Table of Contents

Magazine of the

Jefferson County Historical Society

Volume III
December 1937

Table of Contents

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Table of Contents

INDEX

	Page
Officers	3
New Members	3
Addresses delivered before the Society during 1937	3
James Rumsey and His Steamboat	4
Certificate by Horatio Gates	11
Fraternal Organizations in Jefferson County	12
Some Old Graves and Graveyards in Jefferson County	23
Letters to Cadet Thos. B. Washington	25
Jefferson County Voters, January 1789	28
Braddock's March Through Jefferson County	29
The Middleway Blues	34
Uniform of the Potomac Rifle Company	37
Letter by Major Henry Bedinger	38
From the Potomak Guardian, January 14, 1796 (James Jack)	42
From the Charles Town Free Press, July 8, 1854	42
The Virginia & Maryland Bridge Company	43
From the Potomac Guardian, January 9, 1799 (Shepherd Blues)	44

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized May 21, 1927

OFFICERS

President—A. D. Kenamond, Shepherdstown.
Vice-President—Wright Denny, Charles Town.
Recording Secretary—Henry T. McDonald, Harpers Ferry.
Corresponding Secretary—Ella May Turner, Shepherdstown.
Treasurer—Mary T. Howell, Charles Town.
Curator—Carrie B. Wilson, Charles Town.
Directors—Walter E. Dittmeyer, Harpers Ferry; Sallie Lee Powell, Shepherdstown; Susan Gregg Gibson, Mrs. A. G. Wynkoop, W. F. Alexander and J. Burns Huyett, Charles Town.

ADDRESSES

(Delivered before the Society during 1937)

February 5—At Shepherdstown. Diary relating to Braddock's March, by Carrie B. Wilson; Dueling at Shepherdstown, by Jo Ware; and An Old Letter Concerning Lands at Keyes Ferry, by Letitia Cary Ambler.
May 14—At Charles Town. The Western Waters, by Mrs. A. D. Kenamond.
August 6—At Shepherdstown. Shepherdstown at the Time of the Battle of Antietam, by Helen B Pendleton; Holmes's My Hunt After the Captain, by W. H. S. White.
November 12—At Charles Town. Notes on Jefferson Countians from the Draper Papers, by Ella May Turner.

JAMES RUMSEY AND HIS STEAMBOAT

(Delivered before the History Section of the West Virginia Education Association at Clarksburg, November 5, 1937, by A. D. Kenamond, Secretary-Treasurer of the Rumseyan Society.)

It was particularly pleasing to Rumsey adherents to have this large group of teachers request a talk on "James Rumsey and his Steamboat" in this sesqui-centennial year of his invention, because it shows that the history teachers of West Virginia have gone a long way, in the past forty years, in presenting historical truth.

I accepted the invitation not as an historian but rather as an instrument of the Rumseyan Society, being its secretary-treasurer, though in these later days no great importance may be attached to the office. The Society's chief functions now seem to be to preserve title to the property on which the Rumsey Monument stands in Shepherdstown and to provide for a proper maintenance of the monument and park.

However, the Rumseyan Society of the past thirty years has been no mere local organization, though Jefferson County has claimed a majority of its members, just as Philadelphia furnished most of the original Rumseian Society formed on May 9, 1788. Benjamin Franklin headed that early list, and many writers have incorrectly stated that he was president of the society. The Rumsey Company was formed May 1, and a letter of James Rumsey now in the Virginia State Library shows that the company was named the Rumseian Society on May 9 and on May 13 Wm. Bingham, Esqr., was elected president.

The first Rumseian Society of 1788 was formed as a company of subscribers for the purpose of enabling the inventor "to complete and carry into execution," "on a large and extensive plan, his steamboat." Its successor, organized February 26, 1906, was to preserve his name and fame, the prime object being to erect the monument at Shepherdstown.

It is hardly likely that West Virginia teachers in annual convention on or before 1887, the centennial of the invention of the steamboat, even thought of James Rumsey. When Daniel B. Lucas as a member of the State Legislature in 1887

prepared a joint resolution for the erection of a monument to James Rumsey, he was unable to obtain a hearing. His resolution may have been regarded as a mere local enthusiasm. At least, the Legislature was more interested, if not completely absorbed, in the question of who should then be elected United States Senator.

In 1890 Norris's History of the Valley contained a long account of the December 3, 1787 public trial of Rumsey's steamboat, prepared by Congressman Alexander R. Boteler of Shepherdstown, but this story probably reached few West Virginia readers beyond the Eastern Panhandle. It remained for Lewis's History of West Virginia, in 1896, to set school children to memorizing the statement that James Rumsey invented the steamboat in 1787. You may recall that Lewis inserted in his history not only a picture of Boteler, from whom he had his Rumsey information, but also a picture of James Rumsey's house in Shepherdstown, after an 1843 drawing by Henry Howe, the historian-artist.

That was a very comfortable feeling for the history pupil at the turn of the century. He could recite from Barnes's History of the United States that Fulton invented he steamboat in 1807, and then turn to Lewis and without the slightest show of inner disturbance recite that Rumsey invented the steamboat in 1787. As a schoolboy in Ohio county I knew, because the history book said so, that Shepherdstown was settled in 1727, but now, after twenty-five years in Shepherdstown, I can't tell you whether it was in 1719, '26, '27, '30, '32 or '34, though there is considerable support for the earliest of these dates. Yet this very lack of knowledge, or this uncertainty, is an advance on my part that is typical of the newer history teaching which you represent.

However, in an attempt to get away from provincialism, chauvinism and the like and to reach out for wide and varied readings on a subject, it is possible to become so confused as to neglect a rightful claim to fame. In the case of the steamboat, I believe we are on safer ground if we finally return to the Lewis statement that Rumsey invented it.

West Virginians have not failed to disseminate the story of Rumsey and his boat. Since George M. Beltzhoover, Jr.,

now president of the Rumseyan Society, had his thesis published in 1900, we have had it in Danske Dandridge's Historic Shepherdstown, and in several West Virginia histories. John Moray of Berkeley Springs took it up in 1908 and Roy Bird Cook wrote the story for the third volume of the West Virginia Review. A most exhaustive study published in 1930 by Miss Ella May Turner, professor of English at Shepherd College and a tireless researcher for our Jefferson County Historical Society, is found in many of your school and public libraries. You will therefore be able to recognize original source material to which I may refer.

There are those who criticize the title of her book, James Rumsey, Pioneer in Steam Navigation, as faint praise, an overreach of impartiality in research, but it would be hard to find more convincing support of Rumsey's claim to fame. Miss Turner had no intention of denying full credit, nor did she consciously hit upon a title that had been used at least twenty years earlier. I find that the late Senator William Campbell, of the Rumseyan Society, in 1910 gave Rumsey the title of "the Pioneer of Steam Navigation" and had it printed in quotation marks.

Briefly to sketch the life of James Rumsey, it may be said that he was born at Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, Maryland, in March 1743. His father, Edward Rumsey, was a farmer of limited means, unable to give James and four other children more than a very elementary education. It has frequently been stated that the Rumseys were people of wealth, but this applies only to his grandfather, Edward Rumsey, and great grandfather, Charles Rumsey, both of whom held large estates at the head of the Bohemia River. The latter had come to America in 1665 and lived in Cecl County from 1678 till his death in 1717. Joshua Clayton, president of the Historical Society of Cecil County, in his invitations to attend their celebration on May 1 last, stated that a marker was being raised at the head of the Bohemia River "near the site where James Rumsey, the inventor of the steamboat, conducted an Ordinary." At this place his great grandfather before him had been licensed in 1710 to keep an ordinary.

Rumsey's portrait, painted in oil by the celebrated Benjamin West in London in 1790, depicts a very handsome man. A flowing wig and picturesque colonial costume set off the face of a student and thinker. Shepherd College publications have used the picture by courtesy of the "Royal Blue," while Miss Turner used a copy of the same portrait by the courtesy of its late owner Mr. Carroll L. Rumsey, of Philadelphia, who willed it to the Library of Congress.

It is generall accepted that Rumsey saw service during the Revolutionary War, not from the evidence of war records but by the testimony of Major Henry Bedinger, a veteran of the Revolution. In 1782 Rumsey bought some land at Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, where he formed a partnership with George Michael Bedinger in the milling business. In 1783 he was engaged in the mercantile business at Bath, now Berkeley Springs. In 1784 he and Robert Throgmartin conducted a boarding house at Bath.

As a partner in business it appears he was not very satisfactory. He was absent-minded and dreamy, letting his mind run to mechanics and physical sciences, in which he had acquired considerable skill and information.

From July 14, 1785, at the solicitation of George Washington, he was employed by the Directors of the Potomac Navigation Company as their superintendent to construct canals and remove obstructions in the river near Harpers Ferry, and he continued in that work till released at his own request on July 4, 1786.

September 1786 found him established in Shepherdstown, where he lived till March 26, 1788, when, as he said, he threw himself "upon the wide world and in pursuit of his plans bent his course for Philadelphia where he hoped "to convince a Franklin and a Rittenhouse of their utility by actual experiment."

On May 14, 1788 he left Philadelphia bound for London, where the Rumseian Society felt he should go "to secure to himself any advantages which might result from an Invention of so extensive usefulness, in that Country." There after many difficulties, among them the cost of building a new and bigger boat, he died on December 21, 1792, following a stroke of ap-

oplexy the night before in the Adelphi, where he had addressed a committee of the society of arts. A few weeks after his death the boat on which he had long labored made a successful trip on the Thames at the rate of four knots an hour. His body lies in an unmarked grave in the churchyard of St. Margaret's near Westminister Abbey.

Some thirty years ago the Rumseyan Society secured tentative permission to erect a brass marker in St. Margaret's Church close to the tomb of Sir Walter Raleigh, but this tribute has never been paid to the memory of Rumsey.

However, Maryland, as already stated, has erected a marker at his birthplace in Bohemia Manor, and the stately monument erected in 1915 in Shepherdstown bears a bronze tablet stating that a few hundred feet up the Potomac River Rumsey gave a successful public exhibition of his steamboat on December 3, 1787.

In A Plan Wherein the Power of Steam is Fully Shewn, published by Rumsey less than a month after the public trial, he added to an explanation of the principles of his boat a list of certificates from the leading gentlemen who saw his experiment. General Horatio Gates, then living near Shepherdstown, had given a certificate; also Robert Stubbs, principal of the Shepherdstown Academy; Major Henry Bedinger, Colonel Joseph Swearingen, Abraham Shepherd, an officer in the Revolution and son of Shepherdstown's founder, and others.

One hundred years later Colonel Alexander R. Boteler, who had the good fortune to be personally acquainted with several persons who saw that first trial trip, wrote of the memorable day. At the appointed hour of noon hundreds of curious spectators from the surrounding country grouped themselves on the picturesque cliffs which flanked the ferry landing. Rumsey permitted no gentlemen on board with him except his brother-in-law, Charles Morrow, and Dr. James McMechen, his partner in the enterprise since November 10, 1784, but a number of ladies were invited to take passage.

At least three delightful stories have been handed down from that day. It is said that Mrs. Henry Bedinger had taken her knitting along, and once as the boat passed the spectators in its two hours of steaming up and down the river, back and

forth between Swearingen's Spring at Bellevue and the present site of the Rumsey Monument, she was seen to "turn the heel" of her husband's stocking. Nearly fifty years later, that husband, Major Bedinger, wrote from the Protumna that when the boat first started moving General Gates turned to him and said "She goes, by—, she goes." Colonel Butler, another fifty years later, had it that the General exclaimed "My God, she moves," but our school histories of today tone this down to "She moves: she moves." Then there was little Ann Mark, who, seeing her mother on board, ran down to the water's edge and begged to be taken on at the last minute. Ann Mark afterward became Mrs. John Baker and as an old lady used to tell how Mr. Rumsey lifted her in, and thus Mr. John Baker White, now president of the State Board of Control, may take pride in the fact that his great grandmother could tell how she "was one of those who went on the first steamboat that ever was seen."

The boat was about fifty feet long, with a three ton loading, and was propelled by steam alone at the rate of three miles an hour, which speed was later increased to four miles an hour, as shown by certificates concerning a second trial on December 11, 1787. A vertical pump, operated by steam, drew the water in at the bow and expelled it at the stern through a horizontal trunk at the bottom.

In the face of all the testimony, one may ask why it has been necessary to defend the claim that James Rumsey invented the steamboat. It was sixteen years later when Robert Fulton made the first trial of his steamboat, falling short of Rumsey's speed of three miles an hour, and twenty years before he exceeded Rumsey's speed of four miles. Fulton's right to be known as the inventor of the steamboat rests on the fact that his Clermont, with the backing of the wealthy Livingston, was put to commercial use on the Hudson. However, if we want to be particular about the factor of commercial use in defining invention, it may rightly be urged that the honor should be deferred in time to Henry Shreve, of Wheeling, who successfully launched his G. Washington on the Ohio and Mississippi in 1816, after Fulton and Livingston failed on the Western Waters, where our country had its real steamboating.

What may be said for the claims of "poor John Fitch?" Poor, it may be, because he was always hard pressed on the subject of priority, even to the point of developing a bitterness toward George Washington and others who gave encouragement to the genius of Rumsey. Much has been made of Westcott's attempt in his 1857 Life of John Fitch to prove by a letter of Dr. Johnson that the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia took a trip on Fitch's boat on August 22, three months before Rumsey's successful trial at Shepherdstown. Miss Turner combats this fairly by producing Fitch's letter to Governor Randolph on September 5, which showed that Fitch "expected" the boat to be ready "next week" and hoped to have the "members of the Convention make a short voyage." Burton J. Hendrick in his 1937 Bulwark of the Republic falls into the same error, and some West Virginia readers accept for truth what Miss Turner has disproved. The Constitutional Convention did see Fitch's boat on August 22, and it may be conceded that Fitch's boat did, in spite of its great defect in size and in weight of engine, make a speed of two miles on the Delaware several months later, though he is shy on definite testimony of witnesses.

Failing then to show that Rumsey's exhibition on December 3, 1787, was not the first successful public trial in America, Fitch adherents have tried to define the invention of the steamboat as conceiving the idea of applying steam to the propulsion of a boat. On the basis of this definition, Fitch adherents state that, when on November 4, 1785 he went to Mount Vernon to get a certificate of approval from Washington, Fitch asserted he had in April of that year conceived of navigating a boat by steam. Washington declined to give such a certificate, for the very good reason that Rumsey, in November 1784, while in Richmond, had spoken of using steam for the purposes of navigation. During the latter part of 1787 and in 1788, when the Rumsey-Fitch controversy over priority of conception was bitterly waged, certificates were issued by such men as John Wilson, of Philadelphia, Nicholas Orrick, George Michael Bedinger and Thomas Johnson, of Maryland, showing that they had learned of Rumsey's plans and attempts to use steam for propelling a boat, at various dates between

August 1783 and November 1784. The same period brought out evidence that Rumsey had employed his brother-in-law, Joseph Barnes, during the summer of 1785, to build a boat at Berkeley Springs, that parts of machinery for a steamboat had been cast for him by several foundries, and that partial success with a steamboat had been made during the winter of 1785-1786. Rumsey's own statement, according to documents not yet published by Miss Turner, is to the effect that he conceived the idea in 1783 and had brought his boat to its final state of perfection in 1786.

When it is considered that James Rumsey conceived the idea of propelling a boat by means of steam before John Fitch and made a successful public trial of his steamboat twenty years before Robert Fulton, it would seem an act of disloyalty should West Virginia teachers fail to give Rumsey the recognition he rightly deserves for his "services and high agency in giving to the world the benefits of the steamboat." I cannot close without congratulating you as representative teachers of our State on your interest in "James Rumsey, the Inventor of the Steamboat."

—o—

CERTIFICATE BY HORATIO GATES

(Supplied by Miss Ella May Turner)

On Monday, December 3, 1787, I was requested to see an experiment on the Potowmack river made by Mr. James Rumsey's Steam Boat, and had no small pleasure to see her get on her way, with near half her burthen on board, and move against the current at the rate of three miles per hour, by the force of steam, without any external application whatever. I am well informed, and verily believe, that the machine at present is very imperfect, and by no means capable of performing what it would do if completed. I have not the least doubt but it may be brought into common and beneficial use, and be of advantage to all navigations, as the machine is simple, light and cheap, and will be exceeding durable, and does not occupy a space in the boat of more than four feet by two feet and a half.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

(Address delivered by W. H. S. White before the Jefferson County Historical Society, November 9, 1934.)

With its two hundred years of recorded history old Jefferson County is rich in the possession of a vast store of material, culture and spiritual resources. The church followed closely upon the heels of the explorer and pioneer settler or actually accompanied him. United bands and societies for mutual protection amid the dangers of wilderness life also found rich soil for rapid growth, aside from mystic rites of secret societies which have since the days of Pythagoras attracted and held men's interest. The turkey call of the wild Indian, together with his secret codes of beads, tree markings and other modes of recognition and loyalty, made it imperative that the white man adopt similar means of mutual protection and welfare. In enemy lands secret codes of recognition are prime essentials to survival and successful growth.

Thus it was that the Father of our Country deemed it not unwise to affiliate early in life with bands and societies of men of like minds and common interests. Doubtless he knew the gossip of the Boston Tea Party. Certainly it was no accident that an overwhelming majority of the framers of our Constitution were members of the order to which Washington gave loyal support and active allegiance throughout the years of almost a half century of his active adult life.

It was only a half century after John Lederer looked down upon the domain of Jefferson County from the Blue Ridge summit, that the secret organization as we know it today, came into being in England. It was in 1723 that the first Constitution for the Grand Lodge of Masons of London was published. The growth of the fraternity was coordinate in England, Scotland, Ireland and the American Colonies. In 1751, a rival Grand Lodge calling itself "The Most Antient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons" was established. The older body then took the name of "The Modern Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons." Hence the older established body became the Modern in name while the

newer was called the "Antient,"—a case of the big dog becoming "de leedle one."

Masonic Lodges were established in the Colonies by members coming out from England and forming themselves into societies without charter or warrant. But after the middle of the eighteenth century regular charters were granted by the English Grand Lodge to new bodies in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

Thus it was that Washington in 1751 was initiated into the "Lodge at Fredericksburg," which at the time was not under the jurisdiction of any Grand Body. Fredericksburg Lodge at that time was located at Petersburg, Virginia.

Historians have generally written that the first lodge of Free Masons to be established west of the Blue Ridge was at Staunton in 1786. As a matter of fact Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 12 was given a charter by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1768. Staunton is given first place because it was the first to be chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. As a matter of record, Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 12 continued under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania until 1807 when it withdrew from that body and passed under the jurisdiction of Virginia.

It is worthy of note that this Lodge, after a dormant period of ten years, from 1775 to 1785, was again called together on January 2. 1875 by James Gamul Dowdoll, when it was found that only four members were left. These four held a Lodge of Sorrow for Angus McDonald, General Lewis and others and proceeded to reorganize with the four members. Such was the interest and zeal among the members that in 1807 when it entered the Grand Lodge of Virginia, its membership was 143.

Twenty-eight years after the founding of Winchester Hiram No. 12, the first masonic lodge in what is now West Virginia was chartered at Lewisburg in 1796 and took the name of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49. Then came in rapid succession Moorefield No. 80, Mt. Horeb No. 89 at Martinsburg and Mt. Nebo No. 91 at Shepherdstown chartered December 11, 1811. Mt. Nebo would have been the second to be established in the state if the Grand Lodge of Virginia had not re-

fused its dispensation to the applicants to affiliate with the Grand Lodge of Maryland to which it had earlier applied in 1807, the same year that Moorefield was chartered. Its name would have been Mt. Ararat.

The long and tedious proceedings to determine the legality of West Virginia's possession of the Eastern Panhandle counties kept the four existing lodges in Jefferson county from joining the new Grand Lodge of West Virginia until six or seven years after the close of the War. Even after it was definitely decided that the Panhandle counties were to remain in the new state, some of the lodges demanded, as a condition of their new allegiance, to be permitted to retain their original Virginia Number. Hence Mt. Nebo remains No. 91 and Triluminar, 117.

Triluminar Lodge No. 117 at Middleway was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia December 24, 1819. The petition for the new lodge to the Grand Master for a dispensation was signed by the following: John Seevers, Charles W. Littler, Joel Ward, Jr., John S. Payton of Hiram Lodge of Winchester, and Jacob Clise, William J. Miller and Moses T. Hunter of Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 89 of Martinsburg. It was located at Bruce's Mill, Frederick County. Such a good recommendation was given these applicants that a charter was granted them without the lodge being compelled to work under dispensation as is the usual custom. The following letter from John Dove, Grand Secretary of Virginia to Wm. O. Macoughtry under date of May 10, 1873 complying with the lodge's request to retain its Virginia charter as an heirloom, is of interest and historic value: Dear Sir and Bro.—We part with Old Triluminar No. 117 with great reluctance, and cannot refuse the request made to retain the parchment on which her charter is engrossed. Yours is the remarkable fact that you were the first lodge ever chartered by the Grand Lodge without previous dispensation. You were also one of the three lodges chartered on the memorable night in December, 1819, on which the work of Cross and Cushman was adopted."

In the year 1831 it was found that it would be better for the craft in general if the lodges were located at Smithfield in Jefferson County. A suitable building was found on the west

side of Main Street on the corner of High Street and the alley leading to the Union Church. Into this building the lodge moved on March 30, 1832. Here the craft labored until on January 3, 1852, they moved into their present home.

The lodge was inactive from November, 1861, to June, 1864. No mention is made in the minutes of the last meeting in 1861 of the fact that the lodge was to become dormant for four long years. At the meeting in December, 1864, the minutes make no mention of the interlude, although they are written on the succeeding pages of the record book. It is as if no long, tragic recess had been taken. The silent lapse of the record is the lodge's memorial of those fitful, tragic years. It continued its work under Virginia jurisdiction until December 28, 1872 when it received its new charter from the Grand Lodge of West Virginia.

Harpers Ferry once had two Masonic Lodges, Eureka No. 25, Feb. 27, 1868 and Charity No. 111. The latter's charter from Virginia Grand Lodge was dated December 15, 1818. These were the first in Jefferson County to enter the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia. The two consolidated with the consent of the new Grand Lodge, as Logan Lodge No. 25. Its charter is dated November 11, 1868, but the consolidation was not approved until November 15, 1871.

Malta Lodge No. 80 at Charles Town was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia December 14, 1847. Its West Virginia charter is dated December 28, 1872. The movement for the organization of Malta must have been given great impetus by the meeting of Triluminar Lodge and visiting masons on May 14, 1844 for the purpose of making pilgrimage to the Washington Cave, as shown in the following minutes:—

Middleway, Jefferson Co., Virga.,
Triluminar Lodge 117,
May 14th A. L. 5844-1844.

Master M. Lodge called from labor to refreshment to assemble in Charles Town on Thursday morning next at 10 o'clock.

Charles Town, May 16th, A. L. 5844, A. D. 1844.

The brethren were called from refreshment to labor—Present, Lewis Fry, W. M. p. t., Vance Bell, S. W. p. t., J. R.

Table of Contents

A. Redman, J. W. p. t., S. L. Minghini, Treasr., J. W. Grantham, Secy. p. t., Jos. E Bell, S D, J. H. Campbell, J. D. p. t., John Fearis, Tyler and 10 other brethren of Triluminar Lodge, Middleway; 11 from G. Washington Lodge, Berryville; 19 from Equality Lodge, Martinsburg; 16 from Mt. Nebo Lodge, Shepherdstown; 3 from Front Royal Lodge, Front Royal; 13 from Livingston Lodge, Charles Town; 22 from Charity Lodge, Harpers Ferry; 14 from Hiram Lodge, Winchester; Bro. Anthony Kimmel, D. E. G. M. Linganore, Frederick County, Maryland; Levi L. Stevenson, P. G. M. and G. L., of Va.; James Point of Staunton; N. Seevers, D. C.; Jas. W. Irwin, Clarksville, Ky.; Wm. Hough, Cumberland, Md.; John Wornel, Mt. Vernon Chapel; and other brethren. The Fraternity assembled in the large room over the Court House at 10 o'clock a. m. The procession moved thence under escort of the Charles Town artillery commanded by Capt. Rowan and the Jefferson Guards by Capt. J. G. Packett, directed by Bros. Capt. G. W. Sappington and W. G. Ferguson on horseback as marshalls, the whole being under special direction of Bro. Dr. John S. Harrison of Martinsburg as Chief Marshall and Bros. N. Seever and Morgan Johnson of Clarke Co. as assistant marshalls to the Presbyterian Church, where the ceremonies were opened with prayer by the Pastor, Rev. Mr. Dutton. An eloquent and appropriate address suited to the interesting occasion which had called the fraternity together was then delivered (occupying an hour and 20 ms.) by Bro. Charles J. Faulkner of Martinsburg, giving an interesting account of the tradition of the Crafts in connection with the country's distinguished Brother and guest, the lamented and ever to be remembered GEORGE WASHINGTON held the first Lodge of free and accepted Masons ever assembled west of the Blue Ridge, which tradition fixes about the year 1753. The speaker was extremely felicitous in his arrangements of the facts connected with this interesting spot. Among other interesting Masonic relics the orator held up to the audience an Apron of black silk velvet presented more than a half century since to Gen. Washington from the Grand Lodge of France through the person of his early friend, brother and companion in arms, Bro. Gilbert M. D. Lafayette. This Masonic relic is the property of Mt. Nebo

Lodge, given it by a collateral descendant of General Washington. The procession returned to the Court House where the following resolutions were unanimously adopted; on motion of Bro. A. Kimmel. Resolved that the thanks of the brethren present be tendered Bro. Faulkner and respectfully request a copy of the address for publication and if obtained that it be likewise published in the several masonic magazines and papers in the U. States.—The chair appointed as the committee Bro. G. W. Singleton, N. Seever and B. Wigginton. Resolved that the thanks of the Brethren be severally tendered the Rev. Mr. Dutton for his ministerial services rendered in church today—the Elders of the Presbyterian Church for the use of their house today—the members of the several Bands for their excellent music during the procession. Capts. Rowan, Packette, the Officers and men under their respective command for the prompt and soldier-like manner in which they discharged the duties assigned them during the procession. Resolved that the proceedings of the day be transcribed by the Secretary of Triluminar Lodge and a copy forwarded to all the Lodges of Virg. and to the several Masonic magazines and papers of the U. States. The Craft was called from labor to refreshment and proceeded in a body to the Hotel of Capt. Jos. F. Abell, where the brethren in a body partook of a sumptuous dinner served up in the usual style of that excellent caterer. Soon after dinner the craft again assembled at the Court House and resumed their labor, formed procession again and proceeded on horseback to the cave on the land of Wm. Clark though recently ascertained to belong to the fraternity in fee by deed of bargain and sale from a Mr. Davis and wife in the year 1773 conveying the cave or 1 1-8 acres of land including the cave to Saml. Washington and several others and recorded in the Clerk's office of Berkeley Co., Va. The cave was beautifully illuminated for the occasion—about 150 of the Craft, 2 companies of Volunteers, a Band of music and a large number of citizens entered this subteraneous excavation rendered interesting to every good and zealous Mason as being the place in which their valuable tenets were first imparted in western Virginia, and 1-2 an hour and more were spent

in exploring the different apartments of this wonderful natural curiosity.

The procession returned to town at 5 o'clock, all much pleased with their first masonic visit to this consecrated spot. Bro. L. L. Stevenson, P. G. M., presided over the several Lodges collectively. The craft was again called from labor to refreshment (at least the Brethren of Triluminar Lodge) to meet at their Hall in Middleway, on Saturday evening the 18th inst., which was accordingly so done and M. M. Lodge closed in due form.

JOHN F. SMITH — LEWIS FRY, W. M.
Secy. p. t. — Pro Tempore

We, the undersigned, Sect'y. and W. M. of Triluminar Lodge No. 117, at Middleway, W. Va., do certify that the above copy is a correct copy of the minutes made May 14, 1844, by this Lodge and is now preserved with our old Lodge records.

Signed

W. M.
Secty.

DOCUMENTARY NOTES OFFERED IN EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE MASONIC CAVE AND ITS INTEREST TO THE MASONIC FRATERNITY. THIS RESEARCH WAS MADE BY COLONEL BRAXTON D. GIBSON, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

In 1750 George Washington surveyed lands of William and Samuel Davis on Evitt's Run, and it is definitely known that the Davises owned the land embracing the cave field.

On June 15, 1773, Samuel Davis and wife deeded to Samuel Washington, John Augustine Washington, Phil Smith, William Crawford, Valentine Crawford, Hugh Stephenson, Richard Stephenson, James Stephenson, and Mark Stephenson, one and one-eight acres of land including the cave. This deed is recorded in Order Book No. 1, page 339, County Clerk's Office, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

The Samuel Davis who deeded the cave to Samuel Washington and seven others, as above mentioned, was one of the charter members as the Junior Warden of Winchester

Hiram Lodge No. 12 chartered in 1768 under warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was still a member at the time the above deed was made in 1773.

CORNER STONE LAYING OF POTOMAC RIVER BRIDGE AT HARPERS FERRY

In the Free Press of Wednesday, October 27th, 1824, there is an account of the laying of the corner stone of the West abutment of the big bridge over the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, on October 22nd, 1824 (Friday). Charity Lodge No. 111 had as honored visitors from Maryland the Grand Master, B. C. Howard, and other officers of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the great General Otho H. Williams, being the Junior Grand Warden. About 150 Masons were in the procession. There were two companies of the military from Maryland. The paper also gives the resolutions adopted at the next meeting of Charity Lodge No. 111 complimenting and thanking the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the visiting military companies for their presence and assistance.

The same issue of the Free Press gives notice of preparations for the cordial welcome to be accorded to General Lafayette who was to arrive at Harpers Ferry on Saturday, October 30, 1824. Charity Lodge No. 111 took a prominent part in the reception tendered their distinguished brother, Lafayette.

Concluding the masonic lodges, Jefferson Lodge No. 51 at Kabletown was active until 1886 when it surrendered its charter. Elk Branch No. 93 was originally located at Duffields. In 1891 it obtained permission to move to Shenandoah Junction. Avon Lodge No. 124 at Summit Point is listed in the issue of the Independent Democrat of Charles Town, Virginia, on October 18, 1859, in the Masonic Lodge Directory for Jefferson County. It is not known just when this lodge became extinct. The round die, part of Avon Lodge seal with No. 124, square and compass and letter G with three candle sticks above are now in possession of Mr. J. K. Janney in Charles Town who is using it at present as a paper weight. It was given to him by one of his employees by the name of Clipp who found it in the tool chest of his grandfather, J. W. Clipp, a farmer near Summit Point. There now remain five masonic lodges in Jefferson County, a greater number than exist in all but two

or three of the larger and more populous counties of the State.

Odd Fellows

The first invention of the name Odd Fellows was by Daniel Defoe in 1745. In the year 1775, the Most Noble Order of the Bucks was established, into which order George IV was initiated in 1780. The earliest ritual extant to be called Odd Fellows was made in 1797. There were originally three separate orders, named respectively the Patriotic Order, the Union or United Order and the Loyal Order. In 1813 the various lodges of the Union Order met in London and formed the historic and famous Manchester Unity, which today remains England's principal Friendly Society. The first lodge in America was Shakespeare Lodge No. 1, organized in New York December 26, 1806, by Solomon Chambers and his son, John, of London.

The beginning of Odd Fellowship as it is known today was the establishment of Washington Lodge No. 1 in Baltimore on April 26, 1819, by Thomas Wildey. The same year the order united with the Manchester Unity and continued its affiliation until September 23, 1842, when Washington Lodge secured a charter from the Duke of York Lodge in England thus creating the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The foregoing history of this Order in America is given to show how closely Jefferson County is allied with the beginnings of all types of enterprises connected with the growth of our nation.

On October 9, 1843, Caledonia Lodge No. 4 of Shepherdstown was chartered to C. A. Keyser, A. R. McQuilkin, Abraham Harris, J. M. Greenwood and Cato M. Entler. On April 21, 1845, the common council of Shepherdstown was petitioned by the lodge for permission to erect a lodge hall in connection with the market house located in the center of King Street at its intersection with German Street. The council gave the lodge a lease for 999 years with the stipulation that the building should have brick walls similar to those of the Reformed Church front and "the whole outside to be buff-washed similar to Mr. Daniel Entler's Hotel." When a charter was issued to West Virginia Grand Lodge as a separate grand jurisdiction, December 5, 1865, there were twenty-two lodges affiliating, of which Caledonia was one and was represented at

the session by John D. Staley. It was at that time that its number was changed from twenty-three to four.

More than ten years before the founding of Caledonia and only fourteen years after the founding of Odd Fellowship in America, Grand Sire Thomas Wildey, the founder of the Order, came to Harpers Ferry on the 18th of May, 1833, for the purpose of opening Virginia Lodge No. 1, O.I.O.F. (Order of Independent Odd Fellows).

This lodge held meetings regularly until April 28, 1861, when it was decided to hold its sessions at the homes of members on account of the hall's being in possession of, and occupied by Southern Troops. It was stated in the minutes that the purpose of holding the meetings was to provide ways and means to care for deserving members. On July 5, 1861, a meeting was held in the Hall to arrange to attend the funeral of a member who had been accidentally shot by one of the federal troops. The regular time of meetings was 4 p. m. This was the last meeting until March 16, 1864, when the Lodge met for reorganization at 3:00 p. m. and decided to resume its meetings at 4:00 p. m.

The lodge owned a beautiful silk banner which was carried away by one of the federal troops during the war. It was returned to the lodge on January 2, 1865, from East Haddam, Connecticut, and is still in possession of the lodge. On December 5, 1865, the new West Virginia charter was granted to:— Benjamin F. Leiseiring, Henry V. Daniels, Alfred Burton, Jos. A. Martin, Samuel Shrewbridge, Wm. E. Anderson, M. T. Krepp and Samuel Traid.

On January 29, 1866, the candles of the Lodge were stored away and for the first time the use of rock oil lamps was inaugurated. Wildey Lodge No. 27 at Charles Town and Samaritan No. 29 at Middleway were also given charters on December 5, 1865. Charles Town's old Virginia number was eleven. Samaritan Lodge at Middleway was first chartered by Virginia October 14, 1846. This lodge surrendered its charter and ceased to function January 14, 1933. Cassender Lodge No. 53 was closed by order of the Grand Lodge June 1, 1882. Victoria Lodge No. 75, Leetown, ceased to exist August 13, 1882. Jefferson No. 130 was first instituted at Duf-

fields May 13, 1892. It was later removed to Shenandoah Junction and gave up its charter September 9, 1932. High Point No. 325 at Summit Point began on November 20, 1908 and closed its work in 1911. Thus in all, eight lodges of Odd Fellows have at different times since the 18th of May 1833, wielded their fraternial influence and assisted needy members and their families in times of sickness and sorrow.

P. O. S. of A.

There have been six camps of Patriotic Order, Sons of America in Jefferson County:—

No. 7 at Shenandoah Junction.
No. 8 at Shepherdstown.
No. 9 at Harpers Ferry
No. 10 at Charles Town.
No. 11 at Summit Point.
No. 30 at Kearneysville.

The objects of this order as set forth are:

1. To inculcate pure American Principles.
2. To teach loyalty to American Institutions.
3. To cultivate fraternal affection.
4. To oppose foreign interference in State and Nation.
5. To oppose appropriation of public moneys for sectarian purposes.
6. To preserve the Constitution of the United States.
7. To defend and maintain the American System of public schools.
8. To provide a sick and funeral benefit.

Washington Camp No. 10 was established December 20, 1905. Among the charter members were:—J. W. Irvin, T. A. Ramey, John T. Porterfield, R. C. Rissler, O. M. Phillips, H. M. Washington and others, thirty-one members in all.

This Camp has been signally honored by having five of its members serve as State Presidents. They were:—E. Hiney, Dr. T. A. Ramey, J. W. Irvin, G. O. Willey and E. B. Reed. It has also furnished three State secretaries:—H. N. Bradley, D. C. Dolly and W. F. Arey, the present incumbent.

Honorable H. N. Bradley is at present the National President of the Order whose headquarters are in Philadelphia.

John W. Irvin has served as National Representative since the beginnig of the Order in the State.

Camp No. 8, Shepherdstown, was chartered on December 13, 1905, with twenty-four members among whom were M. R. Moler, E. A. Crowl, Robert Shipley, C. E. Griffith, William Shipley, C. D. Hoffmaster, Irvin Myers, M. G. Bast, G. W. Ferrell and R. G. Miller.

Honorable U. S. Martin has served as State President of the Order. It should be stated that the late Dr. William H. Reese of the Shepherd College Faculty was a State President and died while attending the annual session at Moorefield in 1931.

In 1910 there was established a lodge of the Independent Order of Red Men in Shepherdstown. There were other lodges of this order in Charles Town and perhaps other places in the county.

There is a Knights of Pythias Lodge in Charles Town.

Thus have men—and women too, in the Eastern Star, Daughters of Pocahontas, Rebeccas and Pythian Sisters—banded themselves together during the entire history of Jefferson county, for purposes of mutual friendship, charity and fraternal association. Their work has been of real and lasting service to the county, the State and the nation. They have truly played their part in our progress and civilization.

—o—

SOME OLD GRAVES AND GRAVEYARDS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

By MRS. J. M. MILLER

Graveyards, not a very cheerful subject, perhaps, but a very interesting one, for they preserve the names of many of those who laid the foundation of our county. Sad to say, a number of these old buryinggrounds, like that around the Old Bullskin Church, near Summit Point, have entirely disappeared, with the names of those who sleep there. And it is only by referring to old letters and Bibles that one can find the names of any of those who are buried at St. George's Chapel.

The oldest markers seem to have been field stones with no records on them, as in the McCormack graveyard, near Summit Point. However, there are still a number of old graveyards that are most interesting.

The Darke graveyard is near Duffields, where the General and members of his family are buried, and Catharina Beierlin. An old sandstone marked M. H. 1776 is also found here.

The graveyard at "Maple Shade" dates back at least to 1786, where the Swearingens, some of them, are buried. At "Bellevue" there are many unmarked stones, and some with names such as Blackford and Hamtramck. In the Reformed Church graveyard the old stones are inscribed in German. Also, not far from here, is the grave of the pioneer, Edward Lucas, and many members of his family. All these are near Shepherdstown.

In the Halltown neighborhood, on the farm of Mrs. Edmund Taylor, is the grave of John Rion, a large land owner, who departed this life 1788. At "Flowing Spring" in the garden in an unmarked grave lies Robin Rutherford, also a large land owner. Other Rutherfords were buried on the George Zinn farm in the garden, as early as the 1800's. Not far from Dust Crossing lies Robert Buckles, a Revolutionary officer, in an unmarked grave. John Freize, a Revolutionary soldier, is said to be buried on the "South Wood" farm, near Walpers Cross Roads. There are many unmarked stones here. At "The Moorings," near Wicliff, Battaile Muse is buried. He was Washington's business manager, and departed this life in 1803. Members of his family are also buried here.

Peter Haines, the last Revolutionary soldier who died in Charles Town, is buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard; no one knows just where. There are over sixty legible stones in this old graveyard, names of those who were active in the affairs of the town. Isabella Kennedy, who died in 1799, has the oldest marked stone.

The old Quaker graveyard on the Marshall Burns place, where once stood a Quaker meeting house, a number of the land owners around here being Quakers, is forgotten history.

A record of about a hundred of these old graveyards has been made to preserve them for other generations, but the work was done too late.

LETTER WRITTEN TO CADET THOS. B. WASHINGTON BY HIS FATHER BUSHROD CORBIN WASHINGTON OF CLAYMONT, NEAR CHARLESTOWN, VA., NOW CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

(Supplied by W. F. Alexander)

To Cadet Thomas B. Washington,
Middletown, Conn.

My dear son,

Your letters of the 27th and 6th have been rec'd and hereby acknowledged; I was pleased to observe an evident improvement in your diction and handwriting & hope you will continue to do so; you must not however forget the great importance of correct spelling. You do not speak as fully of your course of studies as I could wish. I ddesire to know what Latin book you are reading, how much you read a day, who are in your class and which is the best scholar, and so in regard to each of your other studies; the number of your room, the names of your roommates and their general characters; whether or not you have been admitted into the regiment; how you are pleased with the Academy, military & literary, or any other interesting information; what books, clothes &c you have bought; what improvement you wish to make in your room; why it is necessary for you to make them at your own expense, and if it meets the Captain's views and approbation. Each and every question I wish you to answer in the order they are stated. I also wish to know if the Captain allows money to be sent to the cadets personally, for it is contrary to his printed rules & regulations.

The wheat crop is much injured by the fly, the corn is growing finely, it has been very seasonable since I got home. I had commenced sending the paper to you before your letter upon that subject reached me. I should be very much pleased to visit you this autumn accompanied by your dear Mother. I bought for you in Philadelphia on my way home a very handsome seal. I am sorry to announce to you the death of Tom Mitchel, he died very suddenly not being sick more than two hours.

Wm. Perry expects to go to Baltimore shortly, the store we hope to get him in is partly owned by Wm. Brown's son; I am in hopes it will be a very good situation.

Your relations and friends within my reach are well, & all unite in love to you; Miss Kennedy and Mrs. Perry desire to be affectionately remembered to you, the servants send their love to you.

God bless you my dear son,

Your affectionate Father

BUHSROD C. WASHINGTON.

June 17th 1827

Sun. Morn.

N. B. You must always in the conclusion of your letters speak of Yates & Baylor.

(These were two boys from Jefferson County attending the Academy with Thomas Washington.)

Sherwood, Sunday Mor. June 17, 1827.

My dear Brother

I received your affectionate letter on Thursday, and was much pleased to find that you had not forgotten me. I would have written sooner, but waited to see if you would favor me with a letter. You cannot think what real pleasure it gives your dear Mother to think how well you spend your Sabbath, my dear Brother and it gives me pleasure to think that if you and I never meet in this world the thought of meeting in another far better world than this. I hope when we do meet again we will be more affectionate in our manners to each other and try to make our time profitable to both.

Never forget me in your prayers to your Heavenly Father, my beloved brother I never fail to remember you in mine. Aunt Judy has received a letter from our Kind Cousin Kitty Cunningham who enquires very affectionately for you and desires me to tell you not to forget your promise to her. Mrs. Turner sends her love to you and the little girls theirs. I delivered your message to William Perry, B. W. Herbert, E. S. Blackburn, Sister Maria & V. T. Washington, they send their thanks to you for remembering them. Mammy, Tena & Liddy are very much pleased to hear that you have got on your uni-

form, and say that you must look very nice in it, they send their love and all the other servants, but I must conclude. May God bless you my dear Brother is the sincere wish of your affectionate Sister,

HANNAH LEE WASHINGTON.

Letter of Anne Maria Thomasina Blackburn Washington to her son Thomas Blackburn Washington.

Sabbath Evening.

Your letter, my beloved Child caused my heart to rejoice, persevere ever unto the end my darling in reading your Bible and praying. Large schools are sometimes blessed with special visits and outpourings of the Holy Spirit. There has been a revival at West Point and so there may be at Middletown and my beloved, my only son may be of the number who shall pass from death unto life. I miss you most I think, my darling, on the Sabbath, but I think instead of murmuring and complaining of your being separated from me I should rejoice that our Heavenly Father has taken you under his care and placed you where you have such advantages. The servants have been much engaged to-day in attending Ned's funeral. Your uncle and aunt have lost a kind friend & faithful servant in Thomas Mitchel, he I doubt not is happy for he was a religious man. I send you an extract from the guardian "Read the Bible, beware of evil company, reverence the Sabbath, never neglect private prayer. Be courageous in opposing sin, and declare your attachment for religion, whatever others do determine solemnly and deliberately & in the strength of God to serve the Lord. Avoid the theatre as you would a pest-house, never be induced to enter those walls, where even the name of God is profaned & piety ridiculed, where indecency in dress and in gestures spreads her net to entangle the simple and unwary, this I hope you have seen with disgust. Be affable kind & courteous to all, submissive to your teachers and respectful in your manner of speaking of them as well as to them. Be liberal (not ostentatious) in bestowing as well as in thinking. Be economical in your pecuniary concerns for extravagance leads to robbery, forgery, and often to death and always to much trouble in this life."

Your father feeds Porter at night in the chamber portico. Sydney, I believe, stays at Mrs. Perry's. Your aunt B, and aunt Jane send their love as does Sarah Jane. I do not feel quite satisfied with myself for writing today. I was much pleased with the subscription raised for Harriet and will enquire about him.

I commend you to our Father in Heaven and remain,

Your affectionate Mother.

—o—

JEFFERSON COUNTY VOTERS, JANUARY 1789

The list of voters, freeholders who participated in the election of a member of Congress on January 7, 1789, as republished in the issue of The Farmers Advocate for the first week of January 1873.

The opposing candidates were Col. William Darke of Berkeley and General James Wood of Frederick county. This section then being a part of Berkeley, all our voters had to go to Martinsburg, the county seat, to cast their votes.

A partial list of voters at that election were: Daniel Bedinger, William Blue, John Briscoe, James Buckles, Daniel Cameron, Isaac Chapline, Conrad Claycomb, Christopher Clice, Philip Coons, Patrick Dougherty, Martin Entler, Isaac Evans, Jas. Foreman, John Fryatt, James Glenn, William Gorrell, George Ham, William Hannah, William Henshaw, David Hunter, Jacob Isler, James Kearney, John Kearsley, Launcelot Lee, William Leith, Edward Lucas, James Maxwell, John Melvin, Cato Moore, Richard Morgan, William Morgan, Zach Morgan, John Morrow, Thos. Osborne, Mathew Porterfield, George Reynolds, Thos. Rutherford, Henry Sheetz, Abram Shepherd, Nicholas Strayer, James Strode, Thomas Swearingen, Magnus Tate, Thomas Thornburg, Richard Willis, Robert Wilson, Philip Wiltshire.

BRADDOCK'S MARCH THROUGH JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historians in referring to the march of Braddock to the Ohio River with the expectation of capturing the French at Fort Duquesne are accustomed to ignore the fact that a large part of his troops passed through what is now Jefferson County in West Virginia, a detachment having come from Alexandria by way of Leesburg and Keyes Ferry and having encamped for a time near Charles Town. Maps showing the line of march indicate only a route by way of Williamsport, Martinsburg and Winchester.

In support of the Jefferson County route, Miss Carrie B. Wilson recently read before the Society a portion of a diary entitled "Journal of a Voyage from London to Virginia 1754" found in the Library of Congress. This diary rehearses the experiences of an English lady who, as a nurse, accompanied her brother, a commissary officer attached to Braddock's expeditionary force at Fort Cumberland. The original diary was found in England.

Earlier writers from the county have not relished this slight on Jefferson County. For example, there is the article on Braddock's March written for the West Virginia Historical Society in 1902 by General Wm. P. Craighill who calls attention to the route of Sir Peter Halket's Regiment by way of Keyes Gap.

Portions of the diary and of General Craighill's article are herewith given.

From the Diary

June the 5

My lodgings (at friend Thompson's) not being very clean, I had so many close Companions call'd Ticks that deprived me of my nights Rest, but I indulged till 7. We halted this Day, all the Nurses Baking Bread and Boiling Beef for the March to morrow. A fine Regale 2 chicken with milk and water to Drink which my friend Thompson said was fine temperate Liquor. Several things lost out of my Waggon amongst the rest they took 2 of my Hams, which my Coachman said was an abomination to him and if he could find out who took them

he would make them remember taking the next.
June the 6

Took my leave of Friend Thompson, who bid me farewell. A great Gust of Thunder and Lightning and Rain pass'd over the Blue Ridge which was one continual mountain for 3 Miles. Forg'd through 2 Rivers. At 7 we halted at Mr. Keyes, a fine Plantation. Had for dinner 2 chickens.
June the 7

Having no room to lodge in I lay'd in the Chimney, so wanted no calling in the Morning having no sleep all Night. At 4 we began to march. Great gusts of Rain my wagon and every thing in it wet, and all sick allmost drown'd. At 4 we halted at my Friend Laidlers, (Brucetown)

The next stop was at Ballengers, Eight miles from Winchester. (Thompson's Inn is supposed to have been about where Hillsborough is now.)

From the Craighill Article

There is no reasonable doubt that Braddock hmself finally crossed the Potomac at Williamsport and went thence direct to Winchester. The testimony of Washington confirms that, as does also the following extract from a letter of Governor Sharpe to Lord Baltimore dated the 22d of May, in which he says "The General did not leave Frederick until first of May when I waited on him over Potomac on the way to Winchester."

* * *

Washington had been from Alexandria to Winchester quite often, but not by way of Frederick, Maryland. And he did not approve the Frederick route, as is shown by the following extract from his letter previously quoted, of May 5 to Fairfax, where he says, "You will naturally conclude that to pass through Maryland when no object required it was an uncommon and extraordinary route for the General and for Colonel Dunbar's regiment. The reason however was obvious. Those who promoted it had rather that the communication should be opened that way than through Virginia, but I believe that the eyes of the General are now open and the imposition detected."

It is highly probable it was the influence of Sharpe that

took any of Braddock's command via Frederick, which was off the direct and natural line of that day from Alexandria to Cumberland. The Pennsylvanians found fault with both the Viriginia and Maryland routes and claimed that the army should have been brought up the Delaware to Philadelphia and started thence on its westward way. Doctor Franklin was of that opinion.

* * *

I quote now from Sargent's History (published in 1855 by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

"It may not be amiss to trace here the exact line of route which they followed. By St. Clair's advice the army was to start from Alexandria in two divisions; 1 regiment and a portion of the stores to Winchester Va., whence a new road was nearly completed to Fort Cumberland; and the other regiment with the remainder by way of Frederick in Maryland. A portion of the stores were to be conveyed in part by water-carriage on the Potomac. Accordingly, on the 8th and 9th of April, the Provincial and 6 companies of the 44th regiment under Sir Peter Halket, set out for Winchester; Lieut. Col. Gage and 4 companies remaining to escort the artillery. April 18th, the 48th under Col. Dunbar, set out for Frederick, detaching a company to the Conococheague to expedite the transmission of stores gathered there. Arriving at Frederick, however, it was found there was no road through Maryland to Will's Creek (Cumberland) and Dunbar was accordingly compelled on the 1st of May to cross the Potomac at the Conococheague and strike the Winchester route."

* * *

(Quotations from Lieut. Orme's Journal). "The General set out for Winchester and thence proceeded to Fort Cumberland where he arrived May 10th, and also the 48th regiment (Dunbar's) which had come by Frederick."

Sir Peter Halket with 6 companies of the 44th, 2 independent companies of the Virginia troops were already encamped at this place" (Cumberland), having come by the better route.

Halket's command marching by the Winchester route seem to have had no difficulty. All the trouble was with

Dunbar's, as we hear nothing of Halket's from Alexandria via Winchester.

The troops that went by Frederick were ferried across the Potomac at the mouth of Rock Creek which now separates Washington and Georgetown

* * *

The route of Sir Peter Halket's command from Alexandria to Winchester is also laid down in orders of April 11th, 1755, and the order is given below.

"Alexandria, Friday, April 11th, 1755.

"March route of Sir Peter Halket's Regiment from the Camp at Alexandria

"To Winchester .....Miles
(Shenandoah)

"To ye old Court House 18

"To Mr. Coleman's on Sugar Land Run where there is Indian corn 12

"To Mr. Miners 15

"To Mr. Thompson, ye Quaker, wh ye is 3,000 wt. corn 12

"To Mr. They's 17 ye ferry of Shann 12 17

"From Mr. They's to Winchester 23

This last distance is evidently from the Shenandoah to Winchester.

* * *

I will conclude by indicating in some detail the route of the considerable part of the command which passed up through Virginia and West Virginia from Alexandria to Winchester.

The "Old Braddock Road" is well known by that name near Alexandria to this day. Gen. McDowell in his order of march for his troops to the field of Bull Run in 1861 mentions it as "The Old Braddock road which runs between the Little River pike and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad."

A friend of mine near Alexandria, Mr. L. M. Blackford, the principal of the Episcopal High School, says: "The road now known as the Braddock road is one which leaves the Leesburg turnpike at the north-eastern corner of the high school tract and runs west between these premises and Manokin, the former residence of Cassina F. Lee, Esq., out for a mile or two until it

becomes gradually impassable from long disuse and is hardly traceable. From the north-eastern corner of the school tract it crosses from the Leesburg pike, and goes to Alexandria by the residence of Doctor Slaughter, Doctor Rust and others, entering town in the neighborhood of Colross. After it crosses the Leesburg pike, however, it seems best known as the old Mush-Pot road."

A friend in Leesburg, an old man, who has been over the road himself, writes: "Braddock's Road was cut through the primitive forest within half a mile of Leesburg on the north side of Tuscarora stream, then on the south side of Dry Mill, on over the mountain at Clark's Gap, thence through Keys' Gap between Hillsboro and Harpers Ferry."

The Shenandoah river was crossed at what is now known as Keyes' Ford. Thence the road went up through the present town of Charles Town, near Summit Point and on to Winchester.

I have myself been over this road from Leesburg, Va., over the Blue Ridge by the way of Keyes' Gap, across the Shenandoah river at Keyes' Ford in my native county of Jefferson in West Virginia, through Charles Town and up towards Winchester; and I have seen an old map made in 1734, on which the road is shown that Braddock's troops passed over 21 years later. A country place in Jefferson County, long in possession of the Washingtons, has for more than a century had the name of "Braddock" because Braddock's troops were in camp upon it, and a shallow well remains to this day which was dug by them. The "Old Braddock road" can also be traced near Winchester, Virginia, and elsewhere. The Gap and Ford of Keyes of this day had then the name of Vestal, a name used by Washington in his writings.

One very striking advantage of the route preferred by Washington was that it avoided a double crossing of the great Potomac near Alexandria and again at Williamsport, whereas the much smaller Shenandoah was easily passed at Keyes' Ford.

THE MIDDLEWAY BLUES

(From an unpublished History of Smithfield prepared by Colonel Robert L. Bates, Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington.)

During the "thirties" each community had its company of soldiers in compliance with the regulations governing the establishment of a militia. These companies had a local personnel of officers and men, and were matters of considerable pride on the part of the respective communities. Periodically they drilled. Good drillmasters, who were in demand, would frequently go from place to place and instruct the soldiery in military tactics and the manual of arms. Older men, women and children would throng the drill field, some farmer's meadow; would thrill to the drum and struggle to restrain their emotions on these occasions. Secret societies were not then so numerous as they are today. Masonry was for the older and soberer citizen. The militia served the purpose of the secret society, in that, it supplied a distinctive regalia, inculcated the ideals of patriotism, provided for sociability, and was the source of strong community interest.

Middleway had its company—"The Middleway Blues." John F. Smith, at the time of which we speak, was its captain. On special occasions, like the Fourth of July, there would be a mobilization of companies at some nearby county seat. At such times, this was the signal for the country side to turn out in mass to see the spectacle . There was silent awe as the home troops went by in procession. Each community in the time of the "thirties" had its own peculiar characteristics—even a local accent. The militia was the focus of local pride. For months after a parade the acts and achievments, the jokes and jests that originated at such times were matters of discussion and entertainment. The butt of ridicule was the intoxicated militiaman who had been rendered hors-de-combat before the parade had begun—and the file closer had to take his place in the squad. But here we shall have to pause to relate an especial episode that figured large in the lives and memories of the Middleway Blues.

On May 20, 1834, the great Lafayette died. He had attained to heroic stature in the minds of the citizenry through-

out the nation for the services he had rendered the cause of American independence. Settlers moving westward had spread the fame of this illustrious soldier. Newly founded hamlets, cities and counties had been named in his honor. Children to this day bear "Lafayette" as their Christian names because their grandfathers and great-grandfathers had borne the name before them. No district or pioneer settlement was too remote from the concourse of civilization to sing his praise. The highest and the humblest, alike, loved him. When his death was announced, all vessels leaving European ports bound for America hastened to convey the sad news. Upon their arrival in New York and Philadelphia the story was told, and couriers immediately dispatched the news throughout the country. A period of public mourning was decreed. A gloom spread over the land. Community vied with community as to how best to express a public grief. It was an occasion for marching columns and for funeral dirges. Fifes and drums once more sounded.

A unique expedient was hit upon. Mock funerals would be conducted and the imaginary remains of the great Lafayette would be laid to rest. The citizens of Shepherdstown planned such a funeral. August 4, 1834 was the date set. A committee on arrangements was appointed and invitations were extended to Martinsburg, Charlestown, Middleway and elsewhere, with the request that their soldiery participate in the exercises commemorative of Lafayette.

Capt. Smith marched the Middleway Blues afoot to Shepherdstown. In reality it was a gala occasion, though ostensibly one of mourning. Capt. Smith had some personal misgivings as to the advisability of his leaving home at this time. But it was then, as now, a captain's duty to be with his command. In some two hours of marching they had reached the roadside home of General Charles Lee, now long dead, who was said so ignominiously to have failed Washington at a critical hour. Washington and Lafayette were so great in public esteem that Lee suffered by contrast and his unpopularity had pursued him to this locality. When the soldiers passed the house they uttered opprobrious epithets and continued their march at rout step. After successive intervals of marching

and rest, footsore, they at length reached Shepherdstown. The town was all agog. Detachments were coming in from other points.

The day following the arrival of the Middleway Blues was given over to patriotic ceremonies. Orators depicted the career of the great soldier and statesman—for Lafayette was second to no one but Washington. They emphasized the debt of the United States to France. Their hero was compared to the great Washington who had preceded the illustrious Frenchman to the grave by a whole generation. The achievements of the two men were linked together. In flights of oratory their virtue and their genius were lauded to the sky. The body was at length committed to the earth. As a salute was fired over the grave a thrill of patriotic emotion gripped the assemblage.

No less a personage was present than Littleton W. Tazewell, then the Governor of Virginia. The companies formed in line for a parade and review by their Governor. One by one the detachments came by the reviewing stand. Military officers were present to judge the best drilled company and to award a trophy to that organization. Middleway won the distinction and a banner, with due ceremony, was presented to the Middleway Blues.

When the company returned home the captain was informed that a son had arrived at about the time the pseudo-Lafayette was being lowered into the grave. Lafayette's full name was given to the infant son, which was later contracted into "Alphabet" Smith by the possessor's friends and fellow merchants.

John F. Smith, although a descendant of John Smith, came of a family of Smiths other than the founders of the town. Capt. Smith was, for many years, the town's justice of the peace and merchant. The flag is, at present, in the possession of Robert U. Smith, Capt. Smith's grandson.

UNIFORM OF THE POTOMAC RIFLE COMPANY

(This description found by Miss Julia Reinhart in her Swearingen Papers is thought to refer to the uniform worn by the "Long Greens," a color regiment of the 1830's in Shepherdstown which got its name partly from the color of its uniforms and partly from the fact that only "six-footers" made up its membership. At any rate, Lewis J. Welshans had the same description from his grandfather, Joseph Welshans, 1805-1897, who was the sturdy color bearer of the company. The names Potomac Rifle Company and "Long Greens" may not have been used simultaneously, but the company doubtless was the immediate predecessor of the "Hamtramck Guards," or Shepherdstown Light Infantry, originating in the Mexican War period, and a successor of the "Shepherd Blues" of 1799. It was probably the offspring of a Shepherdstown organization formed by Col. Henry Van Swearingen about 1812, some of whose members survived to attend the funeral of Col. John F. Hamtramck in April, 1858.)

Coat—Pea Green frock—to reach within 4 ins. of the Knees—Single breasted—3 rows of Silver plate bullet buttons in front—9 buttons in each row—Black herring bone worked breast—3 buttons, 2 ins. apart running up each Sleve—the lower one at the edge of the Cuff—2 buttons one each Side of the collar, with a herring bone Stitch to correspond with the buttons o nthe Sleve & Collar—the collar to close & hook in front—4 buttons at the flaps of the pocket foulds in the rear.

Pants—Same color & material as the coat—to fit comfortably loose—open on the out Side at the ancle 10 inches. to button with Small Silver plated bullet buttons—Strap beneath the foot.

Stock, Black Silk velvet, Bombazeine—or leather—

Cap—Black Velvet corresponding with the draft, herewith—3 black ostrich feathers, in front, not more than 10 inches long.

Belt—Black leather—2 inches wide—

Bootees, Boots or Shoes—

Com Officers, Coat & material same as privates, except that Silver lace cheverons Shall correspond with the buttons on the Sleve—& the Capt shall have one on each arm above the elbow—

Silver Wings to be worn by the Com Officers, & Woolen Wings by the Non-Com officers—The feather of the Com officers cap, are not to be less than 12 in long—

Swords of Steel, or plated Silver mounting, to be worn by all

the officers—the sword to be a "Cut & thrust"—
Sash—of Scarlet Silk or Wool to be worn by all the officers tied on the right Side—

—o—

LETTER BY MAJOR HENRY BEDINGER

(From the Draper Papers of the Wisconsin Historical Society, secured by Miss Ella May Turner.)

Protumna June 21st.—1835

My Dear Brother

The boy which Carried my letter directed to you dated 23 May brought me yours of the 17th of the same month, having nothing of importance to communicate I postponed writing;—Yesterday I received yours of the 7th Inst.—This will therefore be a reply to both—

Our Niece Olivia Morgan and our Cousin Maria Winrot the Granddaughter of our much respected departed Uncle Colo. Henry Slagle happened to be here yesterday, when your last Came to hand—Mrs. Ransom had Visited us a few days before—they Seemed to regret that Richd. Henry had Cancelled the bargain with Mr. Allen, as Richd. Henry had informed them that Estate would now bring a much higher price than he was to pay—my Opinion is Still the Same; and I must still believe the purchase was too large for his funds—tho Olivia thinks Otherwise—how Richard Henry will do in the Mercantile line is Very uncertain, he is inexperienced in that line and you already know my Opinion of Mercantile pursuits generally— —

I am extremely Sorry your Son D—continues in a delicate state of Health—. I should advise a trip South possibly a Southern tour might restore him,—persons afflicted with Complaints of the lungs seldom receive any benefit from Mineral waters; — — By invitation I attended a Barbacue at our departed Sisters Springs on the 60th Anniversary of our March to Boston. Our Nephew Jacob Morgan has embelished and Ornamented that Spring where you and myself partook of a barbacue on the 50th Anniversary, that place has become almost Consecrated ground,—not one human being of all who knew those Springs in 1775, remained or could attend there, but myself, and there were probably 800 men at this last meet-

ing, besides women, Children and Servants the general Estimate as to number was by Some Supposed to be nearly 1500. Though I thought the number about 1000. It was a dinner given to Colo. Edward Lucas and as a festive meeting, and a rejoicing, at the Victory obtained in the Re-election to Congress of Colo. Lucas, against the Federal Candidate John R. Cooke and purposely fixed on the Anniversary, to perpetuate, the pledge we had given on the 10th of June 1775. Many persons who know you and attended there regretted greatly, that you was not, nor Could not make one of the party, as you and myself are believed to be the Only Survivors of Captain Hugh Stephens (ons) Company.—Colo. Lucas gave us a very neat Speech on the Occasion of the meeting, and in which he detailed the patriotic services and sufferings, of us (three Brothers) in the revolution &ec, &ec—Gentlemen were invited and attended from every County in this Congressional district; and I never saw so decent, so orderly a meeting at a festive board; we had the Harpers ferry, the Martinsburg and the Shepherds Town band, Combined; which greatly enhanced the pleasure of the meeting—all was Carried out and ended with the most Complete and unprecedented order,—the table was more than 80 yards in length it Contained 240 plates, knives and forks, and more than 100 glass tumblers, and Other Necessary implements, all in the best style, most abundantly furnished;—I remained at Jacob Morgans who resides in his Elegant new house, built about 50 yards on the height west of where the log barns of our Sisters stood—I visited the secene of festivity next morning and was assured by the purveyors that such was the extraordinary Orderly Conduct of all classes, not a single article of any description was missing or broken, except one tumbler and One plate.—This is but a short description:—I am Sorry you Could not be with us to partake of, and mingle in the pleasant throng—

Our worthy Nephew D. Morgan requested me to say, he had sold the Bank Stock at par—that he could by a Short notice, from you, raise five or six hundred Dollars for you, that he had paid the other Legatees, their share of the avails of the bank stock, & that moneys could be had from the storekeepers, who had moneys loaned to them by our departed Brother, on

any reasonable or Short notice, that nothing has yet been done with the Maryland land nor has the damages been paid tho Mr. Lee informed me some time since he had found the amount, in the hands of one of the Striders, which he thought fortunate as the Canal Company were Bankrupt,—That Company as many others is frequently bankrupt, or nearly so—but it will never be bankrupt in fact, because whenever their resources are exhausted, some means are devised to obtain, or create additional Supplys, & the work goes on

My daughter Sally and Granddaughter Ellen Augusta Miller have just returned from Philadelphia, where they had went, on a Visit to Colo. Miller, remained there Only about three weeks, the Colo. has not enjoyed good health since the attacks on him by the Cholera, is however somewhat recovering his former activity—'tis astonishing to me to find withwhat facility the trip to Philadelphia is now made. My Children breakfasted at Colo. Millers, passed on to Baltimore the same day, set out next morning arrived at Harpers Ferry by 2 OClock and at Colo. Davenports by four—thus making the trip in less than two days, & all in open day light—the Carrs run from Harpers ferry on the rail road, the greater part of the way to Baltimore by Steam, and at the rate of One mile in three minutes—

You State that you had sometime since written to Thos. S Morgan to induce him to take your farm on some terms;—I had supposed that he was in a situation more independent than to rent, or undertake the Management of any lands other than his own, is he also brought low by the Unfortunate Concition of his brother Abel?—I had hitherto supposed that Thomas Still held his devision of that and where his Father first Resided after removing down to the Vincinity of Russelsville— —

I find you still entertain some Idea of making a Visit, & Mention that you would probably bring with you some horses. This would be a troublesome Job unless you could bring an active young man with you, the Chance of Sale too has become quite precarious, but few horses are now wanting for any use—waggoning is broke up, everything is transporting by Canal or rail road, no horses are wanted except a few for riding & plowing, and Oxen are substituting for the Com-

mon plantation drawing. Still, well broke, well gaited horses will bring large prices about the large Cities, but common horses are and will Continue Cheap—

Our Nephew Doctor Daniel Bedinger had as you have long since probably been informed, caught the Smallpox, on a trip of experiment to Baltimore to assist to make himself acquainted with the best means of Curing the Cholera, he had the Smallpox quite Severe, is a good deal pitted in the face, and on recovery it was believed, he had also recovered from the disease of his lungs. Appeared untill Very lately quite fleshy and in high health, but alas his disease has, or is returning has lately had several bleedings of the lungs looks pale, and I believe in Some measure despairs—talks of making a Journey to Floriday or some other Southern Country, with the hope of regaining health.—he was well fixed at Harpers ferry, attended to his official duties with promptitude, and maintained a respectable Character—poor fellow, I fear all his hopes of Earthly enjoyments are Vanishing, as I believe he is thus again assailed by a disease that I have never yet known to be Cured—

Our Crops of Wheat here are worse than I ever knew them there is Scarcely a farm in this Vicinity that will make its Seed and bread, & yet the district from Shepherds Town South promises abundant Crops, our whole dependence is on Rye, of which there was unfortunately but too little Sowed, and on our Corn now growing—for the last three years my Crops of wheat were Very short, but the present crop is still more. Vastly more deficient, those failures have greatly affected, both myself, and my immediate Neighbors; and is a Source of greater pressure or panic than could be inflicted by the U. S. bank, or any other banks of this Country, tis well asscertained that money is more plenty in the Seaports than it has been for years Yet we fail of the means of obtaining any of it, because we have not flour (that being our Staple) to sell,—I find the people along the Scioto Canal are realizing fine prices for produce it Seems wheat Sells at 80 Cts has been as high as $1.00, flour $5. and Corn about 50 Cts—Whether this is owing to Scarcity, or to whatever Other cause, the prices of bread stuffs, as well as of beef & pork, appear to me, health

generally—I had almost forgotten to tell you that Henry Bedinger our Brother Daniel's Second son, has commenced the practice of law and bids fair to make a Conspicuous figure at the bar, that his first speech, made in defence of a Criminal Cause, gained great applause—also that Edwin Bedinger is about to again Visit his lands in Ohio & will set out and proceed by the way of Kanhaway in a week or two—God bless you my dear Brother, present us affectionately to your family—

Henry Bedinger
Majr George M. Bedinger
Lower Blue Licks
Kentucky

FROM THE POTOMAK GUARDIAN JANUARY 14, 1796

(Copy furnished by Miss Ella May Turner.)

Last Tuesday se'n night departed this life, Mr. James Jack, of Potomack, in Berkeley. He was amongst the first white children born in this vale:—he employed himself in cultivating the then wild woods, and raised a respectable family. He was a good citizen, husband and father; and as a testimonial to his competency, satisfaction and contentment in this world, he desired to be buried on the same plantation, where he was born sixty-one years ago.

FROM THE CHARLES TOWN FREE PRESS, JULY 8, 1854

(Copy supplied by Miss Ella May Turner.)

Mr. Joseph C. Davis, son of Mr. Aquilla Davis, of this town, who left with the Jefferson County California Company in March, 1849, returned a few days ago in renewed health.

THE VIRGINIA & MARYLAND BRIDGE COMPANY AND ITS BRIDGE AT SHEPHERDSTOWN

(Paper read before the Society by Taxter Welshans, February 3, 1933. The last paragraph has been added to bring it up to date.)

The Virginia & Maryland Bridge Company was organized and incorporated in 1848, when the Virginia Legislature, by special act, granted a charter and franchise to build and operate a bridge, and specifically rated the various rates of toll to be charged. The State of Maryland concurred in said charter and franchise. The Bridge Company bought all property rights of the Blackford Ferry, which included the ferry lot and several acres on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and practically all of the property, now known as Bridgeport, on the Maryland side.

In about two years, or 1850, the bridge was completed, the stone for the abutments and piers having been quarried from the cliff of the company's property on the Virginia side adjoining on the north. The original superstructure was of wood, with weatherboarded sides and shingle roof.

During the Civil War, in 1861, the bridge was burned by the Confederate soldiers, from which time until 1871 all traffic had to use the ferry, when the second bridge was build of wood, weatherboarded and covered the same as the first.

When the company was incorporated in 1848, the authorized capital was $60,000, or 1,200 shares of a par value of $50 each. All that was ever issued and paid in was $42,000, or 800 shares, of which latter the State of Virginia subscribed and bought 200 shares, one-fourth of the total issued stock. In 1871, when the company planned a new bridge by assessing all stockholders for the purpose, the State of Virginia refused to put any more money in the enterprise and thereby forfeited her stock, for the reason that she could no longer be interested after the State had divided in 1863, turning us over to the State of West Virginia.

In November 1877, the flood swept off one span of the West Virginia side, but it was promptly replaced.

The great high water of 1889 carried the entire superstructure away, and in the following year, 1890, an iron bridge

at a slightly higher level was built by the King Iron Bridge Company, of Cleveland, Ohio.

During 1924 the iron bridge was remodelled by the Atlantic Bridge Company, of Roanoke, Virginia, when steel joists and beams replaced wooden ones, and a heavier floor of wood was topped off with three lengths of 5-8 inch steel treads from end to end; also the old wooden railings were changed to one and one-half inch iron tubing.

This iron bridge was swept out by the highest flood known in Shepherdstown on March 18, 1936. At the present time traffic crosses the Potomac on a ferry privately operated about forty feet below the site of the old bridge.

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FROM THE POTOMAC GUARDIAN, JANUARY 9, 1799

(Copy supplied by Miss Ella May Turner. The officers of the company were Abram Shepherd, Captain; James Glenn, Lieut.; Raleigh Morgan, Ensign.)

On the first day of January 1799 a superb stand of colors presented to Shepherd Blues by Miss Peggy Kearsley and Miss Eleanor Kearsley, daughters of John Kearsley, Esq., of Shepherdstown in the county of Berkeley and State of Virginia. The peculiar device and motto suggested by the young ladies and executed by an ingenious artist on an azure ground set in gold was superlatively magnificent.

The scene was graced with the presence of the young ladies and their adddress, which accompanied the delivery of the standard, inspired an American ardor, quite sufficient for the most heroic deeds.