

# UP THE CREEK



Hacker's Creek Newsletter

December

2018

## Grandma's Apron

(author unknown)

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears...

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men-folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.



**HCPD wishes you  
and yours a Very  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New**

## In This Issue

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## The Twelve Apostles

Article by Paula Lowther McGrew

Paula Lowther McGrew is a retired librarian, and she spent nearly 30 years Collecting-Organizing-Preserving and Sharing information and resources for students of all ages. From 2001-2017 she worked at her alma mater, West Virginia Wesleyan College, from 2007-2017 as the Director of Library Services. Since her retirement, she has focused her efforts on collecting the stories and the history of WVWC, Organizing and Preserving them on digital platforms Pages In Time (<http://cdm16111.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>) and Internet Archive ([www.archive.org/details/westvirginiawesleyan](http://www.archive.org/details/westvirginiawesleyan)). Mainly she is spending time on sharing them by creating an online encyclopedia and blog called DreamersAndGiants.com (<https://DreamersAndGiants.com>) which celebrates the stories of people related to the college.

She is a descendent of many in the Upshur and Lewis County area, and a member of HCPD. Her parents, Dewayne and Mary Lowther have been supportive members of HCPD since 2012.

They've seen it all for more than half a century.

The Twelve Apostles standing guard at the back of the sanctuary in Wesley Chapel have been silent witnesses to the life of the West Virginia Wesleyan Community year after year.

Students have come and gone. They have made beautiful music in Wesley Chapel, won many awards, and shown great enthusiasm for events like Spring Sing. They have been challenged by powerful speakers and celebrated the Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols.

Faculty have come and gone. They have marched in procession for countless convocation. They have given speeches and led prayers.

The Alma Mater and My Home Among the Hills have been sung with great gusto hundreds of times. The Orange Line Poem has been read as alumni have come back to celebrate their time at Wesleyan. The apostles have been listening.

And the Apostles have been there for all of it.

Carved from chestnut wood by Upshur County artist, Wolfgang Flor, these Silent Sentinels are full of meaning and personality. And yet, many have never noticed them or taken time to read the deep thoughts of Wolfgang Flor.

Wolfgang Flor was 38 years old when he was commissioned by West Virginia Wesleyan College to carve the apostles.

A native of Silesia, who escaped from Nazi Germany during World War II, Flor settled in rural Upshur County with his family. When given this huge task, he studied several books about the apostles and also consulted with Dr. Sidney T. Davis (Class of 1936 and The Dean of the Chapel) to find out more about the personalities and histories of each of the twelve. The words included with these photos are those of Wolfgang Flor.

To see pictures and description of the carved apostles please go to this link <https://dreamersandgiants.com/2018/09/>

Wolfgang Flor died on December 2, 2017. But, his work lives on. Although he is a very well-known artist beyond West Virginia Wesleyan, his work has a very special place on our campus. He captured not only the apostles, but the very nature of what the college values.

Toward the end of his life, a new piece was placed at the front of the sanctuary. It is the Family Tree. He told President Pamela Balch that it felt like closure for him to know that his work would go on living in Wesley Chapel.

## Weston Downtown Historic District

Most of the buildings in Weston downtown was erected during the period of 1875-1920. Fires of the 1870's led to the adoption of a fire and safety and building code by 1889. The code required all buildings within a certain area to be of brick, resulting in a downtown which is visually uniform and architecturally designed. A notable building with the 1930 Art Deco design is the Citizen's Bank. Metal details on the interior and exterior are the work of master iron craftsman Samuel Yellin of Philadelphia.

**Art Deco current Citizen Bank**



Built in 1927-1930

**1st Citizen bank building (still standing) open in 1892**



Corner of Bank Street and Main Ave.



The Warren house at 454 Main was built circa 1839 and is now the oldest building in Weston. If you would be interested in the history of these landmarks the library does have pictures and historical records of them. [The Oliver Letters](#) book and [Yesteryears](#) are a couple books we sell that have historical information and facts about the historical buildings.

This is a 2 story L shaped Queen Ann style house with gable wing on rear. Front porch and gingerbread were added c. 1898. The house was built approximately when Weston was only 20 yrs. Old. It was built by the Rev. John Talbott. Check with the library for more history and interesting facts about the home.



RESIDENCE OF W. G. BENNETT, CENTRE STREET.

This residence on Center Ave. still stands today. In the left wing of this beautiful home was a branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia, the first bank in Weston and only the fifth in western Virginia from 1853-1875. The bank's cashier, Robert J. McCandlish, lived in the upstairs quarters. During the Civil War, federal troops took money from the bank meant to be used to pay construction workers building the state hospital. ( This info comes from the book [Images of America, Lewis County](#), the book is sold in our library)

## The Louis Bennett Public Library

The Louis Bennet Public Library distributed these brochures to the citizens of Lewis County. I found it very interesting and thought I would share. Please visit and support the Louis Bennett Public library the next time you are in Weston.

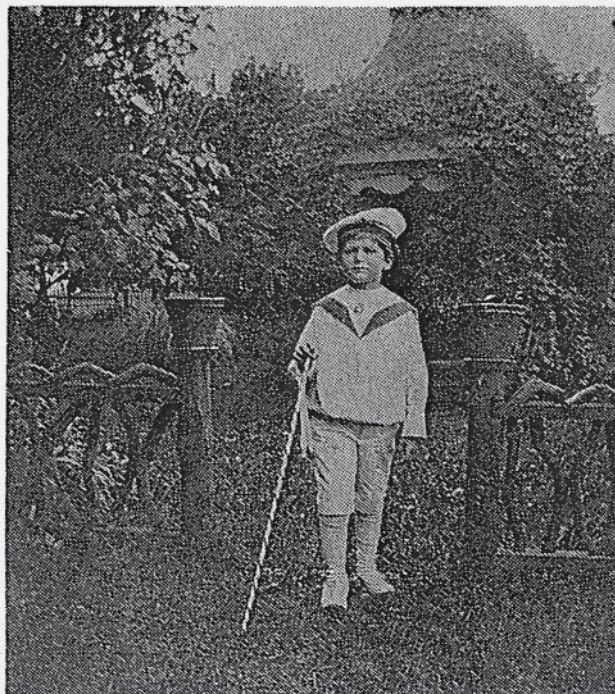
### History

For over a decade and a half around the mid-1800s, Jonathan McCally Bennett, Margaret Elizabeth Bennett, and their children William George, Louis, Gertrude, and Mary Lee lived in an older house on this site. Then on April 20, 1873, that home caught fire and burned to the ground despite the best efforts of friends and neighbors. It is said Mrs. Bennett was so distraught on that occasion that she had to be carried from the burning building three times.

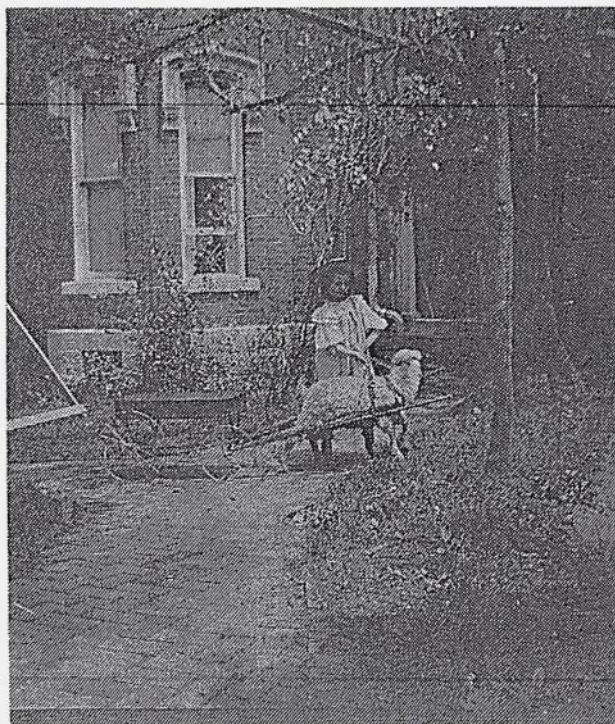
Following this considerable loss, J. M. Bennett engaged the well-known Parkersburg architect Columbus Burroughs Kirpatrick, in 1874, to design the present house. It is probably the first private home in the area to be designed by a real architect. Yet, because there was no railroad in the Weston area, it was built the old fashioned way -- constructed by local craftsmen, using mostly local materials brought from the fields with horse drawn vehicles. Since many things just were not available locally, however, a part of what we see here today came to Parkersburg by steamboat, to Clarksburg by rail, and from there to Weston by wagon.

Although building went on for many years (with the servants' mantelpieces being installed as late as 1878), Mrs. Bennett moved into the new home on June 21, 1875, while her husband was away on business. Her initiative was not misplaced. From the very start the home was seen as a splendid success. In time nearly everyone who was anyone found a reason to visit this magnificent home in Weston.

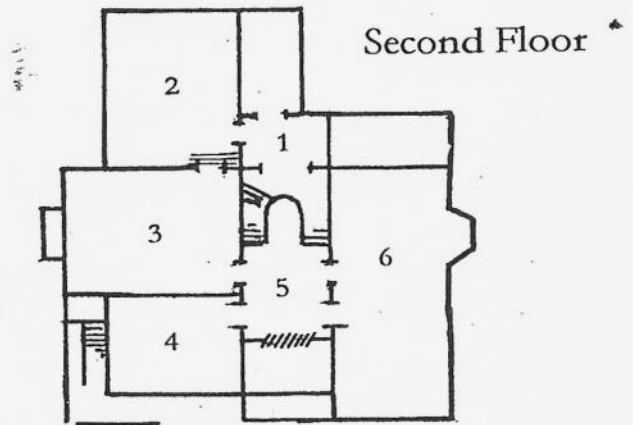
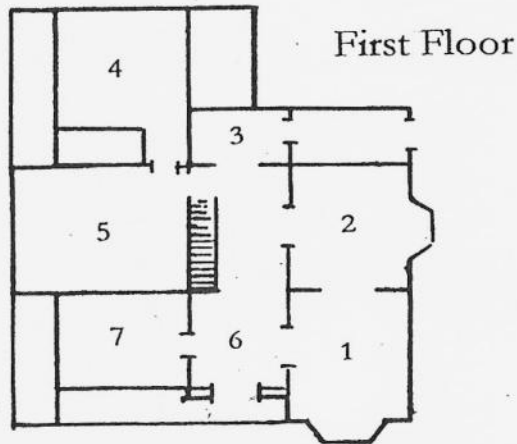
Today the old house is identified more closely with the son Louis Bennett than the founders. Margaret Elizabeth Bennett died in 1886 with J. M. following the next year. And when their estate was settled, Louis received the family home in a friendly partition suit. He lived here with his family: Sallie Maxwell Bennett, and children Agra, and Louis, Jr., well into the new century. He died in August 1918 -- the same month and year that his son, Louis, Jr., was killed in action in France. At that, Sallie Bennett presented the home to the county as a memorial. It was dedicated August 1922 as the *Lewis County War Memorial and Louis Bennett Library.*



Louis, Jr., poses before the family park.



Agra beside the old home.



1. The fine mantelpiece in this room shows it to have been the first parlor. The photograph above the fireplace is of American Ace Louis Bennett, Jr., who was killed in World War I.

2. A second-best parlor was what we would call a living room. This overlooked the Bennetts' private park to the south. The room lost its fireplace when the library stacks were introduced in 1923.

3. This area in front of the present office was once part of an L-shaped, two-story back porch in the rear of the building.

4. The kitchen opens to the side so deliveries could be made directly from Spring Street beyond. The stove probably stood about where the current heater is located.

5. No doubt this dining room was the site of many a social gathering over the years. The little room to the northwest is a private entrance that allowed the Bennetts to come and go without passing through the front hall. Notice that in the dining room (and in all other rooms except the first parlor), the fine mantelpiece is of metal painted to look like marble.

6. An elegant hall such as this was basic to a formal home at the time. The large pictures at the foot of the stairs were painted by Mrs. Bennett in Europe. The light fixture is a gasolier converted to electricity and may be original to the home. It is said to have come from France.

7. Originally called the library, this room was later an office for Louis Bennett, Sr.

1. The mezzanine leads to the second level of the large porch. From here one can pass to the room over the kitchen without additional climbing because the kitchen wing is built some eight feet shorter overall than the main house.

2. This room seems to have been the only workspace provided for sewing, ironing, and the many mundane tasks required by homemaking. It is likely that laundry was sent out.

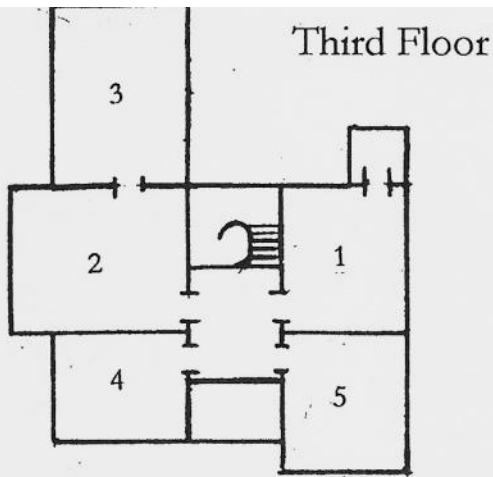
3. Mrs. Jonathan M. Bennett's bedroom has a private balcony just beyond the dual windows to the north. The formidable picture nails protruding from the walls once held family portraits. It is likely that the work room just visited did not connect with her sleeping quarters originally and certainly the exit steps leading down in the north corner were added in the late 1920s.

4. *Not open.* This storage room was once Jonathan M. Bennett's bedroom. It has one of only two closets in this large house.

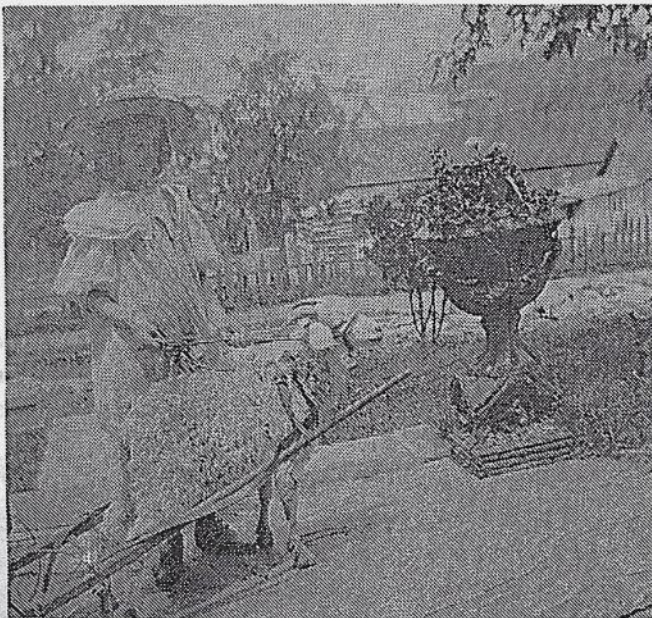
5. The center hall is a less formal area for activities of every sort, yet it has a balcony for taking the air. The arch across the hall supports the back wall of the tower.

6. Known locally as the meeting room, this was once two bedrooms for the sons and daughters. The center wall was taken out in the 1920s.





1. The third floor was a residence for the servants. This large room has no source of heat save convection. Since it has the only toilet on this floor, it may have been a communal area. The placement of the bathroom is typical of the many compromises made to keep the home livable as society progressed. The quaint old hopper may have come from Europe.
2. Mantles were not added in these quarters until the servants were already in residence. This large

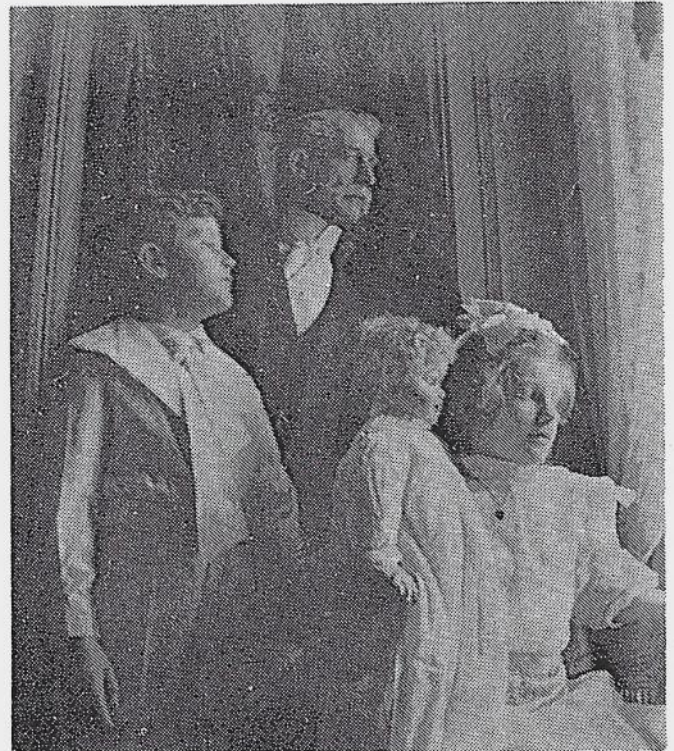


Agra and a family pet in front of the house.

3. *Danger! Do not Enter!* Oddly, in this house one reaches the attic by going to the top floor and climbing *down* a flight of steps. This is because the attic is located in the kitchen wing and, as stated earlier, that wing is shorter than the main house. In recent years this has been used to store left-over bits and pieces of the old house no longer in use.

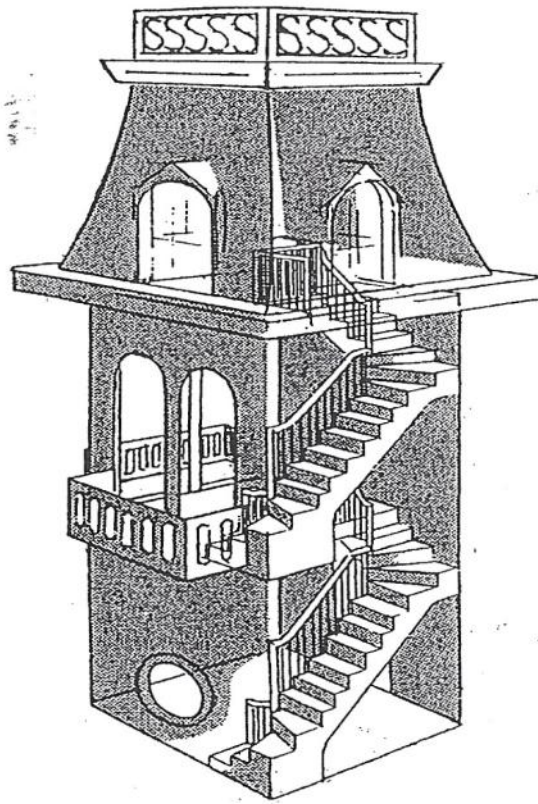
4. *Not open.* This small room has the second of the two closets in the house. When this house was built, people were expected to own armoires in which to store their clothing and what-nots. In the case of servants, they were not likely to own much.

5. Notice how the sloping walls of this room are intersected by the large windows that stick out through the roof. With its interesting air and view of the passing street, this area must have been a favorite with the help.



Louis and the children.

Cover - Louis, Jr., on the front steps.



Tower

Even without a tower, this would be a very impressive building. With one, it is grand! Reports indicate that, in a simpler age, the mistress of the house and her friends used to climb to the very top and have tea while gossiping and watching their children and grandchildren through large windows that then faced in four directions. The old bench on the top floor was no doubt a mute witness to many such occasions.



A party for children on the front lawn.

These interesting articles about **The Grange** came from *Yesteryears* Vol .VIII page 209 and page 252. We sell Vol. 1-Vol 11 of *The Yesteryears*. They are full of interesting stories and facts from by gone days of the area. The *Yesteryears*, by Bill Adler, ran in the 1980's *Weston Democrat* . We also have a Grange Lewis County "Orion" collection in the library.

## The Grange

You will find this information very interesting and you may find your ancestors were members of the Grange. Lewis County's subordinate Grange organization was called "Orion". Gilmer county was "Friendship" and Harrison County was "Brown".

Articles dating to the late 1800's to 1900's.

"The Grangers Are Coming" - Mr. Editor: This most popular order is growing in favor every day and bids fair to be the ruling element in business relations all over the county. Its object is to protect the laboring man, the producer and manufacturer from extortion. From the latest information, there are three or four Granges now in Lewis County, and probably there will be ten or fifteen more before long. Then we may look out for a large Granger's store in Weston. Roanoke, Feb. 18.

(5) There have been several mentions of the Grange in earlier columns, but until now, I have not written of the organization in detail. This seems like the right time. In 1866, shortly after the end of the Civil War, an employee of the federal Bureau of Agriculture, Oliver H. Kelley, in a tour of the former Confederate states, was dismayed to learn how many farmers in that region were uneducated and ignorant of modern agricultural methods and were, therefore, unproductive and impoverished. In what he hoped would be a remedy for the situation, the following year he organized the Patrons of Husbandry to bring farm men and women together in small, local meetings that would serve as combination educational forums and social gatherings. These associations were soon to become better known as Granges and their members as Grangers. (The word "grange" comes from the Latin "granum", that is, grain, and is another word for farm or ranch.) It happened also to be a time of great railroad construction and expansion, and while the nation's farmers were coming to depend on the railroads to transport their products to market, in some regions they also found themselves discriminated against in the setting of freight rates. It might be cheaper, for example, to ship a ton of wheat from St. Louis to New York than from Indianapolis to Chicago. Moreover, farmers felt put upon by the country's monetary policies, which kept the prices they paid for necessities high by making money scarce. Now that they were organized through the Grange, they became politically active (the very thing this article in the "Democrat" was discouraging) and began lobbying state legislatures and the Congress for remedial legislation. Their efforts bore fruit with the passage of railroad and grain elevator regulatory commissions and like bodies, the forerunners of today's public service commissions. Grangers also organized cooperatives to market their products, manufacture farm machinery, and to bargain collectively with suppliers for more favorable prices, as they were doing in Weston in 1874 with local merchants. As the "Democrat" predicted in this article, the Grange movement fell into disfavor rather quickly, and from a membership high of 800,000 in the late 1870's, ten years later it was down to about 107,000. In recent years, however, there has been a resurgence of the Grange movement, and the organization's membership is back to about 850,000 nationwide. When Lynn Spiker came to Lewis County as Extension Agent in the late 1930's, there was one remaining Grange here, in the Homer area, he recalls. Robin Poling, the current Agent, says the nearest Grange she knows of is in Doddridge County.



This is a scan from an original page of the "Orion" Granger ledger . The meeting was held in 1910. Do recognize any of your ancestors names?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Committee appointed on refreshments for Pomona meeting. R. L. Darnall, Ellis G. Smith and Carl Stalnaker.  
Committee on cake Mrs. Eva Darnall, Mrs. Maude Smith and Mrs. Edna Taylor.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers.

Master R. L. Darnall  
Lecturer Ellis G. Smith  
Secy. Dare Darnall  
Overseer N. W. Ganson  
Stewart Goff Bush  
Assistant Stewart Eddie Wickland  
Chaplain Milo Taylor  
Treasurer R. L. Taylor  
Gatekeeper Aubrey Jackson  
Ceres Mrs. Edna Taylor  
Flora Madge Hall  
Pomona Stella Holesberry  
Lady Assist. Stewart Annie Stalnaker  
Organist Miss Daisy Gaston  
On motion ordered the Organist be empowered to choose her own chorister.

Found this old puzzle in some old papers in the library. Think you know the answers? Let me give you some help to get you started. The First one is the word SAND in a box, Soooooo! Don't you think it would be sandbox ? Don't cheat! Find the answers on the next pages.

# I.Q. TEST

Figure out the word or phrase described in each puzzle.

1. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">SAND</div>	2. $\frac{\text{MAN}}{\text{BOARD}}$	3. $\frac{\text{STAND}}{\text{I}}$	4.  R E A D
5. $\frac{\text{WEAR}}{\text{LONG}}$	6. $\frac{\text{O}}{\text{M.D.}} \\ \text{Ph.D.} \\ \text{B.S.}$	7. T O W N	8. CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9. LE <del>V</del> EL	10. R O ROADS D S	11. KNEE LIGHTS	12. $\frac{\text{III}}{\text{OOO}}$
13. CHAIR	14. DICE DICE	15. T O U C H	16. GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET
17. $\frac{\text{MIND}}{\text{MATTER}}$	18. HE'S/HIMSELF	19. EOMAIJ	20. DEATH/LIFE
21. $\frac{\text{GI}}{\text{CCC}} \\ \text{CC} \\ \text{C}$	22. PROGRAM	23. J U S T YOU ME	

**This is good to know for after the holidays when you want to lose a few pounds.**

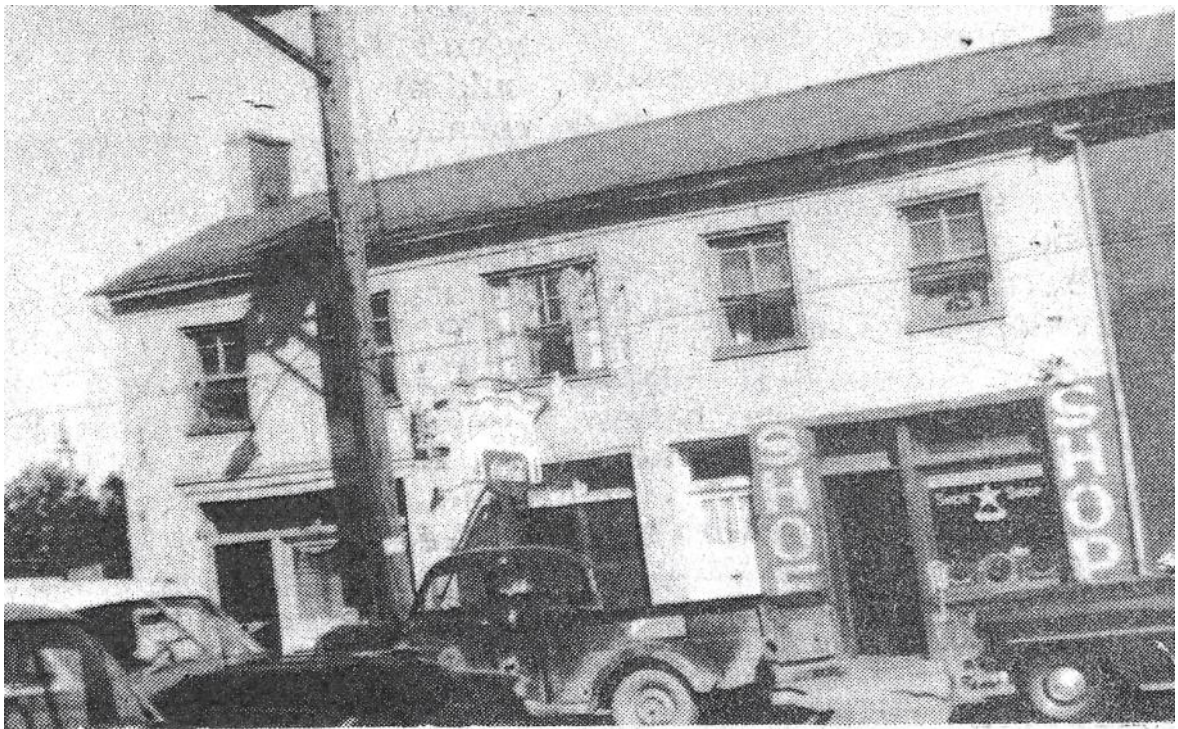
*Hourly calorie consumption of genealogical activities*

Beating around the bush	75
Jumping to conclusions	100
Climbing the walls	150
Passing the buck	25
Dragging your heels	100
Bending over backward	75
Running around in circles	350

Quoted in The Family Tree, Odom Library, from the Genealogy Unlimited Society in GA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Walk down memory lane!!**



**GONE BUT NOT forgotten are two historic Weston establishments – Anderson’s Hot Dogs on left and John Calabrese’s Shoe shop on the right.**

## Merry Christmas!!

This is a list of some interesting and free websites for you to research. Hopeful you can find some genealogy help through them.

**www.castlegarden.org** US arrivals through the port of New York from 1820 through 1892 before Ellis Island opened came here, and now you can search all 11 million for free.

**www.libertyellisfoundation.org** The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Foundation now hosts 51 million passenger records of arrivals from Ellis Island from 1892 through 1957

**www.glorerecords.blm.gov** US department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records You can start looking for your ancestors federal land records by searching more than 5 million land patents dating from 1788.

**www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm** Civil War Soldiers & Sailors Database. The best place to start researching your Union or Confederate ancestors, this database delivers the basics on more than 6 million soldiers from both sides, plus 18,000 African-American sailors, all hailing from 44 US states and territories.

**<loc.gov> Library of Congress** Check the online catalog to pretty much everything in print, then explore digital collections of maps. See all digitized collections at <loc.gov/collections>

**<lisalouisecooke.com>** Genealogy Gems This lady has a very interesting site, home to 200 plus podcasts, blog and YouTube station.

**www.davidrumsey.com** David Rumsey Map Collection: View the 85,000 plus historical maps multiple ways, including Google Earth, making it easy to see how yesterday's places relate to today's.

**www.youtube.com** YouTube Yes, you can find family history TV shows, ancestry experts and more are in the quarter million videos that pop up when you search for genealogy.

### \*\*\*\*\*Puzzle Answers\*\*\*\*\*

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. sand box               | 14. pair of dice            |
| 2. Man overboard          | 15. touchdown               |
| 3. I understand           | 16. 6' under ground         |
| 4. Read between the lines | 17. mind over matter        |
| 5. Long underwear         | 18. he's beside himself     |
| 6. 3 degrees below zero   | 19. backwards glance        |
| 7. Downtown               | 20. life after death        |
| 8. Tricycle               | 21. GI overseas             |
| 9. Split level            | 22. space program           |
| 10. Cross roads           | 23. just between you and me |
| 11. Neon lights           |                             |
| 12. Circles under eyes    |                             |
| 13. High Chair            |                             |

## New and Used Books for sale

Please email [hcpd@hackerscreek.com](mailto:hcpd@hackerscreek.com) or call 304-269-7091 for more information. If you are interested in any used book we only have 1 copy of each available, first come first serve. Contact me and I will let you know total cost. I have plenty copies of the new books.

### Used

#### Pennsylvania German Immigrants 1709-1786 by Yoder

Hardback used book 394 pages, in very good condition. Only 1 available

**\$30.00 plus tax & shipping**

#### Lewis County, WV Marriages 1881-1937 Wes Cochran

Paperback book, excellent condition. Only 1 available

**\$20.00 plus tax & shipping**

We have many **USED Lewis County obituary, marriage, census and cemetery books for sale**. Please call 304-269-7091 or email [hcpd@hackerscreek.com](mailto:hcpd@hackerscreek.com) with inquiries. These books are in good condition and going at ½ price of new book price.

### New Books

#### Strange WV Monsters

Paperback 192 pages, pictures and stories of WV legendary monsters.

\$16.99 plus tax & shipping

#### Coal towns of WV, Vol 2

History & Pictures of former Coal Towns (many now forgotten and gone)

Paperback 264 pages. Full of pictures

\$9.95 plus tax & shipping

#### Early Native Americans in WV

This book explores some of the mountain states earliest inhabitants. Full of history and pictures.

Paperback 158 pages

\$21.99 plus tax & shipping

#### Log Cabin Cooking

Pioneer recipes and folk lore

Paperback 64 pgs.

\$6.95 plus tax & shipping

Membership is \$40.00 year

Donations can be made to HCPD by mail or through our website at [www.hackerscreek.com](http://www.hackerscreek.com)

We have many used items for sale along with used books available on our website.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our library.

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