

"Diamonds In The Rough"



THE JEFFERY HOME.—From left: Mrs. Mary Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson Jeffery, Sr., "Little Tom" son of John and Ann Jeffery, Robert McAllister, John Jeffery, Ann Jeffery, Billie Summers, Isabella Summers, Thompson Jeffery, Jr., Michael McCann, Aaron Longworth, Johnnie Williams, Uncle Allen McElquham sitting in chair Longworth, Johnnie Williams, Uncle Allen McElquham sitting in chair.

It was about the year 1880 this old log house, located in the heart of "Baxtertoun" in good old Pittsburg, Ky., became the home of "The Jefferys". They had come from England several years prior to this, old timers remembering them as keepers of the old boarding house in the early days.

It was in this old home John Jeffery took his young wife, a beautiful Welsh girl who had come to America with her mother, Mrs. John Hughes, Brother David and Sister Mattie. They later returned to Wales, but Ann was content to stay.

This log house was later remodelled into seven rooms, large porches and an old fashion cellar. Among the old settlers in Baxtertoun were the Baxters, Hughes, Cornells, Sheedys, Watsons, Williams, Braces and others, these settlers built the Baxtertoun church, now known as New Salem.

Young John and Ann with their young son Thompson and baby daughter Martha decided to move back to England which they did; but after ten months there, America kept calling them and back they came, sad because little Martha had died over there. Old Pittsburg was their destination. There they settled, building a home and in this home John and Ann lived the rest of their sixty-three years of marriage.

Eight of their children living are Thompson Jeffery, James Jeffery, Jennie Timmer, Mary Onkst, Ruth Jackson at Pittsburg, Isabella Jeffery, Joan Whitworth and Alexander Jeffery, Louisville, Ky.

In the early days the Jefferys operated a coal mine and commissary, known as the Union Coal Company; Pittsburg was once a very prosperous little town.

As our thoughts so often wander to those mountains not far away, where we laid our precious treasures near the Pittsburg sod one day.

In memory of our Dear Daddy and Mother, and Grandparents.

John Pitman Family Of Pittsburg



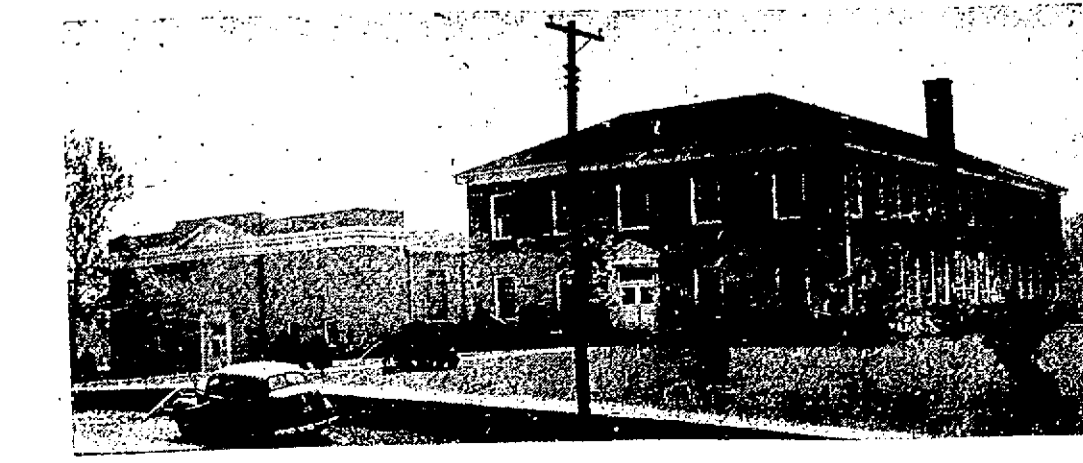
Photo furnished by Gete McNeil Gibson. At the rear in this picture is Geo. N. Pitman, John Pitman's only child by his second wife. Then standing, left to right, are Nellie S. McNeill, Mattie R. Pugh, John Pitman and his wife, Martha McNeill Pitman. Kneeling is Margaret Givens, and seated are Elizabeth Reid, Louisa McKee, Katie Hope. Mrs. Givens is a granddaughter and Mesdames Reid, McKee and Hope are sisters of John Pitman. Mrs. McNeill and Mrs. Pugh are daughters. Picture taken 1886 or 1887.

Pittsburg Base Ball Team, 1913



Photo supplied by Jason McCarty. From left, standing: Robert (Bob) Miller, John Hodge, John Federicks, Robert (Bob) Gumm, Lawrence Hale, Roland Hodge, Blaine Turner, Edd Begley, Claud Miller. Seated: Sid Johnson, Fred Hibbard.

E. Bernstadt Graded And High School. Gym At Left



Pittsburg Development Coal Operator, Farmer, Civic Leader

Continued From Front Page

companies and selling the coal for the others, he was in position to do this.

C. W. ("Itenus") Brown succeeded W. C. Webb as mine boss at the Pitman mine and later with J. L. Caldwell and Albert Fiechter formed the Acme Coal Company, mining coal from the Moren lands between Pittsburg and London.

The three McNeill brothers, J. R. ("Little Bob"), John T. and George, operated mines in and around Pittsburg for years. Givens, the youngest brother, was also associated with them in their work. Their sister, Sue, for many years assistant cashier of the First National Bank in East Bernstadt was the business manager of their business, assisted by another sister, Elizabeth.

Archie Adams took up the accounting end and after a good many years with the Bevier Coal Company in Muhlenberg county, returned to Bell county where he was with the Harlan-Wallins Coal Corporation in Pheville.



ALFRED FIECHTER ROSA TROESH FIECHTER

The subject of this sketch has indeed had a long, successful and distinguished career. If any of his many activities was closer to his heart than others, it was his work with Pittsburg schools, he being chairman of the Graded School board there for many years.

Alfred Fiechter was a native of Switzerland, born Feb. 22, 1869 in Kanton Bern, a son of Albrecht and Mariana Fiechter, with whom he was one of the first emigrants to arrive at Bern, N. service, Thompson Jeffery, and of the Acme Coal Co. He was president of the Production Credit Association, director of the Farm-Consensus, mind during the past 40 years. To those whom I've overlooked, my profound apologies: Swiss Reform Church, and to the

Odd Fellows and Pythian lodges in Pittsburg.

He has ten living children by his first wife: Fred, Paul, William, Albert, Herman, Ernest and Walter Fiechter, Mrs. Flora Adams, Mrs. Martha Broughton, and Miss Bertha Fiechter. A son, George, died in 1914. He has 25 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. He also has three brothers, Ernest and Adolph of London and John of Louisville, and two sisters in Louisville.

Following the death of his first wife, he was married Nov. 13, 1934, to Mrs. Susan Meyers Schneider in Louisville and has since lived in that city. But he remains a citizen and votes only at Pittsburg, and that is still home to him.

Pittsburg Contribution To The Railroad World

Without any access to files of the papers or the railway employment records, I may miss at the names of some and if I do, my deep apologies. These were, as I recall them now: George Stone, Ben Clark, William H. Hughes, John H. Hughes, Joe Hughes, Joe Prewitt, H. G. (Gibbs) Lusk, Lapsley Lusk, Charlie Sewell, "Bonni" Sewell, Roland Gilbert, Henry Bowling, Jim Chitts, Ves Moore, Thaddeus Thornton, Charlie Robinson, Billie Robinson (recently retired from L. & N. service), Thompson Jeffery, and of the Acme Coal Co. He was president of the Production Credit Association, director of the Farm-Consensus, mind during the past 40 years. To those whom I've overlooked, my profound apologies: Swiss Reform Church, and to the

Acknowledgement

In this Diamond Jubilee Edition we have borrowed many old pictures from the albums in the Mountain Life Museum of the Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park. The individual pictures have been credited to the persons giving them to the Museum. Among the pictures to which the Museum is entitled credit are the following:

Diamond Coal Mine; 3 Chiesman's Band boys, in uniform; Camp Ground Telephone Co. partners; 1913 Christian church Sunday School class; J. T. Brown residence; A. R. Dyche, family in 1890; Judge W. H. Randall; John Pitman; Lily mine tippie; First automobile over Wilderness Road in 1909, two pictures; The Old Jackson Mill, "The Peoples Mill"; 3-Yoke Ox Team in front of Catching building; Speaks Mill; Old original L. & N. depot in North London; London Wagon Works; Brown's Mill; New Laurel Coal Co. store; Laurel County Fair trotting race; Mrs. Schmoeker's restaurant; Fariston school in 1903; London Free School House in 1802; "London Automobile Club" road working at Parkers Creek; Laurel Seminary in the 1870's; Laurel Seminary student body in 1891-92; photo of John C. Brown.

L. & N. Bridge Gang In 1902

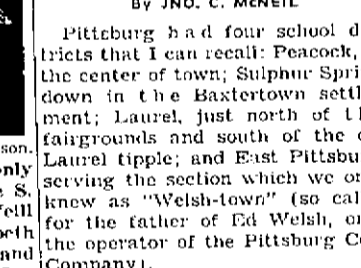


Photo by W. H. Sandusky, supplied by Mrs. Chas. L. Audes. Seated: Humphrey Jackson, Krank Allen, Mr. Hayes. Standing: John Newland, Chas. L. Audes, Arch Brown, East Bernstadt group.

Pittsburg Schools

By JNO. C. McNEIL

Pittsburg had four school districts that I can recall: Peacock, in the center of town; Sulphur Spring down in the Baxtertoun settlement; Laurel, just north of the fairgrounds and south of the old Laurel tippie; and East Pittsburg, serving the section which we once knew as "Welsh-town" (so called for the father of Ed Welsh, once the operator of the Pittsburg Coal Company).

My recollection of teachers is of necessity limited to those whose impressions remain in my life. Some I recall were: Henderson Prosper, J. V. Harrison, John Hill Baxter and Elizabeth McNeill at Peacock and Walter J. Brock at Sulphur Spring.

The greatest impressions on my life were made by two of my teachers, John Hill Baxter and Walter J. Brock. They gave me more than an education, they pointed out to me a meek and lowly Nazarene whose life changed the thinking of the world and whose precepts will go down through the halls of time into an eternity. If I had never learned another thing in life, those precepts given me by those two preachers transcend anything else I have ever learned in life.

No Longer City

Pittsburg, which had become an incorporated town early in the coal boom, petitioned in September 1907 it have its charter as a town dissolved.

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JUST MEMORIES Pittsburg In The Past...

By JNO. C. McNEIL

R. C. Randall weighing coal at the old Peacock tippie. Known to his friends as "Huckleberry" Randall, he also earned the sobriquet of "Judge" from service as Police Judge in Pittsburg.

Ralph Thornton's unsurpassed courage in making a living for his family. Badly crippled in the mines before the days of compensation, he ran a little store and thus supported his family.

"Doc" Foster's righteous indignation over some boys annoying Mike McCann, the town's newsboy for many years.

J. F. Ross with his scale book after weighing the coal brought in by the mine crew. The coal from all the mines was weighed on the Laurel County Coal Association's scales.

Trains stopping at the coal bin to fill their tenders. Pittsburg Coal Company operated the bin.

William Wallace, the Engineer of "Katy", the saddle tank locomotive of the Laurel Coal Company.

"Jung Island", the willow shaded spot in Woods Creek that served as a club room for the boys. The "dues" were very nominal.

Jim Reynolds pulling a string of coal from East Pittsburg to the Pittsburg Coal Co. tippie in town. The little locomotive resembled the larger ones operated on the L. & N. Sometimes we were permitted to ride with him.

J. E. Stringer, the only Pittsburg to become the Sheriff of Laurel County. Emmett was the son of William Stringer, our only Deputy United States Marshal.

The annual visits of the "Bloomer Girls Club" to play the Pittsburg team.

Ross and Randall, merchants, Hugh Tom Ross and R. C. Randall were the partners.

J. F. Hocker, with his little wand, managing the Jung Brewing Company's branch.

J. A. Landrum one of the earlier Agents of the L. & N., married a Pittsburg girl and was later transferred to the Mt. Vernon Agency.

C. C. Newland pumping water at the old pump station adjoining the depot in Pittsburg. Chris was the last agent of the L. & N. in Pittsburg.

April 1st, 1898—the beginning of the struggle for the eight hour day. Remember the parade and the "Coal Creek March"? Many were dubious of the idea. "Why, a man cannot make a living for his family in eight hours."

Haggling with the peddlers over their demanding twenty five cents for a chicken. "Not worth over twenty."

W. L. Smith, the barber, bought out R. C. Randall and the merchant tile firm became "Ross and Smith." Labor Day week end.

John Slavey and his inimitable wit. Recently, the Courier-Journal told of how he riddled himself of an unwanted bossing job. When he fired all the men, he had no one to boss and went back to work.

"Uncle Abie" Jones, Pittsburg's largest merchant. He weighed nearly 400 lbs.

Charlie Sewell's cornet playing at Sunday School. Charlie has recently returned to the old home county after many years in L. & N. service.

Fred "Bud" McFerran, the Jackie Robinson of our day. He was a "natural" when it came to base ball.

Who remembers the cast of "The Old Maids' Convention," a home talent play given in the early days? I can recall two and two only. Dave Roark was the owner of the machine which transferred "hopeless" old maids to the charm of youth; but when Sunshine Lusk wanted to be transformed into a man, the machine exploded. Who composed the rest of the cast?

Jacob Hoyer and his sawmill. It cut many house patterns for erection in Pittsburg.

Jim Webb, Charlie Cole, and I were room mates in school in Lexington. Albert H. Wyatt, principal of Sulphur Spring School, was responsible for our getting scholarships and urged us to go.

Pittsburg, as it existed in those days, is just a memory now. These things are written from memory, and there will be omissions—due to lack of space, fading memory and lack of sufficient time to do a thorough job of research. However, the best things come from memories and perhaps research would not do as good a job.

Pittsburg Homecoming

The biggest events in Pittsburg the past several years have been the annual Pittsburg Homecomings, when old timers by the score come back and live over the good old days. There is no group anywhere more loyal to their old home than these former Pittsburgers.

The first homecoming was the week end beginning Sept. 23rd, 1938, and was called by a committee composed of Annu McCoy Keller, Leticia Lusk Hunter, Eva McNeill, Bertha Fiechter and Jennie Brown.

There was a fine program and a great time. It required almost a full column of the next issue of The Sentinel-Echo to list the names of the registered visitors. \$161.50 was subscribed to the cemetery fund.

These homecomings have been held each year since, always on Labor Day week end.

The Secret Of Good Cooking Is Having Good Foods To Cook!

The fabulously good food mother used to prepare is no product of nostalgia. Mother's meals were delicious because the food came fresh from the Sunny fields, Orchards, gardens, and truck patches, and then—mother knew how to cook.

The kind of foods mother used to cook for those unforgettable meals are exactly the kinds Kidd Brothers have been supplying to Laurel Countians over the years.

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