

HISTORY OF
SUMMERS
COUNTY

FROM THE EARLIEST
SETTLEMENT TO
THE PRESENT TIME



By JAMES H. MILLER
HINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

1908

brier Springs, where he resided until his death. He raised eight children, Hon. A. A. Allen, who married Miss R. J. Wyant; James M., who resides near Forest Hill, and who married Miss Caroline Hutchinson; W. S. Allen, who died in the government service of the United States; John G. Allen, who married Miss Susan Hedrick, and lives at Flat Top, in Mercer County; Miss Elizabeth, who married Deputy Sheriff William C. Hedrick; Miss Sallie, who married John F. Lowe; Misses Susan and Mary F. died, unmarried.

Mr. Allen was a very devout Methodist, and resided near the famous old Pisgah Church, and was one of the pillars of that congregation. He attended the Methodist meetings far and near, and was individually delegated to represent his denomination in the church conferences. This old church building was originally built of logs as a Methodist Episcopal Church. After the secession of the Southern church, the old building went to the Northern branch. After the war a new frame church building was erected by the Methodist Episcopal Church South. This is one of the ancient graveyards of the county, located at this old church, which is entirely filled with graves. Mr. Allen's history and life are indelibly linked with this organization. He was a quiet man, but upright in all the walks of life.

His son, A. A. Allen, known as Archie, resides at the old homestead, and is one of the leading citizens of the county, and is probably the oldest public school teacher in the county. James M. Allen, the land assessor, placed a re-valuation on all the real estate in Summers County for taxation purposes, being appointed by the Governor in 1889. His valuation seemed to have been entirely satisfactory, and there was less dissatisfaction from his judgment and decision than from any other assessment which has ever been made. This family of Allens is of English descent, and there are a number of the younger generation scattered throughout this section, all of whom are good, law-abiding citizens. Fletcher Allen is a son of James M. Allen, residing in Forest Hill.

KAYLOR AND HIX.

In the settlement of the territory of this country around New Richmond, there are a number of old families identified who have disappeared, and we have nothing but tradition. Among them are Mathias Kaylor, born February 10, 1748, in Germany; died at the age of ninety years. He settled at the mouth of Farley's Creek,

opposite New Richmond, a little below. Katherine Kaylor, his wife, was born March 20, 1760, in Germany; married April 11, 1780. There are a few descendants of these German settlers yet in the county.

Michael Kaylor, a son of Mathias, was born April 26, 1784, and married Christiana Adkins, born September 27, 1785. Michael Kaylor at one time owned 1,700 acres of land on the Hump Mountain, extending to Lick Creek.

Susan and Love Kaylor were twin daughters of Michael Kaylor, and were born August 30, 1781. Love Kaylor married John Hix, and was the grandmother of Robert Hix, the present overseer of the poor of Green Sulphur District.

William Kaylor a descendant of the original Mathias Kaylor, lived until he was killed, about two years ago, on the Hump Mountain, near Meadow Creek, when he was shot to death by one Bennett. He was tried in the Circuit Court of Summers County, in 1905, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to the penitentiary for the minimum term.

John Hix, the original Hix ancestor of the honorable family of that name, was a native of Monroe County, Virginia, now West Virginia, and settled at Green Sulphur Springs. He was killed by a bull in 1807, near the residence of the Hon. M. Gwinn. John Hix, Jr., son of the John Hix above referred to, was born August 31, 1778, in Cumberland County, Virginia, and died on the farm on which Robert Hix now resides, near New Richmond. William and Andrew Hix were twin sons of John Hix, Jr., born July 27, 1823. Andrew died in 1900. He was a brave Confederate soldier under McCausland. William is still living, and is the father of Robert Hix. William Hix is one, if not the oldest, of the citizens now living in Green Sulphur District.

He has a wonderful recollection of things which are apparently ancient to the younger generation. He remembers distinctly seeing Indians, in his boyhood days from his father's farm, on their way to Washington City. He was then about fourteen years old, and it was about the year 1837. The three brothers, John, William and Andrew, each lived to be very old men. They were Democrats in politics before the war, and continued their affiliations with that party during their entire lives. William resides with his only son, Robert, who is one of the leading citizens of Green Sulphur District, one of the leaders of the Democratic party, member of the Executive Committee, and a very loyal citizen, but not an office-seeker, never having been a candidate for any office,

although he permitted the use of his name as deputy for Mr. O. T. Kesler, in his last race for the shrievalty.

In religious affairs Mr. Hix and all of the family are identified with the Missionary Baptist Church. Robert married a Miss Lusher, daughter of Thomas D. Lusher. John Hix, Jr., left the following family: Elizabeth, born October 13, 1804; Catherine, born November 27, 1806; Michael, born January 4, 1809; John, born December 5, 1811; Adeline, born July 18, 1816, who married John Duncan, who lives at Green Sulphur Springs. William and Andrew were twins, born July 27, 1823. William Hix married Jane Kincaid, September 17, 1845, and the following children were born to them: Martha, born July 7, 1850, now deceased; Robert, born January 1, 1852; Susan, who married Mr. ——— Edwards, born October 3, 1853; John L., born November 20, 1856, now deceased; Virginia, who married Robert Gwinn, born March 3, 1861; Minerva Ella married Charles Withrow, and was born August 3, 1853. The wife of William Hix died December 29, 1828. Michael Hix, living on the Hump Mountain, a son of Michael, who died during the war, is also of this family. He was a brave Confederate soldier and a good citizen, as was also Andrew Hix, his uncle, who was severely wounded during the war. One of his daughters married George W. Ayres. John Hix lived on the Swell Mountain at a very high point, where, at one time, the lightning struck his barn, killing one son and severely wounding another, Marion, who now lives near Hinton. John Hix was a president of the Board of Education of Green Sulphur District, as was also his son, James M. Hix, who now lives on Lick Creek—another of the soldiers of the Confederacy.

No one by the name of Hix was ever known to vote any ticket except the Democratic. Michael Hix, Sr., married Jeriah Duncan, who lived to be a very old lady, near Lick Creek, adjoining the S. F. Taylor place.

KELLER.

Conrad Keller, the founder of the family west of the Allegheny Mountains, was a German. His son, Abram, went on further west and settled in Gallia County, Ohio. Two sons remained in the Lowell settlement, one raising a family in the old log farmhouse near the present railway station, his widow being Polly Milburn, and whose son, Henry Keller, resides on the same farm on Keller's Creek, where the sulphur spring is located. This spring