

UP THE CREEK

Hacker's Creek Newsletter

June 2022

Wow!! Just Wow!!



This sign makes a statement! It is located on the parking lot side of our building. It was a big surprise to us but is certainly appreciated. Local gas company donated their skills and time to the library on working on the outside of the building. We hope you can visit soon to see the all of the improvements.

Genealogy is a lot like popcorn, once you get started, it's hard to stop.

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What was Ordinarys???

An ordinary was a **business establishment licensed to provide the public with alcohol, food, and overnight accommodations**. Later, ordinaries would become known as taverns or inns. Throughout colonial America, ordinaries popped up in towns and along roads connecting those towns.

The 17th-century ordinaries came into existence to meet a specific need. Travel was slow and travelers were forced to spend the night on the road if a journey covered more than a few miles.

An ordinary or tavern was always located near the county seat; courthouses then as now were the center of business transactions. Court often lasted several days and judges, lawyers and litigants needed lodging. They also grew up along turnpikes as well as near ferries and in villages and hamlets.

Taverns and ordinaries served as social centers, gathering places where men (never any women) could meet to drink a glass of whiskey or beer and exchange news. Newspapers were few and circulation was poor so that such places met a vital need for communication. In more recent times, the country store with its pot-bellied stove and circle of men swapping yarns met the same need.

Ordinarys of the Day

The Bland House

Thomas Bland (1793-1867) first settled in Lewis County at Westfield and later at Weston, where he had erected the first hotel in the county.

On May 2, 1826, leave was given to Elias R. Lowther and Thomas Bland "to keep ordinarys at their houses in the town of Weston." Thomas Bland then lived on the site of the present Cain's Drug Store on the Southwest corner of Main Avenue.

January 10, 1827, John G. Stringer arranged with all the citizens and landowners in Weston to cause, at his own expense, the street called Water Street, to be fully opened and the southern extremity of Main Street, at its juncture with First Street, to be closed and converted to Stringer's private use.

Later Major Thomas Bland, after purchasing the mill property, had the Bland Hotel erected at the head of Main Street and moved his residence to his hotel.

The building was a long one of frame construction, with a porch facing Main Street. Cook's *Lewis County in the Civil War* states, "On coming into town one day and while going up Main Street, I saw on the porch of the Bland Hotel, then occupied by some of the troops, three cavalrymen, soldiers of Captain Shuman's command, standing with their hands behind their backs tied and securely strapped to the pillars of the porch . . . etc."

October twenty-fourth issue of "The Weston Herald" lists advertisers "in the Bland Hotel" and this announcement: "This is the regular stage office and a four horse post coach leaves the house every day except Sunday in time to reach the cars going east at Clarksburg."

The old hostelry also frequently served as the scene of social gatherings in the community, as verified by old newspaper write-ups of social events.

For a time Edwin S. Bland, a son, appears to have operated the hotel.

This early house of hospitality, amusement, and community service was finally destroyed by fire in 1886.

The Bailey House

Minter Bailey, Jr. and his wife started the famous "Bailey House" by assuming charge of the hotel conducted by Thomas Bland. This building fronted Main Street for forty feet and with a wing that ran back along Second Street for forty feet. It was two stories high and of log and frame construction.

Mr. Bailey and his wife were very popular hosts, and their liberality was proverbial: No minister was ever charged for any service; no poor and needy person ever turned away.

Patronage made the move to larger quarters necessary and they moved to the opposite corner and erected a brick building. The brick was burned locally, and this building stood with additions until 1927 when it was sold and razed to make way for the new Citizens Bank.

During the time from 1830 to 1836 a young man from Jackson's Mill often was seen around the hotel. Major Bailey helped young Thomas Jackson get the job of engineering work on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike.

When the Ohio Seventh came marching into town, several local people were taken prisoners and were held at the Bailey House. After taking them to Grafton, they were released.

The Bailey House's second host was E. M. Tunstill. It acquired the title "Chicken House" during this time. Due to the low cost of chicken; it was served every day. The cost of the meal was 25 cents. The fame of this fine Chicken House's meals went from Texas to New York.

He also introduced many features unique to a small hotel, one being that carpet slippers were under each guest's bed, and a bellboy polished the shoes and boots of the patrons.

One of the most interesting characters of the Bailey House was "Old Bab," as the younger generation called her. She had come to the hotel in need of food about 1867 as a small girl. After she was fed, she picked up a broom and stayed — rendering her services until the hotel closed.

Many fashionable events held there are still on file in the local newspaper offices.

For almost one hundred years this hotel was under the same family's management, and four generations had served the locality well.

INTERESTING FACTS FROM

LEWIS County Recorder's Office County Supervisors Meetings 1864-1868

**This book is sold by HCPD for \$20.00 plus tax and shipping

WoW!! What interesting history! This has so many surnames and gives you a glimpse of the pass and what businesses and who was applying for licenses. Also find released from Erroneous Assessment, who was elected for an office and expenses of county property. You can even find claims allowed by the overseers of the poor. Well worth the money and fun to read!! Call HCPD 304-269-7091 to purchase or purchase at www.hackerscreek.org

On the application of John Curry the Board certifies that said John Curry is of good moral Character and demeanor and not of intemperate habits; And leave is granted him to obtain a license to keep a Hotel or Tavern at his house on Leading Creek in this County from the 1st of July 1867 until the 30th of June 1868.

On the application of Charles Post the Board certifies that said Charles Post is of good moral Character and demeanor and not of intemperate habits; And leave is granted him to obtain a license to keep a Hotel or Tavern at his house on Rush Run in this County from the 1st of July 1867 until the 30th of June 1868.

Ellridge G. Minnich this day made application to the Board for authority to obtain a license to keep a hotel at his House in the Town of Weston in this County and also a license to sell by retail at the same place Spiritous liquors wines porter ale beer or any drink of a like nature both from the 1st day of July 1867 until the 30th day of June 1868 and thereupon the board Certifies that said Ellridge Minnich is of good Moral Character and demeanor and not of intemperate habits, and authority is given him to obtain the licenses aforesaid, whereupon the said Ellridge Minnich and Abraham C. Hale his Surety, executed and acknowledged a bond to the State in the penalty of five hundred dollars as fixed by the board conditioned according to law which Bond is ordered to be filed and thereupon the said Ellridge Minnich took the oath to Support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State.

Be it ordained by the Supervisors of the County of Lewis that the compensation of Physicians for professional Services to the poor of this County be hereafter as follows. For one visit within one mile of the residence of the Physician, one Dollar for the first Mile traveled and fifty cents for each additional Mile, and direct the Overseers of the poor of this County to govern themselves accordingly.

On application of William Moxley the Board certifies that the said Wm. Moxley is of good Moral character and demeanor and not of intemperate habits. And leave is given him to obtain a license to keep a Bowling Alley at his house in the Town of Weston in this County from the 1st day of July 1867 until the 30th day of June 1868.

On application of William Moxley the Board certifies that the said Wm. Moxley is of good Moral character and demeanor and not of intemperate habits. And leave is given him to obtain a license to keep a Bagatelle Table at his house in the Town of Weston in this County from the 1st day of July 1867 until the 30th day of June 1868.

**A Bagateele Table is similar to a pool table.

TO ABANDON HOSPITAL MINE BECAUSE OF MINER'S DEATH

Hospital Officials Find Slate Fall Death of Walter Currence Was Unavoidable

WD - 3-31-39

Because Walter Currence, 47, was killed by a slate fall at the Weston State hospital coal mine last Thursday, state mine officials have recommended that the mine be abandoned and that new openings be made immediately.

Mr. Currence was pinned under the slate fall about 8 o'clock Thursday morning as he rode an empty car into the mine. It is believed that while he was absent from the mine hauling a load of coal to the tippie, something fell on the track in the mine.

The car, evidently derailed by this obstruction, struck a mine post, and knocked it loose so it let a crossbar and tons of rock fall, covering the miner in his car. The pony pulling the car was ahead of the fall and was uninjured.

It was pinned by its harness to the car until about 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon when fellow workmen uncovered Mr. Currence's badly crushed body, and provided a hole for the pony to scramble through.

Mr. Currence, a veteran miner, had been employed at the hospital mine about six years. About five years ago he was slightly injured in a slate fall.

Six men were working in the mine at the time of the accident, but they did not discover it until about fifteen minutes later, the mine foreman, J. P. Towson, announced.

These men, Mr. Towson, and several other state hospital employes worked throughout the day to recover the dead man's body. It was located about 300 feet back in the main heading of the mine.

The fatality was the first in the hospital mine in many years.

State mine inspectors, P. J. McLinden, of Fairmont, and L. S. McGee, of Shinnston, investigated and reported the accident was unavoidable.

They recommended that the mine be abandoned and new openings be made. Property for a new mine was purchased from the late Perry G. Alfred some time ago, and plans have been made for the new operation.

Mr. Currence was born January 3, 1892, at Napier, a son of Martin and Lucy Jane (Hopkins) Currence.

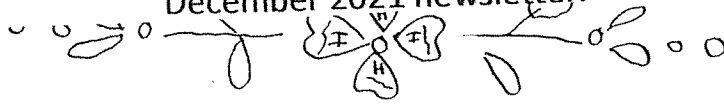
He is survived by his parents and his wife, who was before her marriage Miss Dorothy Peterson, and two daughters, Delcie Eloise and Wilda Laura, both at home. Brothers and a sister living are: Mrs. Mamie Lake, of Weston; Ernest C. Currence, Andrew Currence, and Clarence Currence, all of Napier; Wilbur Currence, of Flatwoods; Homer Currence, of Warren, Ohio; Milton Currence, of Roanoke; and Russell Currence, of Parkersburg.

Funeral services were held at the Sweeney-Toothman Funeral home Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock with the Rev. Floyd J. Waldrop, Baptist minister, officiating. Burial was made in the Big Run cemetery at Napier.

3-31-39

Continue of Reva Winemiller, age 16, 4H club booklet. First part was in

December 2021 newsletter.

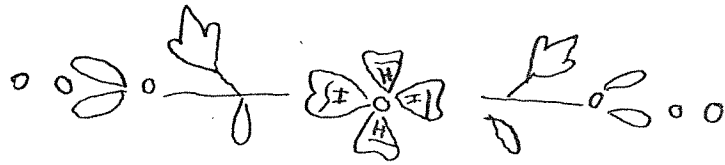


at Morgantown, and who could be the head man but C. R. Underwood, our old Lewis County agent.

I got to wandering (after I had seen this) about Miss Hartley. When I looked at the Crystal suddenly I saw a group of girls at the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill's and who could be their leader but Miss Alpha Hartley, I guess she had taken the place of Miss Fally Spangler.

The scene gradually changed, and imagine my surprise when I next saw the picture of the "Smith Plantation" of Stone Coal, I looked around to



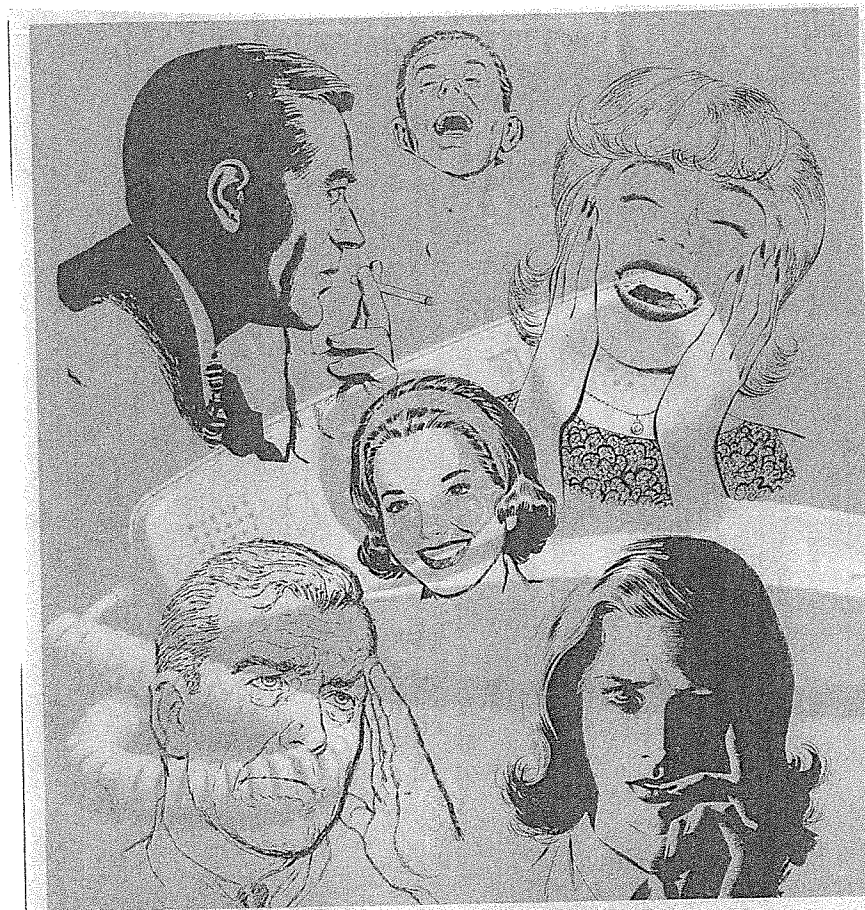


see if I could see anything of our old 4-4 Club leader, Irene, but nothing was to be seen of her, well I guess she had got married and was living somewhere else. But I know Mr. and Mrs. Smith still lived there because I saw Mrs. Smith in the garden working as she always did in the spring. She must be pretty old by this time.

The crystal changed and what should be before me but a little log cabin, that had a sign 4-4 Club on it and an out in the yard in big white letters on the pretty green grass was Merry Makers on one side of the walk and 4-4 Club on the other side.

Look how times have changed in 52 years!

This ad comes from a 1970 C & P Telephone pamphlet.



How Do You Look over the Phone?

Are you a shouter or so quiet you're hard to hear? Do you have a cigarette or candy in your mouth? Are you breathless, insincere, or forgetful of why you called? Are

you rude, unpleasant, preoccupied with something else? Or does your voice picture you as smiling, friendly, helpful? Remember—on the phone, your voice is you!

Clippings from

News and Notes from West Virginia

The C & P Telephone Co. March 1967



Down, But -- Not Out!

Winds up to 85 miles an hour toppled this Bell System telephone booth recently in New York state. A nearby service station manager found the phone was still working and called repair service to report that while the telephone booth and phone were lying down on the job, they hadn't given up.

Let's Return to the "Good Old Days"

Do you ever feel that your working hours are too long, that your job demands too much of you, or that the rules governing your job are too strict? If so, perhaps the following office rules, 1859 vintage, will make you feel a little less down-trodden.

1. Office employees will daily sweep the floors, dust the furniture, shelves, and show-cases.

2. Each day fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks. Wash windows once a week.

3. Each clerk will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.

4. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual taste.

5. Men employees will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two

evenings a week if they regularly go to church.

6. Any employee who smokes Spanish cigars, uses liquor in any form, gets shaved at a barber shop or frequents pool and public halls, will give me good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity, and honesty.

7. The employee who has performed his labors faithfully and without fault for a period of five years in my service, and who has been thrifty and attentive to his religious duties, and is looked upon by his fellowmen as a substantial and law-abiding citizen, will be given an increase of 5 cents per day in his pay, providing a just return in profits from the business permits it.

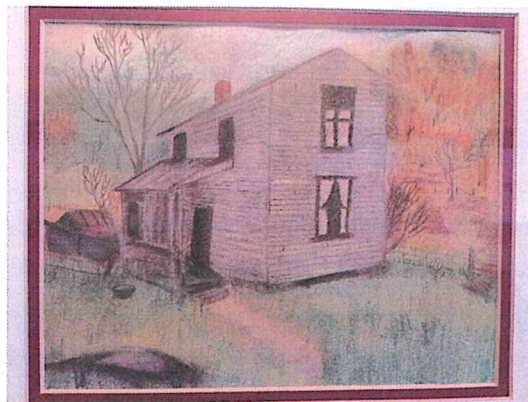
West Virginia Daily News

Echoes from the Hills

The old hills of home don't look familiar
As they did back years ago
For the old hills back then was mostly farmland
But now there is brush and timber most everywhere we go.
Way back then we could climb to most any hilltop
And see farm houses dotting the country sides ore
We could see our neighbor's working, walking to and fro
And at night the old kerosene lamps would shine from windows and doors.
But now there is so few of us left in the old home communities
Where we grew up so long ago
But those echoes and memories will always linger
No matter where we may go
But now there are mostly just memories
Of the ones who have long been called away
But those memories will always linger
Till we shall meet again some day.

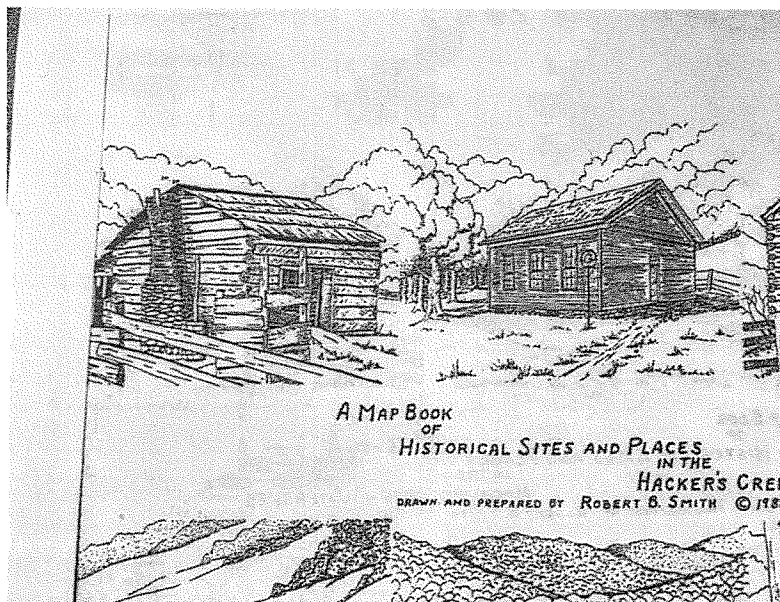
Nina Lee Gibson Fisher

Nina lived most of her life in Braxton County. She loved her country home on the hilltop. She raised a large family, garden and flowers all while being crippled in body. As she got older she wrote poetry about her life and memories of the area.

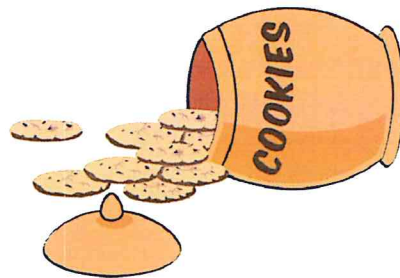


Come Walk with Us

Come walk with us,
Back through the vista of the years,
Which our ancestors knew,
We seek the trails which once they trod,
To find the spots where they once dwelt,
And while we search about our hearts,
Read weathered stones,
And turn musty pages of the past,
Their spirits come alive and walk with us.
We learn of them,
Their lives, their loves, their hates.
And with their knowledge,
Learn to understand ourselves
For each of them has given to us a past.
We own them this
That they shall be remembered for that gift.
Fern Stokes Eller



Recipe for Lemon Ammonia Cookies by Marion Reed



Marion Reed was a former member of HCPD and former President of Gilmer County Historical Society.

She was born in Cowen, WV on March 30, 1928 and passed away on April 15, 2013.

Marion donated two dresses, and a hat that belonged to Mrs. W.D. Whiting. Pictures of the dress and history will be published in a future newsletter.

Do you remember ammonia cookies??? I found Marion Reed's recipe in the bottom of a file drawer under some other stuff!! Anyone want to make some? Here is the recipe:

Lemon Ammonia Cookies

2 cups Crisco

2 ½ cups sugar

2 large eggs

2 cups milk

1 tablespoon lemon oil

3 tablespoons of baking ammonia (from pharmacy)

8 cups or more of flour

Dissolve ammonia in milk; let it set for several hours.

Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs and beat well.

Add lemon oil and the milk/ammonia mixture.

Add flour to make stiff, roll-able dough.

Roll on floured surface to ½ inch thick. Cut with 2 to 3 inch cutter.

Place on cookie sheets lined with parchment paper.

Bake in 375 oven for 14-15 minutes. Remove to paper towels and cool completely. Store in airtight container for several days to bring out the flavor of the cookies.

Makes 20 – 21 dozen 2 inch cookies. (These cookies can be frozen.)

This is an old recipe that Marion revised. They are delicious!

FYI: The library will be open for the 41st. Gathering, August 11-13th. Please refer to the Gathering agenda online or attached to the mailed newsletters. Come Join us :)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Book Sale: Used books of every kind! July 8th and 9th.

Yard Sale space rental during the County wide event. August 5th & 6th. HCPD will be selling hot dogs, chips and drink from the front porch.

41st. Gathering: August 11th-13th

Date to be determined, **HCPD Tea Party.** Plans on dressing up in period clothing and telling ancestor stories, and those out of state can do Zoom with us. More info later date.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our library.

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE