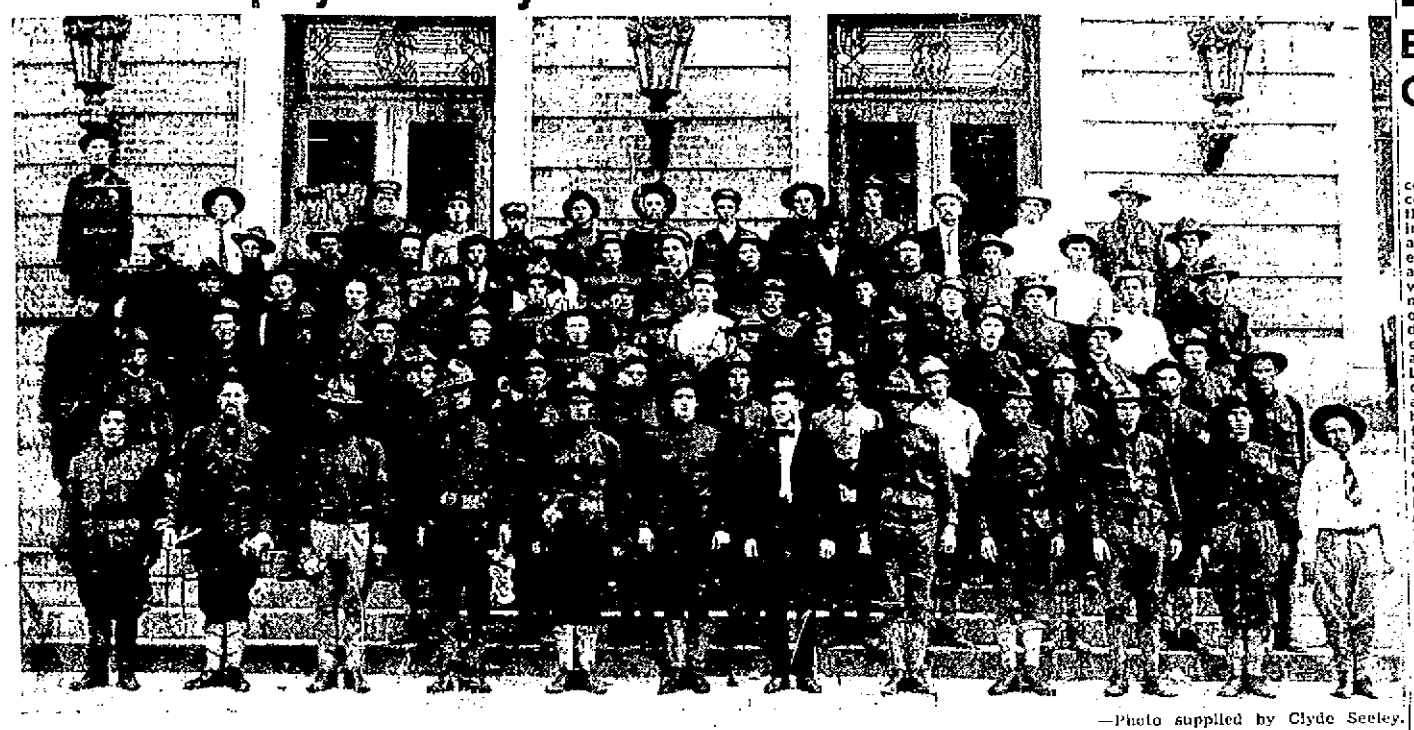
Edition
Jubilee
Diamond

THE SENTINEL-ECHO

Section
P

ESTABLISHED IN 1873 — LONDON, KENTUCKY — EIGHTY-SECOND YEAR

London Company Kentucky National Guard In World War I



—Photo supplied by Clyde Seeley.

Front row left to right: J. K. Dillion, Rus Carrier, Gilbert Bundy, Lon Chewning, Ben Pennington, Arch Hayward, Garrard Ford, Ballard Hughes, Joe L. Tigue, —, —, Henry Scales. Second row: J. M. Harper, Cyrus Gregory, —, —, N. T. Russell, —, Bill Harkleroad, Ross Bryant, —, —, Harry (Dad) Gregory, —, Gus Hauser, —, Proffitt, —, —, —, Skid Johnson. Fourth row: —, —, —, —, Jennings Burchell, —, —, Ralph Tanner, Ed. Parman, —, Parson Davis, —, H. P. Lewis. Fifth row: —, Clyde Seeley, —, —, —, Bob Lewis, —, —, —, Jackson, Louis Dischler, —, James D. Gregory. Six row: D. Frank Gregory, —, —, Milton Gregory, —, —, —, Lawrence Sams, Hunter Burchell, George Roberts, Raymond Poynter, D. C. Edwards, —, Jarve Jackson.

Laurel Countians Participating In America's Wars

Many Answered The Call In Every Conflict In Which We Have Engaged

Fourteen of the special sections of this Diamond Jubilee Edition have been devoted of the goings-on in Laurel county, and doings of Laurel countians wherever they may be, during peace times. It is fitting that a considerable part of this last section be devoted to those who have risked their all, and often given their lives, in defense of their country during times of war.

Of course it would be impossible to collect, let alone report, all the facts concerning activities, devotions and sacrifices by Laurel county boys who have answered the call of duty in the several wars in which the United States have been engaged. We have tried to give the essence of the whole through stories, in words and pictures, of representative groups and individuals participating in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

Revolutionary War

The Sentinel-Echo, March 24, 1932

Mrs. Anna Walker Burns of Frankfort, descendant of Dr. Thomas Walker and originator of the Mountain Laurel Festival at Pineville, was in London the week before March 24, 1932, compiling historical data for a volume of history she contemplated publishing. While here she furnished us with the following list of Revolutionary soldiers who had lived in Laurel county while drawing pensions:

Elijah Clark, Private, belonged to the Maryland Militia, placed on pension roll March 4, 1831, and his pension began April 25, 1834. Age 81.

John Evans, Private, Virginia Militia, April 4, 1831, and June 20, 1834.

James French, Private, New York line, March 4, 1831, Sept. 5, 1833. Age 94.

John Forbes, private and sergeant, North Carolina line, March 4, 1831, and Dec. 2, 1833. Age 76 years.

John Freeman, private, Virginia Militia, March 4, 1831, and Feb. 2, 1834. Age 70.

Titus Mershon, in 1940, age 91.

Ambrose Pitman, age 92, in 1840.

John Hicks, age 84, in 1840.

Solomon Stanberry, private, North Carolina line, March 4, 1831, and Feb. 19, 1833. Age 79.

John Simpson, private, North Carolina Militia, March 4, 1831, and June 1, 1833. Age 72.

(From the London Sentinel, Nov. 12, 1914)

Samuel Weaver, Revolutionary soldier who cooked potatoes on which General Marion feasted an English officer, a feast famous in history, is buried in an unmarked grave at Providence Baptist church. So says his grandson, Joseph Weaver, a son of Rev. David Weaver. Recorded on page 88, History of Churches and Schools.

War Of 1812

McNEILL'S COMPANY

Prepared by ERNEST ANDES

McNeill's Company of the Second Regiment (Jenning's) Kentucky Volunteer Militia, was organized by James McNeill and served in the War of 1812 from Sept. 1, 1812, to April 8, 1813.

James McNeill, Captain,
Jarvis Jackson, Lieutenant,
Nathaniel D. Moore, Ensign,
Andrew Logan, Sergeant,
Thomas Bailey, Fifer,
Isaac Dowes, (Davis) Drummer.

Jesse Gray, George Reynolds, William Cathers (Cather), Thomas Spencer (Spensor), William Dowes (Dewese) (Dowese), Robert Stinson, Thomas Barton, William Early, James Farris, Thomas Pitman, James Johnson, Julius Dugan (Druggen) (Dugger) Samuel McHargue (1), John Boyd, Sims Adams, John Holman, Sion Mercer (Messer) (2), Stephen Mercer (Messer) (2), Christopher Horn, Joseph James (3), John Davis, Isaac Ingraham (4), John Wright, Robert Gregory, Francis Hunter, Holland Watts, John Green, Chrisley Grubb (5), John Cheek, Charles Haddox, Joshua Bingham, William Johnson, James Gamble, Joseph Gillis (6), George Reynolds (6).

(1) Samuel McHargue promoted to Sergt. Dec. 23, 1812.

(2) Sion and Stephen Mercer (Messer) deserted Sept. 22, 1812.

(3) Joseph James promoted to Corporal Dec. 23, 1812.

(4) Isaac Ingraham promoted to Corporal Feb. 4, 1813.

(5) Chrisley Grubb deserted.

(6) Gillis and Reynolds did not appear on September 1812 rolls but are shown on the April 1813 discharge roll.

The above taken from Pay Roll, September 1812 and Muster (final) Roll, April 1813 and checked against others. Names in parentheses show other spelling used. I use what appear to be correct.

Capt. McNeill's company was mustered in at Newport, Ky., on Sept. 1, 1812, was there until October, went to Fort Jennings for the duration of their service and was returned to Newport and mustered out April 18, 1813. The 2nd Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers, was under command of Lt. Colonel Commandant William Jennings and assigned to General Winchester's army. The other companies comprising the 2nd Regiment were Captain's James Anderson, Samuel Lapsley, Daniel Garrard, Henry James, Silvanus Massier, Wm. M. Morrison, Tunstall Quarles and Wm. Spratt.

On the first Muster Roll kept by Capt. James H. McNeill, April 10, 1812, were the names of 81 persons, 31 of which appear on the final Muster Roll. Names of those on the first and not on the last are:

Sgts. Joseph Craig, William Dugger, Elias Swift.

Cpls. Thomas Moody, Hiram Litton, John Hammer.

Privates William Deweese, Malen Bishop, Clemint Jourden, Philip Pate, Leonard Nicholson, Isom Farris, Richard Johnson, William Carr, John Tuttle, Allen Bryant, Isaacs Newton Doswell Holt, Isom Meadows, John Bishop, Thomas Holt, Nathan Shelley, Duncan McFarlin, Pleasant Meadows, Benjamin Blewlow, Drury Smith, Thomas Cape, Alexander Hill, Stanley Hatfield, Osbourn Cox, Berry Jones, Jacob Messer, James Wilkerson, James Helton, Nathaniel Cox, Drewey Benge, Moses Warren, Mordia Michel, Henry Taylor, Bannett Davis, John Miller, James Faulker, Samuel Simons, John Swift, James Mulkey, Joel Standfield.

Interesting Facts

These interesting facts are gathered from the records left by Capt. McNeill:

When mustered in there were three swords, one for each officer; and there were 23 guns, powder and horns among the others.

On the Sept. 1st roll many were absent, some to other organizations, some sick and on furlough. There were these "substitutions": Jesse Gray for Cpl. John Hammer, Benjamin Tuggle for John Tuttle, William Johnson for Goodman Oldham.

An inventory in September 1812 showed these in possession of the company: 22 rifles and pouches and horns, 5½ pounds powder, 262 balls, 14 each musquets, cartridge boxes, bayonets and B. belts, 83 cartridges, 28 flints, 3 screwdrivers, 3 B. screws, 3 G. worms, 1 drum, 1 fife, 1 sword.

On the payroll of Oct. 23, 1812, 23 received a total of $69.51 cents 4 mills, payments ranging from 14 cents to $8 - 97 cents 8 mills. 13 drew shoes at $1.50 a pair.

On the Dec. 11, 1812 payroll 10 drew pantaloons, 25 socks, 15 mittings, 6 short coats, 2 shirts, 1 hunting shirt, 5 blankets, 5 waist coats, 6 shoes. They totaled $83.75, and there was no "Balance in the company". 31 different persons listed drew one or more items. Who donated the items is not disclosed.

Capt. James McNeill and Lieut. Jarvis Jackson were, respectively, of the second generation of the Johnathan McNeill and John Jackson families treated in the "Pioneer" section of this edition; and more about them will be found in other articles.

Mexican War

CAPTAIN COLDWELL'S COMPANY

BY ERNEST ANDES

The company was organized by Capt. Andrew F. Coldwell at London and enrolled there September 13, 1874 for the duration of the war. Mustered in as Company K, 3rd Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Foot Infantry on October 5, 1847 at Louisville they reached Mexico City in December 1847 and remained in that vicinity until June 1848 when they were returned and mustered out at Louisville on July 21, 1848. The 3rd Regiment was under the command of Col. Manlius V. Thomason, Lt.-Col. Thomas L. Crittenden and Maj. John C. Breckinridge. The personnel of Company K follows:

Andrew F. Coldwell, Captain;
Jesse B. Davis, 1st Lt.; John Brock, 2nd Lt.; William M. Farris, 2nd Lt.

Sgts. d Thomas R. Harmon 1st., James Wells, Josiah Davis, William C. Brawner.

Corps. Andrew J. Shryock, Joseph G. Faris, d Calvin Wells, Andrew J. Veach (Veatch).

Musicians Otho P. Sims (Simms), *John Tuttle.

Privates
Wesley Acton, (Sgt.),
Edward Arthur,
Christopher B. Adkins,
Zimmerl Box, (Cpl.),
*Andrew C. Burk,
William Brown,
*William Bryant,
Joseph Ballinger,
dAlonzo L. Byron,
William Beams,
John Burkhard,
*Basil Brawner,
tJames Cameron,
James R. Cox, (Cpl.),
*Henry N. Cantor,
dJarvis J. Canifax,
Skelton Coleman,
Hiram F. Cravens,
dJohn Canada,
Alexander Comstock,
Thos. Dunsill (Dunstil),
dJohn M. Englin (England),
*William R. Ellison,
dAlex Frazier,
William Flinn,
William Fugate (Frugit),
Canada (Kennedy) Goens (Goins),
*Pinckney A. Hall,
*Joshua Hendrickson,
Edwin Hicks,
Isaac D. Jackson,
Wiley Jones,
George Jones,
Granville P. Knight,
*John Kerr,
Tarlton Lunsford,
Harvey Leftridge,
James L. Mitchell (Sgt.),
Charles McCarty,
Edward Maloney,
*Granville P. Murray,

Continued on Page P3

Made Camp Wildcat Impregnable

—Photo supplied by F. V. Lucas.

ONLY APPROACH TO CAMP WILDCAT, the thirty acre high "flat" where General Garrard men's had established themselves in October, 1861, was this perpendicular rock formation 200 yards long and at one place only twenty feet wide. The camp itself was also protected by precipitous slopes and perpendicular cliffs. General Felix Zollicoffer found the task of storming it an impossible one. In this picture, taken in 1942 for "In Kentucky" magazine, are seen Russell Dyche, left, and Fred V. Lucas, indicating the narrowness of the approach.

Pioneer Families Of Laurel County

Early Laurel County History

By REV. J. J. DICKEY

(Rev. J. J. Dickey, a native of Fleming county, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founder and long the head of Lees College at Jackson, was instrumental in the selection of London as the site of a mountain school to be established by the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society of his church, which was named the Sue Bennett Memorial School, as well as in the building of its plant. He was in and about London quite a lot in the 1890's. Being interested in Kentucky history in general, and a member of The Filson Club of Louisville, he early began collecting data on Laurel county history, having the advantage of talking to several members of the second generation of pioneer families who were then living in the county. Mr. Dickey attempted to organize a county historical society, and my memory is that he was partly successful. Becoming interested in the work were Nat B. Sewell and other early S. B. M. S. students, but whatever organization resulted soon disbanded. The following items by Mr. Dickey are copied from The Mountain Echo, Sept. 4, 1896).

In 1801 Richard Pitman moved from Woodford county and settled on Raccoon Creek. Johnathan McNeill preceded him a year or two. Mr. McNeill lived in the (Woods) block house on Hazel Patch while he built his home where Mrs. Newman now lives, on Raccoon. It was into this house that Richard Pitman moved. A few years after Richard Pitman came to Laurel county his brother, Ambrose Pitman, came and settled not far from his brother. The Pitmans and Johnathan McNeill bought land from George Thompson of Mercer county, out of what is known as the Thompson survey., Richard Pitman paid 160 pounds, about $800, got 1605 acres.

In 1806 John Pearl moved into the same neighborhood. William Pearl, brother of John, settled in the same part of the county in a very early day. They came from Crab Orchard, Lincoln county. John Pearl was the father of Judge Granville Pearl, Mrs. Wm. B. Landrum, and Mrs. Emily Hardin. William Pearl was the father of Alexander Pearl and grandfather of Jasper and Harvey Pearl (and of first Mrs. C. N. Scoville). (In a letter written from Flemingsburg, Ky., Dec. 30, 1932, to Theo G. Moren, Rev. Dickey, then 90 years old, said that Mrs. Titus Mershons was a cousin of John and William Pearl.).

In 1808 John Freeman moved from Suphur Wells, Jessamine county, and located where his daughter, widow of Judge Levi Jackson, now lives. For two years, while he built the two story log house, he lived in a log house that stood on the farm now owned by Mrs. Hiley Sparks (now by Cicero C. Feltner) a fourth of a mile north of Henry Yaden's (Now John H. Broughton's) present residence, on the same side of the road on the eminence north of his house: the site long known as the "Burnt Chimney". The house is said to have been the first built in that section. John Faris, grandfather of Witten Faris (Great-grandfather of Miss Eva Faris) once lived there. The house built by John Freeman continued to be used as a hotel till Judge Jackson's death in 1879.

To give some idea of the travel in those days, we will mention an old lady known as "Grandma" Bull, who had lived in the same house prior to the coming of the Freemans. She told them that the travel was so great that she kept cooking from before daylight till after dark. Bear meat and corn bread was the fare, and so great was the press that she got whatever she asked for something to eat. She said she would have to empty the gold and silver from her pocket before night would come, because the bulk was uncomfortably heavy. The men would broil bear meat on the coals while she would bake the bread; then they would pay her the money and go on. Mr. Freeman hauled corn from Crab Orchard till he could have it raised to supply his hotel.

Luke Watkins, father of Wiley and James lived in this neighborhood when he came. He moved from South Carolina. He used to furnish Mr. Freeman's table with venison. One month he killed 77 deer.

(On Dec. 30, 1932, writing from Flemingsburg, Rev. J. J. Dickey mailed the following to Theo. G. Moren, remarking: "Dear Theodore, I found this paper in looking through old papers. It may be of some interest to you. I am 90, and still at work.—J. J. Dickey." Rev. Dickey died in 1934 at the age of 93 years.)

Titus Mershon was born in the "Northards". He married Annie Weedon, and they were the mother of Nancy who was married to John Moren by Rev. Thomas Robinson. Daniel Owsley's wife and Titus Mershon's wife were cousins. Mrs. Moren was taken to Mr. Owsley's when a child after her mother died, to be raised. She was next to the youngest child. She stayed in Lincoln, at Owsley's, till she was twelve or thirteen years old, then went back to Crab Orchard and lived with her brother, William Mershon, who was living there learning the tanner trade. Weedon Mershon, her youngest brother, was a baby when his mother died. He lived in Laurel.

When Mrs. Moren first married houses were scarse. Wolves and wildcats were numerous. Their howls and screams could be heard. Widow Betsey Kethers, called "granny," who owned slaves, were neighbors—John Aikman, Samuel Black, Moses Moore and Jesse Moore, his half brother.

Her two brothers, William and Weeden, west West. They used to write to her, begging her to write to them. This made her sad, as she could not write. She determined that her girls should write if she had to work her fingers nails off. Her mother's brother, Jack Weedon, came to Lincoln county visiting. Mrs. Moren went to school at Crab Orchard. Her father's brother, Benjamin Mershon, lived in Frankfort for a long time. She never saw her uncle Jack but once.

Mrs. Moren was married 25th of Dec. 1824. There was a big fight around a log heap that day at John Aikman's where they were married. Freemans, Cornetts, Pearls and Mershons.

Titus Mershon said that when the British would come to his father's house, his mother would hang out as many red signals as there were British in the house.

Titus Mershon, born in New Jersey, August, 22, 1756, died in 1842, was a large merchant in Frankfort, said to have been the richest man there. He failed in business and came to Laurel, then Knox, about 1812. His wife was a cousin to John and William Pearl. He was a captain in the Revolution. When he came to Kentucky is not known, but of course it was subsequent to the Revolution. He came to Laurel prior to his wife's death, which occured in 1813. Mrs. Moren (remembered) their moving. He was also a soldier in the War of 1812. He was in the Calvary. His brother Benjamin Mershon died in Frankfort. Jack Mershon, his cousin, lived at the Cross Roads.

William and Weedon Mershon, sons of Titus, died in Texas. His daughter Sallie married John Aikman, Polly married . . . (illegible). Betsy married Sam Black and was the mother of 14 children. Mrs. Wren, Mrs. Martha Faris, John Titus Black, (looks like Anna) Black, Granville, Weedon Black, Sam Black lived in county.

John Moren's father's name was John, soldier in the Revolution, born in Ireland. He came to Laurel county after his son and died here Sept. 23, 1823.

At Richmond Ford (Cruise's Ferry?) lived Edward Cruz. McAlph Ford was a settlement by a man of that name. A road from Gresham's Ferry (Livingston?) via Mershon's Cross Roads and McWhorter. It ran through Wm. Pearl's land to Goose Creek Salt Works. (Windingblade road to Mershon's?) Wagons brought flour and groceries and goods of all kinds and took back salt. Pearl gave his sons 200 acres each and collected 100 pounds bacon and 25 bushels of corn as long as he lived.

Carpenter settled at the foot of Wild Cat Mountain. James Henry, a bachelor, lived at Hazlepatch station, had many slaves and much land. His brother-in-law, Moses Kemper, inherited his property.

Judge Moren was a colonel in the militia. Witten Faris was captain.

Continued on Page P5

Spinning A Pioneer Home Industry

Genealogy

Taking the cue from Rev. J. J. Dickey's articles on Laurel county pioneers and their families, published in The Mountain Echo during the 1890's, we are including in this Diamond Jubilee Edition the family trees of twelve among the earliest and most well known pioneers of different parts of the county. In large part they are the same as engaged the attention of Mr. Dickey at that time.

No claim is made to completeness in these family pedigrees. No effort has been made to go back of the original Laurel county pioneer, though where known we are giving something of their background. To me there is as great a legacy in tracing my ancestry back to one of these hardy Laurel county pioneers who tamed the Wilderness and overcame the difficulties of life in those early days, and who have handed down to us this good land we call Laurel county, as to go back to an early colonist of the United States or to a medieval king of England.

Neither is any claim made to absolute exactness, though we have done the best we could in the time that has been available, and I think all the pedigrees will be found reasonably correct. We have not been able to get as many dates as I would like, depending almost entirely on members of the different families, not being able to make as much research of public records as I would have liked.

While we have recorded all information on the families we could gather, we are publishing here records only of Laurel county born and other members of the families who have kept their interests and maintained contacts with their old Laurel county homes. We are also covering the families only to the oldest living generations, but such additional records as we have gathered will be available to whoever may wish to examine them, and we will add to our collection whatever additional information on these twelve families you may care to give. It is my fervent hope that it may be the beginning of a much more complete genealogy of Laurel countians.

We hope the code used will impose no difficulty in reading and understanding these family pedigrees. The two capital letters are initials of the particular pioneer whose family is being traced. The figures following indicate the generations and the small letters following the several figures indicate order in which we have listed the individual children of this particular generation of that family. We have tried to list these children in the order of their birth, but possibly as often as not we have failed and in most instances. We have not had the time to make the needed corrections after we learned we had been wrong in this regard. For instance: IF2a3bD4a5a is Russell Pope, first child of Mahala Farris (Green) Pope, who was the first child of Esom Farris, who was second child of James I. Farris, who was the first child of Isham Farris. The name of the head of a new generation to be treated in a paragraph is in all-capital letters. As we have that information, there follows that person's code number, the years of birth and death, year of and to whom married and a list of their children and whom they married. The record of each child is followed by a semi-colon (;), following the names of grandchildren are commas (,), and any list of great-grandchildren is in addition placed in parentheses. These small letters, wherever they may appear, have their obvious meanings: c means child or children; m, married; m2, second marriage; b, born; d, died; da, daughter; s, son or sons. An asterisk (*) before a name indicates this person's family will be treated in a later paragraph under the code key following the name.

Acknowledgements And Explanations

Mostly the family records given here have been furnished by members of particular branches of the pioneers' families. Some have been gathered from recorded wills, deeds and other documents. Special acknowledgements, however, are in line concerning the records of four pioneers. The McHargue records are based on the family genealogy prepared and published by Miss Sue McHargue in 1938. Such additional marriage records as could be obtained from available sources have been included. The Luke Watkins line and the Joseph Weaver branch of the Samuel Weaver line are used substantially as furnished by Mrs. Chester A. Felts, the former Myrtle Weaver. It was only through W. I. Beckner that I got a start on the David Weaver branch of the Weaver family, and much of the information used is his. The John Jackson family tree is from a "Genealogical Chart", prepared and presented by Mrs. Eloise Jackson Pennington,

(Continued on Page P-8)