

History of Welcome Community by A. L. Booth

Provided by Joe Ward; courtesy of Bill and Ann (Null) Estep.

History of
Welcome
Community



WELCOME SCHOOL HOUSE—1939

Marshall County
West Virginia

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Marshall County, West Virginia

Prepared and Published December, 1939 by

A. L. BOOTH

Proctor, W. Va.

Sponsored by the Welcome P. T. A.

Price—50c

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LOCATION

Welcome Community is located in Franklin District Marshall County, West Virginia, and includes the large bottom of land bordering the Ohio river, and reaching from the Wetzel County line on the south to Sims Run on the north. The Community and School both received their name from the first Post Office established in 1884, which was called Welcome. Before that time it was known as Wells Bottom and is called that by many people today.

Long before the coming of the first settler, and before the Colonies became independent of England, it was included in what was called Spottsylvania County which was formed in 1721. This County was divided in 1734 and from it Orange County was formed, which comprised the whole of the colony of western Virginia. Augusta County was formed from Orange in 1738 and was to embrace that part of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge. By act of Legislature this was divided in Oct. 1776 and the territory lying to the north and west of Pennsylvania and Maryland was to be within the District of West Augusta. On and after November 8, 1776 it was changed to Ohio County and remained that until May 1, 1835 when it was called Marshall County

***** GREETINGS *****

Friends of Welcome Community, please read these few lines,
And try to picture in your minds the scenes of Colonial times.
Say over a hundred years ago, when our forefather came
To this wooded Ohio Valley on which to take a Claim.

From the banks of the Ohio, o'er the West Virginia hill:
From Sims' Run boundary to Dry Run rills,
Is the scene of this story, where our ancestors came,
And at present is the home of Welcome P.T.A. fame.

Now let us close these few rhymes,
And go back to historic prose,
When La Salle came down the Ohio,
And from thence this story goes.

***** INTRODUCTION *****

It was in the year 1663 that Europeans first heard from the Indians, of the Ohio River, and the country bordering its banks. This information inspired the adventurous spirit of La Salle, the most noted French explorer of Canada, with a desire to see this river and country. With Indian guides he began his journey, and in October 1669 he descended the Ohio River as far as Louisville, Ky. He was the first white man to see this river and the western part of Virginia, of which this Community is a part.

Not quite one hundred years later, May 18, 1765 Col. Geo. Croghan, on his trip down the Ohio River, described his Bottom as appearing beautiful, wide, rich and well watered. From the diary kept by Col. Geo. Washington, dated October 25, 1770 we read, "On the east side appears to be a large bottom of good land." These descriptions were given to the eastern colonists as well as to the Old World.

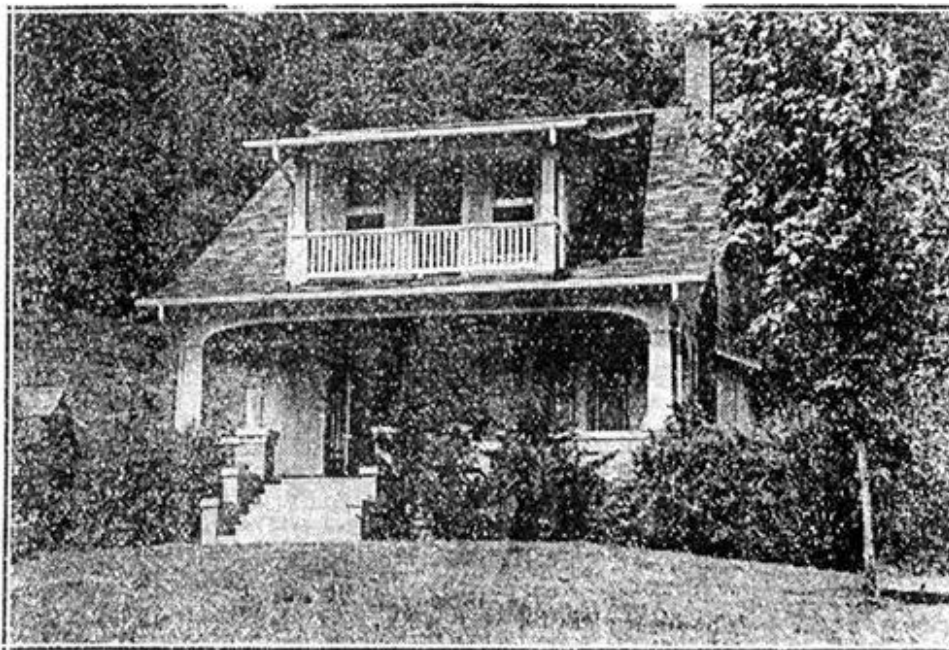
In order to secure control of this rich and beautiful country for England, the King encouraged settlers to move into this country and establish homes, by giving to them a certain number of acres of land. After the Colonies became independent of England, the Governor of Virginia continued to do the same, as this was considered part of Virginia at that time.

The Titles of these lands were known as Grants or Patents, and were commonly called Settlement Claims and Tomahawk Rights. Any one building a cabin, girdling a few trees, and planting a patch of corn, received a title of 400 acres of land. Many men who had roving spirits and were not afraid to work, took up several of these claims, and then sold them to persons who came into this country too late to secure prime lands. These claims were sold for a few dollars and some were traded for a rifle gun.

Three years after Washington made his journey down the Ohio River, James, son of William McMechen, (founder of town of McMechen) descended the Ohio River in search of good land. Arriving at a point about 28 miles below Wheeling, he took up a claim on the east side of the river opposite the mouth of Sunfish Creek. (Clarrington, O.) in what is now Welcome Community. In 1785 he received from Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, a Grant for his Claim, which reads as follows,—

"Patrick Henry Esq. Gov'r of Virginia, To all to whom these presents shall come—: Greetings know ye that by virtue of a certificate in right of settlement given by the Commissioners for adjusting the title to unpatented lands in the District Monongalia, Yokogania, and Ohio and in

sterling paid by Jas. W. Machan into the treasury of this Commonwealth there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto the said James W. Machan a certain tract or parcel of land containing four hundred acres by survey bearing date the fifth day of March 1784 lying and being in the County of Ohio including his Settlement made in the year 1773 on the Ohio river and is bounded as followith TO WIT—: Beginning at two Sugar trees on the bank of the river, corner to Proctor and with his line North 60 degrees East 208 poles to a Black Oak, thence leaving Proctor line North 2 degrees West 244 poles to a Sugar tree on the bank of the river, thence down the river according to the several meanders thereof and binding thereon 378 poles to the beginning with its appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said James W. Machan and his heirs forever. In witness whereof the said Patrick Henry Esq. Gov'r of



A modern equipped home in the Community. Residence of Mrs. Fred Arman and son, Edgar.

the Commonwealth of Virginia here-unto set his hand and caused the lesser seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond on the Twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord 1785 and of the Commonwealth the ninth." P. HENRY.

This land Grant covers the farm formerly owned by Mr. Cyrus Yoho, and extended from a point close to Welcome school to a point near Sims Run. Mrs. Cyrus Yoho has the original Grant in her possession at this time. M

McMechen's closest neighbors were miles away, and a heavy forest covered the land, with the only open space the river. They were in danger from the wild beasts and Indians who roamed the forest, but they wanted a home and freedom, and were ready to face any danger to secure it.

***** TRADITION *****

Tradition tells us that an old trail used by the Indians, and also by the white scouts, as a short cut from the Indian camps near Woodsfield, Ohio to the Settlements in the east, crossed the river at the mouth of Sunfish Creek, (Clarrington, Ohio) to the Virginia side, then across the bottom, and up the point to the top of ridge just back of Welcome school. There is a collection of rocks piled up in such a way as to look like benches, on the Mary L. Booth theirs' farm, along this trail. These have been called Indian rocks and were said to have been used by them as a place to hold their councils. During an Indian uprising the white scouts would watch this trail for the approach of Indians and then notify the Settlers of their coming. This trail was called Dickerson's trail, and probably got its name from Kinsy Dickerson who owned part of the land it passed through, and who was also a scout and guide.

ENCOUNTER BETWEEN WHITES AND INDIANS

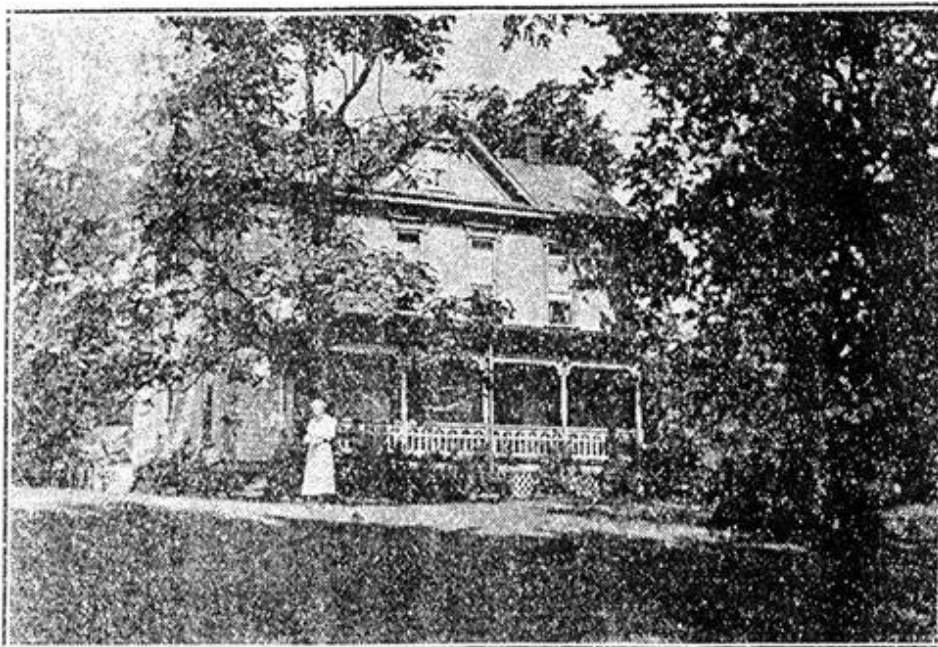
A battle between the Indians and a party of Settlers from the settlement at Grave Creek took place on the Bottom, opposite Clarrington, Ohio in the year 1777. The Indians had made a raid on the Settlement and had stolen some horses and shot their cattle full of arrows. The Settlers trailed them down the river and up Sunfish Creek, and finally caught up with them. Finding them to be too many to attack they came back to the river. While there they decided to cross the river to the Virginia side and look for some Indians they thought were over there. When two of their canoes were close to shore and ready to land, the Indians who were hidden on shore, fired their shots thick as hail upon them. The Settlers all fell flat in their canoes except two who paddled and pushed back to the Ohio side under cover of rifles. They reached the Ohio side with no lives lost and exchanged many shots with the Indians. After talking things over among themselves they decided to give up the chase, and proceeded up the river to their homes.

***** EARLY SETTLERS *****

James W. McMechen—Called Jimsy—was married to Hannah Davisson, who lived near Morgantown, West Va. 1770. He brought his wife and possessions to this Cove.

himself in 1760 and settled on his claim that he had made in 1773. Mr. Mechen was an Indian scout and guide, and records show that he enlisted as a Private, 2 BN, Washington County, Pa. Militia, in Dunmore's Army, during the Revolutionary war in 1774. He was probably with Dunmore's army as it passed through this Community on its way to the Indian camps near Chillicothe, Ohio. His cabin was built on a high bluff overlooking the Ohio river just a few yards south of what was once called Cedar Curve. (Land now owned by Roy Bowser). Jimsy was away most of the time during the Indian uprisings and his wife, or Granny Mac as she was called, would be left with the children. It is told that their cabin had to be rebuilt six times, as the Indians would destroy it while on the war path. Mrs. McMechen upon being notified of the approach of Indians would bury and hide their possessions and get in a canoe with the children and paddle up the river to the blockhouses or forts for safety.

They were the only people living here at that time and they had no close neighbors. A story is told that Mr. McMechen offered 100 acres of land to any one who would



The farm home of Mrs. Mary Baggs. Now used as a tourist home.

come and make their home close by, so he would have a neighbor. It was not said whether any one took advantage of this offer or not.

A plain sandstone, old and weather beaten bearing the inscription—James McMechen, born Aug. 25, 1748 and died Aug. 3, 1824, stands in the old cemetery at Locust Grove

On Riel farm) not far from where he lived. Through the work of the Welcome P.T.A. and American Legion a new monument was secured from the U. S. Government for Mr. McMechen in July, 1939. Both his grave and location of his cabin are in sight of Welcome school. His wife moved to Indiana with her daughter in 1831 and died there.

Chas.P.Wells—Was born in 1785 and came to this part of the county in 1806. He settled on the farm now owned by A. J. Frohnappel. Not long after he moved here he was married to Rachel Rosanna Niven McMechen, (1806) daughter of James and Hannah McMechen, who owned the adjoining farm. In 1837-38, he built a brick road house and residence along the county road near the river bank. This place was famous as a stopping place for drovers taking their stock to Market and as a stopping place for the stage coach which would leave New Martinsville early in the morning and reach this place in time for breakfast. There were several children in the Wells family, and most of them settled in the Community.

Rolla N.—Married Drusilla B. McMahan, lived where Mrs. Sample Arrick now lives, and built the brick house in 1853.

Chas. C.—Married Ann Scott in 1852. Owned and lived on the farm now owned by Sam Williamson. The brick house was built about the same year.

Rachel M.—Married a Mr. Austin and lived in the house now occupied by Chas. Moore.

Ephraim O.—Married Jennie Sims and lived in the house where Harry Arrick now lives, which was built in 1868. He served in the 36th Virginia Infantry under Stonewall Jackson in the Civil War and later was promoted to First Lieutenant in the cavalry under Gen. Jenkins. He was wounded but recovered. After the war he returned home and in later years went west.

Lemuel M.—Purchased 733 acres of land for \$733.00 from the William McMechen heirs in 1838 and known as the Boggs and Barr land. Part of the farm owned by the E. S. Booth heirs was included in this tract.

Because there were so many Wells on the bottom, and as they owned all the land except the Mary L. Booth heirs' farm, it was called Wells Bottom.

Thompson Sims—Was a pioneer river man, and was

farm now owned by Russen Meadows and built the brick house about 1850. He owned practically all the land at the mouth of Sims Run, while his brother Jackie owned about all at the head of the run. For this reason it was named Sims Run.

James P. Campbell—Lived in a log cabin on the farm now owned by Mrs. Wm. Cain.

Thomas Pollock—Purchased the farm now owned by the E. S. Booth heirs from Sam Williamson in 1830 and built the brick house in 1832.

Erlewine Clark—Lived in the house where Joe Wade now lives in 1884.

John Scott—Came to this Community from Pennsylvania, and purchased the Mary L. Booth heirs' farm from Kinsy Dickerson in 1828. He was married to Catherine Whitten in 1820, and lived in a house near the river bank. The flood of 1832 took the house and most of his belongings away. It lodged on Paden Island and hearing of this he went to see if he could find anything left of any value. All he could find was a picture of Geo. Washington which was badly damaged. A brick house was built on higher ground, where they lived until after the railroad was completed, when it was torn down. Mr. Scott was a good mechanic and made many pieces of furniture. There are several pieces of his work in the community today such as the old octagon school house, sun-dial, and corner cupboards. He also made wooden coffins for many of those who died.

Michael Moore—Moved here from a farm opposite Powhatan, O. in 1853 or '54. He lived in a log house at the foot of hill on the farm where his Grandson, Chas. Moore now lives.

D. H. Arrick—Came from Short Creek, West Va about 1867-68. Was married to Miss Mariam Wells.

John K. Booth—Purchased the farm of Thomas Pollock in 1868 and moved here from Clarington, O. Was married to Mary L. Scott.

Henry Daugherty—Moved to the farm at mouth of Dry Run in 1864 from Sand Hill, West Va. Purchased farm from Dave Clark. Was married to Catherine Erlewine.

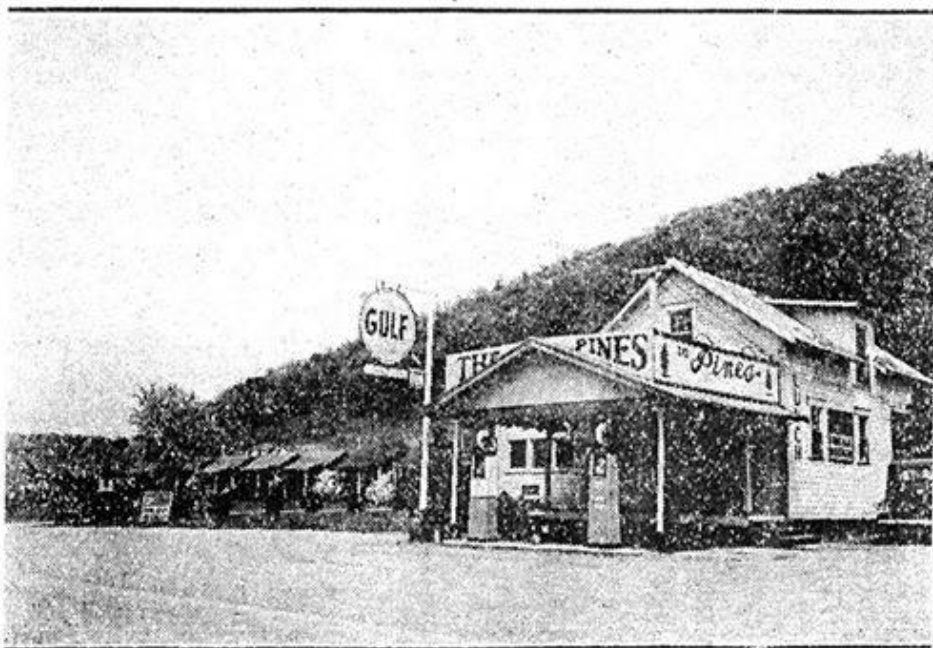
James Cresap—Lived in a house near the river just north of Dry Run. He sold the farm to Timothy Yoho and went west.

Theodore Frohnaphel—Came to the Community from St. Joseph, West Va. in 1914. His father A. J. Fronaphfel came a few years later. Both live on the old Wells farm.

***** ROADS *****

With the exception of a few narrow trails or paths, through the forest and which usually followed the banks of a stream, the River Beautiful was the Majestic Highway of the pioneers living here, until about 1820 when a river road was completed between Wheeling and Middle Island (St. Marys). This was not much more than a wide path cut through the forest along the river bank, and in bad weather almost a continuous mud hole.

This road was damaged so much by floods in 1852 that it was moved back to higher ground in the early 1850s. No doubt many remember the double L curve just south



The most modern sanitary filling station and tourist camp in Marshall county. Located in Welcome Community along State route No. 2. Owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Baumberger.

of the Welcome schoolhouse. There have been several stories told by the older people why this double curve was here. One is that there were two parties of men at work, on starting at each end of the road. When they met, instead of being in a direct line with each other they were a short distance apart. To prevent going back and rebuilding, they made a short left turn, and a short right turn,

The other story is, that when they reached the land of Mr. Wells he would not permit them to go through unless they moved the location back towards the hill. To make this change without rebuilding any already completed they made the double L curve.

The straight piece of road between the D. H. Arrick residence and that of Mrs. Sample Arrick was called the race track, and was famous for the many races and fine horses which were tried out here. This was one of their most favorite sports in the latter part of the 1850s and later years. Horses were brought here from miles away to try their luck against some fast horse in the Community. To make it more pleasant on the hot days, and probably to help mark the different lengths of distance, a row of locust trees were set out along this piece of road. It was told that these trees were hauled here from Waynes Ridge and set out in the early 1850s.

After Automobiles came into use in the country these narrow and crooked roads became the scene of many accidents. To avoid these the county and state began to eliminate the curves and to build a wider road. In 1928 the old county road was gravelled and many of the curves were eliminated.

Traffic was so heavy, and the cost of maintenance was so high that the State built the present concrete highway in 1932. This modern highway follows the old County road bed in many places.

Several of the old homes face the river, instead of the new road, and this is because they were built to face the first road through the Community, which was built along the river bank.

***** POST OFFICE *****

When there were several permanent settlements made along the western border, and the country became more thickly settled, Timothy Pickering, Post Master General of the United States, established the first mail route between Pittsburgh, Pa. and Cincinnati, O. The first mail carrier was a young man named Greene. This was in 1794 and he travelled in a canoe keeping in the middle of the river as protection from the Indians. Postage was 25c a letter and the mail was delivered to certain points along the river once every two or three weeks, if the mail carrier had no trouble while on his route.

In the early part of the 1800s steamboats began to ply their way up and down the river and it not very long until they began to carry the mail. When the river was frozen over it was carried on the ice and land by sled. The first Post Office to serve the Community, which was thickly populated at this time was at Clarington, Ohio.

The Railroad was completed in June, 1884, and the mail was transferred from the boats to the trains on July 1st of the same year. On Nov. 11, 1884 the first Post Office in the Community was established and called "Welcome". It was located in the railroad depot with David H. Arrick as Post Master. During the following years it was moved to a store building owned by Mrs. Emily Burton, who acted as Post Mistress until October 15, 1914 when it was discontinued.

The Rural Free Delivery from Proctor Post Office began to serve the people at Welcome after the Welcome Post Office was discontinued. This brought the mail closer to the homes of many as formerly they had to go to the Post Office to receive or mail a letter.

***** TELEPHONES *****

The first telephone line was built through the Bottom in the latter part of the 1890s by the Bell Telephone Company. This was not a local Company and did not serve the Community. In 1909 the farmers on the Bottoms and Ridges formed a local Telephone Company called the Proctor & Peabody Telephone Company. Stock was issued and sold for \$20.00 a share, and most all the farmers purchased stock and had a telephone installed in their home. This Company was dissolved and the line abandoned in 1930. The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company then offered to install phones in the homes at a reasonable rate, and today one can talk to any place in the United States from their own homes.

***** LIGHTS AND HEATING *****

When the first settler came here to build their homes, the only lights they had were from the large old fashioned fire places, pine knots, and from candles made from grease and tallow. Wood was used for heating and cooking purposes and as the country was covered with a heavy forest, it was an easy task to keep a supply of fire wood on hand. The candles they used were made in the home, and several of the homes still have the molds in which they were molded. Grease and tallow were made from wild animals that were caught by the hunters of the family.

In the middle part of the 1800s coal and oil began to be used in many of the homes of those who could afford to purchase them. These were used until 1907 when the first pipe line was laid through the Bottom by the Hope Natural Gas Co. to convey natural gas from southern West Virginia to Cleveland, Ohio.

A service line was laid in 1907 to furnish gas to the

fuel for heating and cooking. It also made a much brighter light than the old oil lamp and candles.

A thin vein of coal called surface coal crops out along the hill-side on most of the farms, and at one time this was the source of supply for the farmers. When the Railroad was built, coal was shipped by rail and several of the neighbors would purchase a car load, and divide it among them. They would haul it from the car to their coal houses by wagon. This was an annual affair, usually taking all day to get a year's supply.

The Pittsburgh vein of coal is too deep under ground at this point to mine with any profit. When other fields have been exhausted, then this vein will probably be mined here. With the exception of a farm or two all the coal was sold to out-side capitalists in 1902. The landowners received \$20 an acre for all coal lying under their farms, and this brought a large amount of money into the Community.

The Monongahela West Penn Electric Company built a line part way through the Bottom in 1930 and in 1938 this was completed, to give all those desiring electricity a chance to secure it. This replaced natural gas for lighting purposes but wood, coal, and gas still remain the chief fuels for heating and cooking.

***** STEAMBOATS AND THE OHIO RIVER *****

The Ohio River, or to us the River Beautiful, was the only way the early Settlers had to transport their products to market. At that time New Orleans, and other southern towns were good trading centers for the Ohio Valley.

The farmers would load a flat or keel boat with produce and float it down the river to these towns where they would dispose of the produce and boat for gold. They would return home by canoe or over land.

In 1811 the first steamboat, named the New Orleans, passed by this Community on its way to the south, but it was not until about 1830 that steamboats became plentiful on the river.

Long after the first road and railroad were completed, the river remained the chief way of shipping for the farmers. It was a common occurrence for a boat to stop and load corn, wheat, potatoes, hay, and other farm products for several hours.

Quite often the farmer and his family would assemble on the river bank and talk over the topics of the day with the officers and passengers on the boat, while the roustabouts were loading the freight.

Many a friendship was formed in this way that lasted for years and sometimes resulted in a courtship and

marriage between some young officer on a boat and a farmers daughter.

The places where they loaded the freight became known as Boat Landings, and such places as Sims, Booths, Wells, and Abersolds Landings are familiar places to the older river pilots and captains today.

Trains and automobiles have taken the place of the boats, and one seldom hears the river mentioned as a means of shipping.

Time comes, and goes and many changes take place, but such is the "March of Progress."

***** PIONEER RIVER MEN *****

Capt. Thompson Sims, was a pioneer river pilot and captain. He started to work on the river in 1832, and it was not until later years that he retired from the river and went in the coal business. His son Edward became Capt. and followed the river many years until he retired because of old age. Capt. Thompson Sims' wife made the remark that her husbands wages earned on the river were just enough to pay the laborers hired to build the brick house on their farm, which is now owned by Russell Meadows.

Capt. John K. Booth, was another pioneer river man from this Community who owned and operated his own boats. His two sons Ernest and Eugene, also became river men until after they were married, when they returned to the farm. Two Grandsons, Walter C. and Sydney S. Booth and two great grandsons, Kent Booth and Robert Baggs, are well known as Captains and engineer on the river today.

***** OLD RELICS IN THE COMMUNITY *****

D. H. Arrick, Jr. has a collection of Indian beads, tomahawks, arrowheads, and skinning knives, that were picked up on the farm. He also has a stone mortar and pestle in which the Indians pounded their grain into meal.

Mrs. Mary Baggs, has a chair that belonged to her Great Aunt Mrs. Ann Scott Wells, that is around 150 years old. A tea-pot of her Great Grandmother Bethia Fairchild Booth that is over 150 years old.

Rolla Wells, has a collection of Indian knives, tomahawks, and a stone mortar and pestle. The mortar is a double one, and is cut out so can be used on either side. An old iron griddle that was hung over an open fire. A cap and ball pistol, and several other old articles that were used in pioneer days.

Mrs. Percy Arrick, has a large and a small spinning wheel, an old meat grinder, candle mold, hair trunk, and the bayonet that Ephraim Wells used in the Civil War.

was used on hot ashes. A large battle axe made of stone.

Chas. Moore, has a stone jar and stem glasses used by his Grandmother that are over 75 years old. A large penny dated 1801.

J. F. Wayne, has a stone ink well used in the early 1800s. A ship axe, and a wool carder.

Mrs. John Riel, has a tomahawk that was found near the Mound and which is perfect in shape.

Mrs. Sam Boyer, has a collection of old lead bullets for a muzzle loading rifle that were uncovered by the flood of 1936. These were found near the river where the Indians and early Settlers camped.

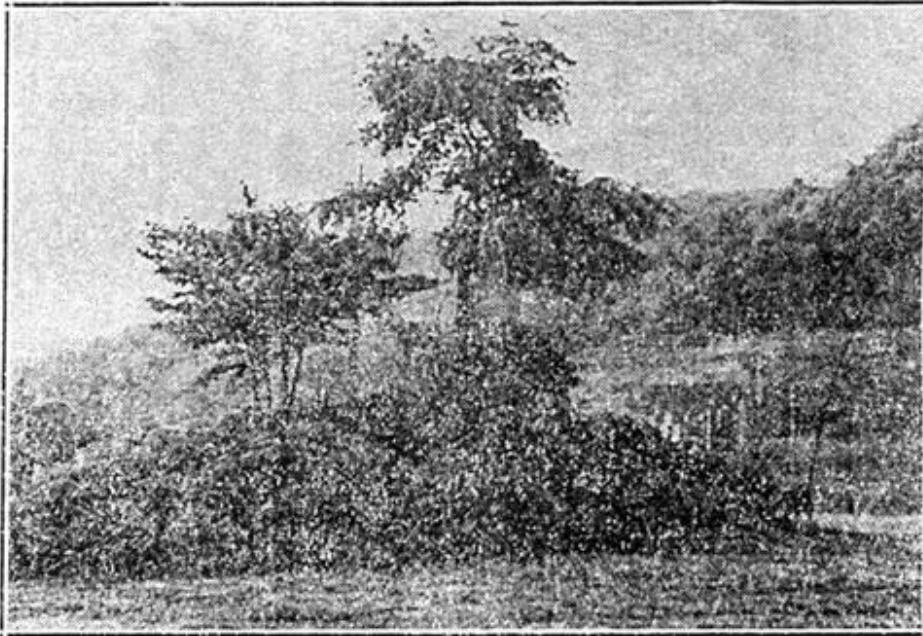
A. L. Booth, has a copy of the New England Journal published at Boston, Mass. and dated April 8, 1728. The marriage certificate of his Great Grandfather John Scott and Catherine Whitten dated Nov. 2, 1820 at Wheeling, Va.

Mrs. Cyrus Yoho, has an old Land Grant dated March, 20, 1785. This Grant calls for 400 acres of land in this Community.

T. J. Frohnappel, has a carpet loom.

**** INTERESTING NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY ****

The lowest point in Marshall County is in the southwestern part of this Community, at the low water mark



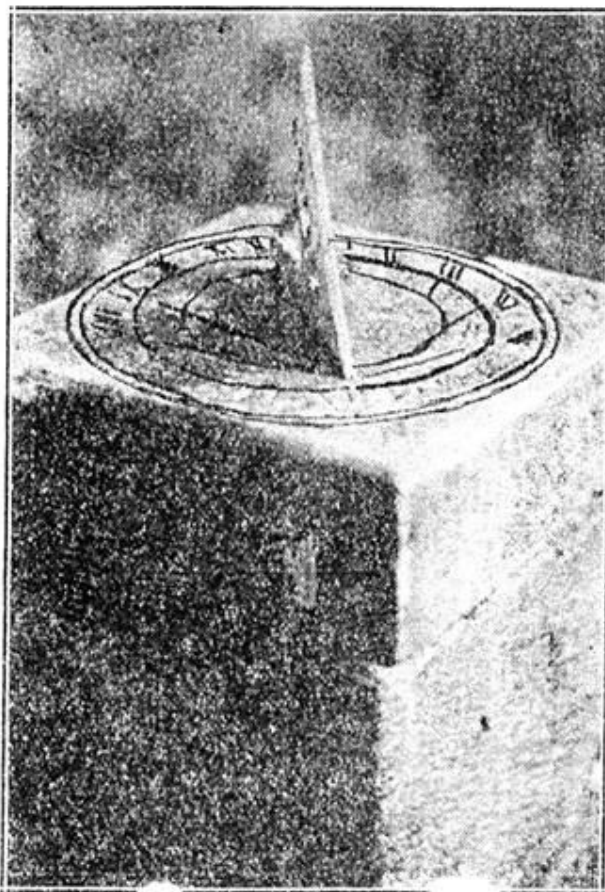
Indian mound on the Arrick Land and Development Company farm.

where the Ohio River flows from Marshall into Wetzel

County. It is exactly 591 feet above sea level.

Of special interest are the two mounds dating back to the time of the mound builders. One is on the Riel farm, and one on the Arrick farm. Two smaller mounds were plowed down several years ago.

One of the most interesting objects for visitors to see is the old stone sun-dial on the lawn at Mary Baggs home. This was made by Mrs. Baggs' Great grandfather,



Sun-dial on the lawn of Mrs. Mary Baggs' home.

and formerly stood in the garden close to his old home. A walk led from his house to this sun-dial with a mass of old fashioned flowers on each side of it.

There are several old cemeteries where some of the first settlers of this Community are buried. Some of the stones are old and weather beaten, but one can still read a few of the names and dates, such as:—James McMechen, 1748-1824. Charlotte Martin, 1823. —Chas. P. Wells, 1785-1856. —Thompson Sims, 1815-1868. —John Scott, 1798-1868. Ann C. Whitten, 1770-1850. Several of the oldest

cemeteries of which some were for slaves have been entirely destroyed.

An old stone monument that stood near the river bank along the first public road that passed through the Community. It marked the boundary between Ohio and Tyler County long before Marshall and Wetzel County were formed. No doubt it was placed there in 1814 when Tyler County was formed from Ohio. It was on a direct



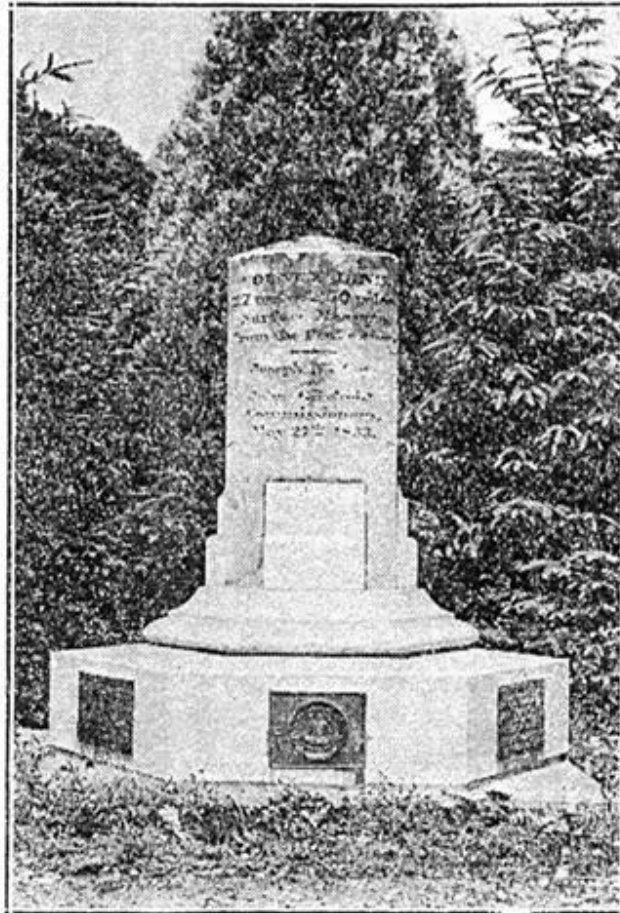
An old stone monument that marked the line between Ohio and Tyler county, and which is now the Marshall and Wetzel county line. Erected about 1814.

line with the famous Mason and Dixon line, and would of been the south western corner of this line had it reached as far west as the State of Pennsylvania expected it to. It has been called an extension of this line altho it has no connection with it at all. This old stone is in the possession of Mr. A. J. Frohnappel who found it when he tore down the old brick road house and residence of Mr. Wells. It had been used as a cellar step in one of the first brick houses built in the Community. On it are the following inscriptions.—

Tyler Co
M
17
TO
Pa.

Ohio Co
P
50
The
Line

This old stone was replaced by a new one about 1835. This new stone has been moved several times, so as to be along the public road. For several years it was out in the field almost covered with dirt. When the new State High-



Monument erec'ed about 1835 on line between Marshall and Wetzel county. Along State route No. 2 at southern part of Community.

way was completed through the Bottom it was moved again and now stands along the present Highway at the southern part of the Community on the line between Marshall and Wetzel County.

The Hope Natural Gas Co. Measuring Station where natural gas is measured before it goes into the state of

Ohio. Gas used in Cleveland, and other towns in Ohio, passes through this plant.

The Wells Pitt Sand Co. Plant, located on the Arrick farm. Immense quantities of sand and gravel are shipped from this place. Sand and gravel from this plant was used by the U. S. Gov't in the Tygart Valley Dam, at Grafton West Va. A large artificial lake has formed where the sand and gravel has been taken out, which has been stocked with fish.

The first Railroad was completed in June 1884 by the Ohio River Railroad Company, which later sold it to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. The first train to run between Parkersburg and Moundsville was on June 17-1884.

No levy was laid and no taxes collected for the year 1871 in Marshall county. The Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co. paid \$25,000 for County purposes and this was sufficient to meet the expenses of the County.

A tax receipt dated 1874 shows that the taxes on 100 acres of land and personal property valued at \$175.00 was \$62.67. Taxes on the same 100 acres less the personal property valuation was \$28.24 for 1938.

The flood of 1936 washed the dirt away and uncovered a collection of lead bullets for a muzzle loading rifle, on the farm of Mr. Riel. They were old and pitted and had been there for years. These were near some stones that had been in a fire, and were probably lost by some one who had camped at this place years ago.

The brick chimney on the house owned by Joe Wade was the first outside brick chimney built in the Community.

NOTES FROM CLARINGTON INDEPENDENT

DATED 1884.

As Mr. Iobenstein was digging a mound away from his farm (now Mary L. Booth Heirs) last week, his workmen excavated part of a human skeleton, supposed to be that of an Indian. From all appearances a fire had been built on the remains.

Rev. J. A. Bartels of Hannibal, Ohio, will preach next Sunday, April 20th, 1884 at 10 A. M. in the Wells Bottom School House.

The Union Sunday School Picnic of Clarington, Ohio, will be held in Wells Grove on the 4th of July, 1884.

LOCUST GROVE

Locust Grove, or Wells Grove, was located on the Riel farm, near the old Cemetery that is opposite their residence, and towards the river. It got its name from the grove of locust trees that were there, and which were on the Wells farm. This grove was a popular place for picnics, dances,

and other public meetings, for the people of this community, and for Clarington, Ohio, during the 1800s.

A grove of Oak trees on the Wells farm near the red log cabin was used as a public meeting place, in the 1800s but was not so popular a place as Locust Grove.

KENT, WEST VA.

The thriving little village of Kent, West Va., is located along State Route No. 2 in the northern part of the Community. It was named after Dr. Kent Hornbrook of New Martinsville, W. Va. In 1924 a party of capitalists from New Martinsville formed the New Martinsville Land Company, and purchased the Cyrus Yoho farm. Part of the farm was surveyed off into building lots, and in July of 1924 a lot sale was held. Several building lots were sold, and not long after the sale the first home was built by Mr. Cyrus Yoho.

Today there are about 18 dwelling houses in the village including two stores, and filling stations. Since it is located out of reach of high water midst healthy and peaceful surroundings it promises to be a rapidly growing village in the future.

The most horrible incident to occur in the Community was during the night of Dec. 29, 1907, when Mr. Hutchison, the Agent-Operator at the Railroad depot, was murdered and the depot burnt. Mr. Hutchison reaching for his revolver while the place was being robbed by a man named Baker and two accomplices was shot and killed. They then poured kerosene over his body and set fire to the building. The farmers near by discovered the fire too late to put it out, and when daylight came only a few charred pieces of Hutchison's body were found among the ashes. A box car was used as a depot and office until a new one was built in 1908 just across the tracks from where the old one stood.

NOTES FROM AN OLD ACCOUNT BOOK OF 1852

Jan. 12—1852—2 Bu. Corn .....	.50
Jan. 5.....1 Fowl .....	.10
Jan. 5.....1 Goose .....	.20
Feb. 7.....2 lbs. Sugar .....	.16
Feb. 7.....3 lbs. coffee .....	.37
Apr. 10.....Passages to Grave Creek	\$1.10
Apr. 27.....10 lbs. flour .....	.20
Apr. 27.....1 Bu cornmeal .....	.25
May 2—1860—2 Bu. corn	1.00
May. 16.....1 ½ Bu potatoes .....	.60

The following entries were made while building the brick house where Mrs. Sample Arrick now lives.

Aug. 13—1853. Boarding Elisha Lindsays men. Henry Craig board per week \$1.62½. Contractor Elisha Lindsay. Some of his men.—

P. Lake. —Newton Hyder. —Elijah Merriman. —Wm. Pur-singer. —Robert Huston. —Losson Lemons. —Dave Post-lethwait. —Randolph. —Myers.

Apr. 21—1853—Hauling poles and forks .....	.75
Apr. 21.....5 lbs. nails .....	.20
Apr. 24.....Hauling plank	2.00
June 6.....Hauling 1 load sand .....	.25
June 8.....Hauling 1 load stone .....	.25
July 13.....2 yoke & cart & boys hauling	
.....lime and brick	3.00

My brick ten thousand six hundred.—March 1st 1854.
Bricks were made from clay banks on the farm, and close to where the house was to be built. They were made cheap about 1837 or about the time the brick houses were built on the bottom. Good hands hired for \$10.00 a month with board or \$15.00 without board. Board was cheap as flour could be purchased for \$2.50 to \$3.00 a barrel, Pork .02 to .03c a pound and beef from .04 to .06c a pound. The brick makers usually traveled by boat and would stop and make brick for those who wanted any made.

SCHOOLS

Probably the first Subscription School in the Community, was in a log cabin that stood about where Mrs. Fred Armans chicken house now stands.

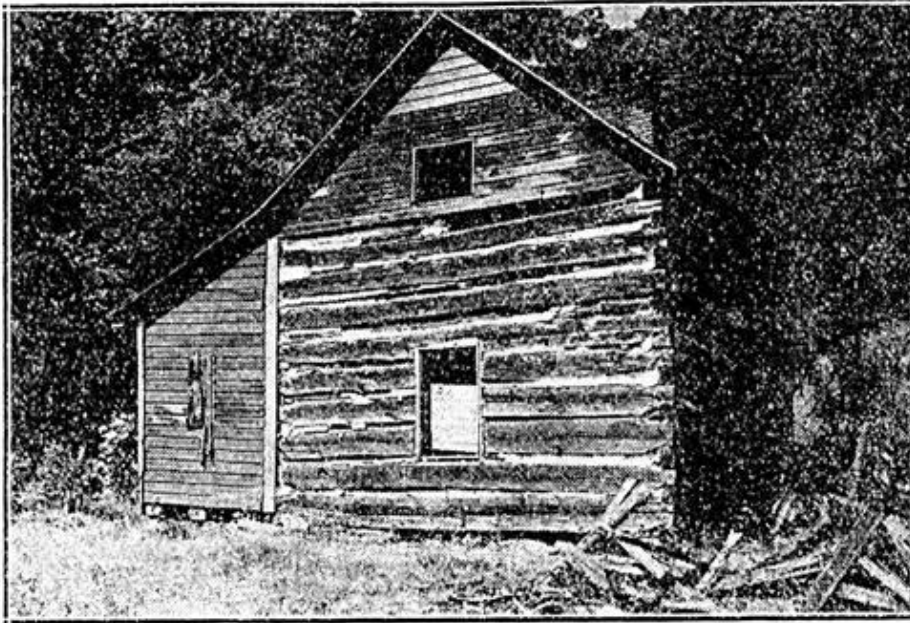
BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

A brick school house was built on the river bank, along the first public road on what is now the Arrick farm, not far from Wells Sand Pitt. This building was abandoned for school purposes about 1852 after being almost destroyed by the floods. The brick were used to pave the cellar in the house where Mrs. Sample Arrick now lives. Some of the pupils, among them the well known Dr. Martin of Sardis, Ohio who attended this school were from the state of Ohio.

RED LOG CABIN SCHOOL

The red log cabin at edge of woods just north of the Wetzel county line was used for a summer subscription school in the 1870s. Miss Martha Nesbitt of Moundsville was one of the teachers who taught in this building, and later became Mrs. Chas. P. Wells. This cabin was built close to the river and not far from the old Wells Homestead.

In later years it was moved to the present location. Mr. Timothy Yoho went to house keeping in this cabin when he was married.



A log cabin typical of pioneer days. Subscription school was held in this cabin in the early 1870s. Probably oldest building in the Community.

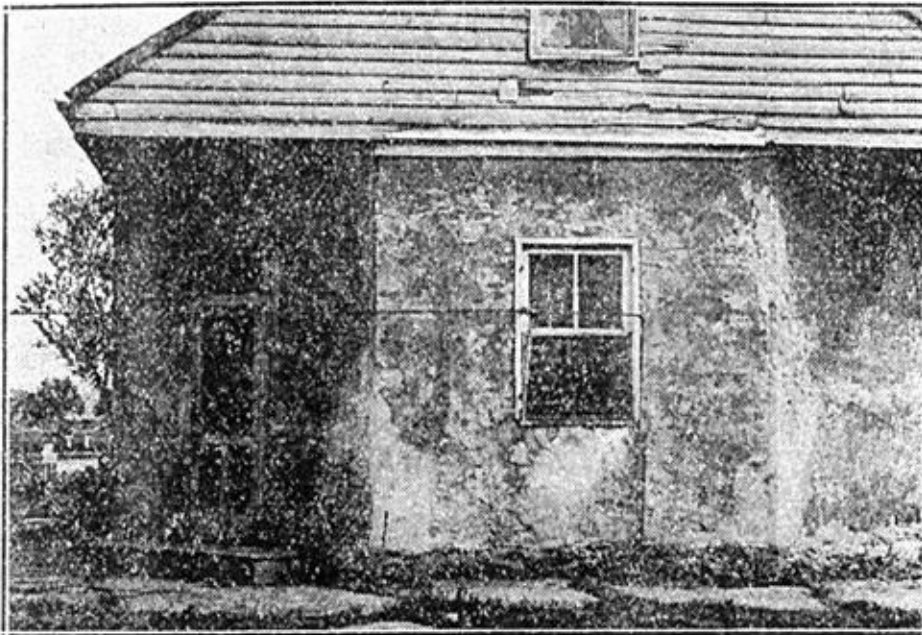
No doubt this is the oldest building in the Community.

GRAVEL OR OCTAGON SCHOOL

When the brick house on the river bank had been abandoned for school purposes, and the public road had been moved back towards the hill out of reach of floods, it was decided to build a new school house along the new road. A parcel of land was deeded to a committee for this purpose, and is probably the first parcel of land deeded for a school in the district, and County. The deed reads as follows,--

"This indenture made the first day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Four between Charles P. Wells and Rachel R. Wells his wife, of the County of Marshall, and state of Virginia of the First part, and Thompson Sims,—James Campbell,—John Scott,—Thomas Pollock—Homer Austin.—Rolla Wells,—Rachel Austin.—and Charles C. Wells of the county and state aforesaid of the second part; Witnesseth that for and in consideration that the party of the Second part have built a house on the herein after named premises to be used and occupied as a school house and casual meetings, and

One dollar to them in hand paid by the said party of the Second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have, granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, secured and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, secure, release, alien and confirm unto the said party of the Second part, and to their successors a certain tract of land situated on the Ohio river Bottom in the County of Marshall and state of Virginia, being a part of the land or-



Octagon shaped building erected for a subscription school in 1854-55. Now the residence of Mrs. John Riel.

iginal owned by James McMechen, and devised by him to his daughter, Rachel R. Wells, and lies on the east side of the County road and near the line of John Scott.;—Beginning at a Stone on a run bank, thence with the road north 19 Deg. West Ten and One half poles ($10\frac{1}{2}$) E thence North 70 Deg. East Ten poles (10) thence South 19 Deg. East Nine and One half poles ($9\frac{1}{2}$) thence South 64 Deg. West Ten (10) poles to the place of beginning, with all the appurtenances there-of and all the estate right title and interest what-so-ever of the said parties of the First part either in law or equity of in and to the above bargained premises with their appurtenances to have and to hold the said premises above described to the said party of the Second part, their successors to the sole use and benefit and behoof of school purposes of the said party of the Second part, their successors from and the said parties of the First for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators do covenant grant bargain and agree with the said party of the Second

part that at the time of unsealing and delivery of these presents they an with seized of the premises above conveyed as of a good sum perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in the law free simple, and that the law will for-ever warrant and defend unto the said party of the Second part their successors against all and every person or persons what-so-ever lawfully claiming or pretending to claim the whole or any part there-of. In testimony thereof we have set our hands and affixed our seals this day and year above written.

Chas. P. Wells. (seal)
Rachel R. Wells. (seal)

Acknowledge by
Reason Biddle
Joseph Hubbs

Justice of Peace.
Feb. 2-1855.

The Octagon shaped building where Mrs. Riel now lives and just opposite the present Welcome school, was the house built to fill the requirements of the deed before mentioned, and to make it binding. The building was constructed by John Scott who lived on the adjoining farm, and was paid for by those living in the Community. It was made of a new building material and not much was known about it. Mr. Scott had been reading about this material, and undertook the work of construction. He done very good work as the house is almost 100 years old and in fairly good condition today. He also made a stile for the entrance to the playground, which was the first in the neighborhood. When this building was abandoned for school purposes about 1872 the land and building were returned to the heirs. Mrs. John Steed of Clarington, Ohio attended school here in the 1860s when Mr. Jim Arnold was teacher. She relates an incident that occurred while attending there. One day one of the pupils (Albert Finnegan) locked the door so the teacher could not get it open. When he did get the door open he grabbed Finnegan by the throat and choked and beat him until the other children thought he was dead. They were scared and got out the best way they could, by the door and windows, and ran over the bank to the small stream close by.

The Octagon building was probably used as the first free school until the Wells Bottom school was built in 1872, after which it ceased to be used for school purposes.

The children were well educated for the time and considering circumstances under which the families lived. They attended a Subscription School which was always taught by a well educated man or woman. The older pupils were taught the branches, usually taught in secondary schools.

After the State took over the schools the standard of scholarship was lowered and those who could, sent their

children to New Martinsville or Moundsville where there were still good Subscription schools, for their secondary education.

It is told that Mr. Scott was a well educated man for the time, and often gave talks to the children on Friday afternoons on good citizen-ship and good manners.

Subscription school teachers who taught in the neighborhood were, Miss Mary Black, Miss Kimbal,-Miss Chaplin, -Miss Martha Nesbitt,-Jim Rrnold,-Turner Ashby, P. Holden,-P. W. Pollock.

The length of the school term was usually three months in summer from April to July, and three months in winter, from December to March. The teacher received a certain amount for each pupil, usually ten cents a day, and boarded among those who had children in school.

WELLS BOTTOM SCHOOL

A few years after free schools were established, the Gravel School building became too small to hold all the pupils. By deed dated April, 24-1872 John Rankin, David B. Smith and William Cecil, members of the Board of Education purchased 3-4 acre of acre of land from Rachel Austin and Drusilla B. Wells, for \$112.50. A new building was constructed on this lot and called Wells Bottom School. This lot bordered the present road and was part on the Arrick farm and part on the farm where Chas. Moore now lives. The large wild cherry tree now standing on the line between these two farms and not far from the road towards the river was just a few feet back of the school house.

This was the first building constructed for Free Schools in the Community and it had a large attendance. Many of the pupils walked 8 and 9 miles a day to and from school during all kinds of weather. The Hyders,-Clarks,-Riels, Connors, and others from off the ridge attended school here as well as those from the Bottom.

A few of the teachers who taught here were, Chas. Talbott, —1880-81 and 1881-82. —Emma Lutes, 1882-83. —Maggie Billeter, 1883-84-85. —E. Leona McCracken, 1885-86-87. —J. V. Evans, 1887-88. —Amanda Roberts, 1888-89. —Jennie Whittingham, 1889-90. —Henry Lutes, 1890-91-92. —Lola Donly, 1892-93. India Evans, —Dan Williams.

Trustees for

1871-72	were	John T. Scott—H. W. Conley—Alonzo Sims.
1877	"	C. P. Wells—James Cresap—D. Arrick.
1881	"	C. P. Wells—A. L. Sims—D. Arrick.
1882	"	C. P. Wells—A. L. Sims—D. Arrick.
1890	"	A. Booth—John Smith—D. Arrick
1892	"	D. W. Booth John Smith—D. Arrick

DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

The families from the ridge were so far from school, that a petition was presented to John Nixon, —Theodore Kelly, —and Cyrus Yoho, members of the Board of Education asking for a school on the lower end of Bottom. This request was granted and in 1891 land was purchased from Jacob and Alice Flouhouse and David Abersold. The new School was built the same year and named Democracy School. It was located along the road on side next to hill just south of Theodore Frohnappel's residence. The first School was taught in 1891-92, and it was used for school purposes until the fall of 1933 when it was closed and the pupils from that district were transported by bus to Welcome School. The building was moved away in 1935.

A few of the teachers were Junius Monroe, 1891-92-93-94. Jeff W. Yoho, 1894-95-96. Attie Strain, 1896-97. Sadie Haught, 1898-99. Lulu Schlobohm, 1907-08. George Daugerty, 1908-09. M. L. Bonar, 1909-10. Sadie Wiley, 1919-20. Nora B. Yoho, 1920-21. Robert Parsons, 1921-22. Helena Friedly, 1922-23. O. C. Baumbarger, 1929-30. Genevieve Franklin, 1932-33. John Ash, —Mr. Hess, —Peter Meeker, —Forest Flouhouse, —Jesse McHenry, —Tom McHenry.

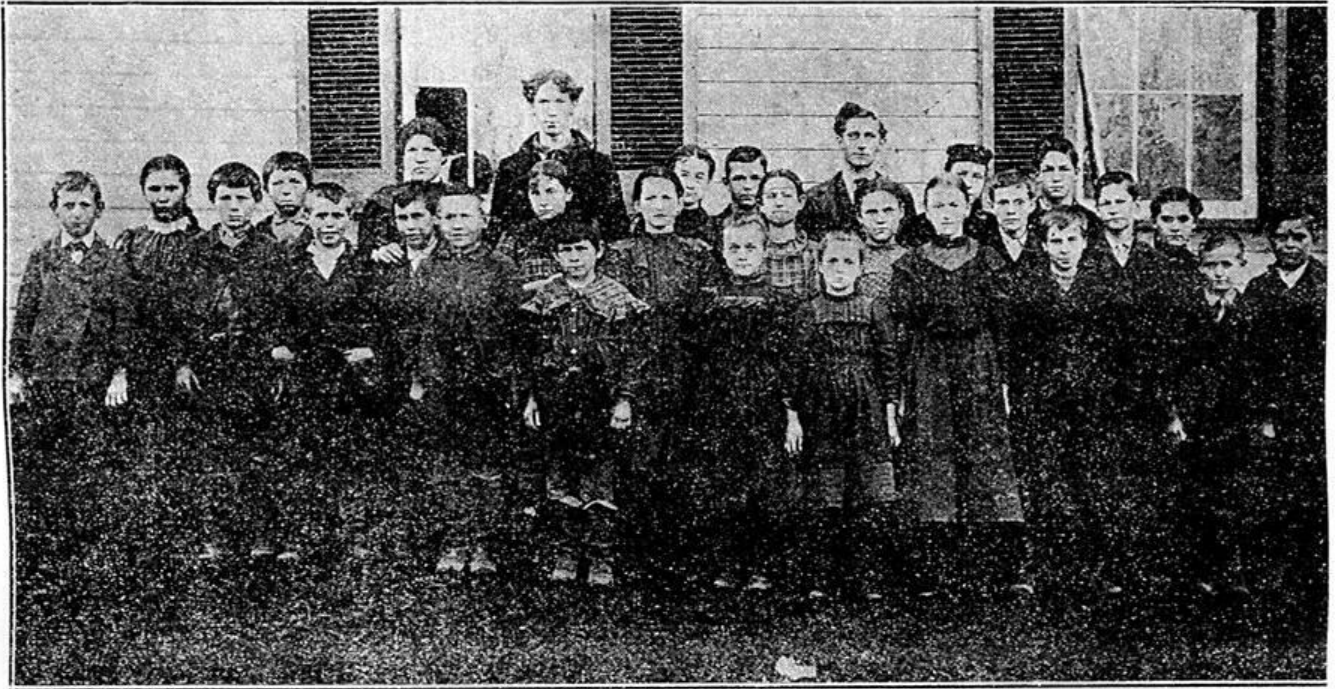
***** WELCOME SCHOOL *****

The same year that Democracy school was built the Board of Education decided to move the Wells Bottom school closer to the center of the new school district. They purchased land from Mary L. and E. K. Booth in 1893 and the building was moved to the new location by R. J. McFadden, of Moundsville. The Welcome Post Office had been established by this time and the name of the school was changed from Wells Bottom to Welcome School. In 1918 of this old building was sold and moved to the farm now owned by Elmer Moore on Waynes Ridge, where it is being used as a grain house.

A model building was erected in 1918, closer to the county road but when the State Highway was built in 1928 the building was moved to the back of the lot and now stands in about the same location as the old one. Additional land was purchased at this time and other improvements made to meet the requirements for a model school.

Among those who have taught at Welcome school are.

M. L. Nesbitt	Neva Etta Smith
A. G. Bonar	Sadie Wiley
Foster Rine	Minnie Arnold
Mary Halpin	Herbert Heslip
John Ruckman	Flora Gatts



Welcome school in 1898. Those reading from left to right are, —Herman Peters, —Clara Clark, —Will Moore, —Ell Moore, —Joe Clark, —Oscar Clark, —Cleona Moore, —Everett Hartline, —Geo. R. Clark, —Rachel Burton, —Clarence Moore, —Alice Clark, —Alice Chambers, —Burr Booth, —Dehlia Adkins, —Mary Booth, —Mamie Arrick, —Lizzie Hartline, —A. G. Teacher, —Elsie Booth, —Olive Peters, —Harry Arrick, —Jim Clark, —Chas. Clark, —Oscar Burton, —Lelia Chambers, —Booth, —Roy Arrick.

Elizabeth Fullerton
Barbara Foster
Lulu Schlobohm
Mr. Manning
Cyrus Montgomery
Georgia McKimmie
Inez Wiley
Mark Bowman
Elma Pegg

Arthur Weitzel
Jim Buck
O. C. Baumbarger
Lane Mason
Sylvia Smith Arman
Roy Yeater
Olive Mayhall
Joe Wade
Eleanor Cullum

Teachers salary set July, 11-1887—No. 1 Certificate \$33.00. —No. 2—\$30.00. No. 3—\$20.00.

Enumeration at Welcome school April, 1-1898—Ages 6 to 16 years—Males 18, Females, 14.

Janitor was paid \$10.00 for the 5 month school term of 1895-96.

A few of the patrons who served as trustees for Welcome school,—

1909—Elbert Albus
1910—E. S. Booth
1911—Fred Gustely
1913—E. S. Booth
1914—John Kernen
1914—Geo. T. Peters

1915—John Kernen
1915—Fred Gustely
1916—Edward Yoho
1916—E. S. Booth
1917—Fred Gustely
1918—Edward Yoho

NOTES TAKEN FROM AN OLD ACCOUNT BOOK.

May, 1st—1852—Cash paid Pollock for schoolin. \$11.00.

May, 1st—1852—Schoolin paid P. W. Pollock. \$ 3.40

P. Holden commensed school on the 19th day of December 1853 at \$20.00 per month for three months.

April 7th 1863—Miss Chaplin commenced school at \$12.00 per month for three months.

The above notes refer to the time of subscription schools and from them we learn the length of the school term and the salary the teacher received.

WELCOME PTA

The Welcome P.T.A. was organized in the fall of 1934 with 22 members. During the school term of 1934-35 meetings were held each month and several interesting programs were given by those of the Community.

The first officers were Mrs. Ina Arrick, President; J. F. Wayne, Vice President; Fred J. Arman, Sec'y and Treas.

In 1935-36 the officers were Russell Meadows, Pres.; Mrs. A. L. Booth, Vice Pres.; Mrs. O. C. Baumberger, Sec'y. & Treas. 12 members joined the organization.

At the first meeting held in the fall of 1936 plans were made to create more interest in the P.T.A. by having a short play, along with the regular meetings. Through the



Welcome school in 1938-39. Reading left to right are,—Paul Wiley, —Junior Mason, —June Wayne, —Mary Wade, —Fitzsimmons, —Helen Frohnappel, —Lee Booth, —Mary Jane Meadows, —Paul Frohnappel, —Jay Booth, —Ka'hleen Booth, —Hudson, —Roy Meadows, —Mary Baumberger, —Lee Fitzsimmons, —Esther Young, —Barbara Arrick, —Carroll Booth, —Erlwine, —Ora Erlwine, —Camille Arrick, —John Linger, —Orion Erlwine, —Ruth Baumberger, —Lucille Meadows, —Wade, —Helen Daugherty, —Dimples Meadows, —Harry Swiger, —Bobby Wiley, —Dorothy Arrick, —Ima Lee Meadows, —Tice, —Eleanor Cullum, Teacher.

EFFORTS OF MRS. J. F. WAYNE AND MRS. A. L. BOOTH, 50 MEMBERS were secured. This was the largest membership of any rural school P.T.A. in the county and as it had more credits than any other school, the Welcome P.T.A. was presented a loving cup by the West Virginia Parent Teachers Association.

Officers were J. F. Wayne, Pres.; T. J. Frohnapfel; Vice Pres.; Mrs. O. C. Baumberger, Sec'y & Treas.

A second loving cup was won in 1937-38 for having the largest membership and the most credits of any rural school in the county. Officers were the same as the previous year. There were 102 members.

Officers for 1938-39 were the same as 1937-38, with 116 members. During the time the P.T.A. has been organized, several improvements have been made to the school house and to the play grounds.

Some P.T.A. projects completed, are gravel walks, swings, library books, piano, shelves, removable stage, and a monument for the first man to make a home in Community.

The P.T.A. holds an annual picnic, and this with the regular meetings has built up good fellowship, and an interest in the Community, that has not been shown for years.

In the summer of 1936 the P.T.A. took as project the securing of a monument for James McMechen, a soldier in Lord Dunmores Army, and the first white man to make a permanent home in the Community. With the assistance of Mr. C. B. Allman, Assistant County Sup't. of Schools a monument was secured from the U. S. Gov't. A dedication program was planned for the afternoon of Oct. 8th. and the D.A.R.'s, the American Legion, and all other patriotic organizations were invited to attend and take part in the program.

The Program was as follows;

A. L. Booth presiding.

Star Spangled Banner led by Miss Eleanor Cullum, and Welcome school.

Invocation,—The Lords Prayer by congregation.

Life history of Jas. McMechen by Miss J. D. Hutchison, of Marietta, Ohio.

Ritualistic services by the D.A.R.'s.

Address by Mr. C. E. Carrigan of Moundsville, West Va.

Ritualistic services by Earl Francis Post the American Legion, and taps.

About 200 people attended the dedication services. The life history of Mr. McMechen, and the address, given by Miss Hutchison, and Mr. Carrigan were very interesting and inspiring. It was one of the most interesting programs ever held in the Community, and the P.T.A. is to be congratulated on the work they have done.