan and Virginia. Though not on a direct route from the North to the South, Harlan was infested with scouting parties from both armies. The Northern scouting troupes frequently crossed over Pine Mountain to Poor Fork and went out by way of Martins Fork. The Southern troupes usually marched from Virginia down Martins Fork and out by way of Clover Fork. The guerilla bands raided all about Harlan County throughout the period of the war, plundering and robbing and often slaying, causing

a third source of danger. The natives suffered from the pillaging of both the Federal and Confederate troupes, as well as from the plundering of the third and even more dangerous and dreaded gang, the guerilla band. Pigs were slaughtered; cattle, horses and mules were driven away, and foods of every kind that could be found were taken by these invaders. It was not uncommon for families to be left after harvest time without food or stock, facing the winter with nothing in store except wild game, after the passing of these bands. While the South was suffering from the invasion of only one army, and the borders of the North, only one, Harlan County was suffering from the pilfering of three groups. The invaders from the North and the "Rebels" from the South tried to conscript every able-bodied man they could find in Harlan County.

The opposing major armies never met in battle in this County, but the natives engaged in several unimportant skirmishes with the invaders, both Federal and Confederate. A group of Confederate soldiers, while encamped on Clover Lick Creek,

near Cumberland, were taking from the inhabitants in the neighborhood all the food they could find, without thought of what might become of the families left without anything to eat. An old settler who lived nearby took a thirty-gallon barrel of apple brandy away from his house and hid it in an old field on the hillside. The soldiers heard about it, and searched throughout all the woods around the house but could not find the brandy, not taking a thought that it might be hid in the cleared field. A day or two afterwards, four of the old settlers went up on the hill just above the field where the brandy was hid, and fired on the encamped soldiers. The soldiers charged up through the field, after the men who were shooting at them, and in the charge, some of the soldiers came across the barrel of brandy. They gave a loud whoop, and when the others saw that they had found the brandy, they quit the chase after the men who fired upon them, and took the brandy back into camp, and nearly all went on a drunken spree until the next day. Just above the tunnel on Poor Fork, near Rhea, twelve or fifteen natives fired from the mountains above

the road upon about three hundred Confederate soldiers on the march. The Southerners rallied quickly after some of their men had fallen wounded from the first volley, and charged the attackers, driving them farther into the forests of Pine Mountain where they found safe hiding. Some time later, about two hundred "Rebels" started on the march up Poor Fork, and when they reached a narrow part of the valley about four miles above the Town of Harlan, five Harlan men started shooting at them from the top of some cliffs. Surprised at the suddenness of the attack, and having been previously informed that a large Union force would soon be on the march down Poor Fork, they became afraid that an ambush had been laid for them, and retreated back to Harlan. Four companies of Home Guards were organized in Harlan County, under the leadership of Ben Blankenship, to protect the people from the prowling armies and the terrorizing guerillas. They finally enlisted about five hundred men, and took up headquarters in a large log house on the Nolan farm at Chad, Kentucky, on Poor Fork, which served as a fort. Learning that a band of

"Rebels" were coming down Poor Fork, taking every horse and mule they could find, about fifty members of the Home Guard gathered at their log headquarters, under the Command of Carter Howard and Caleb Huff, to try to drive the "Rebels" back. As the "Rebels" drew nearer the fort, the Home Guards found out that instead of it being a small band of soldiers, it was a small army of four hundred, with full equipment, including small cannons. Having nothing to use to repel them, except their single-shot, flint-lock rifles, the Home Guards retreated into the Pine Mountain.

During the war Colonel Clark passed through Harlan with 1000 Union soldiers, and Colonel Slemp with a large number of Confederate soldiers. In the Fall of 1862, Colonel Fulkerson, at the command of a Georgia Regiment of cavalrymen, passed through Harlan on his way North. General Garrett, with a large Federal army, encamped on the present site of the City of Harlan, for several weeks, and drilled his men along the place where the passenger depot now stands. General Humphry Marshall led a troupe

of cavalry, composed of 3000 men, by way of Pound Gap, down Poor Fork into Harlan, and encamped here. While they were here, one of the cavalrymen who had lost his horse, went into Wilkerson Howard's field and took the only horse he had left. Wilkerson reported it to General Marshall, and told him that it was the only horse he had to make his crops. General Marshall promptly ordered the intruder to return the horse.

LIFE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

Life After The Civil War

THE INHABITANTS of Harlan County recovered more rapidly from the Civil War devestations than the Southern communities, chiefly because they had less to lose. Only a few families owned slaves, the family of George B. Turner owning more than any other Harlan family, who, it is said, treated their slaves with considerable kindness. The families remained self-sustaining, both as to food and raimnent. At this time, they had very littte to offer in trade, except ginseng, which was found growing wild, and furs and hides, and therefore, could buy but little. The old water-mill continued as the chief source of supply of breads until the advent of the railroad in Harlan in 1910. Small country stores

were opened in the latter half of the nineteenth century, whose chief method of trade was the exchange of wares to country produce. This method constituted at least three-fourths of the trade. Old "Uncle" Samuel Howard, who now lives in the City of Harlan, at the age of eighty-two, and who was one of Harlan's most successful merchants, sent off 900 o'possum hides in the year of 1878, and 2000 pounds of ginseng in one season, which he had taken at his store at Baxter in exchange of merchandise. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, and in the first decade of the twentieth century, "wagonning" in Harlan County was one of the chief enterprises. "Teamsters" with a team of mules or horses and a covered wagon, made regular trips over the rough roads from Harlan to Jonesville or Hagan, Virginia, loaded from Harlan sometimes with hides, furs, ginseng, wool and a few other articles, and loaded on the return to Harlan with merchandise, such as flour, sugar, a few dry goods and notions, and a very little variety of other merchandise.

These teamsters were hardy, rugged men, who

had to weather all kinds of hardships. The trips from Harlan to the two or three trading points in Virginia, required two days' travelling each way. These men spent the nights out on the way, sleeping under the wagons when loaded, or in the wagons under the wagon-cover when not loaded, in the summertime, but inside the wagons in the wintertime, unless they were fortunate enough to be near a house when darkness overtook them. They travelled heavily-armed for protection. Sometimes they were molested by animals, lured near the wagons by the odors of food. A few times robberies were attempted. Occasionally panthers followed along in the trees for miles, not far behind the wagons, shrieking out blood-curdling cries that could be heard a half of a mile away. Sometimes the wagons travelled late in the night by moon-light. They usually travelled in caravans of two, three or four wagons, but often, a teamster made the trip alone. The stalling of wagons in deep mudholes up to the hub of the wheels, the bouncing of the wagons along over the huge rocks in the roads, and the occasional breaking of wheels or axels

or other parts of the wagons, brought great hardships upon the teamsters. Such were the difficulties that confronted the Harlan people, until 1910, in their commerce nd trade.

MODERN INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

Modern Industries and Communities

THE FIRST industry of any importance to the Harlan people was the logging industry. Harlan's forest has yielded a rich output of poplars, white oaks, pines, maples and walnuts and several other varieties of timbers of value in the lumber market. T. J. Asher and Robert Creech, both of Pineville, Kentucky, were among the first, if not the first men to develop the logging industry in Harlan County on a large scale. They bought up large timber grants and thousands of acres of timber lands along the Cumberland River and its branches in Harlan County. For years, before the railroad was built

into Harlan, the trees were cut, logs were sawed and hauled into Cumberland River, where the tide waters in the winter and spring floated them down to Wasiota in Bell County, and there, at a large mill, the lumber was prepared for shipment by rail. Many men of Harlan have accumulated small fortunes from the lumber business. This industry has brought into Harlan hundreds of thousands of dollars. After the advent of the railroad, many small steam sawmills were set up throughout this County, and lumber was prepared for shipment here. Mules and oxen were used to haul the logs from the mountains to the river or sawmill. Today a modern mill and lumber camp is in operation at Putney, on Poor Fork, by the Inter-Mountain Coal and Lumber Company, which controls thousands of acres of timber on the North side of Pine Mountain and the hills to the North, from which this mill is supplied with timber. An up-to-date tram road extends across the mountain for miles, over which is operated a small steam engine and several log cars.

The Kentenia Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, played a tremendous role in the

development of Harlan County. Its organization was accomplished in an effort to clear the title to an eighty-six thousand acre tract of land, purchased by Edward M. Davis, of Philadelphia, most of which was situated in Harlan County. Upon the death of Edward M. Davis, his heirs discovered that practically this entire patent, known as the Skidmore, Ledford, Smith patent, was overlapped by numerous other smaller patents granted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and that nearly all the old patents of land in Harlan County were overlapping. The Davis interest then began the organization of the Kentenia Corporation as a holding company for this land. Its organization originally had a two-fold purpose: To procure a geological survey of Harlan County and other parts of the Cumberland Valley; and to clear the titles to the multiple patents of land in Harlan County. The Davis interest, together with the other directors of the Kentenia Corporation, procured the service of the United States Geological Survey by paying one-half of the expenses of the party sent out, and that of the Kentucky State Geological Survey by paying the

entire expense of its party sent out, in making a complete geological survey of Harlan County in the years 1902 and 1903. The result was, the disclosure to the rest of the United States the vast natural wealth to be found in Harlan County and the possibilities of an immediate future development of its rich bituminous coal deposits. It next entered a friendly suit against nearly every land owner in Harlan County to settle the land titles, and settled all out of court except one. It did more to settle the title question in Harlan County than any other corporation or individual. Its Secretary, Will Ward Duffield, who now has charge of its interests in Harlan County, had charge of all the surveys in Harlan County between Cumberland and Pine Mountain, from 1903 to 1907. His services in this connection as well as in civic life has been of immeasurable value to the welfare of Harlan County. This corporation now owns 38,000 acres of land in Harlan County, 17,000 of which is covered with fine virgin timber. It has executed coal leases to the Fordson Coal Company, which is now discontinued, to the Creech Coal Company,

Utilities Coal Company, Harlan Fuel Company, and several other large mines, doing much to promote the coal interests. This corporation enlisted the aid of several of the leading men of Harlan County, and became actively engaged in soliciting the extension of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad into the Harlan field, as early as the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Louisville & Nashville Railroad was finally induced to extend its railroad into Harlan County, which extension was accomplished in 1910. This marked the beginning of the rapid development of one of the leading coal fields in the United States. Harlan County quickly emerged from an obscure, backwoods mountain county to an industrial field recognized all over our country for its superior grade of coal. Low in ash and sulphur, Harlan coal takes its place as the best all-around coal in the world. The United States Coal & Coke Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, several years ago sent out its advance agent, L. A. Billips, to search for the best coal field that could be found for its purpose for immediate development. After

searching several fields, he wired them back that he had found just what they wanted, in Harlan County. Then was begun the construction of one of the largest mining towns in the world, the Town of Lynch, in Harlan County. This town rapidly grew to a population of ten thousand, with concrete streets, beautiful architectural work and buildings, well-kept lawns and property, and the largest and most up-to-date department store in Eastern Kentucky. There, is found the largest coal tipple in the world.

In 1911 the Wallins Creek Colliers Company opened the first mines in Harlan County for shipping, and on August 25, 1911, shipped the first car of coal from Harlan County. This mine was located on Terrys Fork, near Wallins Creek. The White Star Coal Company opened the second mines, on Ewings Creek, in 1911. In that year, 25,840 tons of coal were shipped by rail from Harlan County. The output from the Harlan fields increased to 14,510,958 tons in the year 1928, the peak year, as the product of seventy-one mines, exclusive of the wagon mines. Most of the largest mines in Harlan County are industrial

owned. The United States Coal & Coke Company of Lynch is a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation; The Wisconsin Steel Company of Benham is a subsidiary of the International Harvester Corporation; The King Harlan Company, of the Detroit-Edison Company; The Fordson Coal Company, (operation now discontinued), of the Ford Motor Company; The Black Mountain Corporation, a subsidiary of the Public Utilities.

In 1926, the Harlan coal fields employed 10,666 men. At that time the population of Harlan County was approximately 80,000, while in 1910 it had only 10,566. The County contains six Towns with a population of 2500 or more. The City of Harlan, the County Seat, has practically new concrete and asphalt streets, a large, modern City Hall, the best incenerator of any town of its size in Kentucky, the most modern and complete water plant in Southeastern Kentucky, and better than that of most towns of twice its size. It has one of the best equipped and best managed graded and high schools in Eastern Kentucky, ranking as double A. Harlan's present population is approximately 5,000, though

in 1875 only ten families lived here. At that time it was known as Mount Pleasant, but the name was changed by the State Legislature in 1912 to Harlan. Leading into Harlan, following along Cumberland River, affording one of the most beautiful river drives in the Eastern States, is a good concrete highway. From Harlan to Virginia by way of Lynch and to Whitesburg is a graveled highway, now under way of oil coating. Leading up both Martins Fork and Clover Fork a graveled and oiled highway will soon be completed. Harlan has been rapidly transferred from a pauper County to one of the richest in the State. Its court house is one of the best in Kentucky. In area Harlan County covers 305,920 acres, being one of the largest counties in the State.

Harlan County has produced many far-sighted community leaders, as well as unique characters. They are men who have helped make the history of Harlan County. Such men as George B. Turner, M. W. Howard, W. F. Hall, Henry L. Howard and others, can still be remembered for their activity in civic and industrial life, and for the part they have played in the development of

Harlan County. These men were all brought up in the one-room school building, on split benches, and with few facilities for an education, but pursued their studies on through life. Judge W. F. Hall, who died March 27, 1927, practiced law in Harlan forty-eight years. His industrial activities are seen in fourteen miles of railroad which he constructed up Martins Fork, and Lena Rue Coal Company, Three Point Coal Company, and Ellis Knob Coal Company which he was actively engaged in developing, and the ten thousand acres of coal and timber land which he acquired in the course of his career. This man of such wide vision and foresight was left an orphan at the age of 2. He worked his way through the graded schools in Kentucky and at the age of 18 went to an Illinois college where he gained further education under considerable hardships. While there he worked on river rafts, and made one trip to New Orleans on a raft. Henry L. Howard, whose death preceded that of Judge W. F. Hall, by a few years, gained his education and admission to the bar in practically the same manner as did W. F. Hall. He served as a member

of the State Legislature, as Commonwealth's Attorney of Bell, Harlan, Leslie and Letcher Counties for 18 years, and as State Chairman of the Kentucky Republican Committee. While Commonwealth's Attorney, he gained the name of being fearless in his prosecution, though fair and impartial, prosecuting his own kinsmen and friends as vigorously as others. It is said that he took a strong hand in breaking up a feud by prosecuting his own relatives, who were on one side, as hard as the other faction. He organized the first Christian Church in Harlan County, and served it as an Elder until near the time of his death. Judge A. B. Cornett and Judge W. W. Lewis are pioneers in banking in Harlan County. Under their direction and the presidency of W. W. Lewis, the First State Bank of Harlan has held the confidence of the people and of the business interest for many years, maintaining a steady growth since its organization. The City of Harlan has another strong bank, in the Harlan National Bank.

Five beautiful churches and other smaller ones are found in Harlan's County Seat, Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Presbyterian, Episcopalian

and Church of God. A large number of Baptist, Christian and Methodist Churches are scattered through the County.

Since the beginning of the operation of the mines, several foreign-born, Italians, Swedes, Hungarians, Greeks and others have come into Harlan County to work, but they are becoming naturalized and making good citizens. Yet more than ninety per cent of the people employed and living in Harlan County are Americans. As a class the Harlan Countians possess strong patriotism. They feel that loyalty to our country is upholding the principles that their direct ancestors lived and died to establish. They became infuriated at the appearance of communism. It was perhaps in Harlan County that the attention of America was first called to the immediate danger of communistic teachings and organizations. In the recent disorders the mass of the laboring class cooperated in an effort to keep Americanism firmly entrenched in Harlan soil.

When the movement of the tourists over the new Federal Highway Rout Number 33 W. starts through Harlan County, they will find Harlan a

land of natural beauty, patriotism, industrial development, and courteous hospitality.

INDEX