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Magazine of the

Jefferson County Historical Society

Volume LXXIV
December 2008

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Magazine of the

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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"No man is fit to be entrusted with the control of the present who is ignorant of the past, and no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great."

"History by apprizing them of their past will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of man; it will enable them to know ambition under every disguise it may assume, and, knowing it, to defeat its views."

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized May 21, 1927

To identify, present, preserve and promote the history of Jefferson County.

www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org

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Life in the Goldfish Bowl: Happy Retreat 1945 to 1954

by Tom Fairbairn

Editor's note: *Happy Retreat was the home of George Washington's brother Charles (1738-1799), the founder of Charles Town. The original dwelling was two brick wings connected by a breezeway. The out-buildings have evolved over the entire life of the house. Judge Isaac Douglas purchased the house in 1837. He built the center portion, made other modifications and renamed it Mordington, although it is still generally known as Happy Retreat. There have been many owners and many renovations over the years.*

How we came to live at Happy Retreat is a story in itself.

My dad, Ed (Scottie) Fairbairn, worked for Mr. Raymond J. Funkhouser (RJ) from 1942 until dad died in 1945. He was advertising manager for the O'Sullivan Rubber Company during most of that time. He tried to enlist several times, but was 4-F because of his bad kidneys, which ultimately killed him. My uncle, David McMillan, also worked for Mr. Funkhouser, at Victor Products Corporation in Ranson. Both he and Aunt Florence McMillan were associated in one way or another with several of Mr. Funkhouser's enterprises over the years.

After my dad died, Mr. Funkhouser arranged for our family to become live-in caretakers at Happy Retreat, initially during the time he was having it restored and later to keep up the gardens, shrubbery, and the house itself. It also involved having the house open upon demand for anyone who wanted to go through it, and provide historical information relating to the house itself and to the Washington family. Carloads and busloads of visitors began arriving almost before the restoration began, and lasted throughout our stay there. The house was also available by prior arrangement for weddings, formal parties, and other activities; several weddings were held there.

After a couple of years, my mother's parents, Trenor and Gertrude Judd, joined us with Mr. Funkhouser's kind permission. During and following the renovations, we continued to live there until Mr. Funkhouser passed away, and in 1954 we moved to other locations.



EDWIN FITZPATRICK PHOTO
COURTESY BILL AND MARY GAVIN, OWNERS OF HAPPY RETREAT.

View taken of the north elevation from about halfway to Mordington Avenue. This later became a grassy lawn. A small plot was arranged to the northeast of the east wing, using some of the stone from the slave/servant quarters, to memorialize Charles and Mildred Washington.

As a place for young children, Happy Retreat was incredible. There were buildings to explore, 14 acres to investigate, Evitt's Run just south of the property to throw sticks into, and so on. When we first moved there, a small ramshackle milk house stood straight south of the main house across the driveway. There was a three-stall coach house with a tackle-room attached to the southwest of the west wing, again across the driveway. There was a very run-down stone building we believed to have been a slave quarters directly east of the east wing and northeast of the smokehouse. The slave quarters were to have been renovated, but the building collapsed one day before it could be shored up and strengthened. That stone was ultimately used for other purposes at various Funkhouser properties.



EDWIN FITZPATRICK PHOTO
COURTESY BILL AND MARY GAVIN, OWNERS OF HAPPY RETREAT.

The former slave/servant quarters that was to the east of the main house and northeast of the kitchen. It shows the east and south walls, with workmen scrambling to try to stabilize the structure.

When we first moved to Happy Retreat, the renovations had not yet begun. There was one bathroom that the previous owner, Matthias Conklyn, had installed, much of the house had no electrical connections, the plumbing and kitchen were archaic, and there were miles of gas pipes running through the house for the lighting fixtures that were in several of the rooms. Much of the exterior woodwork was in bad condition; windows were broken or falling out of rotted frames, and there were roof leaks where the slate had shattered or become dislodged. The septic system was almost non-existent. The radiators and boiler were beyond hope, although they did work.

Mr. Leonard Propps was, I believe, the general contractor and started to work on the construction, and Mr. J. Edward Magaha on the electrical. Neither had much experience, really, with restoration of old homes to maintain their old appearance; they were used to the idea that a house should be "modernized." This led to a considerable amount of

misunderstanding and discussion over how certain things were to be done. Nevertheless, as time went on, Happy Retreat looked better and better, and eventually had the sashes and doors all sealed with weather stripping, cracks caulked, and brickwork re-pointed.

The original idea was to replace the slate roof with slate, but the cost for a house that size turned out to be astronomical, and tin was substituted. During the tear-off process, the workers got chased off the roof by swarms of angry honeybees, and an apiarist was called in to take care of the situation. Several hundred pounds of honey were recovered, and Mr. Funkhouser made sure that everyone involved benefited from the discovery. New gutters and spouting were installed, and the lightning rods reinstalled after the grounding was inspected and found to be okay.

Patios were constructed at both ends opening off the sides of the wings, and a back porch and steps off the back of the west wing kitchen. In that kitchen, we discovered that an "Indian closet" still existed. This was put in



EDWIN FITZPATRICK PHOTO
COURTESY BILL AND MARY GAVIN, OWNERS OF HAPPY RETREAT.

The west elevation of the kitchen/smokehouse structure. The doorways to the two parts were at different levels. This allowed wood to be spread on the floor of the smokehouse and set to smolder to preserve the meats. When we moved there, there were still ashes from the wood covering the dirt floor. The schoolhouse can be seen to the right and the slave quarters in the rear.

so that dwellers in the wings could go to the upper floor and pull up the ladder so intruders could not locate them. The entire arrangement was carefully preserved. Later, regular steps were installed to the upper floors of both wings.

After the main house was completed, work went on to restore the smokehouse and kitchen. The small octagonal schoolhouse (see page 21) was located just south of the kitchen/smokehouse building. Because there was no information as to its proper location, it was completely refurbished, and then moved to a position south of the main house and directly west of where it had been. This put it with its door facing the main house and along the edge of the driveway. After Mr. Funkhouser's death, the new owners of Happy Retreat moved it back to the present location south of the kitchen building. The milk house was torn down, as it was not one of the appropriate buildings and was very ramshackle.

Once the work was basically complete on the house, the McMillans occupied bedrooms in the main section, the Fairbairn family in the east wing, and the Judds in the west wing. The entire main floor was open to the public at all times, and was furnished and equipped mostly with antiques that had been restored by dad (prior to his death), mom and the McMillans. All heat and hot water were supplied from the main section of the house.

People coming through understood that the furnishings were not period-appropriate, since this was our family's living area. However, they were certainly largely from an age that was long past. Some of our furnishings turned out to be antiques that were a century or more old, even when we acquired them. Mother and the McMillans were inveterate auction shoppers, "junk" and "antique" store habituées, and kept their eyes out for bargains at private sales. My wife and I still have a few of those lovely old furnishings that were in the east wing.

Each wing had its own telephone on the main floor. This was back in the manual central office days and the Central Telephone Company operator would ask for "Number, please?" when we picked up the phone to make a call. Both were on the same line, but had separate rings: 313J and 313W (those suffixes changed over time). We had moved away from Charles Town long before it went to dial central.

Grandfather Judd was an inventive genius, and very alert to what would catch and hold a kid's attention. To the east of the east wing was a downhill slope that ran to a relatively flat field. In that field, he built us a two-story tree house with benches and folding picnic table on the upper



EDWIN FITZPATRICK PHOTO COURTESY BILL AND MARY GAVIN, OWNERS OF HAPPY RETREAT.

This is the octagonal schoolhouse before it was restored and moved to the southeast part of the driveway. The shed buildings in the background had been removed by the time we moved to Happy Retreat.

floor, with a dumbwaiter to carry picnics up and down; a roller-coaster style track with a small four-wheel cart to ride; and a suspended swinging bar that we could hang on and roll down a wire. Grandfather would never allow us to ride any of these things either when they were first built or after repairs unless he had tested them out himself first, several times. I think he got a kick out of riding those things. I know he used to spend considerable time up in the tree house, sitting and watching out towards the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east.

That field was big enough that we could also play games of baseball, football, tag, or whatever; catch fireflies; enjoy large picnics with relatives and friends, and so on. All the lawns were mowed periodically by one of Mr. Funkhouser's crews, using a Jeep and a three-gang mower. That did leave corners and smaller areas where we trimmed out with a small reel-type power mower. A bit less than half of the 14 acres was in lawns, so there was a lot of grass to tend.

Christmases were a joy. Family would travel in from all over, and we would have upwards of 15 visitors during the holiday. A huge, ceiling-high Christmas tree went up in the east ballroom in the corner closest the piano. We scrambled to make foil-paper cornucopias filled with candy and homemade cookies, hand-decorated cookies on hanging threads, and yarn angels that were all for small gifts to visiting townspeople and relatives during the holidays. We had home-made paper chains, strung popcorn (which later went out to feed the birds), and dozens of glass ornaments, plus boxes of the old silvery tinsel. Little did we understand what the implications were of the lead used in some of those ornaments and tinsel. In the wings, the Judds and Fairbairns each had small trees similarly decorated. All presents were under the big tree, and family present openings were a joy to behold. Grandmother abhorred the use of Scotch tape for wrapping presents, and carefully folded up each wrapping so that it could be reused in following years. She did the same with the ribbons. Tags were generally cut from Christmas cards received the previous year. We did use "lickum-stickum" letters and stickers as decorations on the packages, but these generally came off with little urging to avoid damaging the wrapping paper. The ladies would cooperate to put together the massive meals groups of that size required, and other family members contributed to the cost of the food. It was our time each year for all the cousins to see each other, and the brothers and sisters to have a chance to exchange family news and views. We sometimes even had parents-in-law as part of our family group. That was always fun.

There is so much more to talk about from those years, but perhaps that is something to do another time. Those were wonderful years, something I have remembered with fondness all my life, and would not trade for diamonds.

Tom Fairbairn was born in Cairo, Illinois in 1938 and lived for a short time in Winchester before coming to Charles Town. Following high school, he spent three years in the Army, and then moved to suburban Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he and his wife Nancy have resided other than for a short time in the Washington, DC area. Tom is retired from Control Data Corporation (now Ceridian) and the University of Minnesota. Tom enjoys returning to Charles Town for class reunions and to visit with friends. He and Nancy have three children and seven grandchildren.

"The officers In General are excedingly (sic) discontent..."

Colonel William Darke

by P. Douglas Perks



COURTESY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY MUSEUM, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

General William Darke

In 1791 Colonel William Darke was one of Berkeley County, Virginia's most prominent citizens. When the Virginia General Assembly incorporated Charlestown, Virginia (now Charles Town, West Virginia) in 1787, Darke was one of eleven men chosen to serve as a trustee. A respected officer in the Continental Army during the American

Revolution, on March 18, 1788, Darke was one of two delegates selected by the Berkeley County Court to attend the Virginia Constitutional Convention.[1] When the convention convened in Richmond, Colonel Darke cast one of the 89 "yea" votes on June 25, 1788, as Virginia became the tenth state to ratify the Constitution of the United States. In 1790 Colonel Darke made an unsuccessful bid to serve in Congress. Instead he was chosen to represent Berkeley County in the Virginia General Assembly.[2] At this stage of life the old soldier must have certainly assumed that his service to country was complete, and that he could look forward to spending his remaining years at home along the Elk Branch.

Among the many challenges faced by President George Washington during his first term in office was the state of affairs in the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Ordinance, adopted by Congress on July 13th, 1787, called for the formation *"in the said territory not less than three nor more than five States"* and established a system of government.[3] The conundrum was that this territory, defined by *"the Mississippi, the Ohio, and the Wabash Rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents (sic), due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; ... and the state of Pennsylvania"*[4] *"constituted either a market or a threat or both."*[5]

Due to Spain's control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans, Britain's control and occupation of Canada, and because France was in the midst of revolution both at home and in Santo Domingo, Washington was acutely aware of U. S. vulnerability in the trans-Ohio region. Intelligence indicated that the British were encouraging Indian attacks in that region. As in the past, European wars had the potential of finding their way to North America.[6]

Formulating foreign policy with regards to Britain, Spain, and France was complicated. Washington was conscious of the serious impact that a war among the European powers would have on the U. S. economy.

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[1] Adam Stephen was the other Berkeley County delegate.

[2] Bushong, Millard Kessler. *Historic Jefferson County*. Carr Publishing Company, Inc., 1972. pp. 431-414.

[3] *The National Archives Home Page*. Historical Documents Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Ohio Statehood. 21 July 2008. <http://www.archives.gov>

[4] Ibid.

[5] Freeman, Douglas Southall. *Washington*. Collier Books, Macmillan Publishing Company, 1992. p. 598.

[6] Freeman. p. 598.

There was also the potential that France would request military support in repayment for French support of the American Revolution. As put by Douglas Southall Freeman: "*...so young and weak a republic as America must keep out of foreign wars if this could be done with honor and self-respect; achievement of peace depended on drawing a distinction between conflicts with foreign interests in America and American interference in Europe; balanced policy had to be pursued separately and patiently with each of the three powers.*"[7]

Washington's policy regarding relations with Indians was not as complicated. His plan called for "*formal treaties that acknowledged the natives' territorial rights and assured American recognition of them, and Indians who chose war instead of peace were to be punished with vigor and severity.*"[8] It is the last piece of that policy, "*...Indians who chose war instead of peace were to be punished with vigor and severity*" that will change the retirement plans of Colonel William Darke.

In the spring and summer of 1790 the Miami Indians were attacking boats on the Ohio River and settlements in Kentucky. Following the recommendation of Secretary of War Henry Knox, Washington ordered Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory, to conduct a campaign against the Indians aimed at ending the violence. The campaign consisted of a small body of United States regulars supported by militia troops. Brigadier General Josiah Harmar commanded the expedition.[9]

The news from the Northwest Territory was not good. In October 1790 Harmar and his army left Fort Washington[10] with approximately 300 regulars and 1,100 militiamen. After initial success, the expedition was met by a force of Indians led by Little Turtle and was defeated with the loss of nearly 200 men. By the time President Washington was aware of the campaign's failure, winter had set in. A new campaign was planned for 1791.[11]

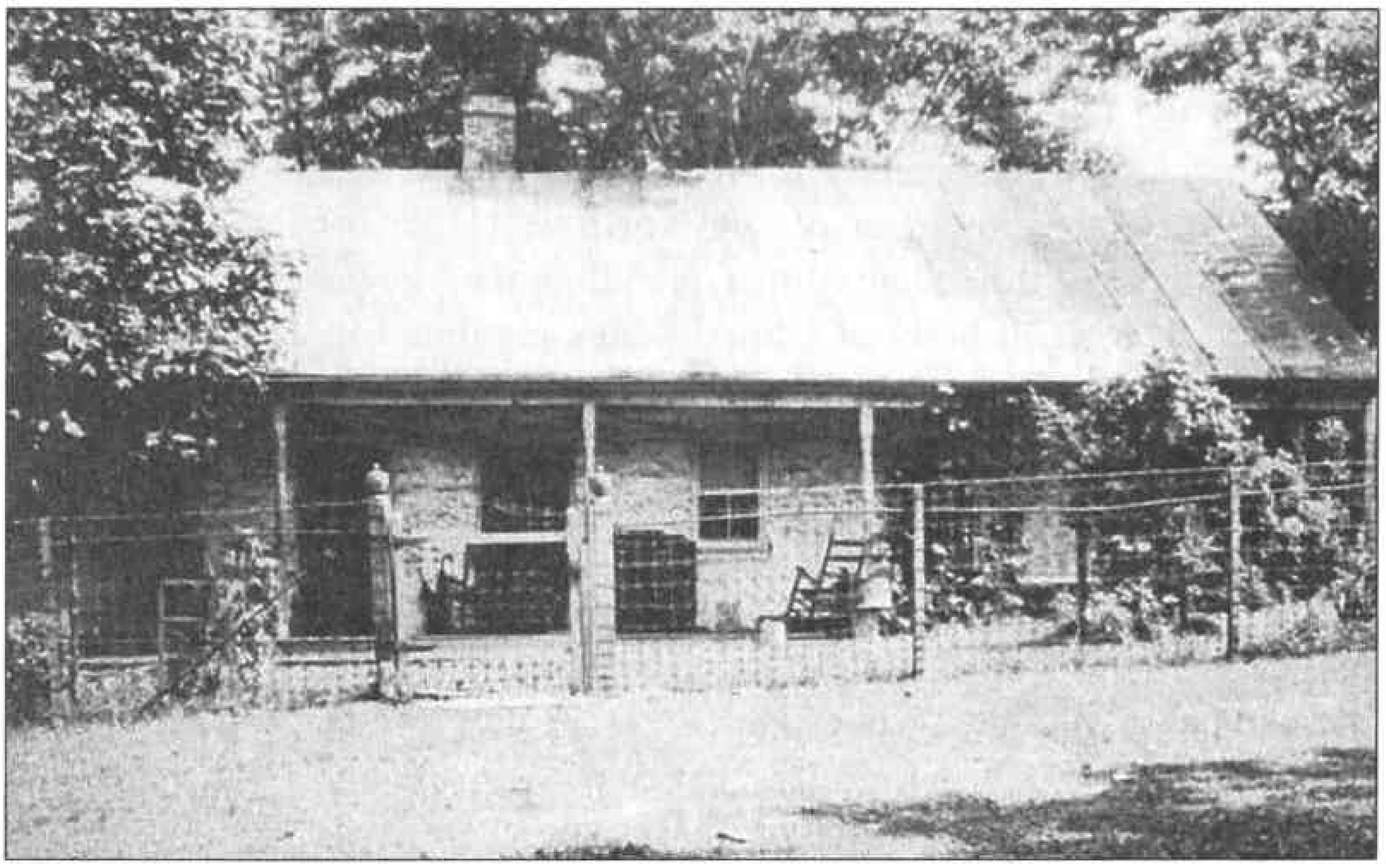
Upon examination, the failure of Harmar's campaign was due on one hand to poor training of the army and on the other to a lack of proper equipment. The President directed Secretary of War Knox to improve the quality of equipment provided to the troops and to make sure that it got to the army when it was needed. President Washington turned his attention

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7 Freeman. p. 598.
8 Freeman. p. 598.
9 Freeman. pp. 584-585.
10 Fort Washington was located near modern-day Cincinnati, Ohio.
11 Freeman. p. 587.

to the men in the field. Washington knew that the appointment of veteran officers would improve the performance of the inexperienced regiments authorized by Congress.

As our country's first chief executive, George Washington instinctively understood that his performance would set the standard for future presidents. The General was the right man to be The President. Relying on his experience from the American Revolution, Washington surrounded himself with advisors who would complement his leadership style. He selected men who had divergent opinions about how best to govern this new country. But each of the men had one common characteristic - they were men that Washington knew, men that had been tested under the most severe conditions, and, most importantly, men that The President trusted.[12] Using this same logic President Washington turned to his old friend from Berkeley County, William Darke.



COURTESY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY MUSEUM, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

General Darke's home

William Darke was born in 1736 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Sometime in the 1740s Darke's father Joseph moved the family south following the ever-increasing tide of migration into the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah. The Darke family settled along Elk Branch in then Frederick County, Virginia, near present-day Duffields. Like many men

12 Freeman. p. 576.

who made their home in the valley, Darke "fell in love with the countryside and the life." Consequently when a dispute between Great Britain and France over ownership of lands in the Ohio territory erupted into open conflict, Darke was one of the men who volunteered to serve. During the French and Indian War he fought along side George Washington at the defeat of Braddock's army, and in 1758 became a corporal in Rutherford's Rangers. Darke was among the first Virginians to answer the call for volunteers at the onset of the American Revolution, was made captain of a company, and distinguished himself at the Battle of Germantown in October, 1777, where he was captured by the British and held prisoner until released in 1780. Following his release, his stay at home was brief. In 1781 he helped raise a regiment of men from Berkeley and Hampshire counties and was on the field in October 1781 during the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis.[13]

For a third time William Darke was asked to take up arms for his country. In April 1791 President Washington wrote to Colonel Darke and asked him to begin recruitment of the Virginia Battalion of the First Regiment of Levies. The First Regiment was authorized by Congress to fight another campaign in the Northwest Territory. The colonelcy of the regiment was first offered to Henry Lee who declined. When Darke began his recruitment, Josias Hall was the regiment's colonel. On April 17, 1791, Hall resigned the post and Darke assumed command of the First Regiment of Levies.[14] Although not the first choice to command the regiment, Darke accepted the responsibility of leadership and continued with recruitment and the appointment of his officer cadre. In his previous military service, Darke had fought along side of men of his generation. In the upcoming months he would lead the next generation into battle. Included in the ranks was his son, Joseph, who bore the name of his grandfather.

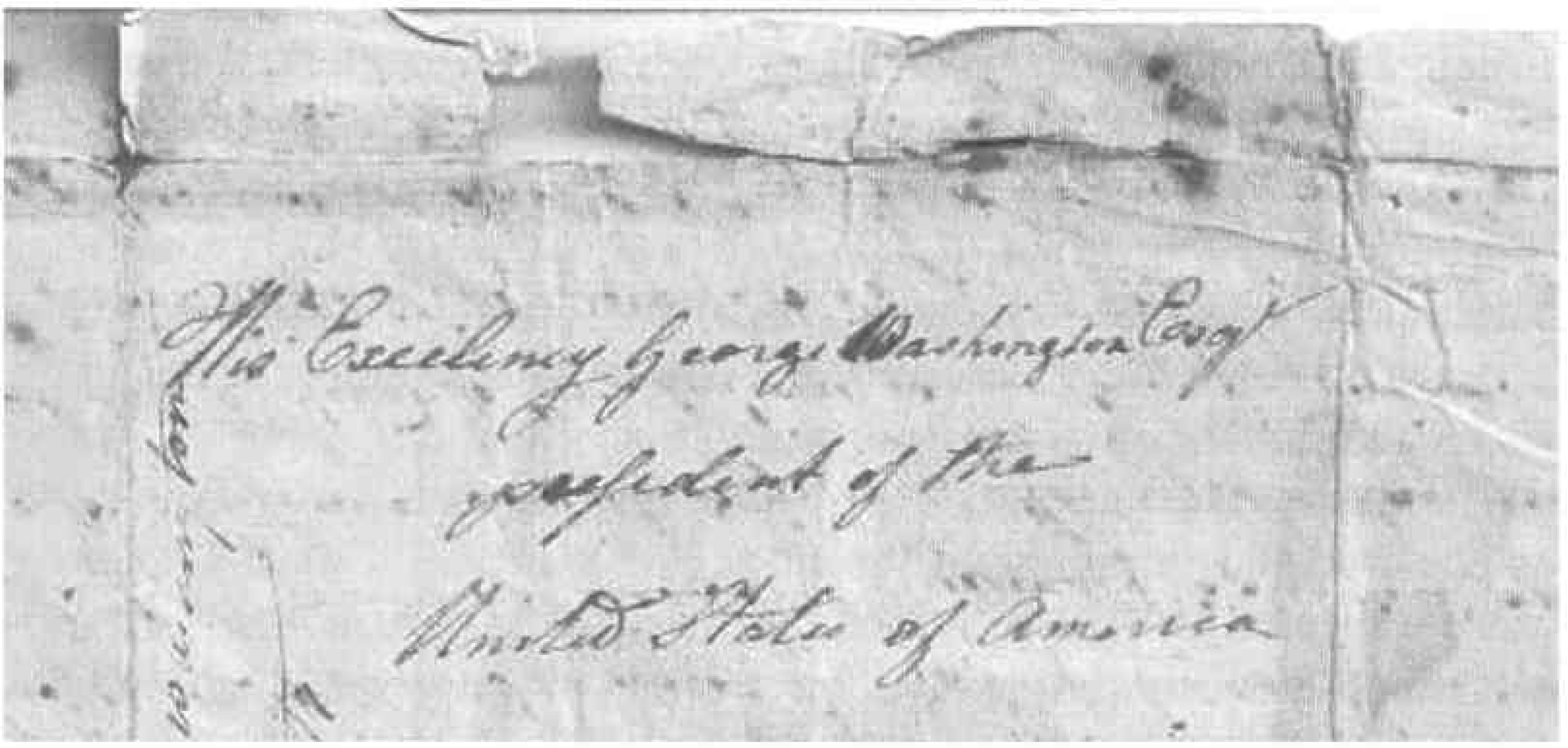
By mid-summer 1791 Colonel Darke and the First Regiment of Levies were in camp preparing for the fall campaign against the Indians. In a letter written by the Colonel from their camp near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he expressed his concern about the treatment that the men from Virginia had received. He was also concerned about the leadership of the campaign.

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[13] Bushong, Millard Kessler. *Historic Jefferson County*. Carr Publishing Company, Inc., 1972. pp. 431-414.

[14] Lytle, Richard M. *The Soldiers of America's First Army, 1791*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004, pp. 250-251.

The letter penned by Colonel Darke was addressed to:



"Col° Nevile[15] 6 miles from pitsburg 24 July 1791

Dear Sir

I after compleating the Virginia Batalion and geting the Maryland one as forward as I could, I arived at pitsburg the first day of this month and have bean Since that time about pitsburg and down the River about a hundred and thirty miles where the Virginia troops are Stationed. and am very Sorey to find that The officers In General are excedingly discontent don't like The Genl. and Several of them Talk of Resigning. I confess I cannot understand the Genl. I have bean in the Service of my Country in allmost all the wars Since the year 1755 in one Capassoty or other and never Served under any officer before that I was So Indiferantly Treated by or had So little Satisfaction with, In dead I have had no duty to do nor bean on any Command farther then a bullack yard of twelve men, I wish to Get to head quarters and have writ to Genl St Clear[16] but being in grate hasst as the bote was gone on before I began to write did not

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[15] Colonel John Neville. Neville was a distinguished officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Neville's home was "Bower Hill" near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

[16] Major General Arthur St. Clair was born in Scotland. Following service in the British Army during the French and Indian War he became a landowner in western Pennsylvania. St. Clair was the first governor of the Northwest Territory. He was appointed commander of U. S. troops in the Northwest Territory following the defeat of Gen. Harmar.

give the Genl my Reasons as fully as I wished to do The Virginia officers think Genl Butler[17] *does not like the -Virginians. This is allso the opinions of the Inhabitence in General where they are Stationed. and they in consequence think he is partial I ackneledge I have Seen Some things that I thought had the apearance of partiallity but may be mistaken I Confess I would gladly be out of this Service for no other Reason then this, that I think I cannot be happy under the Command Of Genl Butler. and have had some difficulty to pervail on the officers to Continue. I writ to Genl. Butler yesterday as the Militia are ordered to the stations where the Virginians are as the river is falling very fast for permition to go on to hed quarters but did not get the Least Satisfaction whether I Should even go or not _____ not even give me as much Satisfaction as he did on a former ocation, one of my officers which was he would know when he saw it in Genl orders, the desertions have been Grate I believe upwards of twenty have deserted from Captain hanna's who I think a very good officer Several have deserted from the other Companys So that the Battalion is not quite full at present though there was twenty five or six more than the full Battalion enlisted Some died with the Small pox two were drownded and some discharged The Indians have done __ no damage except killing a few cattle*

Since the fourth of this month I am informed Genl Butler Says Colo Gibson[18] *was a Col° before I was in the Late Continental army and I expect Some Dispute Concerning it. if it was your Intention Col° Gibson Should Command me I have no objection and will Say nothing against it, but Col° Gibson has no Right to Clame Rank from his being an officer in the late war, as he never was in the Line only Commanded a few men as a State Regiment, and I you may se by the araingment of the line I was a Lieutenant Col°, Commandant in the Line, my Commition is to Command the first Regiment, if*

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17 Major General Richard Butler was born in Ireland. Butler's father moved his family to Pennsylvania where they were gunsmiths. Richard Butler was colonel of the 9th Pennsylvania Regiment in the American Revolution. Major General Richard Butler was killed on 4 November 1791 while leading the right wing of St. Clair's army.

18 Colonel George Gibson. Gibson was colonel of the First Virginia State Regiment during the American Revolution. Colonel Gibson died on 10 December 1791, at Fort Jefferson from wounds received at St. Clair's Defeat on 4 November 1791.

Col° Gibson was to have Commanded I Should have thought his Regiment would have bean Called the first I Should be hapy if you would honor me with a line or two _____ ocation

I am your Most Obt Servant

(Unsigned)[19]

Colonel Darke's dissatisfaction with the circumstances that existed at *"Col° Nevile 6 miles from pitsburg..."* is very apparent in this letter. To his credit, Darke in his communication to President Washington indicated, *"I writ to Genl. Butler yesterday ..."* and although we do not know exactly what Darke wrote in that communication, we do know how General Butler replied. In a reply to Colonel Darke dated July 27th, 1791, Butler said:

Sir *Pittsburgh july 27th 1791 ~*

This will be handed to you by Major Bittinger a Gentleman who it will be no less agreeable to you than it is to me to see

I have only time (as the Major is in a hurry) to acknowledge the Rect. of your letter of the 24th which from its Tenor, & maner surprizes, & I am at aloss to ans.r at this time -

You appear to be disattisfied, I am sorry for it, I will only say if you are offended, or disattisfied with me it is certainly without a cause, or, I know not the Cause & you mistake my Character, And that your Reflections are not Polite to say the least

I am Really Sorry for the Indisposition of your Son, Medicine

---

[19] This is the transcription of a letter written by Colonel William Darke to President George Washington dated July 24th, 1791. The letter is transcribed as it was written with no changes to spelling, capitalization, or punctuation. The original letter is preserved in the document archives of the Jefferson County Museum, Charles Town, West Virginia. The letter is from the Briscoe collection given to the Museum by the family of the late Paul and Frances Miller. The Briscoes were a prominent Jefferson County, Virginia, family who came to the lower Shenandoah Valley in the 18th century. Because this letter is unsigned, in all probability it is Darke's "file" copy.

& Attendance are at your command or desire, And if you have any Inclination to come to Pittsburgh I will be glad to see you, where, as I mentioned in my last, we will converse on the other part of the Subject of your note

I am Sir

Your most Obedt [ ]
Richd Butler M.j Gl[20]

Colonel Darke was not pleased with either the way that he perceived the Virginians were being treated or by the leadership of General Butler. General Butler was surprised by Darke's assertions. There was another individual who was interested in this development - the person to whom Colonel Darke had addressed his letter dated July 24th, 1791 - "His Excellency George Washington Esq., president of the United States of America."

President Washington shared Colonel Darke's discontent with how things were going in the Northwest Territory, but from an entirely different perspective. Writing from the capitol in Philadelphia, The President had this to say in reply to Colonel Darke:

Philadelphia, August 9, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 24 ulto. Regarding its contents, altho' relating to objects of public import, as private communication, I shall reply to and remark upon them, with that candor which my personal esteem and my public wishes strongly enjoin.

I need not tell you that my regret is seriously excited by learning that any cause of discontent should exist, either on your own part,

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[20] This is the transcription of a letter written by Maj. Gen. Richard Butler to Colonel William Darke dated July 27th, 1791. The letter is transcribed as it was written with no changes to spelling, capitalization, or punctuation. The original letter is preserved in the document archives of the Jefferson County Museum, Charles Town, West Virginia. The letter is from the Briscoe collection given to the Museum by the family of the late Paul and Frances Miller. The Briscoes were a prominent Jefferson County, Virginia, family who came to the lower Shenandoah Valley in the 18th century.

or that of your Officers, with General Butler, and it is hardly necessary to express my earnest wish that it may speedily subside, and be entirely done away. But, as I rely greatly on your disposition to advance the public interest, tho' even by the relinquishment of private opinions, I shall offer to your consideration some remarks which I am persuaded will have weight with you, and induce your influence with your Officers to dismiss their discontents, and to think only of their public duty.

Let it in the first place be remembered that one common cause engages your service, and requires all your exertions; it is the interest of your country. To that interest all inferior considerations must yield. As an apology for the seeming inattention of a commanding Officer it should be considered that the variety of objects, which engage him, may produce an appearance of neglect, by no means intended. In General Butler's particular instance some allowance should be made for the effects of bodily indisposition, combined with the cares of his station; and I am satisfied no one, either from temper or reflection, will more cheerfully make this allowance than yourself.

On this belief I rest an expectation, that every uneasiness will be composed, and that the public service will be proceeded in with harmony and zeal. The Secretary of War has directed a board of Officers to decide the question of rank between you and Colonel Gibson and others. I shall at all times be happy to evince the sincere esteem, with which I am etc.[21]

President Washington's instructions to his fellow Virginian were clear; Richard Butler was in command. The question of rank would be decided in due time. Put aside your personal concerns and put your focus on the accomplishment of the mission's goal. Colonel Darke complied.

Let it in the first place be remembered that one common cause engages your service, and requires all your exertions; it is the

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[21] *The Library of Congress*. American Memory. The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799 - George Washington to William Darke, August 9, 1791. 21 November 2007. <http://memory.loc.gov>

interest of your country. To that interest all inferior considerations must yield."[22]

With these words President Washington set the tone for future citizens of the United States. Not friendship, not personal gain, not sectional interest, but *"it is the interest of your country. To that interest all inferior considerations must yield."*

The 1791 campaign in the Northwest Territory would be a repeat of the previous year. At the Battle of Wabash River (also know as St. Clair's Defeat) on November 4, 1791, the American expedition was completely overwhelmed by Indian forces led again by Chief Little Turtle. The defeat devastated the American army. Of the approximately 1,000 effectives in St. Clair's force over 900 were casualties. That total included more than 600 deaths. Thirty-nine officers were either killed or received mortal wounds. Among the dead officers was Major General Richard Butler.[23]

During the Battle of Wabash River, Colonel William Darke commanded the left wing of St. Clair's army. His first charge against the Indian force *"persued the enemy about four hundred yards who Ran off in all directons,"* but the charge fell apart when the right wing of the army began to collapse. St. Clair attempted to rally his troops and at one point asked Darke to *"if possible to Get them off that Spot by Making a Charge,"* but all efforts at staving the flood failed and eventually *" the whole Army Ran together like a mob at a fair."*[24] Exhausted by both the fatigue of battle and a wound to his upper thigh, Darke joined in the retreat of the army back to Fort Jefferson.[25]

Among the wounded that made the trek back to the defensive position at Fort Jefferson was Colonel Darke's youngest son, Captain Joseph Darke. Captain Darke had received *"a musket shot in his face which fractured his jaw and rendered him speechless, but that he is still alive."*[26] Unfortunately, young Darke's injury was fatal. After Captain

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[22] George Washington to William Darke, August 9, 1791.

[23] Freeman, pp. 601-602.

[24] *PBS Rediscovering George Washington*. Gilder Lehrman Collection Documents. The Washington Collection. William Darke to George Washington, November 9, 1791. 8 September 2008. http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/collection/pres_1791nov9.html

[25] Fort Jefferson was located about four miles from present-day Greenville, Darke County, Ohio.

[26] Lytle, Richard M. *The Soldiers of America's First Army, 1791*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004, p. 116.

Darke's death in late December 1791, Colonel Darke left the army and returned with his son's body to their home along Elk Branch.



COURTESY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY MUSEUM, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

Graves of Joseph and William Darke

As a reward for his service to Virginia and to his country, Colonel Darke was given the rank of general in the Virginia Militia, and he was given several thousand acres in the Ohio territory. General Darke spent his remaining days at his home near present-day Duffields in Jefferson County, West Virginia. William Darke died on November 20, 1801, and was buried in the Engle Graveyard (sometimes called the Ronemous Graveyard) along with his wife, Sarah, and their three sons.[27]

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[27] Bushong. P. 414

Today there are two historical markers that honor the memory of General Darke. The first is near his home on Elk Branch and says simply:

GENERAL WILLIAM DARKE

Within these grounds is the home of General William Darke (1736-1801), who served as officer in American Revolution and in St. Clair's 1791 expedition against Miami Indians in Ohio. He served as delegate to the Virginia Convention called in 1788 to ratify the Federal Constitution, was elected to the Va. Assembly of 1791, and was an original trustee for the town of Charles Town.

A second memorial at Darkesville in Berkeley County, West Virginia informs the traveler of the derivation of the village's name:

DARKESVILLE

Named for Gen. William Darke, veteran of the Revolution and the Indian wars. He saved the remnants of St. Clair's army from massacre in 1791 when badly defeated by the Miami Indians. His son Capt. Joseph Darke lost his life.

Each marker is a fitting tribute to a man whose life of service is sometimes overlooked. General William Darke, Soldier and Patriot,—a Hero of Jefferson County.

P. Douglas Perks, a native of Jefferson County, is assistant curator Jefferson County Museum. He is a frequent speaker on Jefferson County history, the author of "Mr. Jefferson's County" in The Guardian, *and a contributing author to* The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Rebel in Iowa

by Randy Koch

In the summer of 1864, John Yates Beall, of Jefferson County, participated in the Southern Confederacy's broad plan to assail the enemy deep inside northern territory. Earlier in April, Confederate President Jefferson Davis had bid farewell to Jacob Thompson, Clement Clay, and James Holcomb, the three Confederate commissioners whom Davis had assigned to coordinate operations from Canada. Defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg the prior year had swung the military momentum of the war in favor of the Union. For this reason, President Davis approved a series of clandestine actions against the enemy well within their safe boundaries. These actions eventually included plans for U.S. currency manipulation, freeing prisoners incarcerated in numerous federal sites from Ohio to Illinois, financial support of anti-Lincoln newspapers in the North, bank robbery in Maine, and even arson in New York City hotels.

Earlier, in the spring of 1863, Beall had received a commission as acting master in the Confederate Navy to legalize his activity as a privateer on the Chesapeake Bay and along the nearby Atlantic Coast. On the evening of September 17, 1863, Beall and 18 men entered the Bay on two small boats and captured a Union sloop and two fishing boats. The next night, Beall's men captured a sloop, headed for Port Royal, S.C., carrying $200,000 worth of sutler stores. Three more ships were captured by September 21. In October they barely escaped capture in Virginia by Union land forces in Mathews County. Beall's crew set out again in November only to be captured off the western Maryland coast and be held in irons as pirates. In response, Southern authorities held the same number of Union prisoners in similar conditions and eventually the North treated Beall and his men as prisoners of war. Beall was exchanged on May 5, 1864 and went to Canada to look for other opportunities to hurt the enemy. The commander of Confederate secret operations in Canada, Jacob Thompson, recruited Beall for an operation on Lake Erie.

Beall was assigned to commandeer a civilian passenger vessel in Lake Erie as part of the plot to free the two thousand Confederate officers confined on Johnson's Island near Sandusky, Ohio. On September 19, Beall, in his most famous escapade of the war, successfully captured the



COURTESY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY MUSEUM, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

John Yates Beall

steamer *Philo Parson* that had departed Detroit early that morning. Beall's accomplice stationed in Sandusky planned to drug the officers aboard the *USS Michigan* guarding the prison. A traitor in Detroit betrayed the mission before the accomplice could act. Beall had no choice but to return to Canada for new orders. His final assignment took him to the Buffalo, New York area, where he was captured in December after a failed attempt to derail a train. His trial by military court began in January. Just barely thirty years old, John Yates Beall was hanged on Governor's Island in New York City on February 24, 1865.

But Beall's service to Virginia and the Confederacy reached much farther back than these operations. In 1859, Beall joined Botts Greys, a militia unit formed in Jefferson County in response to John Brown's raid on the Harpers Ferry arsenal. In April of 1861, Botts Greys became company G, 2nd Virginia Infantry, a regiment in General T. J. Jackson's brigade, soon to be referred to as the Stonewall Brigade for its stellar performance at First Manassas. Later that year, while home on leave in Jefferson County, Beall responded to a call for militia from Colonel Turner Ashby to prevent federal soldiers from removing grain from Herr's granary in nearby Harpers Ferry. On October 16, during the action on Bolivar Heights, Beall received a severe chest wound that eventually would end his active career with the 2nd Virginia, but certainly not his service to the South.

To accelerate his recovery and also avoid capture, Beall journeyed from the cooler climate and unstable military environment of Jefferson County to the mild temperate atmosphere along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. While in Mississippi in early 1862, Beall met Martha O'Bryan with whom he fell in love and became engaged. In late spring, he went alone back to Virginia to rejoin his regiment. Upon reaching Virginia, he found the Confederate Army facing George McClellan's Union troops advancing upon Richmond and Beall's regiment in the Shenandoah Valley with Stonewall Jackson. Instead of rejoining the 2nd Virginia, Beall, on the pretext of furthering his recovery, ventured to Dubuque County, Iowa, 800 miles to the west.

Iowa proved an ideal location for the Confederacy to disrupt the Union as the second year of the war commenced. Westward expansion earlier in the century had bonded both northern and southern states along the Mississippi River as the economies of both regions depended on agriculture. Wheat, corn, and pork flowed down the Mississippi River from the northern region while the southern expanses added cotton and sugar. Both regions often found themselves at odds with northeastern financial and manufacturing interests which promoted restrictive trade tariffs. The economic closeness of the regions began to weaken when the price of grain dropped in Europe as the Crimean War ended.[1] The following year as the economic crisis known as the Panic of 1857 evolved, grain producers from the northern region suffered while cotton planters to their south thrived. Pro-slavery radicals pointed to the strong

[1] James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, New York: Oxford University Press, p.189.

cotton market as proof that the United States needed to expand slavery to grow the economy while ardent abolitionists claimed that slave labor impeded recovery. Still on the eve of the war, western contempt for the northeastern Yankee seemed as prevalent in the northern region as the southern. In the December 10, 1860 issue of *The Chicago Times*, Orlando B. Ficklin said he was thankful "that God made the world before he made Yankees, for they would have interfered with his business and destroyed the beautiful world in which we live."[2]

While Iowa shared some ties with the South, the state also developed strong free soil political sentiment. In the 1850s, militant abolitionist John Brown established numerous Underground Railroad stops in Iowa for slaves fleeing Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Six Iowans participated in Brown's ill-fated 1859 assault on Harpers Ferry. No state furnished more men for Brown's raid. One member of the force, Barclay Coppoc, managed to escape the fiasco and eventually return to Iowa. When Virginia's Governor Wise demanded that Barclay be returned to the commonwealth, Governor Kirkwood of Iowa "found reasons for delaying the extradition;" later Barclay Coppoc was spirited away with the aid of various officials and extradition failed.[3] Iowa also proved a staunch Republican supporter in the 1860 presidential election. Throughout the state Lincoln received 70,316 votes compared to 55,091 for Douglas, 1763 for Bell, and only 1,035 for Breckinridge.[4] By the conclusion of the Civil War on a per capita basis Iowa would contribute more men to the Civil War military service than any state, north or south.[5] But a strong Democratic Party pocket existed in northeastern Iowa along the Mississippi River in Dubuque County. While Republican Lincoln garnered 55 percent of the popular vote in Iowa, he only received 39 percent of Dubuque County's ballots.[6] Generally wherever a strong Democratic Party existed, equally strong opposition to the Lincoln administration's handling of the war appeared. The assumption prevailed that in the locations where a strong Democratic Party existed that Southern sympathizers could also be found.

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[2] Frank L. Klement, *Dark Lanterns*, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984, p.187.

[3] David L. Lendt, *Demise of the Democracy*, Ames, Iowa: The Iowa State University Press, 1973, p. 49.

[4] Hubert H. Wubben, *Civil War and the Copperhead Movement*, Ames, Iowa: The Iowa State University Press, 21.

[5] Lendt, p. 73.

[6] William E. Wilkie, *Dubuque on the Mississippi*, Dubuque Iowa: Union-Hoerman Press, 1987, p.231.

The effect of the war on the volatile agricultural economy provided an issue too taut for those in opposition to the Republicans. Early reports of secession upset river traffic in New Orleans which in turn caused an immediate decline in grain prices. Dennis Mahony wrote in the November 23, 1860 issue of the *Dubuque Herald* that: "Grain has gone down till it won't pay the hauling charges. So much for electing the man-the exponent of Personal Liberty Bills, Nigger Suffrage and Equality, Beecherism, Stoweism, Niggerism and a dozen isms and Tom fooleries upon which the entire North under Abolitionized Massachusetts has gone mad."[7] As the early stages of the war progressed, Mahony was targeted by the Washington Republicans as a dangerous anti-war dissident. Mahony was not alone. To the south of Dubuque, David Richardson, editor of the Davenport *Democrat*, wrote on November 15, 1860 that he estimated that as a result of Lincoln's election that Iowa wheat growers, who probably sold 2,000,000 bushels of wheat during a two week period following the vote in November of 1860, lost $200,000.[8] In an extremely seditious letter published in the *Dubuque Herald*, also in November, Judge Thomas S. Wilson was quoted as saying that he welcomed the possibility of a new Union which would exclude New England whose "Yankeeism and twin brother abolitionism" weakened one's love of a united country in the first place.[9]

Mixed messages came from the diverse faction that constituted northeastern Iowa Democrats further clouding the political landscape. Dennis Mahony, while vehemently opposing Lincoln, still voiced the belief that secession was unconstitutional. Prominent fellow party member Charles Mason believed in the right of secession. Democrats belonging to Dubuque's self-proclaimed National Democratic Club asserted that the Confederate States had no reason to believe that the Lincoln administration would reject radicalism, and that the Confederates were entirely justified in taking steps to maintain their rights, inside or outside the Union.[10] While some Iowa Democrats applauded this position, others received the stance with disdain. Continued weakening economic conditions only widened the fissure. At one point corn fell to ten cents per bushel and farmers burned their crops for fuel rather than

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7 Lendt, p. 59.
8 Wubben, p.13.
9 Ibid., p. 27.
10 Ibid., p.26.

dispose of them at such low prices.[11] Disillusion grew with the Republicans as the cost to ship grain to eastern markets jumped substantially. By the late spring of 1862 the Confederacy, without any notable military success since Manassas ten months earlier, searched desperately for any opportunity to widen the gap in the north between Democrats and Republicans, and among easterners and westerners. Iowa certainly offered an inviting target in which to operate.

An operation in Iowa with the objective to spread discontent and adversely impact the fragile Union financial condition demanded operatives with special talents. Recruits would need to be resourceful, able to function with a degree of independence, be trustworthy, and have a fair understanding of the region's economics. The ability to quickly ingratiate oneself within the local population would be essential. Fortunately, Beall was well acquainted, even before the war, with a number of men who at one time or another became involved with Confederate intelligence work.[12] Daniel Lucas, a University of Virginia classmate of Beall's, was raised at nearby Rion Hall. John Gallaher produced the pro-southern *Virginia Free Press* published in Charles Town. George Bedinger, Edwin Lee, and Alexander Boteler all hailed from Shepherdstown in northern Jefferson County. Beall also brought military experience as a member of the famed Stonewall Brigade in addition to his participation with local militia in the deadly action on Bolivar Heights which almost cost him his life. With all these qualifications John Beall proved an excellent operative to send to northeastern Iowa.

Beall also had familiarity with Dubuque County. His older brother, Hezekiah, left Virginia in the early 1850s and according to the *1860 U.S. Census*, had amassed real estate valued at $10,000 while his personal estate added another $5,000. The older Beall brother also found employment as a clerk at the Bissell Brothers Grocery, owned and operated by an influential local businessman and successful land speculator. Hezekiah's business success had drawn his younger brother's attention to Iowa.

In 1860, John Beall purchased four properties including one transaction which took place after the 1860 presidential election. On

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[11] Frank L. Klement, *The Copperheads in the Middle West*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960, p.3.

[12] William A. Tidwell, *Come Retribution*, Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1973, p.71.

Christmas Day of the same year John Beall's diary established that he was in Chicago, just 200 miles east of Dubuque. In all probability he was either traveling to or from Iowa relative to a land transaction. Besides being familiar with the area, Beall was a lifelong Democrat, which should open doors for an operative in Dubuque County in 1862. His farming background would further aid him in his assimilation with the local agrarian population. As manager of his successful Virginia farm, Beall possessed a sound business mind that enabled him to understand the complex economic conditions in the north besides agricultural business in general. Several grist mills also operated on Beall and adjoining Yates' properties in Jefferson County. Beall's knowledge of mill operations provided him with credentials needed when he assumed the position as flour mill operator, an excellent cover for a Confederate operative.

In Daniel B. Lucas's *Memoir of John Yates Beall*, which includes much of Beall's personal diary, Beall explains his impulsive migration to Iowa only as a journey to improve his stamina and further his recovery from his chest wound. Such a decision seems totally out of character with Beall. Throughout his life, duty and responsibility, not to mention honor, were paramount traits within his makeup. By traveling west he fled miles away from his mother and four sisters who struggled to operate the farm; he further distanced himself from Martha O'Bryan, who was left to fend for herself in Mississippi, and most importantly of all, Beall was still on the roll of the 2nd Virginia regiment, on which he would remain until early 1863. He technically was absent without leave while in Iowa unless he was ordered by the Army to that destination.[13]

Shortly after Beall's arrival in Iowa in 1862, he began employment as manager of the Chew Mill in Cascade, Iowa, a bustling community of over 1000 inhabitants that rested within Dubuque County, twenty-five miles southeast of the city of Dubuque. The owner of the mill, Thomas Chew Sr., hailed from Connecticut. Chew spent many years as a seaman and farmer before he settled in Iowa in 1847 when he purchased the mill. Nothing indicates that Chew, no relation to Jefferson County's Roger Preston Chew, might harbor southern sympathies. However, Thomas Chew did wed a woman in 1851, fourteen years his junior, who was born in Maryland, a border state that spawned many Confederate sympathizers. Local Iowa folklore spoke of Beall and Chew's wife, the former Margaret Ann Bemis,

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[13] There is nothing in the Confederate records from that period about Beall being absent without leave, a deserter, on a detail or anywhere other than the 2nd Virginia.

as being childhood sweethearts from neighboring counties back east where both were raised. If per chance the pair was acquainted their relationship could hardly have been romantic as Margaret was fifteen years older than John and she actually was born in Bel Air, Maryland, 100 miles away from John Beall's Jefferson County birthplace. Yet, when one receives a prominent position with such ease usually someone of importance influences the hiring. And if Beall traveled to Iowa only to recover from a slow healing chest wound and regain some stamina, the hot dusty environment of a flour mill would retard his recovery rather than stimulate it.

Beall's second diary entry from Iowa on July 31, 1862 indicates that he indeed was connected with people whose loyalties, that although may not have belonged to the Confederacy, were most certainly those of vehement enemies of the Lincoln government. Beall's reference in his diary to vocal local editor Dennis Mahony as merely Dennis indicates he had an established familiarity with the well-known Democrat. Early in the previous month Mahony told fellow Democrat Charles Mason that a recent trip through Dubuque County showed Mahony that people were ready to resort to force to reverse government policies.[14] Beall believed that danger of a collision in Dubuque existed between the government and Democrats.[15] Beall and Mahony could have discussed means to capitalize upon that danger. More than general dissatisfaction with the war and poor prices for agricultural produce faced the Federal Government. Funding the war was also an issue.

By the end of the war's first year, the cost of conducting the war far exceeded initial expectations. The solvency of banks depended almost entirely upon the institution's ability to redeem those notes to investors with gold or silver, referred to as species payment. In December of 1861, Congress passed legislation to issue a national paper currency without gold reserves for backing. Early the following year the first issuance of paper money, or greenbacks as to which they soon were referred, began to circulate. Without gold backing, the currency in essence was a note issued to the private sector by the United States based only on the good faith in the solvency of the Federal Government. Soon military, political, international, and economic events began to influence the value of the paper currency. As paper currency fluctuated in value, gold fluctuated inversely. To further complicate matters the party in power never really

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[14] Wubben, p. 86.

[15] Daniel B. Lucas, *The Memoir of John Yates Beall*, Montreal: John Lovell, 1865, p.237.

eliminated their affinity for gold, thus sending mixed signals to the citizenry. Because gold and silver were uniquely stable, distinctive, and internationally accepted media of exchange, most Republicans retained a belief that the specie was the only true standard of value.[16] Europeans used the value of the paper currency to evaluate U.S. financial stability. Another variable soon factored into the equation.

Besides being a medium necessary for trade the precious metal was also a commodity. Profound events such as Grant's victory at Fort Donelson or McClellan's embarrassing repulse on the Peninsula caused the value of gold to fluctuate wildly. Gold soon became a commodity with which speculators could gamble, further increasing the instability. Speculators held gold for long periods of time in anticipation of unloading it at its highest point before the next substantial drop. Holding the gold and taking the commodity out of circulation decreased the supply and increased the precious metal's value, while inversely dropping the value of the paper greenback. Individuals who became skeptical of the value of the national currency hoarded gold as a safeguard against inflation or even as protection in the event of the default of the government issued notes. As the United States government focused on its fiscal nightmare the Confederacy stared at a unique opportunity.

If the South could begin to accumulate gold, the supply would decrease further, but more importantly, the paper currency circulating throughout the north and also used to pay the Union soldiers, would further devalue and even buy less. The unrest that prevailed in Iowa offered the perfect environment to capitalize on this opportunity and John Yates Beall possessed the skills to a serve as a key player in the scheme. Beall seemed very aware of the Union's crisis with the devalued greenback when he first arrived in Iowa. In his initial diary entry from Iowa on July 25, 1862 he wrote that if it continued and increased would not all debts be depreciated and creditors ruined.[17] In this case the creditor would be the northern citizen.

As Beall's entries continue, his primary focus is the value and purchase of gold. On August 1, he states that gold is valued at a 15 percent to 25 percent value above currency or treasury notes.[18] Beall received a letter

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[16] Heather Cox Richardson, *The Greatest Nation on the Earth—Republican Economic Policies during the Civil War*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997, p. 71.

[17] Lucas, p. 235.

[18] Ibid., p.240.

from an unnamed associate later in the month informing him of the purchase of $400 in gold at a 17 percent premium, and requesting instructions for the future, saying that some were paying 18 to 20 percent for it.[19] While freely writing of his involvement in the scheme, Beall is careful to omit the names of his associates. The network in the operation appears to have involved numerous operatives who functioned in a wide geographic area. With precious metal prices reaching such heights he recommended investigating if purchases could be made for less in Chicago.[20] Not only was he connected with agents in the midwest but also friends, as he referred to them, in Pittsburg, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Furthermore, Beall's position as manager of the grist mill allowed him to ship flour either to the northeast or abroad. If he bypassed New York and shipped the flour directly to Europe the gold would be retained there.[21] For a man who spontaneously traveled west to Iowa after suddenly deciding that his options in Virginia had evaporated, Beall quickly became well entrenched in the gold operation, not to mention having the mill operator's position so conveniently open upon his arrival.

While the operation to accumulate gold developed, the Federal Government's patience with dissenters grew short. Beall's anxiety level for his own safety increased when his acquaintance Dennis Mahony was arrested on August 14 and shipped east to the Old Capital Prison in Washington where the editor languished without being charged until his release after the November 1864 election. One week after Mahoney's incarceration, Beall apprehensively spoke of his need to flee the country as quickly as possible.[22] As the month of August drew to a close, Beall's fear of detection subsided. After a September 2, 1862 entry from Cascade, Iowa, Beall's regular diary narratives abruptly stopped until November when they resumed from Dundas, Canada, just west of present day Hamilton, Ontario. Beall wrote that while in Iowa he was "discovered to be a Rebel and had to fly for life and liberty."[23]

Beall escaped Dubuque with $1620 in specie and obtained another $500 from Galena, Illinois, fifteen miles across the river, thereby identifying another site within the complex Confederate network. From there John Beall journeyed to Canada via Chicago, Kalamazoo, and

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[19] Ibid., p.256.
[20] Ibid.
[21] Lucas, p. 244.
[22] Ibid., p. 247.
[23] Ibid., p.264.

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Detroit. Several months earlier Beall traveled from Virginia to Iowa on the innocent pretext of seeking a location to heal his wound. When Beall unexpectedly was forced to flee Iowa, he chose not to return to Virginia, where the Confederacy's military fortunes had dramatically changed for the better with McClellan's defeat the end of June and Pope's subsequent loss at Second Manassas the end of August. Instead, Beall opted for an area in Canada that was rapidly becoming home to numerous Confederate agents seeking sanctuary across the border. Beall chose to remain until January in the harsh, damp Canadian climate, not an especially desirable environment for a man with an unhealthy lung. He finally returned to his home state, still listed on the rolls of the 2nd Virginia.

John Yates Beall's time in Dubuque County, Iowa in the summer of 1862, though less than three months in duration, offers an insight into a lesser known period of his service to the Confederacy. No documentation exists as to the Confederacy's actual success in its attempt to raise the speculative value of gold while inversely striving to devalue United States paper currency. We do know that in December, even before Burnside's embarrassing defeat at Fredericksburg, that the premium for gold skyrocketed to between 33 and 50 percent.[24]

As 1863 commenced, little documentation exists that the South strayed far from the battlefield to defeat the North. Since June the year before, Robert E. Lee ruled the battlefields in the east. His string of victories would continue until July of 1863. John Beall also in 1863 returned to more traditional warfare as he entered the Confederate Navy as a privateer. Interestingly enough, when the Confederacy's military fortunes changed in the second half of 1863, Jefferson Davis, as he planned for 1864, returned to more unorthodox methods to defeat the enemy, much as he did in 1862. John Yates Beall, as he did in 1862, would continue to be a key player, until it cost him his life, in the South's struggle to separate herself from the Union.

Randy Koch and his wife are long time residents of Sandusky, Ohio. His married daughter recently located there with her family to join the family business. His son, who is currently working on a master's degree in history at East Tennessee State, shares Randy's deep interest in antebellum and Civil war history.

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[24] Lucas, p.270.

The Conservation of the "Chew" Flag, 2005

by Susan Collins

Shortly after mid-day on February 29, 1864, a force of Union cavalry under the command of Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer, rode towards a Confederate encampment one mile south of the Rio Bridge over the Rivanna River, and four miles north of Charlottesville, Virginia. Consisting of five companies of horse artillery, led by its senior captain, Marcellus N. Moorman, the Confederate forces, numbering approximately two hundred men, were in their winter camp. The Confederates did not anticipate a winter attack and were completely unprepared. Warned within minutes of an impending attack, officers and men reacted with amazing swiftness, displaying a mixture of courage and audacity that turned an anticipated rout into a victory.



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

Lieutenant Colonel R. Preston Chew, 1865

While the enemy forces were destroying the first two battery camps, the Confederates hastily rounded up their horses and moved their guns into position. Mounting the men not serving the guns, Captain R. Preston Chew of Jefferson County positioned his "force" to support the artillery. Armed with only a few sabers, sticks and clubs, every man, even the wounded, assumed a role. Charging forward, Captain Chew roared for non-existent reinforcements: "Tell Colonel Delaney to bring up the 7th regiment!" A combination of enthusiastic yelling; the waving of a battle flag; orders bawled back and forth; the roar of guns and signs of bustling activity all combined to give the illusion of a strongly-defended camp.

Viewing the scene through field glasses and deceived by this display of force, Custer decided that discretion was the better part of valor, and retreated. Charlottesville had been spared, there had been no loss of life on either side, and the skirmish at Rio Hill passed into history.

The ladies of Charlottesville, to express their gratitude, created a beautiful, personalized flag based on the second national flag of the Confederacy. Measuring fifty-five inches by seventy-two inches and surrounded on three sides by a fringe wrapped in gold wire, the flag bore a design of painted crossed cannons and, embroidered in blue silk thread the words, "From the Ladies of Charlottesville to Stuart's Horse Artillery Our Brave Defenders." Never intended to be carried in combat (size and weight precluded that), the flag was to be flown in camp, carried in parades and used for special occasions. Nevertheless, it sustained war wounds, most of them received during the battle of Trevillian Station, about sixty miles north-west of Richmond.

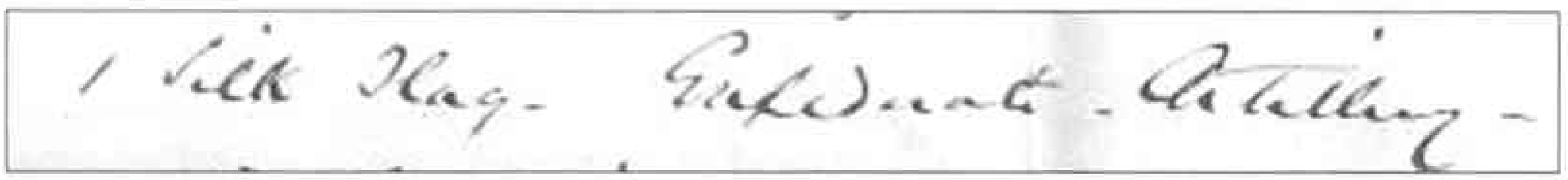
At the end of the war, the flag was never surrendered: the reason for that distinction brings us to Nimrod Anderson Ware—known to family and friends as "Nim"—the last standard bearer. A tall, slender youngster, born in 1846 in Clarke County, Virginia, Nim's mother died early in his life, and from then on he was shuffled between relatives in Jefferson County. His father later remarried and in time Nim acquired two dearly loved half-sisters. As was the case with so many young men, north and south, the war curtailed his schooling and disrupted his life. In the final months of the war, Nim was wounded and returned to Jefferson County. We believe that, knowing the South was close to collapse, Chew gave the flag to Nim to take home. The "Cause" was lost, but at least the flag would be in safe hands.

Using a financial inheritance from his grandfather, Nim made valiant efforts to complete his education, and in 1868 he fulfilled a life-long ambition by graduating from the University of Maryland as a full-fledged doctor of medicine.

In order to make a secure future for himself, Nim traveled to San Francisco where he obtained the position of ship's surgeon on a steamship plying between Nagasaki and Yokohama, Japan. It had been less than twenty years since Commodore Perry had sailed into Tokyo Bay and diplomatic relations were established between the United States and Japan. There was much that was unsettling and alien to the young American doctor. Letters home to his little sister Margaret, are loving, but betray a homesickness for Virginia. He looks forward to the time

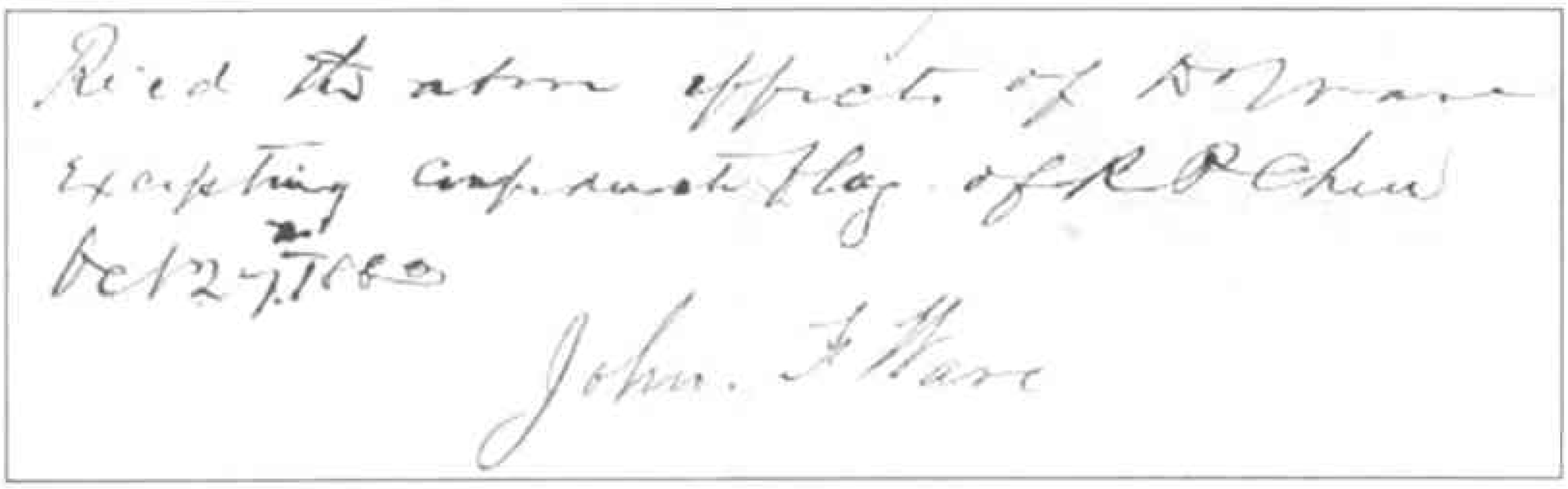
when he can return (having made his "fortune") and shower both his sisters with exotic oriental gifts.

In a cruel and unexpected stroke of fate, Nim fell victim to an unidentified illness and died in 1872. He was only twenty-six years of age. For nine long years the trunk containing the flag and his meager personal possessions, languished in the American Consulate in Nagasaki. Then, abruptly, it was returned to the Ware family in 1881, sailing on the U.S.S. Richmond. The official consulate document of May 11, addressed to the "Department of State" in Washington, identifies the trunk's contents as the "Effects of Dr. Ware—an American Citizen who died at Nagasaki in 1872." The second item on the list reads:



the first post-war confirmation that the Charlottesville flag still existed.

On October 27, 1881, John F. Ware traveled to the railroad depot in Winchester, Virginia, there to take possession of his relative's trunk. Accompanying him on the journey was Colonel Chew. The Colonel had offered to pay the expenses involved in bringing Nim's effects from Japan to Winchester, if he was allowed to take ownership of the flag. Both men signed the consulate document: John Ware for the trunk, Colonel Chew for the flag.



From that time on, the flag came under the protection of the Chew family. At one of the Confederate veteran reunions, someone cut off a portion of the flag's fringe and a star from the canton. In order to protect the flag from future souvenir hunters, Chew decided that the time had come to preserve the flag by having it framed and mounted.



COURTESY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Colonel R.P. Chew in Confederate veteran's uniform

After Colonel Chew's death in 1921, his family presented the flag to the city of Winchester. From then on, the flag was known as the "Chew" flag. In Winchester, it was displayed at different times at Stonewall Jackson's headquarters and also in the Handley Library. After the founding of the Jefferson County Museum, it was obvious that a suitable home for the "Chew" flag in Charles Town was now available. It had been the expressed wish of the Colonel's daughter, Miss Margaret Chew, that the flag be returned to Charles Town. In order to fulfill this wish, the combined efforts of Colonel Chew's niece, Mrs. Phillip Dawson, Mr. Edgar Whiting and Mr. Roger Perry, were instrumental in bringing the flag from the Handley Library to what is now its permanent home.

Housed in the case that sits in front of the flag are five items that belonged to Dr. Nimrod Anderson Ware: The painted tin document case that holds his medical diploma; an ivory napkin ring engraved with the words "Dr. A. Ware;" a carte de visite of Nim which shows an alert young man with a strong face, full of character; the original letter and envelope from the United States Consulate, Nagasaki, Japan; and a copy of a letter to little Margaret Ware. That these remarkable gifts were presented to the museum is a story in itself.



Dr. Nimrod "Nim" Anderson Ware

Burwell Ware farms in Jefferson County, as his ancestors have done for generations. A collateral descendent of Nim, Mr. Ware had treasured these heirlooms all his life. A meeting was arranged between the museum's curator and Mr. Ware through the good offices of a mutual friend. The purpose of this interview was to examine photographs of Nim since we had no likeness of him in the museum's collection. To our great surprise, Mr. Ware made a gift to the museum of the five items mentioned. We selected one of three photographs, and were allowed to copy three of Nim's letters home. It was an emotional interview. At a reception held in the museum, Mr. Burwell Ware was our honored guest. It gave the museum great pleasure to place his gifts on display and to finally bring Nimrod Anderson Ware out of the shadows and into the light. Colonel Chew would surely approve.

The decision to conserve the "Chew" flag was made during the winter months of 2004 and 2005. After approximately ninety-six years hanging in its magnificent gilt frame, the flag showed unmistakable signs of drooping and other forms of deterioration. Backed with cardboard mounted on a flimsy wooden grid support, it was a miracle that flag and mounting had not parted company years before. Postponement was not an option.

For a second opinion the museum contacted the Conservation Center of the National Park Service (NPS) at Harpers Ferry. As a department of the United States Government, the NPS could not undertake the restoration for us, but they could, and did, provide excellent advice. Assistant manager of the Conservation Department, Martin Burke, referred us to his associate, Jane Merritt who would examine the flag and offer her recommendations. Ms. Merritt was extremely helpful, patiently describing the appropriate conservation process. Her assessment of fabric damage was encouraging; the flag was in relatively good condition although extremely dirty. Much of this dirt was the result of deposits from coal and wood burning fires, but the particles could be removed with gentle cleaning. Some threads from old repairs would have to be cut to relieve strain on the fabric. In short, the flag was feeling its age and "needed to put its feet up!" to quote Jane Merritt.

The final step in the restoration process would be to place the flag in a pressure mount. This method is described in Ms. Merritt's publication: " Flag Preservation and Display." To quote: "The pressure mount system relies on creating pressure between a rigid support, padding, and an acrylic glazing to create an essentially benign mount that will hold a flag in place and can be removed at anytime...."

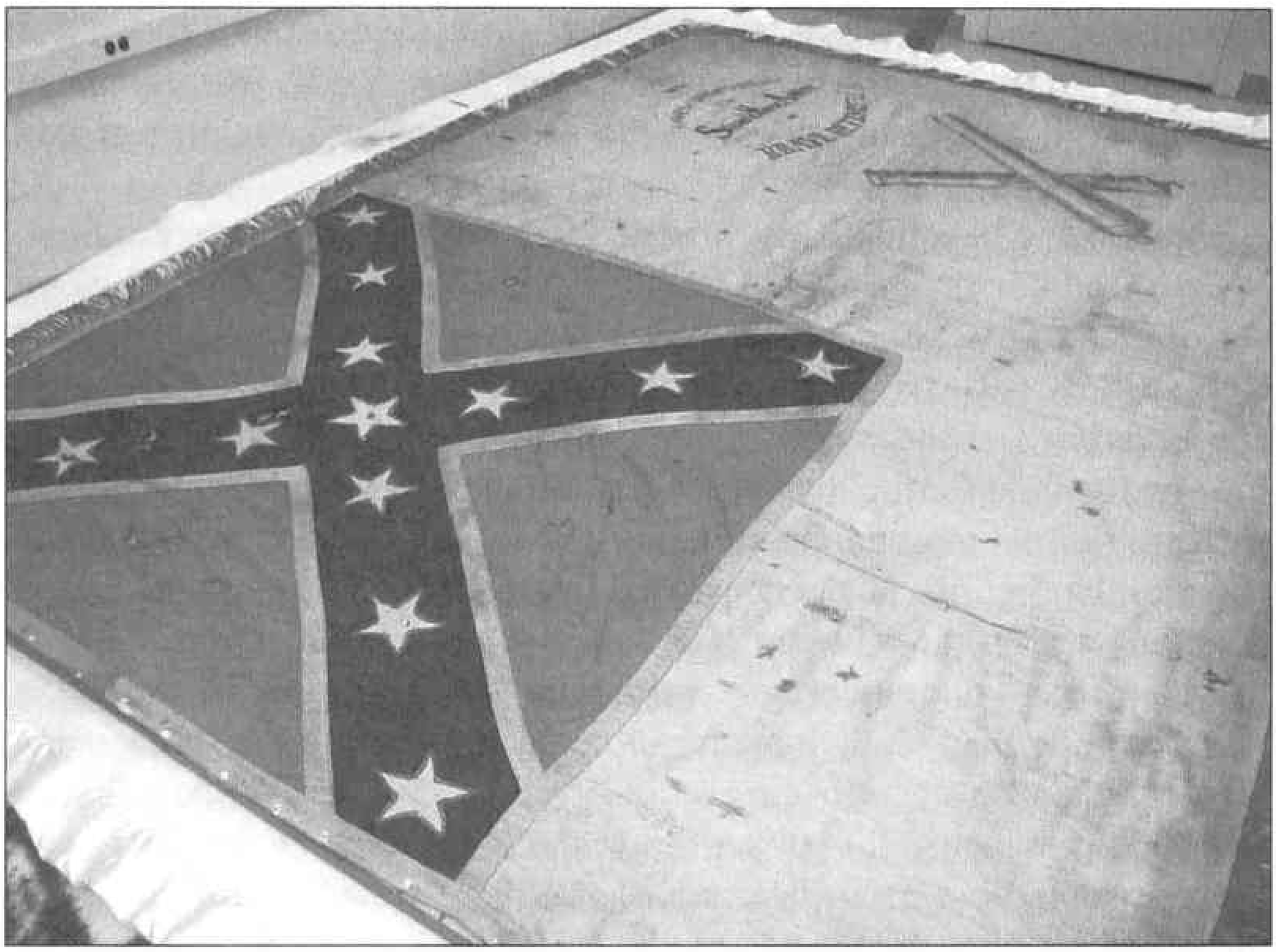
Ms. Merritt provided us with a short-list of three conservators, all of whom conserve textiles for major museums and military academies. From this list we selected Fonda Thomsen, director and founder of Textile Preservation Associates, Inc. based in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Conveniently close to Charles Town, proximity had a definite attraction: the flag could be hand-carried and so would not be travelling any great distance.

An appointment was made and after a two-hour examination of the flag, Ms. Thomsen left to prepare her recommendations and also her estimate of the total cost of restoration. This estimate was $7,673. It was decided to raise the necessary funds privately, by contacting

friends of the museum and past financial donors. The first contribution was made by a visitor from New York: the important ground-work had been laid, now the second part of our project had officially begun.

Fundraising began in early June of 2004; a slow but steady progress. We realized our financial goal when the final donation was received on October 5. This sum put us "over the top" financially. What a tremendous relief it was: now the final agreement between the conservators and the museum could be signed. On December 16 the time had arrived for the massive "Chew" flag to be taken down from the west wall of the museum, gently removed from its protective frame and taken to the security of the conservation laboratory. There were mixed emotions among the museum staff and also among our friends. Relief that the process of conservation was about to begin, curiosity to see the reverse of the flag—long a matter of conjecture among the flag's many admirers, and a certain degree of anxiety! We had undertaken a tremendous responsibility. Over the years, the historic "Chew" flag had become something of an institution, and there were those who feared that any form of change would not be for the better.

Cathy Heffner, new director of Textile Preservation Associates following the retirement of Fonda Thomsen, arrived promptly on the morning of December 16. Accompanying her was Clifton Funkhouser who would construct the elegant aluminum angle frame designed to hold flag and padding firmly in place. Willing hands lifted the frame from the wall and laid it, face down, on padded tables. This was a critical moment—at this point flag, frame, glass and backing might well have separated. The moment passed safely and Cathy began the meticulous process of exposing the flag. First to be removed was the slender wooden grid. Beyond that, the cardboard backing to which the flag was nailed (there were dozens of them to remove), and finally the flag itself. For the first time in almost one hundred years the reverse of the "Chew" flag was visible. We saw that the canton was repeated—with its full compliment of stars—the stitched lettering, missing some threads, was present, but reversed. However, the painted design of cross cannons had not been repeated. Next, Cliff Funkhouser made his final measurements and removed the original gilt-wood frame to his workshop to begin modifications. Finally, the flag was rolled between two sheets of Mylar and wrapped in protective bubble wrap, ready to begin its journey.



STEVE MESERVE PHOTO

Flag out of the frame

The flag had to wait its turn before the staff of Textile Preservation could begin the conservation process. The museum staff was encouraged to visit and watch the experts at work—what a privilege that was! The quiet, professional atmosphere of the laboratory was both a revelation and a fascination.

What follows is an abbreviated description of the conservation process. With her permission, some of the wording is taken from the original *Treatment Report* by Cathy Heffner. Under the terms of the agreement made between the museum and Textile Preservation Associates, Inc., the *Analysis Report* must remain confidential.

The methods used in treating the Chew flag were conservative: a light vacuum cleaning using a machine with minimal suction and tiny state-of-the-art attachments; a meticulous, inch-by-inch hand cleaning method known as "dry sponging"—executed by placing small latex sponges on the flag fabric to absorb contaminants, such as soot, that were not removed by the vacuuming. Finally, to relax the fabric and remove creases, the flag was humidified by light misting with distilled water.

Now came the mounting procedure. A soft, padded panel was

prepared using buffered, acid-free cardboard covered with non-woven polyester batting and a washed, unbleached, fine cotton fabric. The flag was attached to the padded panel with one row of stitching; the fringe was combed to lay out flat. Next, a sheet of acrylic glazing provided with an ultra-violet light filter was laid over the flag. The entire unit was placed in Cliff Funkhouser's aluminum angle frame with an aluminum back for support. Later, when flag, pressure mount and frame were reunited in the museum, the result resembled an old-fashioned "shadow box," indistinguishable to the casual observer from the original mounting.

Many theories had existed regarding the composition of the flag. We now had the answer: cotton, wool, and a wool/cotton blend fabric and cotton tape. The thread used was cotton, linen and blue silk—the silk for the embroidered lettering.

The eagerly anticipated day when the flag returned to the museum was July 8, 2005. Since the flag was now in a rigid frame, a different method of transportation had to be devised. Thanks to kind and generous friends of the museum this hurdle was speedily overcome. A panel truck was rented and driven to the Sharpsburg laboratory. With the help of the museum staff, the "Chew" flag was carried safely home. Waiting in the museum was Cliff Funkhouser, ready to give the final touch: reuniting the flag with its original gilt-wood frame.

With the "Chew" flag once again hanging in its accustomed place, we marvelled at the delicacy of the conservators' work. The excess of dirt, which for so long had marred the flag's appearance, was gone, while old, deeply-embedded stains remained—in keeping with Textile Preservation's conservative methods. The flag's ancient battle scars were still visible, its "personality" intact.

The first-ever attempt by the Jefferson County Museum to mount a private fund-raising enterprise in order to conserve one of the Museum's most treasured possessions had been successfully concluded. From beginning to end, we had been singularly fortunate. The encouragement and recommendations received from the National Park Service and Jane Merritt, were instrumental in directing us to Fonda Thomsen, Cathy Heffner, Clifton Funkhouser and the wonderful staff of Textile Preservation. The many admirers of both the "Chew" flag and the Jefferson County Museum, brought in not only the necessary funds, but also provided the practical assistance we had to have. To everybody involved, our heartfelt thanks. A gallant survivor of that tragic period in American history, the flag has led an extraordinary and colorful



MARK REINHART PHOTO

Author Susan Collins and Burwell Ware

existence: it survives because of the dedication of two men—Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Roger Preston Chew, whose name the flag bears, and Private, in civilian life Doctor, Nimrod Anderson Ware. Their memories will remain evergreen, thanks to all the good people whose generosity ensured a bright future for the second national Confederate flag of Stuart's Horse Artillery, the "Chew" flag.

Susan Collins has been curator of the Jefferson County Museum since 1996 and resides in Berkeley County.

Finding History: Brown-Shugart House

by Charity Beth Long

About seven years ago, my husband and I settled down as newlyweds in a townhouse in Sterling, Virginia. Before very long we realized that we missed the quaint historic towns of our pasts. I grew up in small towns from the city of Martinsburg, West Virginia to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Kevin was raised in the Northern Virginia suburbs but had attended college in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As young adults we met in the super small town of East Haddam, Connecticut where we were both interns at the Goodspeed Opera House, a restored theater that was built in 1876. We longed to find an historic community because we wanted to live in a place where families gathered on porches and where neighbors chatted over picket fences. That was not our reality in Sterling and we wanted more from our home and our town.

A decision had been made and we started looking for the perfect historic house. After seeing several houses that our agent touted as being historic with all the amenities we became discouraged. We were being shown older properties that had been renovated and many of the properties had been stripped of their historic interior features. So, we started looking at fixer-uppers in the hopes that we would find a property that retained most of its historic character, and not just the outer façade, but the interior as well. We looked for well over a year as market prices soared and the size of our dream house shrank in size again and again. We eventually gave up looking. It seemed at the time that our dream was unattainable. We began plans to update our Sterling townhouse and dabbled with the idea of buying a rental property somewhere in the historic area of Martinsburg. Eventually that plan dissipated as well.

Just when we had resigned ourselves to living in a new community in a newer house for the foreseeable future, I spotted a listing online for a house that had been on the market a couple of years earlier. The listing read, "Glorious Indeed! This fine framed Victorian Beauty was built in 1883 by Forrest Washington Brown, a prominent Charles Town attorney and is traditionally referred to as the Brown-Shugart House. Reminiscent of the period, the home includes standing seam roof, 8 fireplaces, turned posts, extensive porches and a large, formal ballroom on the first floor.

Classic wood floors throughout. The magnificent 13x 21 foyer features an exceptionally carved staircase and an intricate mantle. Among the spacious rooms are 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a large recreation room. This lovely home has a little something for everyone." Other parts of the listing included the statements, "owners have dismantled kitchen" and "seller to include appliance allowance" and then it seemed obvious to me that we had found our untouched historic fixer-upper.

It turns out that a couple from Leesburg had purchased the property and had begun work on the house. After troubles with the renovations they decided that a fixer-upper was not for them and decided to sell the house. So, less than two years later it was re-listed. The first time I saw the house online I tried to convince Kevin to go see the house with me. Unfortunately, Kevin did not want to commute from West Virginia so we did not visit the house. At the time we had primarily been looking in Fredericksburg. This time, he still had his reservations about a commute from West Virginia but I convinced him to go see the house on Samuel Street in Charles Town.

The Brown-Shugart House was the untouched beauty of which I had dreamt about for years. The house was a traditional Victorian, filled with winding staircases and a footprint similar to a maze. The house was in major disrepair. The gutters were rusted, the front porch was falling in, wallpaper was peeling from the walls and ceilings, the kitchen had been gutted to the studs, the furnace was ancient and the plumbing obsolete and did I mention the leaking roofs? This "fine framed Victorian" had more problems than we could count, but when I looked at her I did not see the drawbacks. I saw the wood paneling, the Victorian gilt mirrors, the original windows, doors, clawfoot tubs and iron sinks. I saw the Victorian mantles and bulls-eye molding and the wrought iron fence and gate. It was apparent that very little had changed about the house since the Victorian era. Aside from a room on the main floor that had been converted into an in-law type suite, probably sometime in the 1940s, the house was through and through Victorian. To top it off, the house was on the Charles Town Walking Tour. In my mind, this was the perfect house and it took very little convincing for Kevin to agree.

Kevin and I instantly put an offer on the house and in a couple months we were beginning the restoration. It was important to me that as we marched forth, that we keep as much of the original character as was possible and when we had to make changes that we kept them in step with the existing features. In the case of the kitchen, we had door and window

trim replicated and we used reproduction lighting and hardware. The front porch floor was repaired by using traditional tongue and groove pine flooring. We began restoring the wood windows and stripping the original clapboard siding in order to repaint it.

As we were restoring, small clues began popping up as to the original size of the house like exterior siding hidden within a closet and flooring width changes. It was obvious to me that changes had been made early on as most of the features were typical of the Victorian style, but I started to wonder more about the family that had built the house. As we were putting a huge amount of effort (and funds) into the restoration of our painted lady, it became important to me to discover her history and the history of the people that called her "home."

I began my research online by looking up Forrest Washington Brown and before I knew it, I had compiled a Brown family tree and was in contact with FWB's granddaughter Lilian and her niece Sarah. I met with Sarah, who graciously showed me all of her genealogy research and provided me with pictures of the family and the house. Sarah substantiated my genealogy. Forrest Washington Brown was the son of Thomas A. Brown, a clerk with the Bank of Charles Town, and Annie Steptoe Washington who was a descendant of Samuel Washington, George Washington's brother.

SARAH SEEMAN PHOTO



Emma T. and Forrest W. Brown

I corresponded with Lilian who confirmed that the house had started out as a modest house. She wrote, "My memory is that my grandfather bought a much smaller house and added on making many changes." She speculated that the house was originally very similar to a house down the



SARAH SEEMAN PHOTO

Forrest W. Brown's house in Charles Town

street that was a simple two story with bay window, small porch and door. In her grandfather's day the house included a cistern, a billiards room in the basement with a tin ceiling (small remnants remain today), gas lighting, and that the ballroom addition and the bedroom above it were built to "accommodate furniture bought at a sale in Washington—came from the Russian embassy." The bathrooms on the back addition of the house had been designed as "his" and "hers," and "his" bathroom included a very large bathtub, while Forrest's bride Emma Beverly Tucker's bathroom was appointed with a more diminutive tub. The room that had become the in-law suite was built as FWB's study and the room in the front of the house with the bay window was Emma's parlor where she regularly played Canasta.

From Sarah and Lilian I learned that the stone walls around the property and many of my neighbors properties were quarried from the lands behind the house where the Veterans Park is now located. This land was part of a working farm into the 20th century complete with cattle. FWB had hopes of having his family settle around him and to that end

prepared the lots around the Samuel Street house and eventually naming the area "Brownville." He paid for these improvements with the earnings from his investment in the Harpers Ferry and Potomac Bridge Company which bought the Bollman designed Baltimore & Ohio railroad bridge in Harpers Ferry and turned it into a toll bridge for the highway.

Emma and Forrest had one son, Forrest Augustus who followed in his father's footsteps, becoming an attorney and eventually taking over the management of the Harpers Ferry and Potomac Bridge Co. Although the state of Maryland tried to take the bridge from the company for use as a free highway bridge, the Bollman trusses remained under the ownership of the Harpers Ferry and Potomac Bridge Company until its destruction in the flood of 1936. Forrest Augustus married Lilian Gorham and settled down next door in his grandparents house and upon the death of his parents, rented out his father's house to Leland and Mildred Shugart.

Forrest Augustus eventually sold the house at 633 South Samuel Street to the Shugarts who lived in the house with their daughters Roxanne and Barbara for many years. Leland died in 1976 but Millie lived in the house until 1995 when she passed away at the golden age of 100. I am sure that it was during her latter years that the house began to fall into poor repair, but I am also sure that her long years helped to protect the house from incongruous renovations and updates.



SARAH SEEMAN PHOTO

Lilian and Forrest A. Brown with baby Sarah

With information from the Brown family in hand, I was motivated to look for historical records of the house and the young attorney for whom the house was built. I traced back the deed to find out that the land was purchased from Forrest's

mother Annie Steptoe Washington on March 3, 1885, the same year of his marriage to Emma. My husband and I were only the fifth family to own the house and three of those families had owned the property since the 1990s. With an idea in mind of when the house may have been built, I started researching through historical newspapers for more information. I found a note in the March 17, 1885 issue of the *Spirit of Jefferson* that read "Forrest W. Brown, Esq., we learn, will erect a handsome dwelling on his lot on Samuel Street extended, adjoining Judge Green's." On March 20, 1885 the *Virginia Free Press* wrote that "Julius C. Holmes has contracted to build a dwelling home for Mr. F. W. Brown, and Mr. J. W. Butt will tin-roof the same." By April of 1885, both papers reported that the frame had been constructed and in June the *Spirit* reported: "The new dwellings of Messrs. Forrest W. Brown and S. Stofer are approaching completion, and begin to present a very attractive appearance."

In no time, I had discovered when the house was built and who had actually constructed it. I was ecstatic, but I did not stop there. I wanted to know when the additions were built and who had added them. This was a more difficult task because we had no idea when the additions might have been built. Kevin and I surmised that the additions were built before 1900 and that they must not have been built too long after the original construction.

We went to the library and started searching the newspapers again beginning with the microfilm of the *Spirit* from 1890-92. After hours of scrolling, Kevin hit gold. February 25, 1890 the *Spirit of Jefferson* accounted, "Mr. J.C. Holmes has contracted to build an addition to the residence of Forrest W. Brown, Esq." and by September 23, the paper notes that "Mr. W.W. Johnson has finished painting and papering the elegant dwelling of Forrest W. Brown, Esq." The *Virginia Free Press* wrote on October 1 that "a commodious addition to the residence of F. W. Brown, Esq., was built by Mr. J. C. Holmes and the painting completed in handsome style, a few days ago, by Mr. W. W. Johnson." Lilian's and my assumptions had been confirmed. What had started out as a small two story house had grown into a "commodious" three-story with a ballroom and sweeping verandas.

The paper trail on the house seems to have ended there, although I am still looking for more evidence of the past. I have continued my research by studying Forrest W. Brown and have learned that he was one of the founders of the Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company which established what is now Ranson. The Company was

founded in 1890 and purchased 850 acres for residential and commercial development. The Company built what is now Ranson City Hall and the former Hotel Powhatan, both built by Julius C. Holmes.

We continue to restore and research. The process is slow and sometimes frustrating but we feel that we are making a difference. We have replaced the plumbing, two of the roofs (there are seven total), installed a new boiler and the list goes on. We still have many things left to accomplish beginning with the main roofs and finishing the stripping and repainting of the siding. We also have hopes to recover some items that have been lost from the house, like the Russian Embassy bed and a side servants' gate. We cannot find the cistern but we plan to install a new one when we replace the gutters. We are restoring the windows to make them functional again because we currently have no plans to install central air-conditioning.

Kevin and I have traveled a long road in discovering our place in history. When I think back to the indignant real estate agent that was perplexed by our disdain of the "historic" homes with freshly renovated interiors I am saddened. In the current "green" climate, advertising tries to convince us that new is better and more efficient and it is only recently that experts are agreeing that old is not necessarily unsustainable. Experts like Carl Elefante are spearheading the green restoration movement by declaring that "the greenest building is the one that is already built." When I heard Mr. Elefante speak at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum in New Orleans in July, I was so proud to see him picture a Victorian house much like my own and declare that it was a very energy efficient model.

Old homes are made out of natural materials which are easily refinished or repaired which means less waste in landfills. Typical new widows made of vinyl are not repairable and must be replaced when broken. However, wood windows can be repaired with simple carpentry and given a new lease on life with new glazing and paint. As long as they are maintained, they can last indefinitely. Wood floors can be sanded and refinished many times before needing to be replaced. Roofing is another place where older homes prove their sustainability. Slate roofs can last for over one hundred years or more and metal roofs can be repaired time and time again. Compare that with the asphalt shingles used today that normally have a life expectancy of less than forty years. Beyond the materials that were used in older home construction, old houses can also feature energy and money saving features. Old houses were also



Charity and Kevin Long

designed to stay cool in the summer without the need of air-conditioning. Working windows, interior transom windows and central towers were some of the ways that houses kept cool through the heat of summer. Many vintage homes were also built with cisterns that held gray water that was used for cleaning and laundry tasks. All these features add together to form a sustainable picture of pre-modern era homes.

I love our center tower and wood windows. I cannot imagine replacing the ornate steam radiators or covering the floors with wall-to-wall carpet. So many people have come up to me and asked "couldn't

you just buy a new house?" and my answer is "yes, we could have." But we did not. A new house built today usually does not have the warmth or beauty of an older home. Even with our old house we could have traded our windows for vinyl replacements and we could have replaced our roofs with asphalt shingles. It would certainly have been easier. However, we decided to restore the house to its original appearance and luckily, so many people have cheered us on and supported us just when we needed it most.

The Brown-Shugart House is known for the first two families that inhabited the house. Forrest W. Brown built this house to be the center of a new neighborhood envisioned as "Brownville" and I am sure that he planned for his home to survive for generations. Although his descendants did not settle here as he had planned, a family oriented community did develop over the years. The Shugarts helped in this effort by opening the house to neighbors for holidays and events. The parties thrown in the ballroom by Millie made the house famous locally. Millie threw parties for decades until she could no longer do it herself and the neighbors came in and threw them for her. These same neighbors keep asking me when we will restore that tradition and I fully intend to grant their request once the restorations are complete.

Amazingly, the house has survived for one hundred twenty-three years and through the sweat and hard work of many people, we hope that it will survive into a new and possibly greener era. As for Kevin and I, we have found the community for which we were searching. So often we sit on the porch sharing cocktails and conversation with neighbors, family and friends. To this day, I have never found anything to encourage community like a Victorian porch.

Charity Beth Long is a private voice teacher specializing in contemporary commercial music styles. She teaches in her home, the Brown-Shugart House in Charles Town, West Virginia. Charity devotes many hours to historic preservation initiatives. In her spare time, Charity and her husband are lovingly restoring their home which is featured in the Charles Town Historic Walking Tour. Charity also serves as a member of the Charles Town Historic Landmarks Commission.

John F. Kennedy's Speech at the Charles Town Race Track

by Walter Washington

West Virginia played a key role in the 1960 Democratic presidential race. On April 27 of that year the political spotlight was on Jefferson County when Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy spoke to a large evening rally at the Charles Town Race Track. Kennedy's rivals for the party's nomination were Senators Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, Stuart Symington of Missouri and former Governor Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois (the party's unsuccessful nominee in 1952 and 1956). However, only Kennedy and Humphrey were on the ballot in West Virginia. The primary date was May 10.

Party bosses in the Democratic Party still played a decisive role in the selection of a presidential nominee in 1960. Only 16 states had full and open primaries. Of these, Kennedy had entered five and Humphrey had entered seven. The junior senator from Massachusetts was viewed by many of the power brokers as too young and inexperienced to head the party's ticket in November. His Roman Catholic religion was seen as an additional obstacle to his electability. Kennedy hoped to use the primaries to prove his viability as a national candidate. The first real contest between the two men came in the Wisconsin primary on April 5. Kennedy won with 56 per cent of the vote. West Virginia was the next test.

The population of Jefferson County in 1960 was 18,655. There were 9,491 registered voters. Democrats enjoyed a three-to-one advantage in party registration, with 6,976 registered voters compared to 2,168 Republicans. Adlai Stevenson had carried the county in the 1952 Presidential election but had lost the county to the incumbent President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956.

Gathering local interest in the 1960 Democratic contest was reflected in a February 25 editorial in the *Spirit of Jefferson Farmers Advocate* entitled "Welcome to the Candidates," which presaged the importance of the upcoming Kennedy/Humphrey showdown in the Mountain State. It also hinted, perhaps, at the darker undercurrents of the contest:

> Earlier this week representatives and ambassadors of Senator John F. Kennedy were in Jefferson County promoting the quest of the

New England legislator for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Those appearing here have stated that Senator Kennedy plans to come here personally in mid-April, following the crucial Wisconsin primary. We welcome this news; at the same time we hope Senator Humphrey, who has also entered the West Virginia primary, will include a personal visit to Jefferson County on his itinerary. And we will even go a step further and express the hope that Senator Johnson and Senator Symington will likewise honor us with their presence.

As we have observed on this page before, our proximity to Washington places us in a unique position. It is well we take advantage of it by taking every opportunity to meet the national figures who find it convenient to visit us. At the same time, we hope that no amount of personal opposition to any particular candidate will diminish a cordial and hospitable greeting. If the candidates attach enough importance to the people of our community to visit here the least we can do is treat them with courtesy and respect. This goes for the candidates of both parties. It requires no particular art other than that generated by simple manners and good breeding to disagree without being disagreeable.

The March 17 issue of the paper provided the first detail of a Kennedy appearance in the county. The Sports Section entitled "Notes from the Shenandoah Bugle" included this item:

> High Notes: Next event for the Shenandoah Downs comes up sometime in April when Sen. John F. Kennedy is expected to address an estimated 3500 Democrats in an outdoor rally. The grandstand seating section will be used.[1]

The April 14 issue reported that Senator Kennedy's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, who the article noted was "formerly chief counsel of the famed McClellan Committee investigating labor union racketeering," had visited Charles Town the previous Monday, April 11, to meet with Shirley M. Hunt, of Charles Town, to discuss planning for the rally. Hunt was chairman of the Jefferson County Kennedy for President Club.

The lead story in the April 21 issue announced the arrangements for

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[1] Shenandoah Downs, a harness racing track, had opened just north of the older Charles Town Race Track in1959.

the rally and speech to take place the following Wednesday, April 27, describing it as "[w]hat promises to be the biggest political get-together in recent years" at which Senator Kennedy will make a "major appearance." The article noted that he would be accompanied by his wife and members of his staff. Shirley Hunt is quoted as saying invitations had been sent to political leaders throughout the state. The entire event was advertised as free of charge. Morgan and Berkeley County Democrats were also involved in the event planning.[2]

A smaller article also on the front page of the April 21 issue announced that rival candidate Senator Hubert H. Humphrey would visit Harpers Ferry on Tuesday, April 26 – the day before the Kennedy rally — as part of a two day tour of the state which included stops in Huntington, Fairmont, Summerville, Craigsville, Webster Springs, Buckhannon, Phillipi, Fairmont, Grafton, Fellowsville, Kingwood, Aurora, Keyser, Romney, Berkeley Springs, Martinsburg and Charleston. Senator Humphrey planned "to stop in each of the communities en route to greet local Democratic leaders and speak briefly on issues of the campaign."

A small ad in bold type at the bottom of the front page heralded:

Hear and See
Senator John F. Kennedy
At The Big
Democratic Rally
Old Charles Town
Race Track
Wednesday, April 27, 1960 – 8:00 P.M.

This indicated a change in the earlier reported plan to hold the rally at the newer Shenandoah Downs track.

A key issue in the 1960 campaign was Senator Kennedy's Roman Catholicism. The editorial page of the *Spirit of Jefferson* regularly carried an opinion column called "Hardly Worth Mention" penned by local attorney Henry W. Morrow of Shepherdstown. In the April 21 issue, in a column entitled "Senator Kennedy's Problem," Morrow framed the Massachusetts senator's challenge in West Virginia to overcome the issue of his religion.

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[2] At the suggestion of Shirley Hunt contained in a letter dated April 19, 1960, to Senator Kennedy, the campaign quickly sent a letter, dated April 21, under the Senator's name, to Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry, President of Shepherd College inviting Dr. Iknberry, the faculty and the student body of the college to attend the rally. (Courtesy of the John F. Kennedy Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

A few weeks ago this observer ventured the opinion that Senator Kennedy would score a decisive victory over Senator Humphrey in West Virginia's Primary Election. And so it seemed at that time. But since then the picture has vastly changed; since then Senator Kennedy has scored a rather remarkable victory in Wisconsin, and should he repeat this feat in West Virginia there are those who contend the party could ill-afford to deny him the nomination. It is precisely this that makes the road for Senator Kennedy so difficult: for the issue in West Virginia now is not one of a choice between Kennedy and Humphrey; the issue is one of Kennedy or "somebody else." Senator Humphrey can expect to poll a heavy vote in this Mountain State notwithstanding the fact that there is scarcely one voter in ten who wants him to be president or thinks he has even the remotest chance of getting the nomination. But he can expect now to get a large number of votes from those who do not want Senator Kennedy, and who will use Hubert Humphrey's name on the ballot not to vote for Humphrey but to vote against Kennedy.

No matter how you look at it, Sen. Kennedy is laboring under a terrific handicap in this overwhelmingly Protestant state. This is not as it should be, but it is a fact nevertheless. In talking to literally hundreds of voters I have not found one, to the everlasting shame of the electorate, who holds a thing against the youthful senator except the fact that he is Catholic. Indeed, there are few who have the faintest notion on where he stands on the great issues of the day; they simply do not want a Catholic in the White House. Prejudice of this sort is all but impossible to cope with.

It seems to me that Senator Kennedy has not handled the religious issue as skillfully as he could or should. He has attempted to reason with the public when this is not a matter on which men reason. He has tried to point out that his religion has not been a factor in other duties he has been called on to perform. This is a reasoned answer but it does not meet the issue for precisely that reason. There is no reasoning with the innate opposition felt by many Protestants for a Catholic chief of state.

It seems to me that Senator Kennedy would be well-advised to make a frank and candid statement concerning his relationship with the Catholic Church, and thereby dispel the seas of misunderstanding

that surround the issue. For the overwhelming majority of Protestants do not understand what it is about his religion they oppose. They labor under the misunderstanding that the Vatican would control his every move and nothing short of a candid and forthright statement by Senator Kennedy pointing out, for good or for bad, what the proper relationship is can serve to place the problem in its proper perspective. Whether we like it or not, Senator Kennedy's religion is his biggest problem and no amount of saying that it should not be will make the problem go away. And since it is a problem it can best be handled by open and frank discussion. Certainly the American public should be reminded that there have been heads of state in Europe who have owed allegiance to the Catholic Church, but who have not, as far as I have been able to determine, been unduly influenced by such allegiance.

The long and short of it is that, whether we like it or not, Senator Kennedy's religion has become the main issue in this campaign. And since this is so, nothing short of frank discussion of the question can relegate the issue to its proper place. It should not be an issue; but it is. And it is better that we come to grips with it, than leave it for the whisperers and the uninformed

In the Wisconsin primary on April 5, Kennedy had carried the predominantly Catholic districts of the state and Humphrey had carried the predominantly Protestant districts. But other factors had blurred the results, leaving unsettled the question of Kennedy's appeal to non-Catholic voters. West Virginia was 95 percent Protestant in 1960. The primary would be a key indicator of Kennedy's ability to win that vote.

Kennedy's appearance in Charles Town came at the end of a three day tour of the state which had begun with an 8 a.m. breakfast meeting on Monday, April 25, at the Hotel Pritchard in Huntington. The morning of the rally, he began the day at an 8:30 appearance at Bluefield State College. The schedule released by the campaign laid out a fast-paced day:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27th:

8:30 AM	–	Bluefield State College, Bluefield
8:45 AM	–	Princeton – Court House Steps – street tour
10:35 AM	–	Athens – Concord College – speech
12:10 PM	–	Hinton – Court House – speech and street tour
2:25 PM	–	Alderson High School – Alderson

3:00 PM – Greenbriar High School – Ronceverte
3:30 PM – Ronceverte – street tour
WRON Radio
4:00 PM – Lewisburg – street tour
4:45 PM – White Sulphur Springs – street tour
5:00 PM – fly to Martinsburg
6:30 PM – Radio station – Martinsburg
8:00 PM – Democratic Rally – Charles Town – Charles Town Race Course[3]

However, this schedule was interrupted when Kennedy decided to return to Washington to cast a Senate vote on a mine safety bill.[4] He flew from Hinton to Washington and then following the vote flew from Washington to Martinsburg to keep his appointment with a radio station there. On his drive from Martinsburg to Charles Town for the rally, he stopped near Leetown to meet with the Right Reverend Robert E. Lee Strider,[5] the retired Episcopal bishop of West Virginia, at Strider's family home, Rose Hill. That meeting produced an important endorsement of Kennedy from Strider aimed at neutralizing concerns about the candidate's religious faith. The endorsement would appear prominently in the *Spirit of Jefferson* the next day in response to the concerns raised by Morrow's column of the previous week.

Over 3,000 supporters waiting at the Charles Town Race Course for Kennedy's arrival were entertained by the Charles Town High School Band, followed by group singing led by John Caldwell of Martinsburg and vocal selections performed by Mrs. William B. Snyder of Shepherdstown, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Alonzo D. Peters of Charles Town. The enthusiastic crowd gave Kennedy a standing

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[3] Courtesy of the John F. Kennedy Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

[4] The vote before the U. S. Senate that afternoon was on a bill (S. 743) to amend the Federal Mine Safety Act to make the protections of the Act applicable to mines employing 14 or fewer workers. These smaller mines had been exempt from the purview of the Act when originally passed in 1952. Speaking on the Senate floor in favor of the bill, Senator Kennedy drew on his trip through the coalfields which he had interrupted to fly to the Capital: "I had the opportunity to visit a coal mine yesterday. I must say that after visiting it and talking with the men who worked in it, I believe more than ever that the proposed legislation is in the public interest." The bill passed 80 to 4. *Congressional Record* (April 27, 1960), p. 8723, 8725.

[5] The Right Reverend Robert E. Lee Strider (1887-1967), a native of Leetown, served as the third bishop of the Episcopal diocese of West Virginia from 1937 until his retirement in 1955.

ovation as he entered accompanied by his wife, Jacqueline. Mrs. Kennedy had flown to Martinsburg from Bluefield, where the campaign day had begun. She was introduced to the crowd and spoke briefly before her husband addressed the rally. The *Spirit of Jefferson* gave this report of his speech in its issue the following day under the headline "Kennedy Given Rousing Welcome By Over 3,000 At Biggest Rally Ever Staged in County:"

> Senator Kennedy, the second presidential hopeful to come to Jefferson County in two days, struck out first at the manner in which three other presidential candidates, and many other leading politicians in both the Democratic and Republican parties have been playing down primary elections throughout the nation. Although he did not mention names, Senators Lyndon B. Johnson and Stuart Symington and former Governor Adlai Stevenson have shunned presidential primaries.

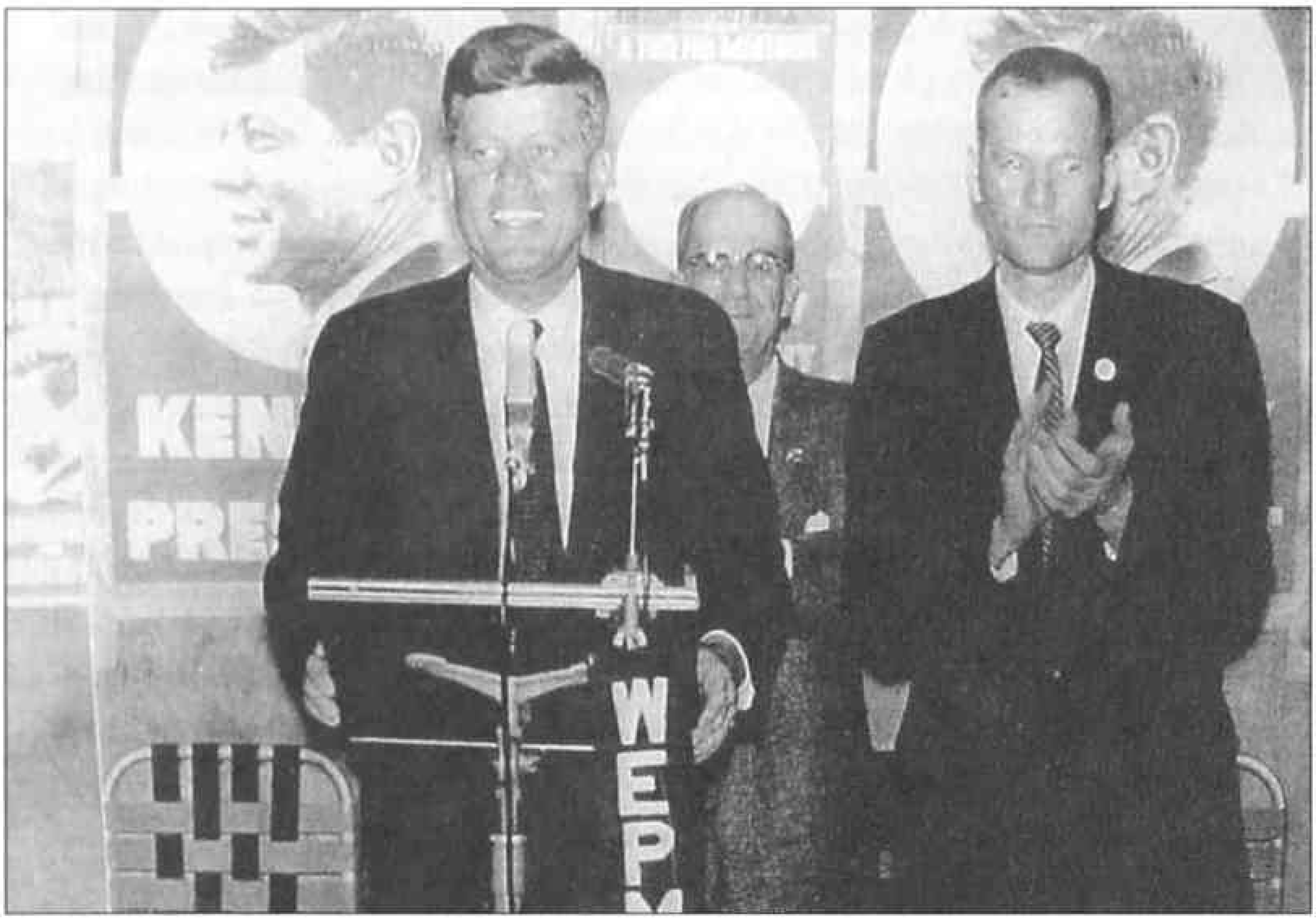
Where They Should Be

"This is the place where all presidential candidates should be – in the hills and valleys and fields of West Virginia," Senator Kennedy declared.

"I came to West Virginia of my own choice. Only one other candidate came to the West Virginia hills. I think the people should have the opportunity to vote on the presidential candidates rather than the selection be made in the smoke filled rooms at the national conventions," the Senator stated.

Before turning his attack upon the Eisenhower administration Senator Kennedy pointed to the results of the Democratic primaries held Tuesday in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts to show that Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) who is battling in the West Virginia primary, cannot win the party's presidential nomination.

"The signs of victory are everywhere. Just before the American Revolution Patrick Henry – in his famous 'liberty or death' speech – exhorted his fellow Virginians to action by telling them that 'the next wind from the North will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms. Our brethren are already in the field.' Today the



CHARLES TOWN RACES AND SLOTS PHOTO

Senator Kennedy, Joseph Thompson and Shirley M. Hunt

people of West Virginia are preparing to enter the political battlefield – and today that same stirring wind of change sweeps down over West Virginia from the North. From New Hampshire, from Massachusetts, from Pennsylvania – our Democratic brethren are already in the field – we hear the growing protest of the

are already in the field." Today the people
of ~~West Virginia~~ Maryland are preparing to enter the
political battlefield -- and today that
same stirring wind of change is sweeping down
over ~~West Virginia~~ Maryland from the South as well as from the North. From
New Hampshire, from Wisconsin, from West Virginia, from Indiana, from Nebraska
from Massachusetts, from Pennsylvania -- our

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American people against eight years of Republican drift and indecision and neglect – we see record numbers of voters marching to the polls to vote for the Democratic candidates for President – and we see the forces of the Democratic Party gaining strength at every level of government. In each of these states where primaries have been held the Democrats have broken all the records – shattered all the traditions – and shown beyond doubt that they are on the road to the White House in 1961.

In discussing West Virginia's serious unemployment problem, Senator Kennedy said the State of Massachusetts had a similar industrial revolution several years ago and came through it. He said he was sure West Virginia can do the same if the Federal and state governments will accept their full responsibility and don't take the view that the state has reached "High Noon." He said it is the full responsibility of the governments so that young people can be trained in such a manner there will be real inducements for new industry to come into the state.

Automation is a Problem

"Automation is West Virginia's real problem today," the Senator declared. That is not only a problem in West Virginia, it is a national problem, and will be for the next ten years. And we the people and the nation must face it. It is a problem we have already ignored too long," the Senator said. Russia's economy has been moving upward at a 10 percent pace while in the United States the pace has been only about one-and-one-half percent, Senator Kennedy declared.

> "We can't afford to continue to have our country frozen in the ice of its own indifference. I don't think we can stand another four years of Eisenhower and Nixon," the Senator stated.

The paper reported that following the speech, Kennedy drove back to Martinsburg from where he flew back to Washington. The crowd remained for a dance that lasted for several hours, with entertainment by The Metronomes, a band from Morgan County.

The important endorsement from Bishop Strider was reported on the front page of the *Spirit of Jefferson* alongside the account of the rally. It was accompanied by a photograph of the Bishop dressed in his clerical robes. Under the headline, "Bishop Strider Gives Kennedy Endorsement," the article reported Kennedy's meeting with Strider at Rose Hill, which was arranged by William C. Battle, who served with Kennedy aboard PT-109 during World War II and was the son of former Virginia Governor John S. Battle, Sr. Also at the meeting were Shirley Hunt and Dr. Frank Fischer of Martinsburg, President of the Kennedy for President Club of Berkeley County. Bishop Strider's statement endorsing Kennedy was released by his son-in-law Ray Niblack on the morning following the rally and reprinted in full in the article:

> On the religious issue, Bishop Strider told Kennedy he would have no hesitancy voting for him in the coming presidential campaign.
>
> "I have been profoundly impressed with the forthright manner in which you have handled this issue," Bishop Strider said. "You have left no doubt in my mind concerning your loyalty to the Constitution of the United States which would prohibit any church influence on the discharge of your duties as President."
>
> Kennedy was congratulated by Bishop Strider for his candor on the religious issue and on taking the initiative in explaining his position with respect to the relationship between church and state.
>
> "I believe the Senator is a man of exceptional high caliber and his war record and record in the United States Senate certainly is testimony to that," Bishop Strider told the small group of Kennedy supporters who were present at the meeting. "On the major religious issues of birth control, the possibility of an ambassador to the Vatican and aid to parochial schools, the Senator has given answers which I feel should allay any fears concerning church influence on him as president.
>
> The Bishop continued, "I feel that if Senator Kennedy is elected to the office of President of the United States, he could by careful adherence to his declared position on these matters have a good

> influence on the future course of the relationship between church and state in this country. And I believe he will – indeed he must – adhere to those statements. The eyes of the country will be on him."

The front page coverage given to Kennedy's appearance eclipsed any mention of the visit by Senator Humphrey to the county two days before.

There were 103 names on the May 10 Democratic primary ballot in Jefferson County. A non-partisan school bond levy was also before the voters. The May 5 issue of the *Spirit of Jefferson* – the last issue before election day — predicted voter turnout would be the heaviest since 1956 "because of the school levy and several hotly contested county ballots on the Democratic ticket," but doubted more than 50 percent of voters would turn out. Voter turn out in the 1956 primary had been 56 percent; but only 21 percent in the 1958 bi-election year. The paper noted "[i]n Jefferson County there has not been quite as much political ballyhooing as there have [sic] been in other parts of the state." In his column "Hardly Worth Mention," Henry Morrow lamented that the primary campaign "seems to have degenerated into a religious battle between Catholics and anti-Catholics." Concerned that Humphrey was too liberal for the times and that Kennedy was a man "driven by an almost insatiable ambition and who has the money to indulge it," his final counsel to his readers was:

> When you get right down to it, there doesn't seem to be much choice for the voters of West Virginia next week. The choice is between two men, neither of whom measure up to what the average voter in this state wants or expects in a president. I don't like the idea of being forced to choose between them and probably won't.

On May 10, 5,004 voters came to the polls in Jefferson County, a 54 percent turnout. Of those voting, 4,278 were Democrats. Kennedy won 2,368 to 1,465 for Humphrey. Kennedy's 61 percent margin in Jefferson County mirrored the statewide result. The following day, Humphrey withdrew from the race. Kennedy's decisive win in overwhelmingly Protestant West Virginia helped prove to the power brokers of the Democratic party that voters' misgivings about his religion could be

overcome. Jefferson County voters had played a part in West Virginia's pivotal role in securing the Democratic nomination for John F. Kennedy. In the fall general election, Kennedy carried Jefferson County by a nearly two-to-one margin of 4,436 votes to 2,803 votes for Republican Richard M. Nixon. Voter turnout was 72 percent.

Walter Washington is an attorney who lives and practices law in Charles Town.

Summer Picnic

The annual picnic was held at Mount Ellen, the beautiful home of Yves and Giulia Tencalla. The house was built by John Davenport in the 18th century. Beautifully restored inside and out, it was a great opportunity to visit a special Jefferson County home.



Mount Ellen

Walking from the back parking area, you pass through a formal garden that was once a swimming pool. Overlooking the garden is a very appropriate addition to the original house.



CURT MASON PHOTO

The picnic was attended by about 200 members and guests in the side yard.



CURT MASON PHOTO

Thanks to: Yves and Giulia, our hosts; the organizer, Betsy Wells; the caterer, Magnolia Tree; the people who brought dishes and especially those that brought deviled eggs.

Editor's Note

Another year has gone by and we have another magazine. Unlike the Washington family theme last year, there are some really varied articles this year. There are two "house" articles, one about living in Charles Town sixty years ago and one about living there today. Both have interesting pictures, in fact there are a lot of interesting pictures in this issue. There is a great piece on another spectacular discovery in the Briscoe papers about our own General William Darke. The "Chew" flag is one of the prize possessions of the Jefferson County Museum and I think you will find the story of it and its restoration heart-warming. Several years ago, an Ohioan came to Jefferson County to learn more about one of the County's sons, the Confederate agent John Yates Beall. His work is taken from his upcoming book on Beall. A very appropriate article after this year's election, tells about JFK visiting here during the campaign of 1960. I hope you enjoy reading all of the articles.

Next year is the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. The 2009 magazine will be devoted to the raid. John Brown was a martyr to some and a murderer to others. I hope to have articles that support both viewpoints. The deadline for submission will be the end of June. I am doing this so the magazine will be available in October. There will be a lot of visitors in the county and it will be an opportunity for them to take home a copy of our society's magazine.

I put a lot of work and thought into the magazine, but Clare Hendrix at Winchester Printers is the one that makes it happen. Thanks again Clare.

Jim Glymph at home on the Avon Bend