



The Pringle Tree near Buckhannon where the history of our West Virginia Jackson family began.

Jackson Brigade Reunion 2018 Tour August 4, 2018

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Weston, West Virginia Section



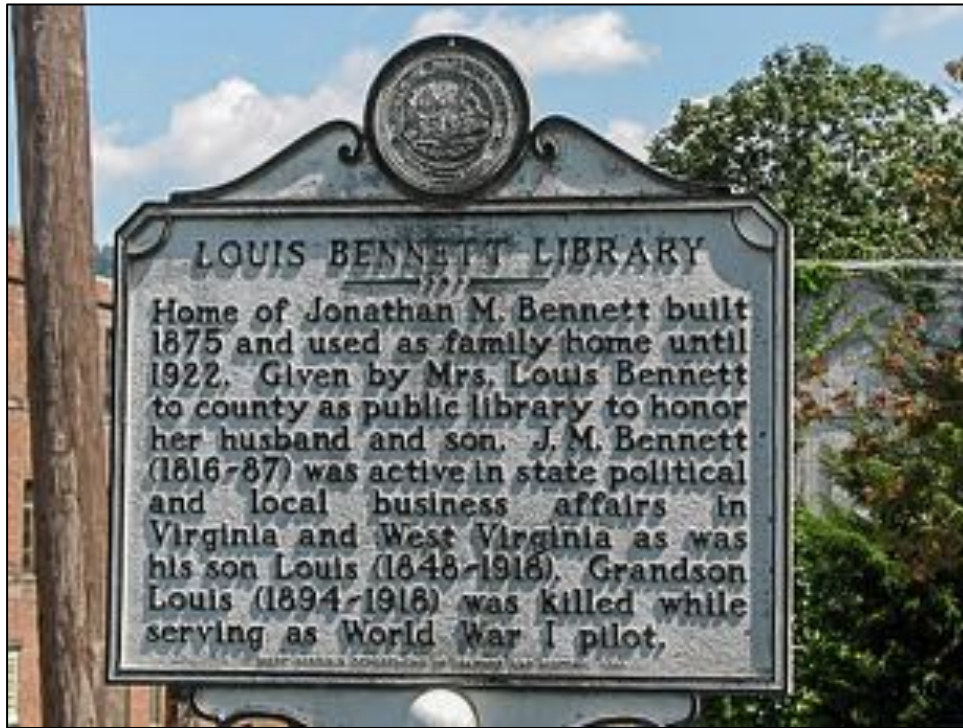
Map of part of Weston, WV: **A**-Louis Bennett Library; **B**-George Jackson Arnold House; **C**-Hunter Bennett House; **D**-Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum; **E**-Citizens Bank of Weston; **F**-Arnold Cemetery

A. Jonathan M. Bennett House (Now called Louis Bennett Public Library)

The Jonathan M. Bennett House (Called Louis Bennett Public Library) is at 148 Court Avenue in Weston. The Louis Bennett Public Library was established in 1923. The library is housed in the Bennett family's 17-room mansion. The mansion was built by Jonathan McCally Bennett in 1875. The Bennett family lived in the house until 1922 when Mrs. Sallie Maxwell Bennett donated the house to the Lewis County Commission to be used as a public library.

Louis Bennett was a son of Jonathan McCally Bennett and Margaret Elizabeth Jackson, daughter of Captain George W. Jackson, son of Colonel George Jackson.





B. George Jackson Arnold House



George Jackson Arnold House on corner of Center Avenue and First Street with Lewis County Court House in background (Photo by Neshachan on Flickr.)

The George Jackson Arnold house was scheduled for demolition but has been recently saved by a citizen committee. During the American Civil War slaves were hidden in the cellar from the Confederates. Directly across from this house was the Arnold-O'Hara House (now demolished).



Front of George Jackson Arnold House (Photo by Neshachan on Flickr.)

After George Jackson Arnold's father Elijah Arnold died in 1849, George's mother Prudence Jackson Arnold, daughter of Colonel George Jackson, moved in and lived in the house.

“Some time after his [Elijah Arnold] death [in 1849] Prudence Jackson Arnold moved to Weston and made her home with her unmarried son, George Jackson [Arnold]. Although at the time he invited her to come and live with him, she remarked that “yes” she would come to his house to live, but that hereafter it was to be her home and that he could live with her. There she died June 21, 1855, and was laid to rest at the side of her husband.”

Ref: Document about John Jackson and descendants originally written by Col. Jackson Arnold and added to by Mary Prudence (McClellan) O'Hara and possibly others, pages 32-34. Found in HCPD Library.

George Jackson “Old Jack” Arnold was born 16 Mar 1816 in Culpeper Co., VA and died 26 Sep 1899 on “Old Indian Farm” Arnold, Lewis Co., WV. He is buried in Machpelah Cemetery Weston, WV. George married on 3 Aug. 1865 Angaline “Anna” Swick. He was the oldest child of Elijah Arnold and Prudence (Jackson) Arnold. In 1830, when only 14 years old, George Jackson Arnold moved with his parents to Old Collins Settlement now Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV. In his youth, George Jackson Arnold was a famous hunter, a great mower and a champion cradler. He once cradled seven acres of oats for William Bennett in one day.

Later he taught school in a log house near Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV. In 1848, he was admitted to the bar and formed a large law practice in Weston. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Lewis Co. in 1852 and again in 1856.

In 1861 he was elected to the Legislature of Virginia. The Civil War coming on George J. Arnold, being opposed to secession, went as a delegate to Wheeling in July, 1861, where the Legislature of the Restored Government of Virginia was in session. He was placed on the committee to prepare a bill for the formation of a new State and gave the movement his hearty support. He was the draughtsman of the bill that gave the country the new state of West Virginia.

After West Virginia was made a State, George J. Arnold retired to private life, remaining in his law practice and farming and stock raising until 1878, when he was elected to the House of Delegates of West Virginia. Around 1880, he started a store and “The Indian Farm Hotel” at Arnold, Lewis Co., WV. The Hotel became a central freight station with stock pens for the B&O Rail Road and was known as Arnold Station. In his time, he was one of the largest landowners and cattle grazers in West Virginia.

C. Hunter Bennett's House - Western Branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia



Where the Exchange Bank of Virginia was during Civil War. The house still contains the bank vault.

At 133 Center Street on the corner with Bank Street is Hunter Bennett's House, a large white home. The Virginia Exchange Bank, branch of the Richmond, VA bank, was located on the alley where you can see a doorway on the side. The large bank vault is still located behind the doorway. The cashier

lived upstairs. The building has been enlarged over the years and became the home of William Bennett, brother to Jonathan.

Hunter Bennett, a descendant of William, was a lawyer and had his office in a back room that contained the main door to the vault. He spent most of his life managing Jonathan Bennett's tracts of land.

During the Civil War, prior to the beginning of the West Virginia statehood, the Union Army robbed this bank and took the money, much of it reserved for building the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum funded by the State of Virginia, to Wheeling so the Confederates couldn't take the money back to Richmond. Now, each year Weston has a parade and reenactment of the bank robbery.

D. Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum (Formerly Weston State Hospital)



Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in Weston

Continue on Center Ave. to the light at E. 2nd St. At the light turn left onto E. 2nd St. where there is an Asylum Tour sign. Cross Main St. and the bridge over the West Fork River. On the immediate left is a parking lot for the Asylum. Park to listen to a brief description of the Asylum. Jonathan Bennett, first Auditor for Virginia, was instrumental in having the Asylum built in Weston.

The hospital was authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in the early 1850s as the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. During the time the psychiatric state hospital operated from 1864 until

1994, that offensive name was not used while patients occupied it. In 1913 it was officially renamed the Weston State Hospital. The current private owner who purchased it in 2007 changed its name back to its originally commissioned-but-unused name after reopening it as a tourist attraction.

Construction of the Weston State Hospital began in 1858. Construction was interrupted by the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861. Following its secession from the United States, the government of Virginia demanded the return of the hospital's unused construction funds for its defense. Before this could occur, the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry seized the money held in the Western Branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia on 133 Center Street in Weston, delivering it to Wheeling. The money was put towards the establishment of the Reorganized Government of Virginia, which sided with the northern states during the war. The Reorganized Government appropriated money to resume construction in 1862. Following the admission of West Virginia as a U.S. state in 1863, the hospital was renamed the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane. The first patients were admitted in October 1864, but construction continued into 1881. The building features intricate stonework— with many hidden faces in its facade— and is still the largest hand-cut stone masonry building in North America.

The asylum was designed following the “Kirkbride Plan.” Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride believed hospitals for the mentally ill should be placed on sprawling and ornamented rural property and arranged so that patients received a generous amount of therapeutic sunlight and fresh air. Kirkbride inspired more than 300 similar buildings, palace-like sanctuaries for the insane, which he called “a special apparatus for lunacy.”

Patients could be admitted to the hospital for any number of reasons, ranging from “death of sons in war” to “women trouble” to “snuff eating.” Originally designed to hold 250 people, it became overcrowded in the 1950s with 2,400 patients. The facility closed in 1994.

The Weston Hospital Main Building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990.

E. Citizens Bank of Weston

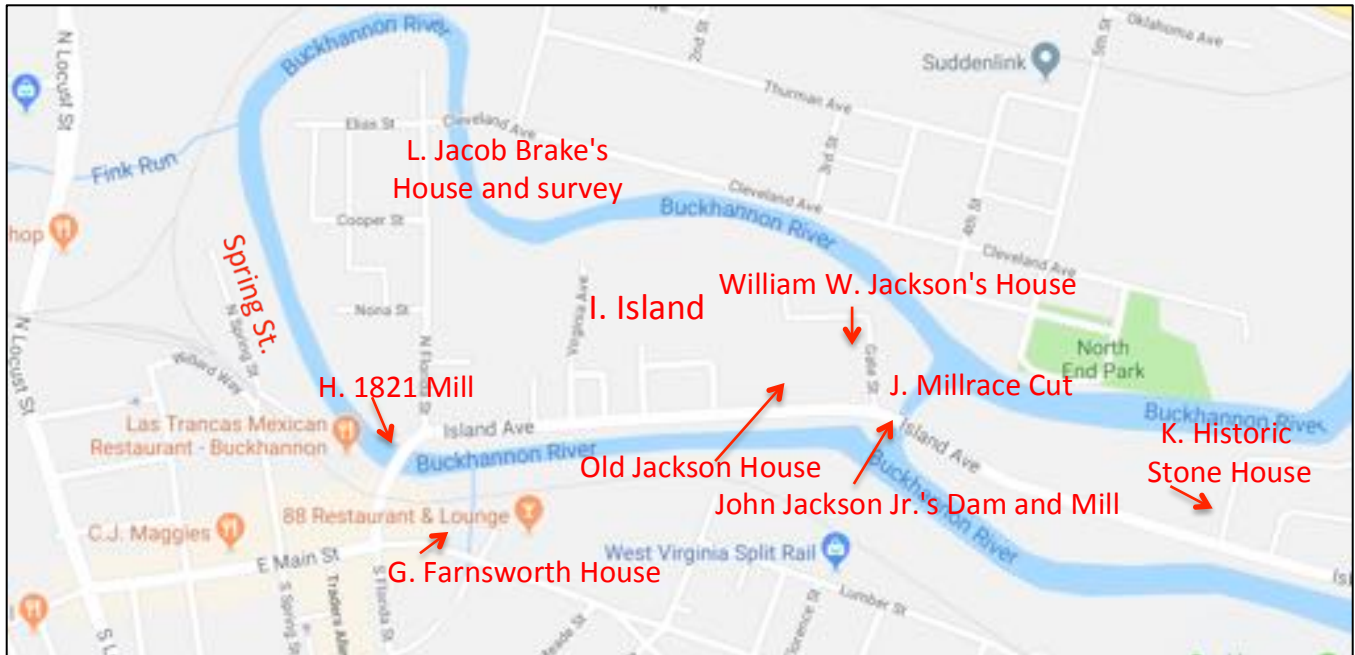
On your way back to Main St. note the ironwork on the Citizens Bank of Weston at the corner. In 1931 the bank was able to stay open in spite of the nationwide crash of our banks. It also has a beautiful lobby. A local historian once said there were three structures worth getting off I-79 to see.

1. Jonathan Bennett house
2. Asylum
3. Citizens Bank

F. Arnold Hill Cemetery

After leaving the Asylum, turn right onto Main St. and stay in the left lane of this one-way street. Bear left where the street splits. Behind the trees in the bend to the right can be found the Arnold Cemetery. Prudence Jackson Arnold, daughter of Col. George Jackson, and her husband Elijah Arnold, as well as other pioneers, are buried here. You are back on Center St.

Buckhannon, West Virginia Section



Part of Buckhannon, WV showing the **G**-Farnsworth House, **H**-location of Col. Edward Jackson's 1821 mill, Spring Street where Col. Edward had his house, **I**-the Island, **J**-cut made by John Jackson Jr. for his mill race which formed the Island, sites of Old Jackson House, John Jackson Jr.'s dam and mill, William W. Jackson's House, and **K**-historic Stone House. Information for labels from Linda Meyers.

From Weston travel on Rt. 33 east for approximately 15 miles passing the Horner church on the right. Watch for the Finks Run sign. The Jackson sons of John and Elizabeth had land in this area. Legend has it there was a Jackson Fort at Finks Run on a tract of land now known as the William Allman farm. One source has a Jackson Fort located at nearby Lorentz area. In this area most of the Bozarth family were killed by the Indians.

Right before the Ford Auto dealer (Jenkins Ford) you will see a sign for Brushy Run, where a Reger Cemetery and Reger Chapel are located. Our Main St. exit will be a short distance after the Ford Auto dealer.

G. Farnsworth House (Now called "The Governor's Inn" Bed and Breakfast)

Take the Main St. exit off Route 33 and drive past the Court House, where there is a historical sign. Shortly after crossing Florida St. you will see a Queen Anne style home on the left. The Farnsworth House at 76 East Main Street in Buckhannon, WV, is now called "A Governor's Inn" bed and breakfast. Park across the street or in the Inn parking lot beyond the house on the left side.

Governor Daniel Duane Tompkins Farnsworth married second Mary Ireland, granddaughter of John Jackson Jr., on 15 November 1853. Seven months after her husband's death on December 5, 1892, Mary Jane Farnsworth followed through with their plans to build a large Victorian style brick home on East Main Street in Buckhannon. Construction was begun in July 1893 and recorded in a local newspaper, "*Mrs. D. D. T. Farnsworth is having the foundation of a fine dwelling home laid on the lot facing the school building. It is a most delightful situation and the plan of building there was much*

talked of by her husband.”¹ Today her home is called “A Governor’s Inn Bed and Breakfast,” but Governor Farnsworth never lived there.

Excerpt from *John Jackson Jr., The Old Stone House, the John Jackson House and His Island*, by Linda B. Meyers.



The Farnsworth House is a Queen Anne style home. Photo by Bill Jackson

DDT Farnsworth is remembered as having the “dubious distinction as the second governor of West Virginia.” “Dubious,” because he only held the office for just seven days. In February 1869, D.D.T. was serving as President of the West Virginia Senate when West Virginia’s first Governor Authur Boreman stepped down to serve in the U. S. Senate. Replacing Boreman, Farnsworth served as Governor for only seven days until the new Governor was sworn in.

He played a great part in the shaping of West Virginia during the Civil War when he gained “the reputation as a fiery patriot with raw courage.” In the shaping of West Virginia he faced death in the eye several times. One time was in Philippi, when he refused to stop speaking, even though the rebel soldiers threatened to riddle him with bullets. He declared that his voice would never be silenced as long as he could speak for his country and his flag. Times were tough during the Civil War but he had no reservation in standing up for his convictions.

In Buckhannon, the rebels threatened to tear the Union flag from the courthouse. Farnsworth locked the store he was operating at the time, twirled the key around his finger, and said: “Gentlemen, if any man touches that flag, he will do it at the peril of his life.” Yes, the soldiers rode away without harming that Union flag.

At the Wheeling Convention of 11 June 1861, he offered the first resolution for looking to the formation of the new state of West Virginia. Someone had to do it in those times of turmoil when the region was split with brother fighting against brother. He supported the Union!

¹ *Busy Bee*, July 21, 1893.

Yes, there were times when he thought he would lose his life. Especially, in Charleston at the Constitutional Convention of 1872, Farnsworth and two other persons nearly lost their lives in an attempt to rescue the flag when the convention hall caught fire. Oh, how he loved that Union flag and all it stood for. His desire was to be buried in the folds of the flag. DDT just hoped future generations would love that flag and fight to save it and all it stood for.

During the Civil War, his wife and children lived in constant terror. Several times DDT had to slip out of his house to avoid the Confederates. The Confederates pitched their camp adjacent to his house. The Farnsworth family buried their silverware and other valuables in the garden.



Mary Jane Ireland Farnsworth, 2nd wife of DDT Farnsworth and granddaughter of John Jackson Jr. Photo source: West Virginia Archives and History, Photo source: *West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia* <http://www.wvculture.org/history/farnswor.html> *Supplemental*, v. 25, p. 95 (Richwood, WV: Jim Comstock, 1974)

The home has had several owners. Mrs. Henderson purchased the home and with the help of preservation experts restored the home to its former beauty and operated it as a Bed and Breakfast Inn. She closed the house as an inn in 2014. New owners Jack and Chara Reger have reopened the bed and breakfast with the same "The Governor's Inn" name but with a different sign.

H. Edward Jackson's 1821 Mill

Return to Florida St. and turn right. This will be the first street past the Farnsworth House going back towards West Main St. On the left after crossing the Florida Street Bridge is the location of Col. Edward Jackson's mill built in 1821. It was destroyed by flood in 1837. Col. Edward has the distinction of being the first settler in Buckhannon, claiming his land at age 15 in 1774. He built his home near a spring on what is today Spring Street in Buckhannon.

I. John Jackson Jr.'s Island (Buckhannon Island)

Once you have crossed the Florida St. Bridge, you are now driving on John Jackson Jr.'s Island. He formed the Island when he dug the cut across the narrow point where the Buckhannon River almost touches itself after a large bend (See map on page 9.).

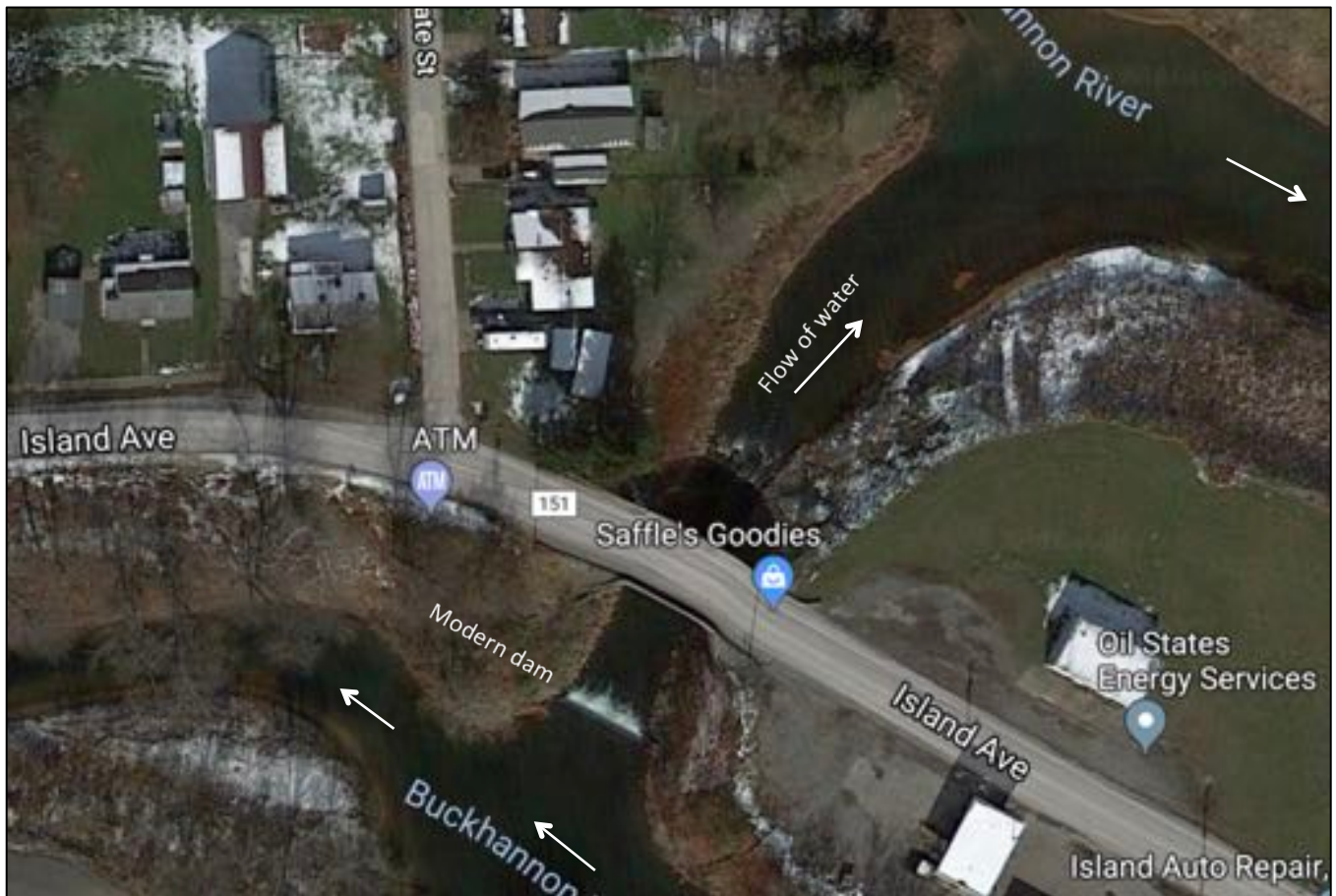
Old Jackson House



CHAPTER HOUSE, ELIZABETH EARLE, BUCKHANNON

The Old Jackson House location on the Island would today be at 36 Island Avenue. This side view from the D.A.R. shows the original house at the back. The front was added on in later years

J. Millrace Cut



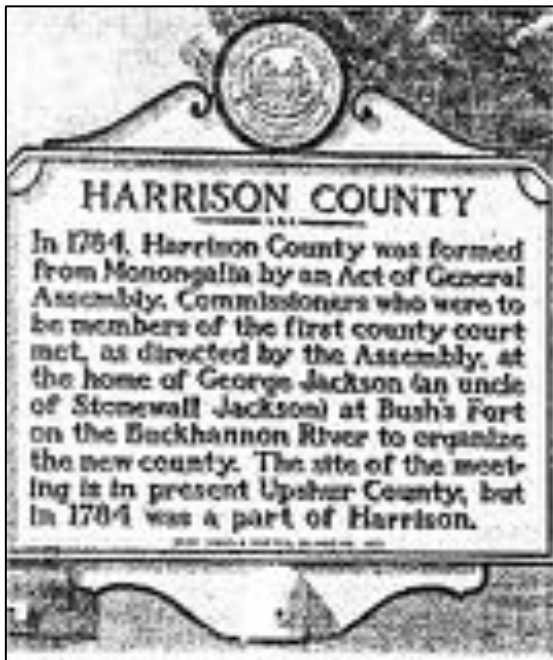
Today's view of John Jackson Jr.'s millrace cut across the big bend in Buckhannon River. (Google Earth)

Immediately after crossing the Florida St. Bridge turn right onto Island Ave. (The road running along the Buckhannon River).

Continue on Island Ave. to the next bridge over John Jackson Jr.'s millrace cut. Pass over the bridge and park to the right. This is near where John Jackson Jr. cut his Millrace to form his Island. At one point John Jackson Jr. owned the whole Island. We are close to where he built his mills.

K. Historic Stone House

We will continue on Island Ave. for a very short distance to where George Jackson had a stone house and close by there was a Jackson Cemetery. You will see a historical marker below the Riverside Bed and Breakfast. A group of men met at George Jackson's house to form Harrison County.



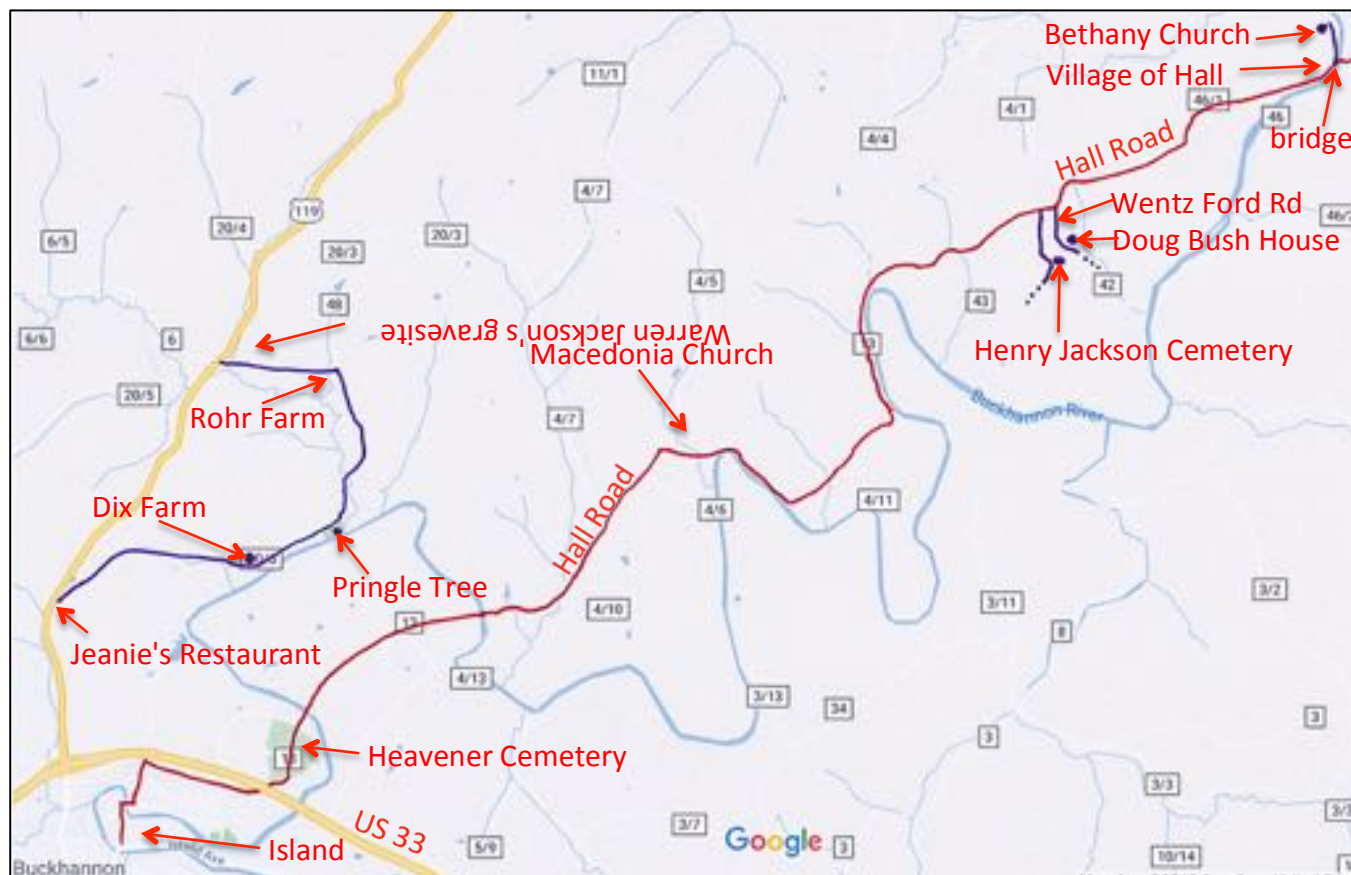
Originally what the West Virginians call a delta (where river bends around and almost touches itself), the Island and lands to the east were patented by John Jackson Jr. in 1798. He purchased 600 acres from his brothers, George and Edward. Here he dug a millrace making an Island, constructed a gristmill and later a sawmill. He and his family lived in the Stone House that belonged to George, prior to George's move to Clarksburg in 1785. The first court of Harrison County was held in this house in 1784. A family cemetery was once near the house but was plowed away when the road was straightened and paved.

For Reger researchers: In 1846 John Jr.'s executors sold the Stone House property to Abram Reger. Reger sold it to his son Rev. John W. Reger prior to moving to Illinois around 1858. Rev. Reger tore the Stone House down around 1880, replacing it with a large Victorian Style house. Abram returned to Buckhannon after his wife's death and died in this house in 1883. John W. died here in 1893.

L. Location of Jacob Brake's Home, and Baptist Church and Cemetery

Afterwards we will turn around and go back to Florida St. passing the location of the Old Jackson House formerly bought by the DAR and later sold. Turn right on from Florida St. on to Cleveland Ave., crossing the bridge marked William S. O'Brien (a descendant of John Jackson Jr.), and take an immediate left onto 1st St. and go to the end. On Cleveland Avenue near the intersection of First Street is the location of Jacob Brake, the Indian Captive's cabin and his survey. The chimney of his home could still be seen in 1934. In April, 1825, Jacob and Mary Slaughter Brake deeded to the trustees of the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ one acre more or less of land, being the same land on which the "Baptist Church, called Buckhannon, now stands." When the new road was built, the graves from the Baptist Cemetery were moved to the Heavener Cemetery. On the left will be a Technical School that is near the location of the old Baptist Cemetery. Turn right onto Morton Ave. (This road is County Road 13, which will later turn into Hall Road.) We will pass under US 33 and through Heavener Cemetery where Laura Jackson Arnold (Stonewall's sister) and other Jackson descendants are buried. You may want to visit the cemetery on your own later. Hall Road will take you to the farm where the Henry Jackson Cemetery is located.

Hall, West Virginia Section



M. Henry Jackson Cemetery

You will be driving 6.5 miles on County Road 13 (Hall Road) which twists and turns as it follows the meandering course of the Buckhannon River. **Record your mileage on the speedometer at your start on Hall Road!** Because of the twists and turns, it may feel like you have gone 10 miles! :-) Be patient!

You will pass the Macedonia Church, where some Hinkle descendants of John Jackson Jr. are buried. At Box 63961, turn right onto a gravel road going through an open gate and drive to the top until you see the cemetery on the left. Park in the field and walk a short distance to visit the cemetery.

[After 6.5 miles on Hall Rd, look on the right for green country road sign for Wentz Ford Road. If you come to Wentz Ford Road on the right in a left bend in the road, you have missed the gravel road turn! Turn around and travel back about 300 feet to see the gravel road now on the left.]



View of Henry Jackson Cemetery from gravel road. You can see several Jackson Brigade 2014 Tour members and their cars. You are close to the top of a knoll with a beautiful view. As one person put it, "Up here you feel closer to God."



The sign at the Henry Jackson Cemetery

Notes written by Nancy Jackson

“Henry Jackson had at least 23 children by his two wives — Mary Hyre and Elizabeth Shreves. Henry first married Mary Hyre 20 May 1800. She died in 1835. They had 13 children. In 1836 Henry married Elizabeth Shreves who died in 1887. They had 10 known children. Three generations are posted on the Jackson Brigade website.

Only Henry's second wife is interred in this cemetery. Elizabeth is buried under one of the two coffin-like stones. Henry is buried under the second coffin-like stone. The coffin-like tombstones were hauled up the hill to the cemetery by a team of oxen.

Mary Hyre, Henry's first wife, was first interred in the Old Baptist Church but when the road was built through the cemetery all but two graves were moved to the Heavener Cemetery [in Buckhannon, WV] that we passed by on the way here. Mary is buried beside her father Jacob Hyre.

Three of Henry's sons who served in the Civil War are interred in this cemetery. They are: Samuel Dexter Jackson who received the tract of land where Henry built the Yankee style log cabin about 1800; Marion Orlando Jackson; and James H. Alonzo Jackson.

Facing the cemetery, you can look down to the left and see Doug Bush's white farmhouse with a white fence. One room and chimney of Henry's cabin is part of Doug's house today. The cabin was built around 1800, according to a note on some papers given to Doug Bush. If this is the case, Henry and his two families would have lived here. Henry did have many tracts of land elsewhere. He was a surveyor and is noted for lawsuits over disputes about the lines of the surveys for Henry Banks. Henry Jackson had the reputation of not measuring the last line, so for years there were lawsuits regarding the lines of various tracts of land.”



Walking a few feet out into the field near the dirt road, you can see Doug and Ann Bush's farm way down in the valley (farm on the right). One room of Doug and Ann's house is the cabin that Henry Jackson built around 1820.



Closer view of Doug and Ann Bush's home. Picture taken by Bill Jackson.



Our tour group in 2014 listens to Nancy Jackson in the Henry Jackson Cemetery.

N. Doug and Ann Bush's House

From the Cemetery, return to Hall Road and turn right. Travel about 300 feet along Hall Road and turn right onto Wentz Ford Road. Go down the gravel road about 300 yards to second house on left, a white farmhouse with black shutters, a white fence, and a big barn on the right side of road. The owners are Doug and Ann Bush. Part of their house is the original cabin that Henry Jackson built in 1820. Turn left through their gate and park. We will take a peek into the one room in their home that was Henry Jackson's cabin, and see the large original fireplace that Henry built. If you stand at the gate in their driveway and look west across the road, the Henry Jackson Cemetery is way up on top of the ridge.

Today, Doug Bush and his family own part of the Henry Jackson farm and live in a house with a portion of Henry's cabin still intact. Doug taught American History at a local high school and is Head Basketball coach at Buckhannon Upshur High School. Henry Jackson and family are buried on top of the hill in front of the house. Doug's property adjoins the property owned by Jim Tomey containing the cemetery.



View of Doug and Ann Bush's house from the road. Photo by Bill Jackson.

After Henry's death, his property was divided among his many children. Samuel Dexter, Lt. in the Civil War, would be the next generation to live in the house. Roscoe, his son, would follow, and finally Theodore Jackson. Theodore has been a good friend since Doug purchased the house 20 years ago. The house is mentioned in at least two references as the first Yankee Style house built in the region. Keep in mind the house Doug is referring to is now one room in his house. Yankee built means that the house was built using pegs and frame rather than logs. The house foundation is 16" x 16" hewed chestnut beams, and the framing is pegged. The house, like all frontier homes was very small, one room and a loft and a large cut stone fireplace from 1820. Around 1890, Samuel Dexter expanded the house by adding a second story and an additional room to the side. Samuel divided his land leaving the cemetery

property to his son Claude and the house with its property to another son Roscoe. Doug's property line is within 100 feet of the cemetery.



View of Doug and Ann Bush's barn and property. The Henry Jackson Cemetery is on top of the ridge. Photo by Bill Jackson.



Standing inside the room whose four walls made the 1820 cabin. One can see the original fireplace that Henry Jackson built inside the cabin.

O. Bethany Baptist Church in Hall, WV - Lunch at Noon



Bethany Baptist Church in Hall, WV. Erected in 1876.

From Doug and Ann's home, return to Hall Road, and turn right and go about 2 miles to the small village of Hall, WV. Look for the Hall village sign. At the Y-fork beyond the sign bear left onto the road along the Buckhannon River. Do not cross the bridge. About 1000 feet beyond the Y-fork on the left is Bethany Baptist Church. This is the church that Doug and Ann Bush attend and they have arranged lunch for us at Noon. Suggested donation for the lunch is \$5.00 per person.

This is also the church that many of Henry Jackson's descendants attended church. One can see many Jacksons in the pictures on the walls.

Pringle Tree Section

P. Pringle Tree Site and Isaac Dix Farm

Directions from Weston: Take US 33 east to Buckhannon and exit on US 119 north towards Clarksburg. On Route 119 towards Clarksburg bear right at Jeanie's restaurant to get onto the Pringle Tree Road. (If you miss the turn there will be a Pringle Tree historical marker where you can backtrack, take a left turn, and another left turn to get on the correct road).

Drive past a yellow house, part of the Isaac Dix farm, (now Alan Talbot home) and shortly afterwards turn right at the Pringle Tree Park historical marker. Isaac Dix married Elizabeth Reger in 1814 and they lived in this house. Elizabeth was a daughter of Mary Sarah Jackson and Philip Reger. Mary Sarah was one of the eight children of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson.

In 1768, the immigrant, John Jackson, with his sons, George and Edward, crossed the Alleghany Mountains into the unbroken wilderness of what is now West Virginia. John made a tomahawk claim for his homestead at the Pringle Tree, near the mouth of Turkey Run, where it empties into the Buckhannon River. His was one of the first three families to settle in this region.

The current Pringle Tree that you see is not the original tree but a third generation scion. In 1998 as part of Jackson Heritage Days, the Jackson Brigade buried a time capsule at Pringle Tree to be opened in 50 years.

It is said that John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson had their cabin across the mouth of Turkey Run. Alan Talbot told Nancy Jackson that a lot of Indian arrowheads have been found on that part of the Jackson land. John Jackson Sr. willed that parcel of land to his daughter Sophia Davis. This tract would be about 50 yards on the right past the Pringle Tree Historical Marker. The Jacksons owned the land you just went through.

The Pringle Brothers and the Sycamore Tree by Joy Gilchrist

John and Samuel Pringle lived on the South Branch of the Potomac River in what is now the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia when they enlisted in the army and served in the British Garrison at Fort Pitt during the French and Indian War. In 1761, unhappy with life at the fort, they left the fort without permission. William Childers and Joe Linsey went with them. The four deserters wandered in the wilderness around the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers. In 1762 they went to Looney's Creek where Childers and Linsey were captured. The brothers escaped and eventually were employed by John Simpson, trapper and trader. They were with him until 1764 when an argument at the Horse Shoe Bend on Cheat River caused them to part company. Simpson continued to the headwaters of the Elk River, at the site of present-day Clarksburg, West Virginia, and remained until permanent settlements began to disturb his hunting and trapping; he then may have gone to Kentucky. John and Samuel Pringle followed the Tygart Valley and reached the Buckhannon River country and Turkey Run.



They took up residence in a sycamore tree and lived there until Fall 1767 when John went back to the South Branch and learned that the war was over and that they were no longer wanted as deserters. After some delay, he returned to the sycamore tree (now known as "Pringle Tree") with the good news. The brothers returned to the South Branch River valley and told their story.

Among those hearing the story were William and John Hacker, Alexander and Thomas Sleeth, whose sister, Margaret, had become John Hacker's wife, John Jackson and his sons, George and Edward, Thomas Hughes (pictured at left) and his son Jesse, John and William Radcliff, and John Brown. They decided to go across the Alleghenies and see this fertile valley first hand.

In the Fall of 1768 some of the above-mentioned men were led by Samuel Pringle on the arduous journey across the mountains. They decided to settle there along the waters of the Buckhannon and began to claim their lands. Winter was closing in. After a short stay, the party

decided to return to the South Branch and made plans to come back in the spring to clear land, plant corn, and prepare to bring their families. They returned in the spring of 1769 by following the trail previously cut by John Pringle. The group divided themselves according to interests - homeseekers and hunters.

John Hacker, the Sleeths, and Jacksons were in the first group, the rest in the second. While the homeseekers began improving land, the others kept them supplied in meat and explored the countryside. During their explorations, they discovered the West Fork River and Hacker's Creek.

Shortly after the land clearing started, Samuel Pringle arrived with another band of pioneers, including John and Benjamin Cutright. Upon their arrival, John Hacker learned that the land he had chosen (some of the land is included in present-day Heavener Cemetery at Buckhannon) and started to clear was already that of Samuel Pringle. To avoid problems, John agreed that Pringle could have the land if he (Pringle) would clear an equal amount on a creek which had recently been discovered by the hunters. Thus, John Hacker came to be the first settler in present-day Lewis County and the creek became known as Hacker's Creek.

Crops planted, land cleared, and shelter erected, the men went back to the South Branch to their families. They returned in the fall to harvest their crops and found them eaten to the ground by the buffalo. This destruction delayed the migration of the families until 1770.

With the coming of these early pioneers, the settlement of the valleys of the West Fork River and its tributaries was begun. Although their settlements would be broken up by Indian incursions from time to time and land claims would not be recognized by the Virginia government until 1781, migration to what would be the central West Virginia area had begun in earnest; and, they started it all.



Base of Pringle Tree with Jackson Brigade Reunion Attendees in 2014

Q. Warren Jackson's Grave

Coming out of the Pringle Tree Park at the Historical Marker, we will turn right and travel through the Rohr property to Rt. 119. At the first Rohr house we will turn left to get on Rt. 119. Go slowly on the road through the Rohr property, because there might be some potholes. We have prior permission to go this way. Before we get on Route 119, we will stop and the tour guide will point out the cemetery on James Rohr's property where Warren Jackson (Stonewall's brother) is buried and other Jacksons and Brakes are buried.

Along Old Route 33 between Horner and Weston Section



R. Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Library in Horner

Directions from Weston: Travel on Route 33 east towards Buckhannon for about 4 miles to Horner. At Horner we will turn left at the road (Horner Road) across the road from the Horner Church. The Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants (HCPD) Library is the white building straight ahead.

Horner Grade School was built in 1937 by the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency established to provide education and job-training to youths. The HCPD purchased the building from the Lewis County Board of Education in February 1998. The organization raised over \$65,000 to renovate the building and convert it into the Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library.



S. Cecelia Jackson Bush Home

Coming out of the Library parking lot, turn right, then right again onto Old U.S. 33 which is parallel to new Route 33. Drive past a cemetery on the right (about 1000 feet). The Bush home was on the right as you pass Grass Run (about a mile from HCPD Library). It was almost across from the current Apex Remington Pipe & Supply Co.

From "Aunt Lane Bush's House" by Rose Bowman Powell and Winnetta Bowman Kennedy

Cecilia Jackson married Jacob Bush on 1 Feb 1871². They had met at the Stone Coal Church when Cecilia was a young child. Cecilia's parents³ did not approve of the courtship between Cecilia and Jacob, most likely due to the differences in their ages. Jacob was born December, 1848, while Cecilia was born December, 1854, a difference of eight [six?] years.

However, the young lovers overcame the objections of Cecilia's parents by planning an elopement. With the cooperation of relatives, Robert E. Bush (older brother of Jacob) and a cousin, Clark Jackson, Cecilia got her parents' permission to take the train to Parkersburg, West Virginia to visit the family of George Jackson.⁴ Jacob Bush met her there and they were married in Marietta, Washington County, Ohio on 1 Feb 1871.



Jacob H. Bush House known as "Bush Inn" before paved roads. Courtesy of Anne Swisher Chase

Jacob took Cecilia home to his family's house on the hill above the Staunton Pike at the junction of Grass Run Road. For years the Bush-house served as an inn on the main East-West toll road from Staunton, Virginia to Parkersburg, West Virginia, now old U.S. 33 east of Weston.

The large two-story white house faced east and was surrounded by an expanse of green grass shadowed by tall sugar and silver maple trees. When we were children in the 1950s, an iron fence had been placed around the lawn to keep the cattle from roaming there. There was no walkway to the front door. Visitors parked their cars outside the fence and entered through a wooden gate to the walk between the back door and the smoke house. Using the first door on the north side of the house, one entered into the kitchen and proceeded into the dining room and then left into the sitting room. The kitchen and dining

² Marriage certificate held by Ed Bush family in 2000.

³ The 1870 US census shows Cecilia was living with her mother, Permelia, and her step-father, Jacob W. Hudson, in Jane Lew, Lewis, WV.

⁴ Article by Gilbert J. Hershman, *Exponent Telegram*, Clarksburg, WV, 11 Dec 1939.

rooms both had linoleum on the floor, while the sitting room had a well-worn faded carpet. The sitting room had three rocking chairs facing the fireplace. As a child it was tremendous fun to run through the colorful glass beads hanging in the doorway between the dining room and the sitting room.

Across the sitting room on the south side of the house, one entered the dark parlor near an exit door which had cement steps, but no walkway welcoming visitors to enter that door. Across the parlor was the main door of the house, facing east, with a wide, long stairway leading from the entrance door to the second floor. Children could run across the parlor floor to exit the main entrance, but no child ever went upstairs to see the rooms or to play on the stairs. The outside porch was a welcome reprieve from boring adult talk in the sitting room. A covered porch, which overlooked the cliff down to Grass Run and U.S. 33, had not only a cool breeze but a wooden swing to play on.

From the Jackson-Bush union were born eleven children⁵: Gay (b. 1872), Iza (1874), Vinnie (1876), Maud (1878), Addie (1879), Scott (1881), Roal (1883), Ward (1885), Kate (1887), Goff (1889), and Lane (1892).

In December 1893, Jacob died of blood poisoning following an ax injury,⁶ leaving Cecilia with ten children still at home. Gay had married in 1890⁷. Ten years later Cecilia married George Henry Bonnett on 27 July 1902. George was a widower with ten sons (six still at home) and a daughter. Cecilia, a loving, caring person, welcomed the step-children and all lived together at the toll house until the children all left home to start new families, except for Lane who received the house in turn for caring for her mother. Cecilia died 23 Nov 1942⁸, just one month shy of her 88th birthday.



⁵ Names and birth years from www.wvculture.org
⁶ Death certificate for Jacob H. Bush, www.wvculture.org
⁷ Marriage record for Gay Bush and Charles Clark, www.wvculture.org
⁸ Death certificate for Cecilia Beverly Bonnett, www.wvculture.org

The Cecilia Jackson Bush Bonnett family reunions were always held at Aunt Lane's house. Tables, covered in white linen tablecloths, would be placed outside on the grass, end to end to equal the entire length of the house. Foods, both hot and cold, were in large aluminum pots, enamel kettles, glass dishes, white platters, and ceramic plates. Food and eating utensils would cover the tables. No paper plates, cups or plastic were seen. Old and young relatives walked along both sides of the tables to fill their plates with home cooked food. Everyone would find a place to sit on the grass, steps or wooden chairs and rockers brought outside for the day.

Women prepared their very best dishes to share with all, eagerly eating the same special food each year: corn on the cob, fried chicken, ham, ammonia and sugar cookies, pies, layer and sheet cakes with icing and so much more. The food, until the 1960s, was prepared from scratch with food mostly grown at home in the garden.

As the years passed into the 1970s, age had taken its toll on the Aunts and Uncles. Some had passed away while health issues prevented the once a year trip to the home place and the family reunion. Young cousins who played on the front porch were now married and had often moved far from Weston to create a life for a new generation. However, whenever one returned to Weston for a family visit, time was always made to go visit with Aunt Lane living in the stately house. Sadly, upon Aunt Lane's death, the heirs could not afford the repairs needed to return the house to its former grandeur and it was demolished about 2007.

Lineage: Rose Bowman Powell⁷ & Winnetta Bowman Kennedy⁷, Mildred Swisher⁶, Vinnie Bush⁵, Cecilia Beverly Jackson⁴, Jacob Jay Jackson³, John Jackson Jr², John Jackson¹. Submitted by Rose Bowman Powell and Winnetta Bowman Kennedy.

T. Jacob Jay Jackson House

Continuing on Old Route 33, we next pass Stone Coal United Methodist Church (once Jackson property) and cross Hilly Upland Road (road with Weston's Walmart) and turn left into the Weston Masonic Cemetery, formerly Jacob's potato patch. Stop for a short discussion on the Jacob Jay House that was partially demolished in March 2018.



The Jacob Jay Jackson/Shaver House was demolished starting March 15, 2018. You can see a wall of the 27" poplar logs that Jacob Jay Jackson used in the original 1849 cabin.

This haunted house belonged to Jacob Jay Jackson, son of John Jackson Jr. It was located in McGuire Park near the Weston Walmart. The last owners of the house were Cindy and Dr. James Shaver. The

Shavers moved out in early March 2018. Sadly, the Shavers sold the house to a developer who demolished it starting March 15, 2018. Camera persons from DYI's TV show "Barnwood Builders" filmed their workers dismantling the log cabin core. They saved the wooden logs to build a log cabin. We were told that the TV show will air in the third quarter of 2018 (October?).



Jacob Jay Jackson/Shaver House in 2014



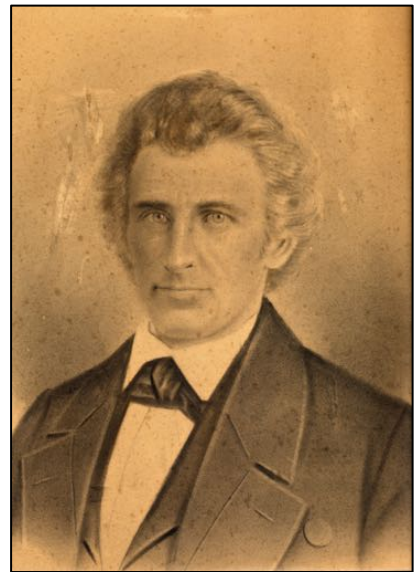
View of the Jacob Jay Jackson house around 1890 before front porch was added.



The fireplace in the original two story poplar log house built by Jacob Jay Jackson in 1849.

Tax records indicate the two-story poplar log house was built in 1849. It was built on land inherited from Jacob Jay Jackson's father John Jackson Jr.

“The original log house was made from 27-inch poplar logs cut on the property. The exterior siding was clapboard made from poplar trees. The chimneys are built within the walls of the home. With an interior chimney, intruders (Indians) could not remove the chimney stones and enter the house through the openings. The original roof was probably shakes. The current roof is made from hand-seamed tin that has been on the roof for over 70 years. The interior of the house consisted of two large rooms upstairs and two downstairs. It was expanded to include a kitchen with a walk-in fireplace when the Jasper Petersons occupied the house. This area is now the Shaver's dining room.



Jacob Jay Jackson,
son of John Jackson Jr.

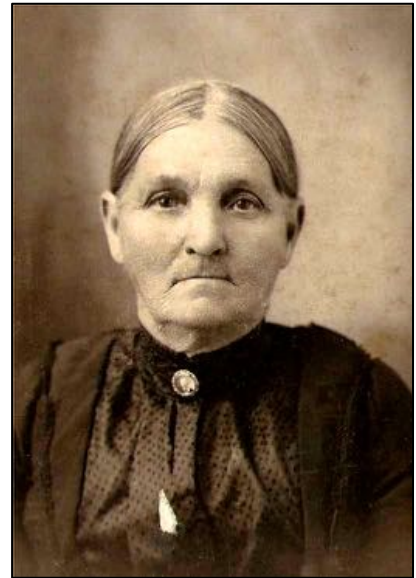
“The wash house, which was built by the Ellis Smith family, had a fireplace and hooks for holding kettles in which to boil laundry. The hooks are still in place today. The Smiths added the bedroom above the dining room, inside back steps to the upstairs bedroom, a kitchen, and a screened-in porch. They removed the walk-in fireplace and chimney. Later, they enclosed the screened-in porch, added the downstairs bath, an office, and extended the existing kitchen.

“The house became empty in the mid-50's and was rented to various families for more than 20 years until the Shavers purchased it.” Source: 1992 Harvest House Tour Ticket Brochure.

Cindy Shaver had a psychic come to the Jacob Jay Jackson house. The psychic said “Jacob was not a very nice man but the house was full of laughter and good food. I believe it is a man who walks back and forth on the upstairs floor.” (In reading a chancery record before hearing this story, I had feelings he was a "grabber" when he was administering the estate. However, from his picture I felt he looked like a kind handsome man.) The psychic said there was a spirit of a woman in black wearing a black bonnet in one of the original bedrooms.

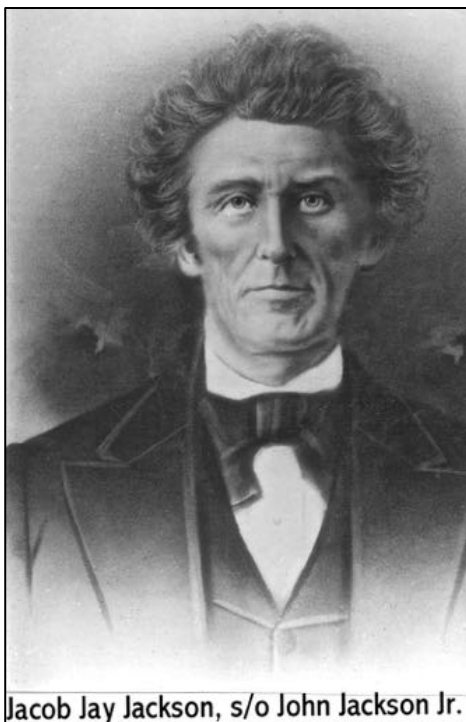
Cindy Shaver related the following stories: one night her daughter felt a slap on her back and told her mother (who was not the culprit) to stop. There is a legend that during the Civil War the Jackson family hid their gold in the yard. The Shavers used a metal detector, but found nothing. When they renovated the fireplace they found a

tapestry bag and thought surely it would be the gold but instead it was filled with walnut shells. The chimney was built on the inside (This is true of the Henry Jackson cabin as well as the Henry McWhorter cabin at the Jackson’s Mill. It has been told by several persons this was to keep the Indians from getting in their cabins via the chimney.) Cindy showed me a pair of wire-rimmed glasses in excellent condition that she found in September 2013 in the yard. Cindy feels she and James are the first individuals to own the house outside of descendants. There were logs found behind the walls that were left as is with new filling between the logs when the Shavers did some remodeling. The original wide planked floors are still in the house. I wanted to share these stories so that we would have on record the stories Cindy told me Sept. 30, 2013. Note: comments in parenthesis are those of Nancy Jackson, who recorded these stories.



His 2nd wife Permelia Francis Watson Jackson. Both photos courtesy of Anne Swisher Chase

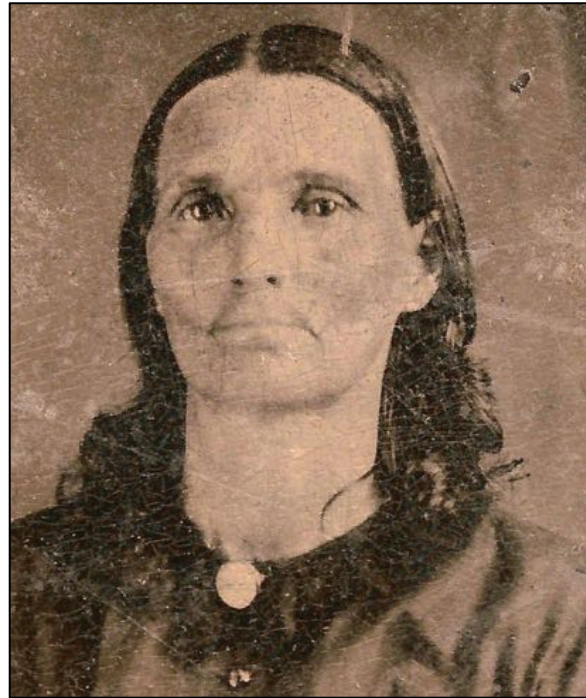
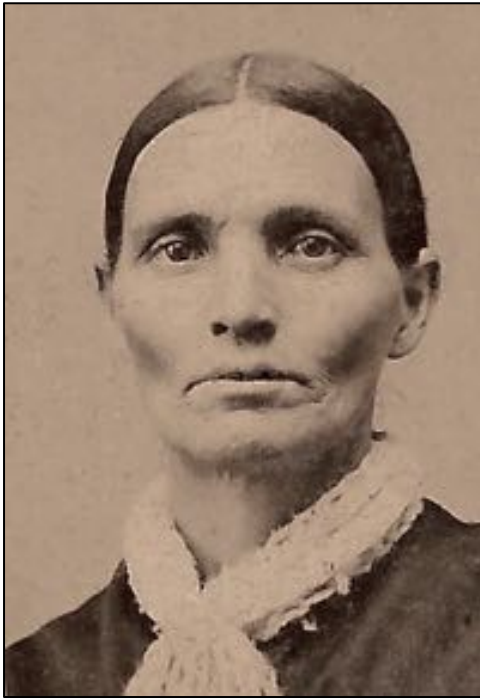
The following hand written notes (probably from the Oliver papers) were found in the Roy Bird Cook Collection, located at Colson Hall, West Virginia University:



Jacob Jay Jackson, s/o John Jackson Jr.

"Next, we come to the fine, large & productive farm of the Hon. Jacob J. Jackson, lying on the waters of Stone Coal Hilly Upland Run, containing something near one thousand acres. Maj. Jackson was one of the leading citizens of the county having acquired by his industry a perseverance in his younger days a much better education than the majority of the young men of his day, & this combined with a strong, natural & vigorous intellect rendered him a leader both in political & civic matters. He belonged to the old Jeffersonian Democracy. Prior to the year 1844 he was elected to the Legislature of the State of VA & made a good representative, watching & guarding well the interests of the county. Maj. Jackson was a very fine looking man being over six feet very fine appearance. As a field officer he was a kind charitable Christian gentleman, being a man of ample means to give employment to a great many poor men he paid them well for their work. He was very zealous member of the M.P. church & when he was called from earth the Church lost one of its most useful & efficient members & the community one of her most valuable citizens. He was married to his second wife, leaving a family of three children, one son & two daughters by his first wife and two sons & two

daughters by his second, some of whom have been called to follow him to the spirit. The good man ceases from his labor, but his works do follow him."



Jacob Jay Jackson's 2nd wife Permelia Francis Watson Jackson. All three photos courtesy of Anne Swisher Chase

Back to Super 8 Motel

Turn around and go back to Hilly Upland Road. Turn right and go by Sheetz and Walmart. Turn right at Route 33 and immediately get in left lane for a left turn at the next red light. Turn left into Market Place Shopping Center and the Super 8 Motel.

