

CRAIG FAMILIES

SARVER-MILLER-ANDERSON- BRICKEY-ABBOTT HOMEPLACE

Laying along Craigs Creek, at the base of Sink-ing Creek Mountain, in the Abbott section of Craig County is probably the oldest original land grant in Craig County still owned by the descendants of the original settler. This is the land patented by Casper Sorber, a German, in 1771. The land is known to the family as the Bertie Abbott farm, the Craigs Creek Ballfield, and the Mattie Place.

There is a record of a Casper Sorber, a German from the Palatinate who sailed on the ship William from Amsterdam to Philadelphia and "took & subscribed the oaths to the government" on Oct. 31, 1737. A Casper Sorber married Barbara Meyer on March 5, 1754 in the Germantown Reformed Church in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

My first verified record of our Casper Sorber was when he obtained four land patents beginning in 1771 in Botetourt County, Virginia. On Page 148 of Botetourt County will book A is Casper's will, dated Jan. 15, 1782. Casper lists his wife Elizabeth and his sons Henry, Casper, and John. Shortly after Casper's death the name Sorber was anglicized to Sarver.

John Sarver, on 13 Oct. 1802, put up the Sarver homeplace for security on a bond for John Miller who had gotten into some kind of trouble at Sweetsprings (DB 8, page 85-Bot. Co.).

Valentine Miller, also a German, moved to Craigs Creek with at least 3 teen-age daughters. Within a few years all the daughters had married local boys. The land passed into Roanoke County in 1838 when that county was formed. Valentine Miller died in the mid 1840's and the land passed to John and Abraham Wolf. In 1849 (Surveyors Book 1, Pg. 13, Roanoke County) the Wolfs sold the land to David Sizer and Lewis Huff. In 1851 the land passed into Craig County when that county was formed.

David Sizer and Mary his wife, and Lewis Huff and Elizabeth his wife sold the homeplace (April 18, 1857) to John Anderson from Fincastle, Virginia. There were 3 houses on the property, the large house was occupied by John and the small house next door occupied by John's son Hiram. Up the lane was another house later occupied by John's son Asa (Ace).

During the Civil War the Yankees came through twice. The first time was when Gen. William Averell came down from West Virginia in Dec. 1863 to raid Salem, and then he retreated back to West Virginia by the same route. The second time was June 1864 when the notorious Gen. David Hunter retreated to West Virginia, burning as he went, after burning and plundering in the lower Shenandoah Valley. John Anderson moved back to Fincastle after the Civil War and left his sons Hiram and Ace to run the farm.

On March 31, 1903 Ray Brickey, son-in-law of Hiram Anderson, bought the homeplace. Ray and his wife Jenny (Anderson) farmed the land until Jenny caught pneumonia and died March 12, 1930. Ray soon remarried and moved to Boones Mill in Franklin County, the home of his new wife. Ray Brickey sold the homeplace to his daughter Bertie Brickey Abbott.

Bertie Abbott died in 1981 and the land and houses passed to her children. The big house was burned in 1982. The present owners of the old homeplace can trace their ancestry back to Casper Sorber, the original settler in 1771.

Submitted by: Randy Abbott

ELLIS MONROE AND LETHA MAY BRICKEY ABBOTT

Ellis Monroe Abbott was born December 3, 1903, third child to Robert Preston and Sally Custer Abbott. He married Letha May Brickey, oldest daughter of Coley and Leslie Damewod

Brickey on December 12, 1923, in Bristol, Tennessee by Charlie Lett. E. M. and Letha's children were: Ellis, died 1942; Fred Odell; Herbert Monroe; Coleman Preston died 1937; Claudette; and Jerry Lynn died 1996.

E. M. was a successful businessman, beginning in 1924 with a Model T truck, he started in huckster business, delivering flour, sugar, and staple groceries to families on Upper Craig Creek. He traded his products for chickens, eggs, hams, fatback, butter, or whatever the families had to trade. His groceries were from his father's store, located at their home place on Route 621. Clayton and Laureen Abbott now own his home place. Clayton was a great-grandson of Robert Preston Abbott.

In 1924, the Abbotts opened their first store-restaurant and garage and lived in the back of the store where they started their family. In 1932-33, he moved across the creek where he had built a new brick store and gas station with living quarters upstairs. From this location, he operated a Saw Mill, Abbott Stone Co., New Castle Freight Lines, New Castle Radford Bus, Coal Delivery,



Ellis and Letha May Brickey Abbott

Milk Pick up and Delivery to Cheese Plant at Luster's Gate, Ice Delivery to New Castle and Craig Springs, Economy Supply Co., Economy Farm and Hardware in New Castle, Shipped Pulpwood by train to Westvaco, Picked up Coca Cola at Clifton Forge and delivered to businesses in New Castle, Masonic Theater until he built the Lynn Drive In Theater which was run by his son, Jerry in the 1950s. He also built a store in Craig City with a small restaurant in the back. In the 1950s, he moved the Sawmill to New Castle and he built a Trailer Court at the Craig Creek location and in early 1960 opened a Trailer Court in New Castle.

His last business that he opened was a development on Route 615, when he opened Abbott Acres. He also had rental property and real estate in several areas of Craig County. During my father's business years, he furnished jobs and housing to many people in Craig County, where other wise, they would have had to leave the county for employment and to raise their families. E. M. was a kind and hardworking man. In later years, when he and Letha went to Florida during the winter months, he even worked at a hardware store there, as he could not have idle time on his hands.

Ellis Monroe passed away on January 2, 1986, at the age of 83. Letha is 95 and resides in her apartment in the back of the store at Abbott, VA.

Submitted by: Claudette Abbott Brizendine

SALLIE CUSTER ABBOTT AND HER HORSE, OLD TOM

This fall of 1920 picture is of Old Tom, Sallie Custer Abbott's horse when she was young. Sallie taught public school at Hollins, Va. and she

boarded with a Hollins family during the week. Sallie rode Tom with a sidesaddle when she came home to the Custer homeplace at Rts. 621 and



Old Tom and Sallie Custer Abbott

619 in Craig County. Pearl Abbott, Sallie's daughter, is the girl in the picture and the dress she is wearing was made by her sister-in-law Bertie Abbott. The sign on Tom says "Tom age 33". The picture was taken at the Custer homeplace.

The Abbott family had to have Tom shot not long after this picture was taken because his teeth were worn down and he could not eat. All the family loved Old Tom and none of them wanted to shoot him. Buck Lee was loafing at the family store below the house and the family gave him something in payment to shoot Tom. Buck let Tom up around Morgansville and shot him.

Submitted by: Randy Abbott

SALLY CUSTER ABBOTT AND THE INDIANS

One of the most interesting accounts concerning the early Abbotts was that the oldest child, Sarah by Rev. Byrd Abbott's account and Sally by Marie Tripp's account, was kidnapped by the Indians during a raid on Craigs Creek while she was out milking. According to local legend Sally was about 11 years old when taken.

Sally was taken back to the village in central Ohio where at the age of 17 she was made the wife of a young chief and bore him two sons. Eventually she managed to get a letter to her father. Sally told them she was still alive and that she missed her people and asked them to write. She said the Indians were very kind to her and would give her anything she asked for, except permission to leave.

Later in years the Indians gave permission for Sally's father and four brothers to visit them. Sally's health was beginning to fail her. She was so happy to see her people once more before she died. Her father and brothers John, Tom, James and Dick were treated very kindly and when they left after 3 days, the Indians consented to let Sally go home for a visit. Sally was too sick to make the trip. That was the last time her people saw her and her children. The Indians gave the father and four brothers all the presents they could carry home on their horses, the Indians almost worshipped them.

Marie Tripp, who was raised by her grandmother Ellen Abbott Hacklethorn, told me that when she was growing up all the old Abbotts knew the story of Sally and the Indians.

Submitted by: Randy Abbott

MARJORIE SMITH ANDERSON

Marjorie Delores Smith was born September 9, 1927 in Montgomery County Indiana.

She is the daughter of Grover O. Smith and Marie Lewis Smith. Grover was the son of Harvey and Lydia Reid Smith. Harvey and Lydia came to Indiana from Craig County Virginia in 1899 with five children in a covered wagon with the desire to farm. Marie's father was Andrew Lewis. His ancestor, David Lewis, fought in the Revolution-

ary War for the Carolinas. The father of Marie's mother Amanda was a full blood Indian who was raised by the Bundy family in Clinton County, Indiana.

Marjorie married Robert Farr Anderson on October 14, 1945 in the Darlington Methodist Church. They have lived their entire married life on the farm where they now live.

Their daughter, Cynthia Jane was born February 1, 1947. She is a graduate of Milligan College at Johnson City, Tennessee. She married Thomas Hicok of Succasuna, New Jersey in 1969 in the Darlington Christian Church. Their daughter Anna was born April 24, 1976. They are divorced. Cindy taught at East Tennessee State College, Abington Community College in Abington, Virginia where Tom is a C. P. A., and in the Washington County grade schools. She now lives in Kokomo, Indiana and teaches in the Kokomo school system. Anna married Robin Vaul December 24, 1996. Their daughter Gretchen was born November 4, 1996. They are divorced. Anna lives in Kokomo and owns her own Beauty Shop.

Deborah Jo Anderson was born March 9, 1949. She graduated from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana in 1972 with a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling. She has been on the staff since her graduation in areas related to her degree such as Assistant Director for Student Services' of the Purdue Memorial Union, Student Union Board advisor and Mortar Board advisor.

Robert Michael Anderson was born March 17, 1959. Mike married Patricia Brooks on April 25, 1985 in the Darlington Christian Church. He attended Purdue University and lives on and operates the family farm as well as some rented ground. Their daughter Jessica Marie was born November 15, 1992.

Douglas Brian Anderson was born September 4, 1961. He was Indiana State Future Farmers of America Reporter in 1980. Doug graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agriculture and worked for twenty years as sales manager for a local seed corn company. He married Catherine Marie Henkel April 4, 1992 in the First Christian Church, Lafayette, Indiana. Their son Earl was born January 1, 1997, the first baby born in Tippecanoe County in 1997. Doug is now a commercial real estate broker in the Lafayette area. He has purchased and restored two older historical buildings in downtown Lafayette.

David Dean Anderson was born September 10, 1962. He was 1981 Indiana State Future Farmers Secretary. David was the winner of the 1981 National Future Farmers Swine Proficiency Award. He raised Purebred Hampshire, Yorkshire and Duroc hogs. He exhibited barrows at many of the major Midwest swine shows and won many awards including the grand Champion production barrow of National Barrow show at Austin, Minnesota, both the Grand Champion Barrow and Grand Champion Truckload at the 1984 North American Livestock Exp. At Louisville, Kentucky and also in 1984 was the first person in the history of the Hoosier Spring Barrow Show to exhibit both the Grand Champion and the Reserve Grand Champion.

David graduated from Purdue University with honors and a degree in Agricultural Management. Upon graduation he became a District Sales Manager for AgriGold seed corn and was promoted to Plant Manager at their Aroma Park, Illinois production plant. When AgriGold was purchased by Limagrain of France, David was made Production Vice-President for their U.S.A. corn and soybean operations. He married Marisa Chamness on November 30, 1991 at Indianapolis and they currently live in Carmel, Indiana. Their son Benjamin was born May 17, 1995 and their daughter Rachel Dee was born March 26, 1999. We are truly blessed with a loving Christian family.

Submitted by: Marjorie S. Anderson

WILLIAM BERLIN AND HELEN IRENE (HUMPHREYS) BAKER

William Berlin Baker (s/o Henry Watson Baker and Edna G. Rayhill) born December 11, 1907 and died November 12, 1971 in Paint Bank, Va. married October 23, 1937 to Helen Irene Humphreys (d/o John Henry Humphreys and Martha "Mattie" Jane Martin) born July 15, 1912 in Paint Bank, Va.

Helen and Berlin were born in Paint Bank, Va. and they were members of Maple Grove Christian Church. Helen and Berlin both attended Paint Bank Schools, and graduated from New Castle High School. Berlin graduated from Dunsmore Business College in Staunton, Virginia, with a business degree. When the couple decided to be married they went to the minister that baptized them, and he performed the marriage. Stanley H. Dysart married them October 23, 1937 at the Belmont Christian Church. The couple made their home on Berlin's family home place. The couple had a large chicken business plus a very large farm. It was nothing for them to prepare and dress 100 chickens for one delivery. With a large business, and a large farm to maintain plus a family to attend this couple was kept busy. No matter how much work was to be done, the family always attended church.

Today, Helen and her three boys keep the farm maintained. Still with 362 acres and 104 cows to keep watch on. The farm is located in the Hanging Rock Valley, and to visit this farm one can only say it is one of the most peacefully site in Craig County. Helen keeps very busy with the farm, plus she has many talents, one is she assembles and dresses beautiful dolls. When you see them you must touch, to see if they are real. Helen has been a blessing to all genealogy researches. She had shared so many dates and pictures with everyone. She had always lived in Paint Bank, and she and her family is very active with the community.

Berlin and Helen's children:

1. Dolan Lynwood Baker (Minister) married Ruth Maple (two children: William Dwayne married Mary Lane Griffin – they have on daughter, Rachael Lane Baker and Douglas Wayne married Janet Susan Mills – they have one daughter Kailey Morgan Baker.

2. Barton Scofield Baker (Teacher at W. Va. University) married Judy Kyle Carper (two children: Aaron Wesley married Tina Luzader, and Molly Lee)

3. Arden Filmore Baker (Manager at Covington Paper Mill) married 1. Allene Deloris Linton (one child: Ryan Christopher) 2. Cheryl Nicely

Submitted by: Dolan Lynwood Baker

ROY R. BELL

Roy Roscoe Bell of the Johns Creek section of the county of Craig was born on February 28, 1896 and was a son of John H. Bell and Amanda Virginia was a daughter of George A. and Elmira Taylor.

Roy married Clara Serena Taylor on September 20, 1922. She was a daughter of William Henderson and Olivia (Ollie) Looney Taylor of Paint Bank, Virginia. Clara was born on September 20, 1900. Roy and Clara had two daughters, Imogene Madonna, born on August 14, 1923 and Juanita Kathryn born on November 26, 1926. They had one son who died at birth.

Roy, Clara and family lived in Covington, Virginia for several years and Roy worked at the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. They then bought a farm on Barbours Creek in Craig County, on State Route 615, and moved back to Craig. Roy was a prominent farmer in Craig County and he and Clara worked very hard on the farm. Not only did Roy have cattle, hogs and chickens, he raised corn, wheat and hay. He cut timber on his farm and sold pulpwood. He had a sawmill moved in on his farm where logs were sawed for a new house. Several men of the county helped him build the two-story seven-room house with a bath.

Both of Roy and Clara's daughters, Imogene and Juanita attended the Barbours Creek School and graduated from New Castle High School.

Imogene graduated from NCHS in 1940 and Juanita in 1943. After graduation Imogene took a business course and worked for the Craig County Agricultural Agent. She then went to Covington, Virginia for more business training and worked at the Rayon Plant for a short time. She decided to return to Craig County and work for the Agricultural Agents, the work that she enjoyed very much. Imogene retired in December 1985 with more than forty-one years of dedicated service with VPI&SU, Extension Service.

Juanita went into training as a nurse with Lewis Gale Hospital soon after graduation from NCHS and received her diploma in September of 1947. She married John W. (Dempsey) Roche on November 1, 1947.

Dempsey was a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He taught Vocational Agriculture for several years and worked for Veterans Administration in Salem, Virginia until his death on February 23, 1976. Dempsey and Juanita had three children – Linda Gail, July Elaine and Kevin Wayne.

Due to failing health, Roy decided to sell his farm and build a house in New Castle and retire. They moved into the new house in 1965. Roy and Clara were active members of Cross Roads Church. Roy was a Trustee and Treasurer and Clara was a Sunday School Teacher and pianist. Roy passed away on December 16, 1972 and Clara on May 24, 1992.

Submitted by: Geraldine S. Farrier

SAMUEL T. BELL FAMILY

Our parents, Samuel Tilden Bell (3/29/1876 – 4/2/1965) and Della Blanch Bostic (6/21/1893 – 11/14/1977) were married on June 4, 1913. Daddy was the son of Robert Folis Bell and Minerva McKeever Bell of the Johns Creek area of Craig County. Our mother was daughter of John Wesley and Henrietta Ridgeway Bostic of Hollywood, West Virginia. Because our mother was under the age of twenty-one, she had to stand on the West Virginia side of the state line and Daddy on the Virginia side with the horse and buggy and the Reverend Surface stood on the line dividing the two states on Peters Mountain. The Reverend Surface also officiated at Daddy's funeral.

Daddy and Momma lived in the Paint Bank area until 1958 when they moved to the Sweet Springs Valley in adjoining Monroe County, West Virginia, where they lived until their deaths. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4, 1963, two years prior to Daddy's death.

During the early years of their marriage, Daddy worked cutting timber and peeling the bark in the springtime. After it seasoned, he would haul it down the mountain to Paint Bank and load it in the boxcars. At that time a train came in once a day.

One day Daddy and Andy Chapman were working in the woods when a tree fell on Daddy. Mr. Chapman thought Daddy was dead and ran down the mountain for help. When he returned with some other men, Daddy had regained consciousness and was trying to push the tree off himself.

Dr. Scott, who lived in Paint Bank at the time, and a Dr. Ballard sewed the wounds on his face (there were no plastic surgeons at the time). Another time Daddy and Will Switzer were working in the timber when a copperhead snake bit Daddy on his finger.

Mr. Switzer applied pressure to his arm while someone else poured turpentine on his finger. Daddy was jumping and trying to get loose and the men thought it was because the venom had entered his system but it was because Mr. Switzer was squeezing his arm so tight.

Daddy also worked for the WPA (Work Progress Association) and farmed.

My mother was a hard-working housewife who for many years did the family laundry on a washboard and heated the irons she used on the cook stove. She sewed, canned fruits and vegetables and I think she was truly a blue-ribbon cook. She and Daddy reared seven children:

Leroy (10/27/1914 – 12/17/1994), who served

his country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He retired from the Westvaco Paper Mill in Covington, Virginia, and is buried in the family plot in the Paint Bank Community Cemetery.

Clyde Traynham (1/29/1917 – 1/30/1996) also served in World War II and retired from Westvaco Paper Mill in Covington. He was married to the former Marie Eleanor Alfred, who still lives in Covington. They reared one daughter, Della Marie, who is married to Theodore Roosevelt Moore. They had three grandchildren, Theodore Clyde Moore, Ann Marie Martin and Susan Elizabeth Shifflett; seven great-grandchildren, Michael Jason Martin, James Brandon Martin, Theodore Carl Traynham Shifflett, Jessica Jolene Shifflett, Joseph Timothy Shifflett, Daniel Tilden Shifflett, and Amy Marie Moore; one step-great grandson, Benjamin Keith Redman; and two great grandchildren, Troy Michael Bankert and Angelyna Marie Redman. Clyde is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Covington.

Etta Ruth (9/27/1920 – 4/20/2000) worked many years as a cosmetologist and retired from S. H. Heironimus in Roanoke. Ruth was a very loving sister who enjoyed the very basic things in life. She enjoyed Christmas, Easter and other holidays to the fullest, and enjoyed cooking and sharing her delicious meals with others. She was devoted to her nieces and nephews. Ruth is buried in the family plot at Paint Bank Community Cemetery.

Ruby May (8/7/1923), a Registered Nurse, worked in several hospitals in Virginia, Georgia, New Jersey and Colorado. She is married to George Krause from Kansas, who served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He flew on fifty combat missions on a B-17 bomber. They have one son, George Samuel Krause, who is married to the former Virginia Kanka. All lived in the Mechanicsville, Virginia area.

Ira Lester (1/14/1928) served in the Korean Conflict. He is retired from General Electric, Salem, Virginia, and lives with his wife, the former Sue Carol Delp, in Bedford, Virginia. They have three children, Etta Sue who is married to Lynn Dickerson, Ira David and Max Leroy; and four grandchildren, Zenna Laurel, Robert Bradley, Nancy Ruth and Sarah Minerva Dickerson, residents of Virginia Beach.

Charles Bernard (2/15/1932 – 4/17/1999), who received a Purple Heart during the Korean Conflict. His first wife was Shirley Mae Doss. They had five children: Charles Jr., Karen Ann Bell Alabran, Lester Dean, Patricia Mae and Cynthia Lee Bell Jones. After their divorce, Charles married Evelyn Hill and they had four children: Charlene Bernice, Michael Allen, Brenda Blanch Bell Chute, and Chandra Gail.

Charles had eleven grandchildren: Deric Matthew Bell, Kristina Layne Bell, Craig Bradford Bell, Jonathan Wesley Alabran, Stephanie Blanch Bell, Dustin Grant Bell, Lindsay Renee Jones, Brittanie Lee Jones, Eric Michael Chute, Chelsea Danielle Chute, Michaela Shari Bell and one great-granddaughter, Erika LaShawn Finney.

Charles, a retired over-the-road trucker was buried with full military honors in Concord Cemetery, Grove City, Ohio.

Lucy Alberta (1/23/1935) lives in Virginia Beach with her husband, Ronald Lewis Lawrence, a career U. S. Navy retiree, who served as a Hospital Corpsman Chief. After tours in Great Lakes, Illinois, Norfolk, Virginia, Cheltenham, Maryland, Oakland, California, Vietnam, San Diego, California, and two tours of sea duty, we were happy to retire on the East Coast. I was fortunate to transfer to all stateside duty stations with him as a civil service employee.

We have two children, Ronald, Jr., and Teresa Blanch Lawrence McAdams; four grandchildren, Shannon Lawrence Girdlestone, Angela Lynn McAdams, Jason Scott McAdams, and Lindsay Michelle McAdams; and three great-grandchildren: Samantha Karen and Severn Jason Girdlestone, and Ashley Elizabeth Stone.

We all have fond memories of growing up in Craig County, despite the depression and other hardships.

Having God-fearing parents and good neighbors provided each of with determination and fortitude.

Submitted by: Alberta Bell Lawrence

BOITNOTT FAMILY

Charles Reese Boitnott was born in Franklin County, Virginia in 1902. Georgia Mildred Gilbert Boitnott was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1905.

Reese and Georgia met in Roanoke, Virginia and were married on November 5, 1926 by C. H. Ray, Methodist Minister. This union was blessed with three children Juanita Jean who married Dr. Ralph Palumbo. They had one son, Christopher, and one daughter,

Christina. Jean died at the age of forty with an aneurysm of the temple. They were in the U. S. Navy stationed in Panama.

Their second child a son, Charles Reese, Jr. married Jackie Stovall and they were blessed with three children. They have two sons, Bart Gilbert and Allan Reese, and one daughter, Monique



Boitnott Family Homeplace

Jean. Reese and Georgia had a third child, Sara Frances. Sara married Russell Paddock and they have two daughters, Kimberly and Lisa.

Reese worked for Oakey's Funeral Home in Roanoke and was sent to work funerals in Craig County. People would say to him, "Why don't you come to Craig County and open a funeral home?" He did just that in 1950. He built a very successful business.

Reese and Georgia were involved with their church and community. Georgia played a large part in the forming of Craig Valley Baptist Church. They both were active with the Masons and the Eastern Star.

In 1968, Reese began to experience ill health so he talked his son, Charles, Jr. (Buddy), who was getting ready to retire from the U. S. Navy into going into the funeral home business and moving to Craig County. Buddy served for 21 years in the Underwater Demolition Team and the Seal Team at Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk. Buddy came to help carry on the family business in New Castle.

After retirement from the Navy, Buddy graduated from Mortuary College in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Boitnott Funeral home ran an ambulance service. This tied the staff down, Buddy helped start a Rescue Squad for Craig County.

He was elected Mayor of New Castle, as a write in candidate. He served three terms. Buddy, Jackie, and children attended New Castle Methodist Church where Buddy served as a Lay Speaker.

The Lord called Buddy into the ministry in 1996. He served Hebron Church for seven years. Buddy became ill and the Lord called him home on July 10, 2001, leaving his wife, of forty-four years, sons, Allan Reese and Bart Gilbert and wife, Amanda, a daughter, Monique Jean and husband, Ted Bentley. Grandchildren, Jasmine Rhiannon, Elinda Boitnott, Austin Vaden, Lauren, Hannah, and Jourdan Reese Bentley, also survived him.

Buddy and Jackie purchased the home that was built in 1886 by Judge James Marshall.

At the Judge's death, the house was sold to Paris and Gertrude Tatum. Their son, Bill and

wife, Mildred inherited the house and sold the house to us in 1976. It is a wonderful place to raise a family and the house lends itself to children.

Submitted by: Jackie Boitnott

JAMES FORREST BOSTIC

James Forrest Bostic was born on May 1, 1927 in Monroe, West Virginia. His parents were James "Pierce" and Effie Wiley Bostic. James grew up in the Paint Bank area of Virginia and graduated from New Castle High School in 1944. He had nine brothers; Lawrence, Houston, Dallas, Fred, Julian, Lester, Connie, Jerry, Gilbert and one sister Marie.

James was drafted and served in the U.S.



James Forrest Bostic

Army. He was active during the years of 1945 and in 1951.

James married Blanche Carper on December 9, 1944 and they lived in New Castle. They had two sons, James Allen was born July 27, 1945 and Douglas Lynn was born on October 22, 1952. He raised his family in Craig County. His sons, Allen and Doug currently reside in New Castle.

Submitted by: Sue Sublett Bostic

JAMES, SUE AND JAKE BOSTIC



James, Sue and Jake Bostic

James "Jamie" Darrell Bostic was born December 21, 1972 at Roanoke, Virginia. He is a son of Douglas Lynn and Mildred Smith Bostic. Jamie graduated from Craig County High School in 1990. He completed Nashville Auto Diesel Trade School in 1991. He then became employed at Norfolk and Southern Railroad in Roanoke. November 1999 Jamie changed jobs and became employed by Verizon Telephone Company where he is currently a cable splicer. Jamie enjoys hunting and fishing.

Lillian Sue Sublett was born March 22, 1968 at

Roanoke, Virginia. She is a daughter of Joe Miller and Erma Maness Sublett. She graduated from New Castle High School in 1987. She completed some college at New River Community College and then graduated from the Roanoke City Police Academy in 1990. She patrolled as a mid-night officer until 1993. In 1993 she returned to the family farm and took over the business called Joe's Trees. In 1996 she became a part-time employee of the Craig County Sheriff's Office as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Instructor. She enjoys cooking, hunting and being outdoors.

Jamie and Sue were friends and knew each other during high school days. In January 1993 they started dating and were married on July 29, 1997 at Dare County, North Carolina. Jamie and his Dad started to build Sue and Jamie's Log home in the spring of 1998, which is located on Route 615, two miles from New Castle, Virginia. The couple moved into their new home seven days before their son Jake Miller Bostic was born on August 18, 1999. They are expecting their second child, which is due on July 4, 2002. Jamie and Sue now spend most of their time involved with family activities.

Submitted by: Sue Bostic

JOHN HERMAN AND THELMA RAEBURN HELMS BOWERS

Herman was born May 18, 1906 at Lignite in Botetourt County. He was the son of John Isaac Lang Bowers and Georgiana Simpson Bowers and moved to Paint Bank as a small child. Raeburn was born in Blue Spring Run in Allegheny County, December 14, 1912 and was the daughter of Joe Sie Helms and Mary Emmaline Bess Helms. Raeburn moved with her family to Red Brush as a young girl. Married in New Castle on July 2, 1930, they lived on Barbours Creek and Herman worked in timber. To this union were born 7 children, Gay Nelle, Melvin, Robert, John, Linda, Roy and Dale.

During World War II they were self-sufficient, raising most of their own food, with Raeburn canning and preserving a lot of it. She sewed most of the children's clothes, using feedbags and recycled fabric.

It has been said that Herman never saw a tree that he didn't want to cut, and that the only reason he'd go to the moon would be to see if there were trees up there. He cut and shipped logs, cross ties, extract and lumber and also sold firewood. Once, while working near New Castle, he was using a mule to drag logs. Somehow the mule dragged a log over his leg and it was broken in several places. While he recuperated, he visited with his sister, Dorothy Crosier, in Indiana and thought he'd like to move there.

In 1949, they moved to Indiana and Herman farmed and worked at a roofing factory for a while, but he still loved to cut trees. In his retirement years, Herman dabbled in antiques. He loved to go to sales and trade with other people and work on gunstocks. Raeburn sewed and quilted and did alterations for people.

Herman died June 1, 1978 and was buried in Liberty Indiana. Raeburn lives in Liberty, Indiana and still does her own housework and cans and freezes and enjoys being independent. Her family visits and someone is always dropping in. Her son, Roy, lives with her. All of her grandchildren call her "Granny" and most of the neighbors' children do too. Herman and Raeburn have 18 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren.

Submitted by: Gay Nelle Bowers Fridley

BOWERS-SIMPSON

John Isaac Land Bowers (J. I.), born September 3, 1868 in Botetourt County, son of William Lewis and Sarah Simmons Bowers, and Georgeanna Simpson, born February 6, 1872, in Botetourt County, the daughter of James B. and Ann Matilda Heslep Simpson, were married in Botetourt County on January 18, 1893. The

couple lived in Botetourt County the first eleven years of their marriage while J. I. Worked at the iron ore furnace at Longdale, getting up at 2 a.m. on Monday morning to walk across the mountain to Longdale where he remained until Saturday. He earned 75 cents a day. J. I. Then began to work as a stem shovel operator for the iron ore mining company at Lignite. When the mining company moved its operation to Paint Bank, J. I. and Georgeanna moved with the company where they settled in one of the company houses (located next door to the schoolhouse). The company moved the family and its belongings by train to New Castle. From New Castle, they traveled by horse and wagon to Paint Bank. J. I. Continued to work for the mining company until it moved operations from Paint Bank. He and Georgeanna purchased their house from the company and remained in Paint Bank where they actively participated in the community activities. J. I. began to cut and haul timber in order to support his family.

Georgeanna was a midwife and assisted the local doctor with nursing duties. J. I. owned a hack and a team of mules and often hauled caskets and/or mourners to the local graveyards. It was said that Georgeanna helped to bring half of the citizens of Paint Bank into the world and J. I. Helped the other half to leave the world.

J. I. and Georgeanna and their children at-



Georgeanna Simpson and John Bowers

tended the northern Methodist Church in Paint Bank (building no longer exists). At one time J. I. was the Sunday School Superintendent. Because he could not read or write, he had his children read the Sunday Readings to him during the week until he had memorized his text as well as that of the congregation.

J. I. and Georgeanna were the parents of fourteen children:

Therry Millicent, 1893-1973, married Aaron Linton; Clara Brock, 1896-1939, married George Layman Tingler; Matilda, 1897-98 to 100-01; Ray William, 1898-1973, married Ida Bess (first) and Bertha Boone; Bunia, born and died 1899-1900; Tommy Sherman, 1901-1914; John Herman, 1906-1986, married Thelma Armentrout; George, born and died 1910; Lula Virginia, 1911-, married Leonard Kelly; Infant female, between 1911-1914; Infant female, between 1911-1914; James Maxwell, 1915, married Frances Ilene Fridley; Dorothy Odelia, 1917-1962, married Paul Crosier; moved to Indiana about 1948.

Georgeanna died December 6, 1945 at Paint Bank. Following her death J. I. visited with his children and was staying with his son, Ray, at Paint Bank when he died November 6, 1948. Both are buried in the Wilson Cemetery, as is their son, Tommy. If their other children who died after the family moved to Paint Bank are buried in this cemetery, there are no markers on their graves.

Submitted by:

WILLIE MILDRED BRICKEY

A Legend in Her Own Right

Many times we learn of the renowned hunters of Craig County and their awesome experiences

in these immense and beautiful mountains. Unfortunately, we are educated with only partial history as almost all of the stories are about men. Herein is told of the prowess of a more feminine huntswoman who spent all of her life bringing in "The Big Ones".

Willie Mildred Brickey was herself born to one of the most famous hunters in Craig County. How could a daughter of Coley Brickey have done anything else but to follow in her father's tracks? She was born on Craig's Creek in 1910 to Coleman and Leslie Damewood Brickey and spent her entire life in these mountains. Her childhood was made up of hunting, exploring and farming with her brother, Charlie Brickey. She helped her father to live-trap foxes to train the hunting dogs. She learned early in life how to track a deer, snag a fish and skin a squirrel.

When she married William Brownie Huffman in 1932 and "settled down" (written in sarcasm), she was blessed by the good Lord with a lifelong hunting companion. Brownie and she tracked and traveled countless miles through these mountains in search of deer, turkey, squirrels and rabbits. Hunting and fishing were the "sports and hobbies" that fed their daughters, grandchildren and friends.

As with any other full time hunter, Willie's book of life is filled with countless legends of

things seen and done in the woods. One of the few times that Brownie was ever perturbed with Willie was during a certain deer season. Willie and Brownie were always above board with their seasonal kills and bought as many tags as allowed. The crux of the situation was that Willie killed two bucks with one shot and Brownie had to check one of them in with his last remaining tag. Another time, Willie wounded a huge buck while hunting on John's Creek. She blood tracked the deer for about 3 miles through mountain, finally getting a killing shot and field dressed him for the return back to the cabin. What surprised her at this point was that he was too big for her to drag out by herself. Maybe this was due to the fact that she was about 75 years old with a debilitating case of arthritis. She walked back to the cabin, enlisted the help of her grandson and proceeded to hike back to her trophy buck. It was dark when she checked him in but she told that he was well worth the travel time.

Willie hunted until she could no longer track the mountain or steady a gun. For awhile she would set a deer stand close to the cabin or watch along the creek behind her house. But her hunting legacy will never end, as she was happy to pass along her love of the mountains and game to her daughters and grandchildren. Several of us have the happiest memories of following Granny Bill on our first squirrel hunt through the autumn woods. As with any other learning of life experience, we were unaware of all the lessons learned during those trips. Not only did she teach us about guns and game, she taught respect, patience and her intense connection to the mountains of Craig County.

Submitted by: Susan Shea Stimeling and Charley Gail Stull

ADAM BRITZ/BRITTS

Born, January 24, 1741 in Russheim, Baden Germany, was baptized as Johann Adam Britz in 1741, in the Russheim Evangelical Lutheran Church. Adam was 8 years old when his family came to America in 1749. Adam was the son of George Ulrich and Anna Catharina Werner Britz. His family settled in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, later this area became Franklin Co. Tax records for Franklin County shows Adam had 224 acres of land, 3 horses and 7 head of cattle in 1780. Adam served in the Penn. Militia in 1779 and again in 1781 in the Revolutionary War.

Adam married Margaret Stover in the fall of 1768; to this union, 2 boys and 6 girls were born in Penn. In 1793, along with several other German families, Adam and family moved to Botetourt County Virginia, to the area of Craig Creek. Adam purchased 500 acres of land along Craig Creek.