

Some Historical Information

1800 – 2014

on the Lawrence, Epperly, Simpkins

Families & Land,

and Their Successors,

on Laurel Ridge and the

Waters of Laurel Creek

Floyd County, Virginia

Preface Notes

1) Since this is not primarily a genealogy report, further details on the Lawrence family genealogy can be found in the book "Descendants of Elder John Lawrence of Southwest Virginia and New England", rev. 1999, by Ora Belle Mayberry McColman, William L Lawrence, and others, available in the Montgomery-Floyd Public Library. Lawrence was sometimes spelled Laurence in the various records.

Information on the Epperly family can be found on <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/j/e/n/Charles-K-Jennings/GENE4-0031.html> [Entries 1., 3., 19., 61. and 58., 147., 284., 285., 431., and 543. in particular]-- as well as other sources

2) For ease in understanding, current road names are used when roads are referenced.

3) This report contains a great amount of detail, and some information is repeated in different contexts so as not to assume that all the detail has been absorbed.

4) This history contains the stories of the people that were contacted, as best they could remember and as best I could write them down. There is no authentication of the expressions herein.

5) The PDF file is searchable – use 'Edit', then 'Find'.

There are undoubtedly errors in this brief story. Please send corrections, amplifications, or additional stories and photographs, to David Wiley, 316 Lovell Rd, Pilot, VA 24138 -- or dwiley@swva.net. The history will be updated periodically -- and new contributions are most welcome.

Pictures herein provided by: Judy Blackwell, David Brown, Sherry Epperly Chester, Floyd Historical Society, Leah Gillie, Vince Howard, Michael Kiley, Jill Lisk, Roger Patterson, and David Wiley – for which I am most grateful.

I would like to especially acknowledge the enormous contributions made by Sheryan (Sherry) Epperly Chester to this work – the great-granddaughter of William T and Mary Jane Epperly and the great-great-great-niece of Sarah Epperly Lawrence, who with James Peden Lawrence, first built on the land.

David S. Wiley, April 2015, Pilot, VA

HISTORY OF LAUREL RIDGE FARM – THE LAND AND PEOPLE

This brief history is dedicated to the men and women who loved this land, toiled hard and long, sacrificed much, cleared the fields, carved out roads, built fences and barns, raised their families, tended the natural beauty, and made it possible for us to continue its stewardship in relative comfort.

One of the great joys in this process has been talking with people – by phone, email, or in person – who knew or are relatives of people who lived here. It has broadened and added richly to our sense of community on the farm.

OVERVIEW OF LAWRENCE-SIMPKINS FAMILY ON LAUREL RIDGE

For millennia Native people were stewards of this land. Then came the British nobility with the concept of land ownership, and then the Commonwealth of Virginia – which held ownership to significant amounts of land. That land was distributed to the populace at 40 pounds per 100 acres – largely in the early decades of our new Nation.

Elder John Lawrence (1739 – 1801) came to Montgomery County about 1785 from Connecticut via New York. He founded the Meadow Creek Baptist Church (on Childress Rd in Riner) and had substantial land holdings in that area – more than 1,300 acres, including apparently the current site of the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center and the Country Meadow Estates development. The Lawrence and Simpkins families came down together from New York – and intermarried many times over the years. It appears that two of Elder John Lawrence's daughters married Simpkins.

In 1800, Elder John purchased 200 acres of land on Laurel Ridge in the waters of Laurel Creek for 80 pounds. The Patent deed to the land was signed by Governor James Madison (before he became President) on behalf of the Commonwealth. A copy of the Patent deed follows – Leah Gillie, niece of Gaye Simpkins, has the original. The vast majority of that land is included in the northern part of our farm.

John Sr died in 1801 and willed the land on Laurel Ridge to his three sons -- William, Thomas, and John Jr – to be shared equally.

“I give and bequeath unto my three sons John Lawrence II, William Lawrence, and Thomas Lawrence a sartain [sic] tract of land laiiing [sic] on Lorrel [sic] Creek at the waters of Little River, the said land to be equally divided between the three of them and thare [sic] heirs or assigns forever.”

In 1811 William (and wife Sally) Lawrence sold his share of the 200 acres to his brother John Lawrence II (c 1755 – c 1830) and then moved to Kentucky. It is not clear how Thomas's share got passed to John II, or how the land got passed from John II to his son John III (most likely by Will, since no recorded deed was found). John Lawrence III (c 1787 – 1863) and his wife Nancy Peden Lawrence (c 1789 – 1863) gave 113 acres of the 200 acres to their son James Peden Lawrence (1807 - 1877) in 1839, and gave the remaining 87 acres to him (via General Briggs Lawrence – General was his name, not title) in 1846.

In 1846 James P Lawrence purchased an additional 150 acres from John Tinsley for \$30 --- which was largely the eastern part of what eventually became the Simpkins farm including a swath that cut across the middle part of our farm just below the original Patent deed land. The fact that the sellers lived in Montgomery County, and the low price, suggest that the property did not have a home on it.

In 1852 James P Lawrence purchased 87 acres from Ferdinand Cannaday for \$365 -- which was basically the lower part of our farm down to Laurel Creek Rd, plus 18 or so acres across Laurel Creek Rd to the south.

Since the deeds indicate that John and Nancy Lawrence lived in Montgomery County when they transferred the land to James P Lawrence, it is likely that James P Lawrence and his family were the first to live on the land. They presumably built the log home on Laurel Creek Rd sometime after they bought the Tinsley land in 1846.

In 1876 James Peden Lawrence gave \$500 each to his sons Phillip Jackson Lawrence (1830 - >1900) and Canaan Lawrence (1840 – 1905) -- both of whom were heading to West Virginia. James Peden Lawrence and his wife Sarah Epperly Lawrence [yes, the Epperly connection started then] conveyed to their other two sons (James E and Jacob E Lawrence) all of their land, though retained rights for the senior Lawrences to continue farming. They specifically reserved the log house on Laurel Creek Rd for their use.

James E Lawrence (1844 – 1915) received 242 acres that basically was the original part of our farm, except for a lower field and some of the Bottom Land in the southeast portion of our current farm. Jacob E (Epperly) Lawrence (1833 – 1909) received that remainder of our current farm, plus all of the land the Boswell's owned at one point plus a tract that eventually became part of the Crowgey Farm. James Peden Lawrence died the following year, in 1877.

In 1889 James E Lawrence purchased 46 ½ acres on Laurel Creek Rd (that became Meads Davenport's meadow in 1995). In 1907, James E Lawrence sold all of his land to his brother Jacob E Lawrence and moved his family to Christiansburg (his wife Elizabeth signed the deed as well). It is not clear why, but one could conjecture that Elizabeth took ill and needed to be closer to medical care. She died two years later in 1909.



Jacob E. Lawrence family, Floyd County, circa 1900. Back row (l to r): Olivia (Ollie) Alice Lawrence Simpkins (1877 – 1968), Lula Jane Lawrence (1869 – 1959), Virginia (Jennie) Ellen Lawrence (1868 – 1958); sitting: Jacob E (Epperly) Lawrence (1838 – 1909) , Mary (Mollie) Elizabeth Dobbins Lawrence (1838 -1917). (Contributed by Leah Gillie)



James E. Lawrence family of Basham, Floyd Co. circa 1895. Back row (L to R): James Grayson Lawrence (1879-1950), Dr Edgar Lee Lawrence (1869-1954), Mamie Ethel Lawrence (1873-1961) (Vince Howard's great grandmother), Gessner Harrison Lawrence (1871-1909); Front seated (L to R): John S. Lawrence (1877-1961), Annie M. Lawrence (1885-1976), James E. Lawrence (1844-1915), Elizabeth Ann Stuart Lawrence (1845-1909); Sala Wilmer Lawrence (1881-1955). (Contributed by Roy Howard, 10/2004)

Almost immediately after purchasing James E's land, Jacob E sold 90 ½ acres to Nathan H Basham, perhaps to help pay for the land he had purchased from his brother James E. This land apparently did NOT include the Basham House, but did include what we now call the Epperly House. And then N H Basham sold the 90 ½ acres to William T and Mary Jane Epperly in 1912.

Jacob E Lawrence added several parcels to his farm in 1882, as well as James' land in 1907, and when he passed in 1909, his farm was around 600 acres. He died intestate and the Court gave the property to his three living children – Virginia (Jennie) Ellen Lawrence (1868 – 1958), Lula Jane Lawrence (1869 – 1959), and Olivia (Ollie) Alice Lawrence Simpkins (1877 – 1968), with Mary E Lawrence, Jacob's wife, given dower rights (she died in 1917). Since only three daughters were living at home and only Olivia was married, her husband Putnam ('Put') Simpkins (1875 – 1950) was the 'man of the house' until his death in 1950. Put was the Superintendent of the Floyd County Schools for a number of years, and also a farmer. Put's sister, born on a bad winter's night in 1885, was named Mellie Icy Snowy Simpkins (Grayson) (Walters).

Ollie and Putnam (another Lawrence - Simpkins marriage) had three children: Irvin Lawrence Simpkins (1902 – 1968), Byron Seibert Simpkins (1905 – 1995), and Edgar Canaan (after his uncle) Simpkins (1909 – 1981). In 1938, Edgar married Gaye Vest (1911 – 2006); they had no children. The farm didn't change much in the 1909 – 1950 period in terms of land, except Edgar C Simpkins repurchased the Epperly's 90 ½ acres at auction in 1946, the year after Mary Jane Epperly died.

The 600 acre farm was deeded to Edgar C Simpkins on 10/10/1950 (DB 71, p 322). The Grantors were his mother, Olivia (Ollie) Lawrence Simpkins, and his aunts, Lula J. and Virginia (Jennie) E. Lawrence. They deeded it to Edgar in exchange for his taking care of them the remainder of their lives, and for their being able to continue living in the family's large Victorian house on Laurel Creek Rd.

Then in the late sixties Edgar and Gaye Simpkins built a new house at the eastern edge of the farm on a two acre parcel and sold the farm around 1971. In 1972, Charles and June Trombold purchased the western part of the farm, and David and Mary Wiley in turn purchased it from them in 1993.

The Lawrence Cemetery (now called the Weaver & Bugg Cemetery) is on High Rock Hill Rd in Montgomery County; the driveway is on the south side of the road near the top of the hill just west of Tan Bark Rd (Rt 614). In the early days, High Rock Hill did not come down the hill there. Rather, it veered off to the left at the top of the hill and crossed the current High Rock Hill Rd at the bottom of the hill – in the direction of Tan Bark. At about Tommy Simpkins' current driveway, High Rock Hill went off to the left at a sharp angle. The Cemetery adjoins Tommy Simpkins' farm and Sue Weaver and Ernie Bentley's property. The following



Lawrence, Weaver & Bugg Cemetery (High Rock Hill Rd, Pilot, VA) looking south toward Laurel Ridge, which was the north edge of the original 200 acre Patent deed land

Photos Courtesy of Vince Howard



View toward John L & Nancy Lawrence graves



James Peden Lawrence head stone at the Lawrence, Weaver & Bugg Cemetery



Silas Frank Lawrence home on High Rock Hill Rd, Pilot, VA – a lovely 'Sears house' built c. 1912

Lawrence's are buried there: John L and Nancy Peden Lawrence, James Peden (1807 – 1877) and Sarah Epperly (1806 – 1892) Lawrence, Jacob Epperly (1833 – 1909) and Mary E (1838 – 1917) Lawrence, Silas Frank (1858 – 1918) and Eugenia A Haymaker (1869 – 1949) Lawrence (who owned a lovely 'Sears house' on High Rock Hill Rd, where Joe and Peggy Eskew currently live), and other Lawrence's who lived along Brush Creek in Montgomery County. The Cemetery has a panoramic view of Laurel Ridge.

Jacob E and James E Lawrence's brother Canaan had a granddaughter named Virginia Deal Lawrence, a retired school teacher in Riner who never married. She was 102 years old on 2/28/2011 and was residing in a nursing home in Blacksburg when I visited her. She said that Phillip Jackson Lawrence left the farm on Laurel Ridge and headed to West Virginia, where he ran a store. His brother Canaan went to help him.

When Canaan moved from West Virginia back to Montgomery County, he settled in Riner. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Weaver Lawrence, was bequeathed a 100 acre farm on the southeast corner of Union Valley Rd and Five Points Rd in Riner. It is the lovely Victorian house that sits at the corner facing Five Points Rd. That acreage was recently bought by a developer who made a fortune – selling individual lots for what he paid for the entire 100 acres and house!

Canaan and his wife lived in that house until his death in 1905 and then his son James L Lawrence and wife Fannie Deal Smith Lawrence moved in, renovated and expanded, and took care of his mother, Mary Elizabeth. Virginia Deal Lawrence was born there. Prior to moving in, James L Lawrence and family had lived above the store that Canaan and he ran in Riner (directly across the street on the old Rt 8 at the corner). Mary Elizabeth had a brother, George, who lived on the land behind (east of) the old Carnation Milk plant on Rt 8 – across from Auburn High School; his son was named Bob.

Virginia Deal Lawrence graduated from Radford in 1930 and then taught Second Grade for about 45 years in Auburn School. She had little recollection of the farm on Laurel Ridge in Pilot, although remembered taking a horse and buggy over there periodically. Her Bible was a treasure of names and dates! What a joy it was to meet her, and talk about her life. She passed in 2012.

OVERVIEW OF EPPERLY FAMILY ON LAUREL RIDGE

The Epperly family came to Floyd in the 1792 – 1795 period, and were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church in Floyd. The genealogy goes through Hans Jacob to Jacob to George to Phillip S (1820 – 1894) to William T Epperly, who was born May 04, 1857 in Floyd County, Virginia, and died March 08, 1926 in Floyd County. William was living with a cousin in the 1880 Census. He married Mary Jane Price November 19, 1884 in Floyd County, daughter of William Jefferson Price (1842 – 1939) and Mary E Martin (1842 – 1871). Mary Jane was born December 16, 1863 in Patrick County, Virginia, and died November 28, 1945 in Floyd County (at the farm). They moved to the farm in 1912 and built an addition onto the existing structure.

William T Epperly is listed as a Principal Floyd County Farmer in 1888 in the Basham Post Office area [Jacob E and James E Lawrence were similarly listed in the Walcot Post Office area]. [<http://www.newriversnotes.com/va/floy1888.htm>] He and Mary Jane lived in the Basham area prior to buying their farm on Laurel Ridge. They are listed in the 1900 and 1910 Census in the Little River Magisterial District and show in the Floyd County Land Books as owning property in the Little River District. They had owned a number of other properties in Floyd County prior to 1912 and their children were born on one or more of them. In the period 1882 - 1905 William T and Jane purchased 4 different parcels – the first being 52 ½ acres on Laurel Creek Rd adjacent to the Lawrence Farm! And in the period 1880 – 1911, they sold all of their land. Their purchase of the 90 ½ acre part of the Lawrence farm in 1912 was their last real estate transaction.

They had five (or six) children born between 1882 and 1905, but only two survived to adulthood. Peter Hartwell Epperly was born November 03, 1885, Floyd County, and died October 13, 1970 in Salem, VA. Adeline E Epperly was reported in the Epperly Family genealogy from Family TreeMaker as being born around 1882, saying that she was listed in the 1890 Census as an 8-year old living in the home, but William and Mary Jane were not married until 1884 – and the 1890 Census was destroyed by fire, including all of the Virginia information. A search on Ancestry.com (and the 1890 Census ‘substitute’ they have created), showed that she was born and died in 1885 – which would perhaps make her Peter Epperly’s twin sister. Adeline remains a mystery. Ruby Mary Epperly was born in 1891 and died in 1913 from appendicitis surgery. Lemuel “Lemmie” Dowell Epperly was born September 06, 1899, Camp Creek in Floyd County and died March 21, 1985, Roanoke County, Virginia. Bessie Ibra Epperly was born in 1901 and died in 1903, and an unnamed son died on the day of his birth in 1905. Peter and Lemmie are buried in Sherwood Burial Park in Salem, and the rest of the family are buried at the Red Oak Grove Cemetery in Floyd, just four miles from the farm -- including William T, Mary Jane, Ruby, Ray Clinton Epperly (Lemmie’s only child), William Jefferson Price (Mary Jane’s father), and William T.’s father and mother, Phillip and Rhoda Lampey Epperly. The descendants of



Epperly Family circa 1903 (l to r): Lemmie (1899), Mary Jane (1863), Bessie Ibra (1901), Ruby (1891), William T (1857) [Peter had left home]



John Ellis Basham Family 1897. Nathan Hatcher Basham is in top row, 2nd from right



Mary Jane and William Epperly, Bernice and Lemmie Epperly circa 1925

Peter and Lemmie are given in the FamilyTreeMaker website given above in the Preface Notes.

In 1907, when James E Lawrence sold his land (about 317 acres) to his brother Jacob E Lawrence for \$6,340, Jacob E Lawrence two days later sold 90 ½ acres to Nathan H Basham for \$5,262.50 -- presumably to help pay for his acquisition of James' portion of the farm. That 90 ½ acres was bounded on one side by a road -- which followed the upper part of our current driveway, through what is now our front porch, and a road that went north-south along the fence line behind our house, through what is now the back porch of our Log House, up to the hay barn, and then continuing along the edge of the woods to the corner with Bowen. The 90 ½ acres included what we now call Hook Field, the woods over to the 85.4 Bowling acres, Pond Field, Bull Field, NW Field, Barn Field, Wedding Field, Old House Field, and the Northeast Field over to the hollow that comes down from the ridge at the point the ridge boundary changes direction. It is indicated by the blue line in the attached annotated Map of Glendale Farm. The entrance to the 90 ½ acres on our driveway was marked by two large, very old locust trees, one on each side of the driveway. They had pretty much died by 2010 and had to be removed.

Then in 1912, N H Basham sold that same land -- the core of our farm -- to William T and Mary Jane Epperly for \$2,700. It is not clear why NH Basham sold the property for half of what he paid for it -- perhaps he had cut some timber? The Land Records show low assessment for buildings up to 1912, but higher after 1912, indicating that the Epperly House addition was built in 1912. Peter had already served in the military and was not living with the family when they moved to the farm. (He was in the army at the time of the 1910 Census, but appears in the 1920 Census with his wife and four daughters in McDowell County, WV.) Ruby was 21 when they moved in 1912 and died the next year from appendicitis. Lemmie was 13 when they moved into the house and basically grew up there. After Mary Jane died in 1945, Peter and Lemuel sold the land back to Edgar Simpkins for \$2,700 -- what they had paid for it -- returning the Lawrence farm to its earlier state. The deed says it was sold to Edgar, but it probably was bought by Putnam Simpkins for his son Edgar.

EVOLUTION OF THE FARM'S LAND MAKEUP

The annotated Map of Glendale Farm below shows the origins of ownership of the various parcels of the Lawrence/Simpkins land and how the ownership evolved over time. The Map was made in 1952 by Walter Jones showing the farm at that time, but it is not a survey per se – it is a compilation of the metes and bounds descriptions that had been written into the various deeds. The sections are hand-numbered 1 through 9; the parcel acreages are given below the parcel numbers and the deed references are shown in the Legend at the bottom left of the Map. [Parcels with typed numbers 10 – 12 were owned by neighbors.]

The Map parcel numbers 1 - 9 relate primarily to how the land was divided between Jacob E Lawrence and James E Lawrence in 1876. The **RED** line indicates where James P Lawrence divided the farm between his two sons. Jacob E received parcels 6 and 5, and James E received Parcels 1 and 8. The other five parcels were purchased after 1876. The **BLUE** line shows the boundary of the 90 ½ acres purchased by N H Basham, and then William and Mary Jane Epperly in 1912. And the **VIOLET** line shows the boundary of our current farm. The overlay of colors adds some complication, but it allows the history of the farm to be shown on one, rather than multiple, maps.

I HEREBY CERTIFY: That the attached plat of GLENDALE FARM is a true and correct representation of certain lands belonging to Edgar C. Simpkins, according to certain deeds of Record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Floyd County, Virginia, as the same is made and the areas calculated by me.

J. Walter Jones
J. Walter Jones, Jr.
Certified Land Surveyor No. 590
STATE OF MICHIGAN

PARCEL	DEED REFERENCE	AREA BY DEED	CALC. AREA
1	D.B. 34, P. 240, D.B. 32, P. 2164 D. 487	210 Acres	198.03 Acres
2	D.B. 3, P. 266, X/157, D. 461 D. 487	27 Acres	23.07 Acres
3	D.B. 17, P. 137, D. 461 D. 487	17 Acres	15.55 Acres
4	D.B. 17, P. 137, D. 461 D. 487	40 Acres ±	40 Acres ±
5	D.B. 7, P. 144	30 1/4 Acres	29.04 Acres
6	D.B. 7, P. 104	200 ± Acres	228.64 Acres
7	D.B. 35, P. 2068	3 3/8 Acres	3.79 Acres
8	D.B. 7, P. 104, D. 461	53 1/2 Acres	53.79 Acres
9	D.B. 34, P. 240	42 1/2 Acres	40.50 Acres
ALL	D.B. 71, P. 322 Deed To Edgar C. Simpson	600 Acres ±	578.14 Acres
TOTAL IN MAP			578.14 Acres

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GLENDALE FARM

PROPERTY OF
EDGAR C. SIMPKINS

LITTLE RIVER DISTRICT, FLOYD COUNTY, VA.

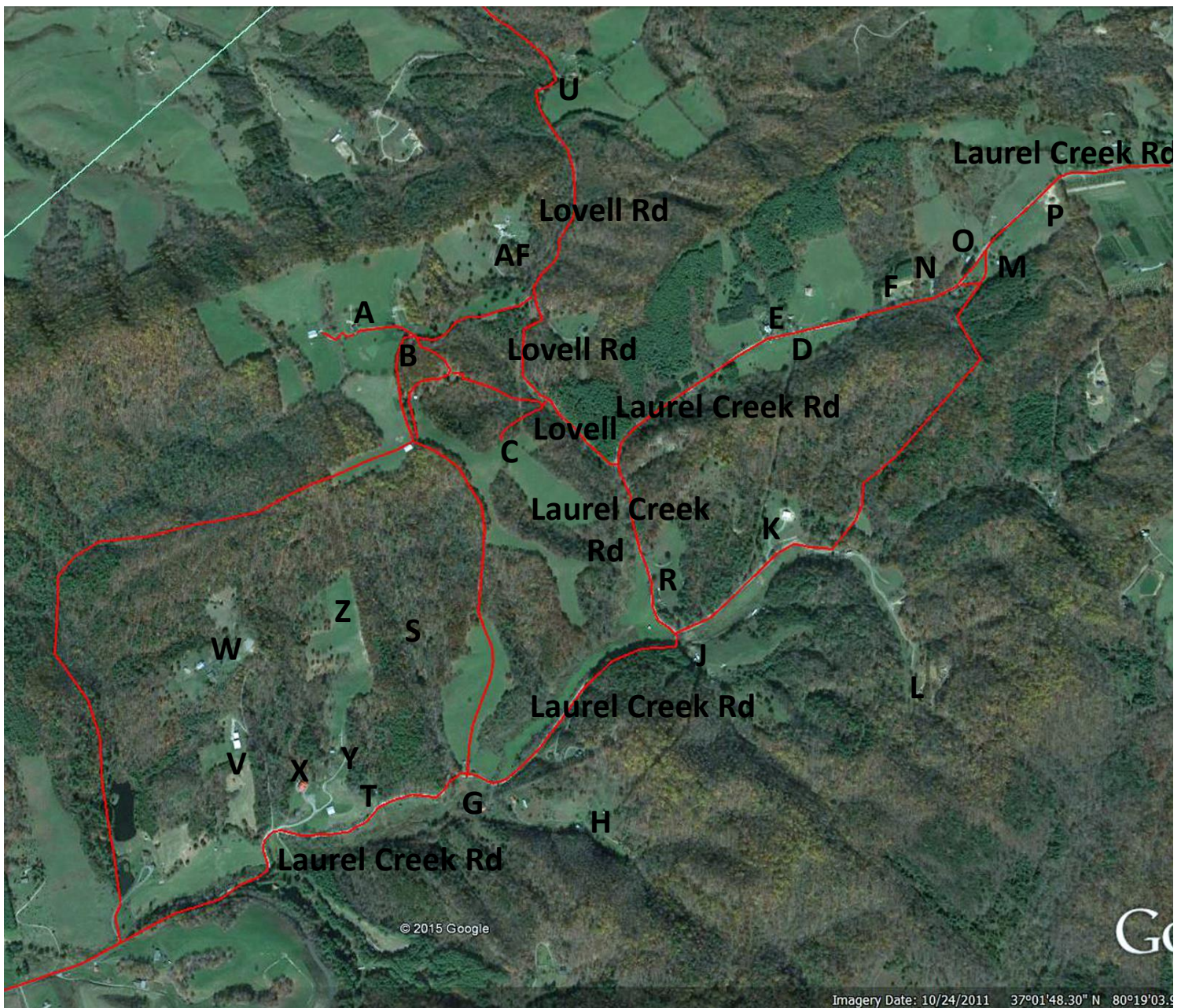
PREPARED BY ~
J. WALTER JONES JR.
CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR
HALIFAX, VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 1962.

SCALE: 1"=500'

SCALE IN FEET

ENDLETON



Homes, Roads, and Farm Roads on and near Glendale Farm

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| A | Epperly House c 1860 | N | Burley & Margaret Lovell Easter Hse |
| B | Trombold/Wiley House c 1975 | O | Sharon and Ray Allen Lovell House |
| C | Basham/Lawrence House c 1870 | P | Brandon & Michelle Lovell House |
| AF | Grimsley/Fugate | R | Wayne Poff Block House |
| D | Old Log House c 1850 | S | Bowen Cabin c 1985 |
| E | Victorian House c 1913 | T | AME Church Before 1880 |
| F | Simpkins Brick House c 1971 | V | Skip King House |
| G | Edgar Lawrence House c 1900 | W | Extenkamper/Gruber House |
| H | Wm Jefferson Price House | X | Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine |
| J | Robert Lovell House c 1930 | Y | Jason Redinbo/Linda Haas House |
| K | Roy & Lottie Lovell Poff House | Z | Mark and Terry Vaughn House |
| L | Alton & Gracie Lovell Correll House | U | Underwood/Crowgey House |
| M | John K & Francis Lovell House | | |

It is more interesting for our purposes to see how the farm was put together parcel by parcel. Those parcels are overlaid on the annotated 1952 Map, have boundaries shown in **YELLOW**, and indicate the original acquisition year and acreage of each piece of land. A typed parcel number with a 'Y' following indicates when the yellow-bordered parcel is not identical to the 1952 Map parcel. For example, parcel 1 (138.03 ac) is that portion of the original Patent Deed land given to James E Lawrence in 1876, less the 85.4 acres subsequently sold to Bowling in 1952 -- whereas parcel **1 Y** is simply the original Patent Deed land acquired by Elder John Lawrence in 1800.

Parcel 1 Y – 1800: This is the original Patent deed 200 acres on Laurel Ridge sold to Elder John Lawrence in **1800** (which it turns out was significantly large than 200 acres). 113 acres was given to James Peden Lawrence in **1839** by John and Nancy Peden Lawrence (DB 'B', p 248) – the western part of the Patent land. And the remaining 87 acres in **1846** by John and Nancy Peden Lawrence (DB 'E', p 349) – the eastern portion; this 87 acres had been given to Briggs Lawrence in 1839, then back to John and Nancy Lawrence, then to James P Lawrence in 1846.

-- Nearly all of the original Patent deed land is part of the northern portion of our farm, and includes the 90 ½ acres that were conveyed (via NH Basham) to William T and Mary Jane Epperly in **1912** (DB 38, p 129) and sold back to Edgar Simpkins in **1946** by sons Peter H Epperly and Lemuel D Epperly after Mary Jane Epperly passed in 1945 (DB 63, p 591). That 90 ½ acre piece is BORDERED IN **BLUE**. [JE Lawrence to NH Basham in 1907 is given in DB 34, p 245.]

-- The Patent deed land also includes the 85.4 acre 'Bowling Land' on the western side, which was sold by Edgar Simpkins to RL and AB Bowling in **1952** (DB 73, p 384), and repurchased by David and Mary Wiley from AB and N Garnet Bowling in **1993** (DB 192, p 368).

Parcel 6 Y - 1846: Approximately 150 acres was conveyed to James P Lawrence in **1846** for \$30 from John Tinsley and others (DB 'D', p 289). Tinsley had purchased the land in 1839 from Martin (in Illinois) (DB 'B', p 379), who inherited it from Martin (in Bedford County, PA) who bought it by Patent deed in 1795.

Parcel 8 Y - 1852: Approximately 87 acres was conveyed to James P Lawrence in **1852** for \$365 from Ferdinand Cannady (DB 'F', p 446). The metes and bounds given in the Cannady deed were very readable and 'closed' almost perfectly. The boundary calls in the Tinsley deed were less readable, more complicated, and didn't close as well – and didn't articulate well with the Cannady deed in the southwest corner, so on the annotated Map I gave preference to the Cannady deed in that area. Note from the Map that the 87 acres also included land across Laurel Creek Road to the south.

Parcel 5 - 1872: 30 ¼ acres was conveyed to James P Lawrence in **1872** by Henry C Smith, his wife, and others (DB 'N', p 44).

Parcels 3 and 4 (and 2 as well) - 1882: A total of 85 acres was conveyed to Jacob E Lawrence by Nancy Altizer in **1882** (DB 'Q', p 487). Parcel 2 can be ignored. It was part of the land deeded to Edgar Simpkins in 1950, and eventually sold to Charles and June Trombold in 1972, but in a subsequent court action, it was determined that the land had been conveyed prior to being sold to Edgar Simpkins in a non-recorded deed, and therefore Edgar Simpkins never had ownership. (The Trombold's lost the 23 acres, but Title Insurance made them whole.)

Parcel 9 - 1889: James E Lawrence purchased this 45 ½ acre parcel located south of Laurel Creek Road at auction in **1889** (DB 'T', p 659).

Parcel 7 -1909: This 3 9/10 acres was conveyed to Mary E Lawrence, James E Lawrence, Olivia Lawrence, Jennie Lawrence, and Lula Lawrence in **1909** by Mary E and Charles Webb (DB 35, p 568) in exchange for an identical portion of the Lawrence's parcel 8 that was adjacent to Mary E Webb's land on Laurel Creek Rd (DB 35, p 569) – see also Parcel 11 below. The arrangement had been agreed upon prior to Jacob E Lawrence's death in 1909, but had not yet been consummated. The purpose of the exchange was to straighten out land boundaries. The nearly four acres was basically a deep hollow that had little practical use, except the old road went through it adjacent to the hollow. That is now the current farm road that connects Middle Field and Sheep Barn Field. The exchange also gave the Webb's better access to their house site on Parcel 11 – going up a gentle hollow (the Bowen's current driveway) rather than around a much steeper ridge.

The **RED LINE DOWN THE MIDDLE of the Map** shows how James P Lawrence divided the land he owned in **1876** between his two sons (DB 'O', p 164).

James E Lawrence received the land on the western part of the farm (Parcel 1 of 192 acres – actually 218 acres -- and Parcel 8 of 50 ½ acres – actually 54 acres), and included most of the original 1800 Patent Deed land. Parcel 1 was the western part of Parcel **1 Y**, plus a small portion of Parcel **6 Y** – the northwest corner where the Basham House was located. Parcel 8 was the western part of Parcel **8 Y**.

Jacob E Lawrence received the land on the eastern part of the farm (Parcel 6 of 200 acres – actually 226 acres and the 30 ¼ acre Parcel **5** – actually 29 acres). Parcel 6 was the eastern parts of Parcels **6 Y**, **8 Y** and **1 Y**. Parcel 6 included the Log House on Laurel Creek Rd that the family had lived in for many years.

In **1907**, James E Lawrence sold all of his land on Laurel Ridge to his brother Jacob E Lawrence (DB 34, p 247) for \$6,340 (Parcel 1 of 218 acres and Parcels 8 and 9 of 99 acres).

ALL of the **YELLOW** parcels together, which are equivalent to Parcels 1 through 9, constituted Glendale Farm that Edgar Simpkins inherited from his mother Olivia

Lawrence Simpkins, and two aunts Jennie E Lawrence and Lula J Lawrence in **1950** (DB 71, p 322). He had the map of Glendale Farm prepared in 1952 in order to better understand the nature and origin of his land holdings. (It appears that his brothers Irvin and Seibert Simpkins did not inherit any of the land because they had little interest in it, and did not help maintain it.)

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Edgar and Gaye Simpkins divided up the farm and sold all but a two acre plot along Laurel Creek Rd (on the east side of the farm, at the south edge of Parcel 5) – on which they built a brick house that was their home from 1971 until Edgar died in 1981 and Gaye died in 1906.

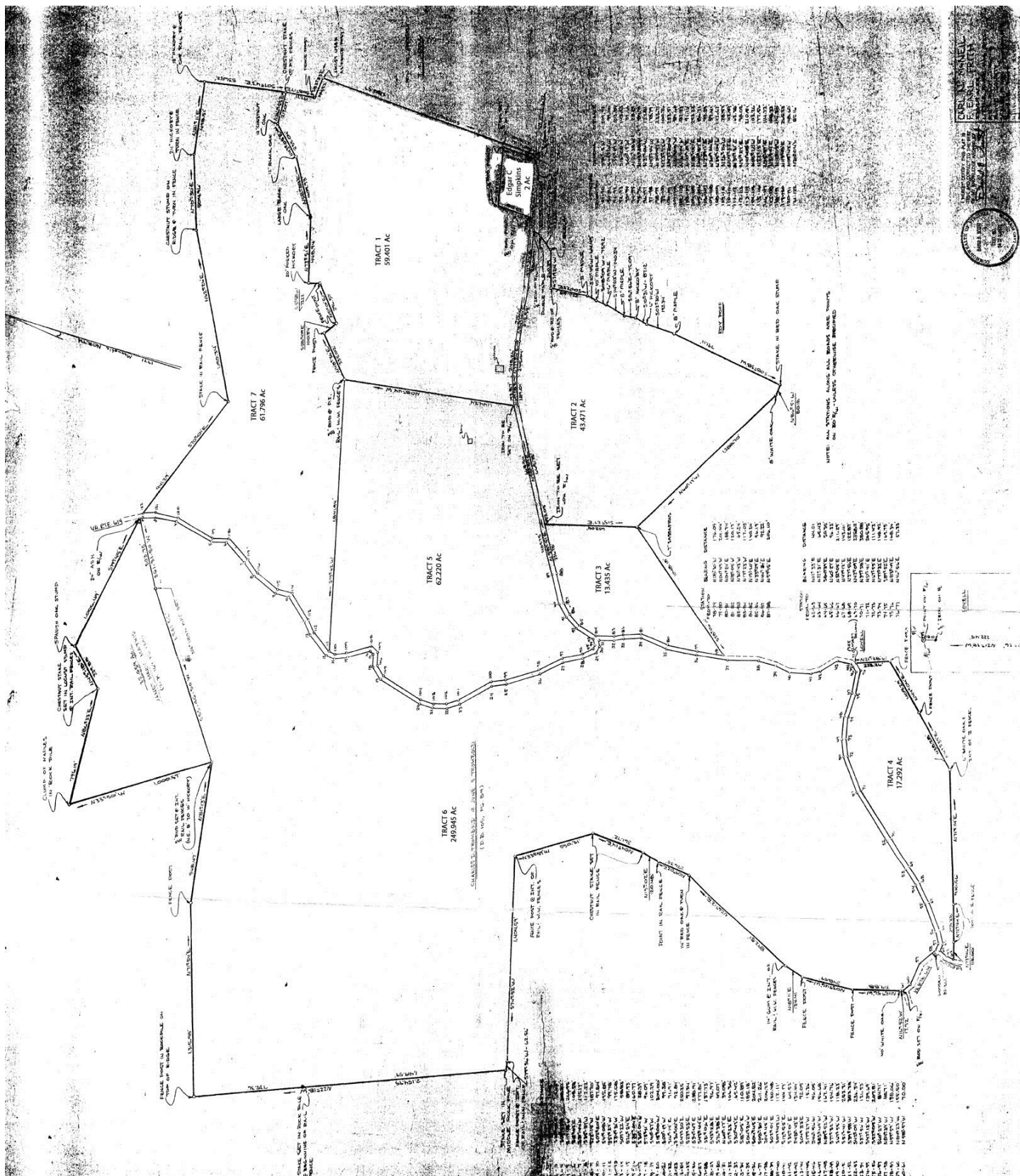
Glendale Farm was surveyed in **1971** by David Scott and the farm was divided into 8 Tracts. A copy of the Survey follows (Plat Book 1, p 79 in the Floyd County records). For clarity, we refer to the land in the 1952 Glendale Farm Map as Parcels, and the land in the 1971 Survey as Tracts.

Tract 1 (59.4 ac) and **Tract 2** (43.4 ac) were sold 12/71 to Robert C and Deanna N Boswell (DB 103, p 351). The Boswell's sold the western 10.09 acres of Tract 2 to Howard M Carr in 1973 (DB 106, p 715). **Tract 5** (62.2 ac) was sold to realtors Frith and McNeil in 12/71 (DB 103, p 347), who immediately sold to Dixie Shepley Nichols (Mrs. Daniel B Nichols Sr) in 2/72, Deanna's mother (DB 104, p 1). Dixie sold 10.0 acres off Tract 5 to Alan and Rosemary Millican in 1973 (DB 110, p 409, PC 1 – 269); it was then sold several times (the Double Wide being added in the mid-1980's), with David and Mary Wiley purchasing the property in June, 2009 (Instr # 09-1135). Dixie sold the residual of Tract 5 to the Boswell's in 1976 (DB 119, p 397). The 155 acre Boswell farm was sold at foreclosure to the current owner, Gary R Long and Michelle M Baron, in 1999 (Instr # 99-2022).

Tracts 3, 4, and 7 were sold 12/71 to Howard M Carr (DB 103, p 488): Carr sold Tract 7 (61.8 ac) to Harry Cross, who sold to Alan and Rosemary Millican, who sold to Junius E Crowgey in 1984 (DB 145, p 114) – and it became the wooded part of the Crowgey Farm on Lovell Rd, now owned by Guy and Nancy Crowgey.

Carr sold Tract 3 (13.4 ac) along with the 10.1 ac from Tract 2 to JD Hansard, and then eventually to J Dana Eckart and Elizabeth Roop in 1996 (Instr # 96-988), who built the underground home and barn. A lot line revision was done, and Justin and Safia Yonker bought 5.5 acres along Laurel Creek Rd and the North fork of Laurel Creek, including the buildings, in 2007 (Instr # 07-708), and, with an intervening owner, Full Cottonwood LLC (Shanti Yard and Bryan Lynch) bought the 18.0 acre wooded high land in 2008 (Instr # 08-1125).

Carr sold Tract 4 (17.3 ac) to Harry L and Treva R Poff in 1973 (DB 108, p 187). The land was subdivided in 1995 and William R and Terri L Dorton bought the eastern 8.65 acres from Treva Poff (widow) (Instr # 95-1343). The western 8.65 acres was sold to Mike Poff, then John W Sutherland in 1997 (Instr # 97 – 549), who logged the land, and then sold to John Trevor Stanley and Allyson Renee Stanley in 2000, who built the log house up on the hill (Instr # 00 -1700).



CARL A. McNEIL
EARL FRETCH

MURDER CERTAIN THIS PUT IN
TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST
OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Parcel 9 of 46 acres in the 1952 Glendale Farm Map, not part of the 1971 Survey, was sold to Benjamin H Hansel in 1971 (DB 102, p 494), who sold to Fermon Meads Davenport in 1995 (Instr # 95-668), the current owner.

The 272.6 acre **Tract 6** of Glendale Farm was sold in 1971 to realtors Earl Frith and Carl McNeil, who in turn sold it to Charles D and June S Trombold in June 1972 (DB 105, p 89). [The deed released a prior Contract on the property dated 3/24/1972.] After building the barns and house, and farming the land for almost 20 years, the Trombold's sold their farm to Mary P and David S Wiley in 1993 (DB 190, p 205). The amount conveyed was 249.9 acres, since the Courts had ruled that the 23 acre Parcel 2 of Glendale Farm had not been owned by the Lawrence's/Simpkins'. As described above, the Wiley's repurchased the 85.4 acres on the western side of Glendale Farm from the Bowling's in 1993. In 2007, 10 acres of the farm were sold to Agatha and David Grimsley, which is currently owned by Ezekiel and Vanessa Fugate – labeled **AF** (Acacia Fugate) in the annotated map above. The area BORDERED IN **VIOLET** is the farm currently owned by the Wileys, including the 71 acre remainder of the 182 acres purchased from the Pendleton/Alexander land that laid to the west – see below. About 328 acres of the farm has been put in Conservation Easement, to preserve it from development for future generations.

ADJACENT LANDS

Parcel 10 - 1900: This 36 1/2 acre parcel adjacent to parcel 9 was not part of the Lawrence/Simpkins farm, but was purchased by William Jefferson Price in **1900** (DB 27, p 470), excluding the cemetery. He is the father of Mary Jane Price Epperly, and actually had moved to Laurel Creek Rd before William T and Mary Jane moved to the farm in 1912. After William Jefferson Price died in **1939**, his daughter Eliza Frances Price (1879 – 1966) inherited the land (Will Book 5, p 232), and it became known as the Eliza Price place. The Will gave everything to Eliza Price -- because of the care and assistance she had given her father, including rebuilding the house. The Will explicitly gave nothing to any of his other children. Eliza Price gave the property to her niece and niece's husband, Bessie and Guy Laphew, in **1953** (DB 74, p 407) in exchange for taking care of her the rest of her natural life. Bessie Hallie Richards Laphew (1903 - unk) was the daughter of Eliza's sister, Eugenia Ardella (Indy) Price (1882 – 1979). The house burned prior to 1930 and William and Eliza did some rebuilding. Guy and Bessie Laphew sold the property in 1959 (Eliza was still alive at the time) to Joseph Weddle and his wife; then the property was sold an additional 6 times, leading to the current owner, Fermon Meads Davenport, who purchased the 36.7 acres in 1986 (DB 151, p 761).

Parcel 11 - 1882: This 52 ¼ acre parcel adjacent to Parcel 8 was not part of the Lawrence/Simpkins farm, but in 1909 a land exchange was made to straighten out the boundaries with Glendale Farm. It gave the owner of Parcel 11 much easier accesses to the back of their land by going up the hollow instead of following the ridge, and gave Glendale Farm Parcel 7 as described above. The land was sold by

Fleming C and Eliza Lesneur in **1882** to Richard Snow, whose wife was Mary E Snow (DB 'Q', p 711). Richard died, and Mary remarried – to Charles Webb. Mary E Webb then did the land exchange in 1909 described under Parcel 7 above.

Richard was a black man, as perhaps was F C Lesneur, since at about the same time he also sold one acre of his land adjacent to (and west of) Parcel 11 on Laurel Creek Rd to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. As best I can tell, it was the land in Jason Redinbo's hollow where the pond is; the house that was there was to be used for AME Church worship services, although I don't know if, or for how long, that happened. [According to Bill Bowen and Meads Davenport, there was a black community in that area – extending from Parcel 11, down Meads' discontinued road, to Terry's Creek.] The 52 ¼ acres was owned by HS and Ida T Claytor in the mid 1900's, who were apparently friends of William and Mary Jane Epperly. They sold it to James Thomas Akers in 1965 (DB 91, p 129), who sold it to Harry S Martin in 1968, who sold it to the current owners, James William and Susan W Bowen in **1968** (DB 95, p 157).

It is interesting that FC and Eliza Lesneur sold the 52 ½ acre parcel ADJACENT to Parcel 11 on the same date in **1882** to William T Epperly. It is a reversed 'K' shaped piece of land (nearly 1500' wide at the top and bottom, but 500' wide in the middle) immediately to the west of Parcel 11, that currently includes the Chinese Medicine Clinic land, Jason Redinbo's land, and a good part of what we call the 'Lower 58' on our farm! (DB 'Q', p 582) Its northern edge in fact has a 500 foot boundary with the 90 ½ acres W T and Mary Jane Epperly subsequently purchased in 1912. The Epperly's sold this 52 ½ acres of land and it became part of Shelton's land, then Ridinger in 1909 – see more below.

Ridinger/Pendleton/Alexander Land to the West of Glendale Farm: Edmund M and Ann Craven Pendleton acquired significant amount of land in Floyd County in the early 1900's. A good portion of the land was in the Laurel Ridge/Laurel Creek area. The Pendleton's sold 506 ½ acres to their brother/sister John (Jack) H and Lillian Pendleton Craven in 1926 – a brother-sister married a brother-sister. The Craven's actually lived on and farmed their land, which was along Laurel Creek Rd, on both sides of the road – to the west of Glendale Farm. The Pendleton's lived on Long Island and summered in the large white house on the corner of Bethlehem Church Rd and Rt 615 (Christiansburg Pike). That house may have been sold to the Craven's as part of the 506 acres. Currently, Mark and Lisa Priest own that home and the surrounding 61 acres.

The Pendleton's and Craven's all passed in the mid-1900's and the only child and heir, Ann Pendleton, inherited the land from her parents and aunt/uncle. Ann Pendleton married Dr Harold Alexander (rumored to be Jack Kennedy's heart specialist at the White House and to have traveled to the North Pole) spent a good deal of their time on the farm and in the large white house. When Dr Alexander passed in the mid-1980's, Ann Pendleton Alexander subdivided the approximately 600 acres she owned between Laurel Creek Rd and Laurel Ridge –

the land to the west of Glendale Farm over to Route 615. The eastern 191 acres of that land – basically from Jason Redinbo (next to Bill and Sue Bowen – Parcel 11) over to Sue and Doug Edwards place (Ponds of Bethlehem) – had been purchased by E M Pendleton in 1951 from S R and Lizzie Dixon (DB 72, p 392). The Dixon's had purchased it from Florence F Ridinger (widow) in 1946. And Sherman Ridinger had purchased the land from Laura G Shelton (widow) -- 171 acres in 1909 (DB 36, p 308), and 20 acres in 1914 (DB 40, p 357 and DB 36, p 308). Wayne Poff said that Milton Reed (the Alexander's farm manager) had built the big house there (now owned by Sue and Doug Edwards) for his girlfriend – and then went bankrupt after Dr Alexander died and the money dried up.

Between 1993 and 2008 -- through a dozen or so transactions -- the Wiley's acquired 182 acres west of Glendale Farm (labeled 12 on the Annotated Map) that was part of the Pendleton/Alexander estate – but primarily land that had been owned by the Ridinger's in the first half of the 1900's – and before that a good part of that land that had been owned by William T and Mary Jane Epperly on Laurel Creek Rd in 1882! Those 182 acres include a network of trails that start on what originally had been the Lawrence land.

There was apparently a 'gold mine' on the Ridinger land that we bought — but hasn't been found. Waller Lovell had also mentioned that to me in the late 1990's. There was a vertical hole 'gold mine' on the Ridinger property that Wayne Poff remembers seeing when he was young – it was fenced out so that animals wouldn't fall in. Wayne and I drove up there and it turns out to apparently have been on the knoll on Cathy Gruber's property between the old farm road and the current driveway. It may have been filled in many years ago to keep cattle safe. It was likely obliterated when Cathy had the area leveled to make her riding ring.

Apparently 'gold mine' or 'gold hole' were loose terms used to describe places where people had dug for gold. There appears to have been a number of them around the area. One possibility is that someone dug out the spring area on the hillside in the Bottom Land across from Wayne Poff's block house. Two possibilities were found in the wooded area behind the Basham House. All started as springs and were dug into. The water from the springs helped carry out the sand with gold particles in it, apparently. Wayne Poff had contact with a native American friend from Roanoke – who had a map showing various sites in the immediate area where people had dug for gold. Wayne is trying to find his name/address to get back in touch. He was also in touch with John D Marr, Senior Geologist and Information Officer, VA Div of Mineral Resources, Box 3667, Charlottesville, VA 22903. jmarr@geology.state.va.us He also might have access to the map. I wrote him but have received no response.

I spoke with Ann Pendleton in the mid-1990's. She remembered being on the Pendleton Farm and in the large white house during summers in the 1920s. The surveyors had overlooked a 0.9 acre piece of land she owned at the top of Laurel

Ridge; I had tracked it down and called to see if she would deed it to us, which she kindly did. That was fair because the surveyors had erroneously taken part of the Bowling Land when they subdivided the Alexander property in 1987.

During the 1993 – 2014 period, the Wileys sold the southern part of the 182 acres to friends and family: 27 acres to Jerome and Grace King in 1993, who gave it to their son Jerome (Skip) King to build his home; 26 acres to Patty and Tom Extenkamper in 1993, who sold to Dan and Diane Boon, who sold to Kathy and Steve Gruber; 12 acres to the Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine in 2006; 3 acres to Jason Redinbo in 2006, then acquired by Linda Haas; and 44 acres to Mark and Terry Vaughn in 2014, who are building their beautiful home. The Wileys retained the northern 71 acres, which includes most of the trails, and much is in Conservation Easement.

Lovell Land to the East and Southeast of Glendale Farm: Robert A and Lucinda E Lovell purchased 68 ½ acres in June of 1931 (DB 40, 459) on Laurel Creek Rd. [It was the estate of JLB Anderson, and had Lawrence land on the east and west, Claytor land on the SE and SW, and CR Anderson land on the north.] It includes the land now owned by Parris Stafford (46 acres), as well as the Single Wide property that was subdivided by Waller Lovell for his son Pierce (1 acre). Robert Lovell and his family built their home on that land, in the sharp curve on Laurel Creek Rd, and family members lived there until their son, Waller Lovell, died in 2002. Robert A, John K, and Waller L Lovell bought JC and Winnie Anderson's 125 acres in 1936 (DB 53, p 296) -- to the east of Glendale Farm on both sides of Laurel Creek Rd. Most of it is currently owned by Margaret Lovell Easter and Ray Allen Lovell and their families, who have their homes there.

Roy A Poff, who married Robert A Lovell's daughter, Lottie Lovell, purchased the 49 acres that had been owned by CR Anderson, as well as small portions of the 68 ½ acres and 125 acres, that nestled between the Simpkins farm, John K Lovell, and Waller Lovell. The land that lay to the SE of Waller's land was owned by Alton Correll, who married Robert A Lovell's other daughter, Gracie Lovell. With the exception of 8 acres and the block house on Laurel Creek Rd facing our bottom land that is owned by Roy and Lottie's son, Wayne Poff, all of Roy Poff's land, plus the land owned by the Correll's, is currently owned by Donald (Swede) McBroom.

HOMES AND FAMILIES ON THE LAND

Each of the home sites is labeled on the annotated Map of Glendale Farm above.

A – Epperly House. The Original part of the Epperly House was built around 1860 and added onto in the early 1870's, and then a large Addition was built around 1912 by William T and Mary Jane Epperly -- who lived in the house until 1945. [The tax assessment for a building on the 90 ½ acres owned by N H Basham rose to \$100 in 1912 after the Epperly's purchased the land, so that was likely the

year that the Addition was built.] The house was constructed mostly from white pine (a small amount of poplar), perhaps harvested off the land.

William T, Mary Jane, and Lemmie Epperly lived there until Lemmie left sometime before 1920 – he was not at home in the 1920 Census. William T died in 1926 – leaving Mary Jane alone to run the house and take care of the farm until her death in 1945. Apparently she had a good assortment of farm equipment and with help farmed the land herself. Most folks referred to it as the Epperly Place -- but pronounced it 'Eply'.

Clifford Hensley (recently deceased) was the husband of Peter Epperly's daughter Madleen, and, when I spoke with him in 2011, he (at age 94) was the last living relative in that generation. He remembered some visits to the farm. Kathleen (Madleen's twin sister) didn't like Grandma Jane (as she was called) very much. He wasn't sure why, except one time they were going to leave Kathleen at the farm to stay for a day or two – and Kathleen ran down the road when her parents were leaving, wanting to go home. Jane lived there at the farm alone for many years. She was an independent pioneer woman, with strong spirit. Peter and Lemmie tried to get her to move to Roanoke County to live with Lemmie, but she absolutely refused – wanted to stay on the farm.

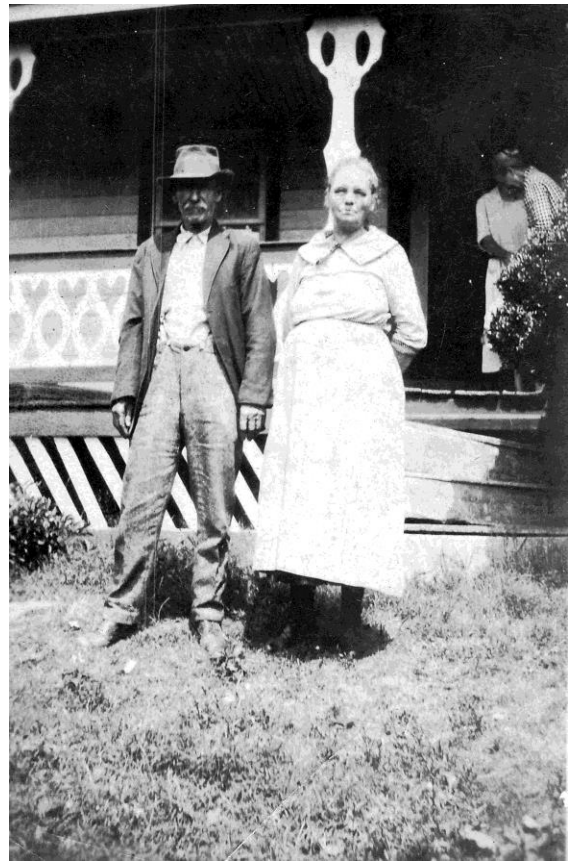
Jane had taken in a widow as a companion – Miss Molly had no place to live; she was older than Jane and pretty much confined to the house. During Jane's final winter (11/28/1945) – she was 82 – Jane went outdoors (presumably to the barn or outhouse). It was stormy and icy; Jane slipped and fell and couldn't get up – she was using a cane at the time -- and Molly couldn't do anything to help. Jane had also been suffering from cold or flu. When the family went to the funeral home, Miss Molly was laid out as well – she had died later the next day (from pneumonia and malnutrition, perhaps feeling that she would be all alone again). Miss Molly actually died in Salem – taken there by Lemmie after Jane passed. She died about 45 hours after Miss Jane.

The house was 'T' shaped. Out the back door was a well with a hand pump. There was a small buggy barn/stable near the back of the house, and a farm barn up the hill. The family would pick blackberries near the house when they came to the farm. The house had no electrical service during the period the house was used – the Trombold's had electric poles installed in the mid-1970's. Deanna Boswell painted a picture of the Epperly house – but sold it and does not know where it is.

Mrs. Peggy Underwood Trump [Velma Underwood in the 1940 Census] knew Miss Jane and spent her sixth birthday in the old house in 1940, as well as overnight. Peggy lived down Lovell Rd, about a mile from the Epperly's; she had moved to what is now the Crowgey farm house around 1937 at age 3 or 4 and grew up there. She was the daughter of Alton and Myrtle Brogan Underwood, the



**Mary Jane Epperly circa 1915 –
at side porch of new Addition**



**Jane & William Epperly circa 1925
– at front porch showing hearts**



**Miss Jane circa 1935 – with Epperly
House stone chimney behind**



**Miss Molly, Miss Jane circa 1940
– at front porch of Epperly House**



Mary Jane and William Epperly, Bernice and Lemmie Epperly at Epperly House, circa 1925



Miss Jane, circa 1940



Lemmie Epperly holding son Ray C. Epperly, circa 1927



Epperly Family circa 1903 (l to r): Lemmie (1899), Mary Jane (1863), Bessie Ibra (1901), Ruby (1891), William T (1857)



Lemmie Epperly in Salem, VA

youngest of three children. Peggy went to Auburn High school in Riner – since there was no bus to Floyd from their farm. She went to Rifton School for 2 or 3 years and had Gaye Simpkins as teacher, and then went to a grade school in Pilot.

Peggy remembers the telephone system that was in use in the late 1930's. Apparently the wires were already installed -- and connected the Underwood's, Lawrence/Simpkins', Lovell's, Bugg's, Martin's, and she thought maybe the Epperly's. It likely was a party line system that gave the appearance of a local telephone system; Peggy thought that you could call out on it. According to the 1929 phone book at the Floyd Museum, the Epperly's were not listed as having a phone at that time.

Miss Jane was an 'adopted' grandmother to Peggy, since both of her grandmothers were deceased. Jane spoke in a very high pitched voice. Jane made the best biscuits – had a lot of soda in them which gave a very special taste. She also made the best apple preserves to put on the biscuits. Jane made Peggy's birthday cake when she was six – and had lunch together. That pound cake was also wonderful – had the same yummy soda taste. One time Peggy's mother told her that if she went up to Miss Jane's and ate anything, she would never let her go back -- but she did go back. Peggy has a pickle dish that Jane gave her that was over 50 years old at that time, and a cut glass dish that Eliza Price gave her. Peggy has nothing but pleasant memories of Miss Jane.

Often Peggy would just walk the mile from her house to Miss Jane's. She stayed overnight with Miss Jane and Miss Molly many times. She slept on a small cot in the bedroom – on the west wall of what is now the living room. Miss Jane had saved locks of Ruby's hair, who died shortly after they moved to the farm. Peggy remembers Miss Jane making special chicken and dumplings one time when Lem was coming to visit. Prayer meetings were held in various people's homes. Miss Jane invited HS Claytor's family (who owned the Bowen land in the 1940's), including their young daughter about Peggy's age, to a prayer meeting that Peggy attended. They were the first black people (Negro back then) that Peggy had ever met. [There appear to be two well-dressed black women in the background of the above 1925 picture of William and Jane Epperly.] Miss Jane was a woman of strong character and values for her time. Sadly, Peggy passed away about a year ago.

Peggy also remembered Miss Molly, the welfare person that Jane had taken in. Jane and Molly slept in the same room in the winter, which also served as a sitting room -- the southwest downstairs room in the Original part of the house (now the living room with hearth). The northwest room was used as the parlor. Miss Molly went back upstairs to a small space in the summer -- the northeast upstairs room in the Addition – the same room where I stayed in 1992, and that Charlie used when he was building his house in the 1970s (now ours). It was above the kitchen, which had a nice brick floor before dirt covered it up. When renovating,

we discovered a long narrow (4" x 1") hole between the baseboard and floor next to Molly's bed. It accessed the space between the inside and outside walls. In that space was a tin container shaped like a clam shell – which has been saved – that held who knows what of Molly's things. Molly and Jane's bodies were laid out in the funeral home at the same time, and is buried in Huffville Cemetery. We now know Miss Molly's full name – which could be determined when the 1940 census became available in April, 2012. It was Mary Adeline Anderson, and she was born in 1858. From the death certificate, her maiden name was Correll. Ancestry.com indicates that her father was Jacob Correll (1815-1888) and her mother was Susan Sumner Correll (1828-1913). She had an older brother Henry Correll (1853-1941), who lived most of his life in Christiansburg. She was married to William Anderson.

That is what we know about Miss Molly, but it is interesting that Peter Epperly's wife was Mettie Florence Anderson Epperly (1889) and Mettie's brother, George K Anderson (1879), was the husband of Eliza Francis Price, Mary Jane Price Epperly's half-sister; he was buried in the Huffville Cemetery, Floyd County before 1920. Also, as described under the Lovell land above, the Lovell family purchased their land from three Anderson families that lived adjacent to Glendale Farm. One of the parcels was owned by Alton Correll and spouse Gracie Lovell Correll – and Alton Correll was the son of Henry Correll, Miss Molly's older brother! These various Anderson families may have some connection with Miss Molly's husband William Anderson, but I have not been able to find it.

There were lots of boxwoods near the south corner of the house – between the house and the farm road.

Peggy told me more about the Eskew's 'Sears house'. Silas Frank Lawrence's family had lived in a house on the north side of High Rock Hill Rd near the Floyd-Montgomery County line. (Peggy and her husband later built a brick house on that land in 1980.) The Lawrence's decided to move into Christiansburg and had a 'Sear's house' constructed there. It arrived in pieces at the Cambria railroad station and then transported to the site by wagon, to be assembled. But they didn't like living in town, and in 1912 ordered an identical Sears house that was to be constructed in Pilot – the house where Joe and Peggy Eskew now live. The pieces were again delivered by rail in Cambria and then carried in wagons 11 or so miles over Pilot Mountain to the house site!

Peter Epperly, William and Mary Jane's oldest child, had served in the Philippines after the Spanish American War under Gen. Arthur MacArthur (father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur) -- mostly a Muslim country -- and Peter told stories about Muslims getting geared up to go out and kill the 'infidels'. Peter had been on Corregidor -- he had been on a march and came to a resting place and sat down -- and his bench started to move -- a large anaconda! Peter served in the army from November 1907 - December 1910. He was a fireman before he enlisted,

and had blue eyes, light brown hair, ruddy complexion, and was 5' 7 1/2" at the time of enlistment.

Anna Epperson, Kathleen's daughter, said that after serving in the army, Peter left Floyd and worked in the West Virginia coal mines as an electrician. He raised five daughters. One of them, Aunt Audrey, never married and lived with her parents in Bluefield, WV -- then they all moved to Salem, where Peter is buried. Peter was an incredible gardener. Kathleen and Madleen occasionally went to visit their Grandparents' farm in Floyd. Peter did not spend much time at the farm.

Sheryan (Sherry) Epperly Chester -- one of Lemmie's three grandchildren -- said that Lemmie went to the farm a lot to check on his mother, Mary Jane. Lemmie had grown up there and had lived in one of the upstairs rooms (over the dining room) in the Addition that was built shortly after the Epperly's moved there. Lemmie courted his eventual wife Bernice (Charlotte Austin) -- Sherry's grandmother -- by riding a horse and buggy from the farm to her place, relatively close by. Bernice died from a fall, as had Mary Jane. Bernice died tragically -- she fell down the steps at her optician's after getting a new pair of glasses in 1961. Lemmie's only son Ray -- Sherry's father -- died in West Virginia; he was an aviator, but didn't fly commercial planes. Peter and Lemmie's families didn't mix much.

Sherry says that Lemmie was a very fast, but good driver. As a child and then a teenager, our trips from Salem or Roanoke to Floyd County were enjoyable. I spent many days/weeks with family there during the summer. I never thought anything about his driving until relatives asked if I was afraid to ride with him. I wasn't, but when he began to have trouble with his eyes (cataracts) even his wife of the time (he was married 3 times, surviving the first two) commented about his fast driving. I don't think he ever slowed down until his heart stopped beating!

Jane was an excellent cook -- worked hard -- and farmed the farm herself after William died. Ruby -- Lemmie and Peter's sister -- died of appendicitis when she was 21. Sherry has a memento (a basket -- see picture) that was given by Ruby's boyfriend to her just before she died.

According to Sherry's father Ray (Lemmie's only child), the farm had a smokehouse, springhouse (near where the small pond currently is), well, barn (up where the current barn is), and a cellar under the front porch. William T Epperly's middle initial stands for 'Thomas' accordingly to his death records. Mary Jane's niece Bess Laphew said that the old wooden beds in the upstairs bedrooms had been sold for 50 cents apiece -- they didn't have any springs and mattresses -- they had feather beds, and "oars" to put the "mattress" on.

Bess also mentioned that when Mary Jane's Uncle, John Price, was ill, her Aunt Jane took him in. Jane's half-sister Lizy Price also helped her care for him. It is likely that Mary Jane also took care of her father, William Jefferson Price, at the

Epperly farm when he was sick (he and Lizzy lived down on Laurel Creek Rd across from the Sheep Barn.)

Archie McAlexander remembers picking chinquapins near the Epperly House in the 1940's. Jim Basham remembers the Epperly Place from doing haying for Edgar Simpkins around 1960. Wayne Poff went up to the Epperly Place occasionally with his dad, Roy Poff. Roy worked for Mary Jane for a number of years – she had lots of farm equipment to farm the land. The well had a three-sided building over it. Roy told Wayne not to go near the old hand-dug well, but Wayne did – and his foot went through the decaying top sometime in the early forties. The bottom of the well may have caved in at some point – by then they were getting water from a spring box up in the hollow. The well hadn't been in use for some time in the 1940's.

The hand-dug well was a work of art – it was lined all the way to the top with white calcite rocks. The top boards were totally rotten when we started having grandchildren in 2002. So shortly thereafter I rebuilt the wooden top – but put a solid glass top on the well – strong enough to hold a horse – so that we could still appreciate the calcite rocks, but protect the grandchildren in case they removed the wooden top when they went exploring the farm.

After Mary Jane's death in 1945, the house may have been used by farm tenants working for Put and Edgar Simpkins. The last family to live in the Epperly House -- in the early fifties -- was named Williams; they had three children, the oldest of whom lived over at the Victorian House – since he helped Edgar on the farm.

Charles Trombold used the Epperly house during the period he was building their house, and perhaps on an ongoing basis as a 'farm office' – I found farm records in the upstairs bedroom (Miss Molly's room) over the kitchen. Charlie had distillation equipment in what he called the 'Laboratory' – the dirt floor part of the downstairs that was the old kitchen. Actually there was a nice brick floor under the dirt! Charlie sold the equipment to a Virginia State Trooper when he sold the farm to us. I stayed in the Epperly House bedroom over the 'Laboratory' when I was visiting in the fall before we closed on the purchase of the farm.

The Original part of the Epperly House (the part with the stone foundation) was built around 1860. It was built fairly quickly by a cousin who only came there occasionally. This presumably was a cousin to James E Lawrence and Jacob E Lawrence. [It could not have been the children of General Briggs Lawrence who had owned part of the land for a period of time, since his children all died of typhoid before 1850.] The cousin was likely one of the sons of James Peden Lawrence's sister, Elizabeth Lawrence (b 1809) and her husband Daniel Epperly: either William Epperly (who was born in 1831 in Floyd County, married in Montgomery County, and was buried in Huffville Cemetery) or (Daniel) Floyd Epperly (who was born in 1833 in Floyd County, married in Floyd County, and was buried in Huffville Cemetery).

It is intriguing that the cousins carried the Epperly name – and one actually William! It would make sense that Elizabeth and Daniel's children would have been allowed to build on the land, since Daniel Epperly was sister to Sarah Epperly Lawrence and Elizabeth Lawrence was sister to James Peden Lawrence – in other words, brother-sister married brother-sister!! William and Floyd were nephews on both sides of the family. And it would make most sense that it was William Epperly who built the house, since he lived primarily in Christiansburg – and the house would have been a country 'get away', whereas Floyd Epperly lived nearby in Floyd County and already lived in the County. [It is remotely possible that it was one of the other many nephews of Sarah Epperly – since they would have been old enough to build a cabin in the late 1850's. Sarah and Daniel were the youngest of their respective 10 other siblings.]

George Epperly, Sarah and Daniel's older brother, was William T Epperly's grandfather, and thus Sarah was William T Epperly's Great Aunt, and Daniel his Great Uncle! So the Original part of the Epperly house was likely built by a son of William T's Great Uncle Daniel Epperly – a first cousin, once removed, to William T. Since the Epperly that built the house never owned the land, it makes sense that it would have been a family member who really trusted the Lawrence's – in this case, blood relations to both James Peden Lawrence AND Sarah Epperly Lawrence.

The house was originally one room – and then significantly expanded to two stories in the early 1870's – about the same time that James E was building his family's house (Basham House) a short distance away. It went into disrepair by the early 1900's, and then was repaired to a livable state, probably by Nathan Basham and/or William and Mary Jane Epperly in the early 1900's. William and Mary Jane Epperly built the Addition in the year or so after they bought the property in 1912.

The first roof on the Original two-story house was shakes (the nails were still in the purlins when we renovated), then possibly had roofing shingles (or was repaired with shingles), and then some time later replaced with a metal roof. The metal on the Original part was not standing seam, whereas the Addition was. The Original house was constructed with all square nails, and the Addition mostly round wire nails. The inside wood of the Original part was cut with a band saw. Band saws started to be manufactured in the 1868 – 1885 period by a number of companies, so the inside wood may have been cut in that period. The house has been worked on many times over the years. There was a horse/buggy barn and garden on the flat area just northeast of the house – stone steps were found going up the incline in that direction. The white pine used in the house was presumably cut on the property.

The house must have been very cold in winter – very difficult to heat with just clapboard on the outside and wood walls on the inside. Clever techniques were used by the occupants to plug holes in the wood: in the exterior siding pine knots

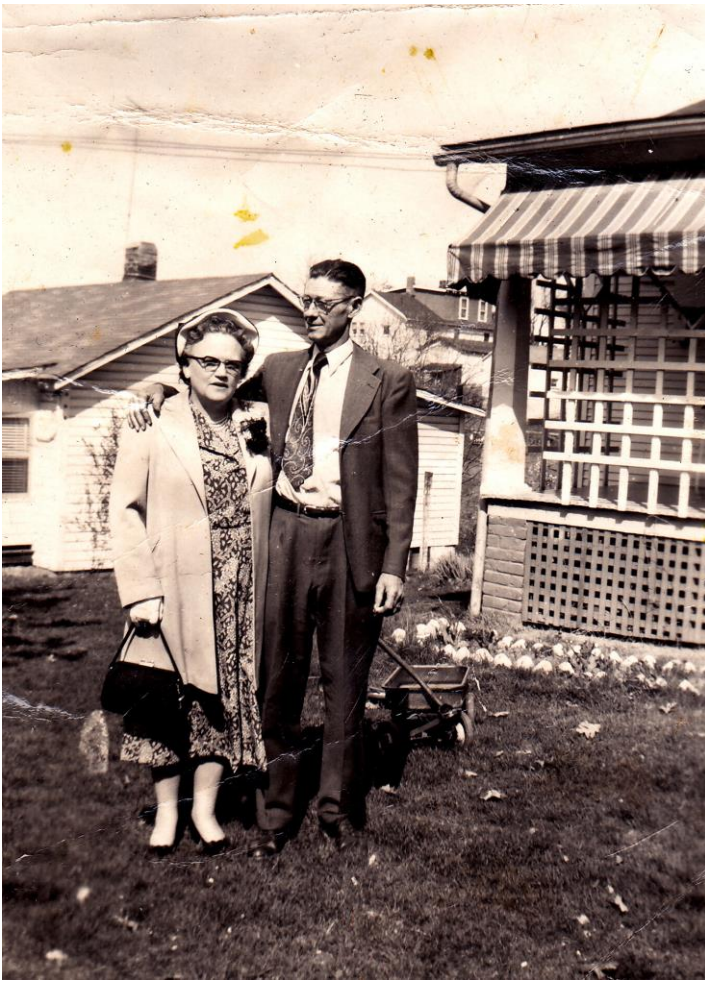
that had fallen out were covered by square or round pieces of tin (from tin cans) nailed over the hole; on the inside pine walls a dried corn cob was sometimes inserted into the knot hole and waxed on the inside.

Information about Miss Jane from her Burial Expenses and Death Certificate – via Sherry:

Miss Jane died in Basham, VA (at home) on 11/28/1945 at 1:35 am. The report said that no doctor had attended her, that she had been complaining for about a week and had something like a deep cold or flu. She died before they could get a doctor. Her full name was Mrs. Mary Jane (Price) Epperly. She was White, Female, born Dec 16, 1863 in Patrick County. Her husband's name was William Thomas Epperly – so we now know what the 'T' stood for -- and she was listed as a Housewife. Her father was William J Price, born in Patrick County, VA and her mother was Petty Martin, born in Floyd County, VA. [Other records say Mary Martin, so Petty may have been a nickname – she died when Mary Jane was very young.] The information was reported by L.D. Epperly, Rt 1, Box 281, Salem, VA. She was buried in the Red Oak Grove Cemetery in Floyd County on 11/30/1945, and arrangements were made by Maberry Funeral Home, Floyd, VA. Her burial expenses were paid by P.H. and L.D. Epperly (\$105.00 in cash at the time), and were \$424.50 -- \$375.00 for a slate Couch Casket, \$25.00 for embalming, \$6.00 for Setting Vault Lumber, and \$18.50 for a Black Dress. The death records are given in the Appendix.

Information about Miss Molly from her Burial Expenses and Death Certificate – via Sherry:

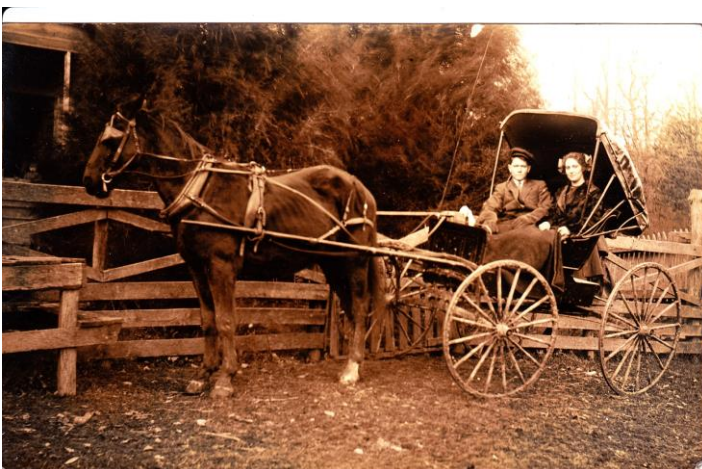
Miss Molly died in Salem, VA on 11/29/1945 at 11:00 pm – the day after Miss Jane died but about 45 hours after – from pneumonia and malnutrition. She may have been taken to Salem after Miss Jane died, so she would not be alone. Her address was Basham, VA. Her full name was Mrs. Mary Adeline (Correll) Anderson. She was White, Female, born Aug 28, 1858 in Floyd County. Her husband's name was William, and she was listed as a Housewife. Her father was Jacob Correll, born in Montgomery County, VA and her mother was Susan Sumner born in Floyd County, VA. The information was reported by Mrs. Marian C. Knoblock, Floyd Welfare Dept. She was buried in the Huffville Cemetery in Floyd County on 12/1/1945, and arrangements were made by Maberry Funeral Home, Floyd, VA – who graciously provided copies of the records. Her burial expenses were paid by Floyd Dept. of Public Welfare, and were \$117.50 -- \$100.00 for a Couch Casket, and \$17.50 for a Steel Dress. [No embalming, and an inexpensive casket in relation to Miss Jane.] The death records are given in the Appendix.



**Lemmie D and Bernice C Epperly circa 1960
at their Salem VA home**



**Lemmie D Epperly and Bernice C Austin circa
1923**



**Lemmie D Epperly (Papa) and Bernice C
Austin (Nanny) and Frank the horse on
postcard -- when courting**



Back of Old House 1993 -- very few windows



Wedding of Peter Hartwell Epperly and Mettie Anderson, Feb. 2, 1911 at Mettie's parents home in Floyd County. The bride and groom are on the porch. Peter's brother Lemmie appears to be behind him (would have been almost 12 years old). Ruby appears to be the shortest woman on the right side of the picture (next to her boyfriend). On the far left, to the right of the window, is a diminutive woman with gray hair who may be Mary Jane Price Epperly. William T. Epperly appears to be the man to the left of the left post.



Peter H Epperly at far left in Panama circa 1908



Peter H Epperly at far left

"Say how do you like those pictures that were taken in my room They were all right but they see ... house. Much work to do and [can't write] a longer letter." P.H.E. "P.S. Say this is too large for the envelope and I have cut part of my head off."



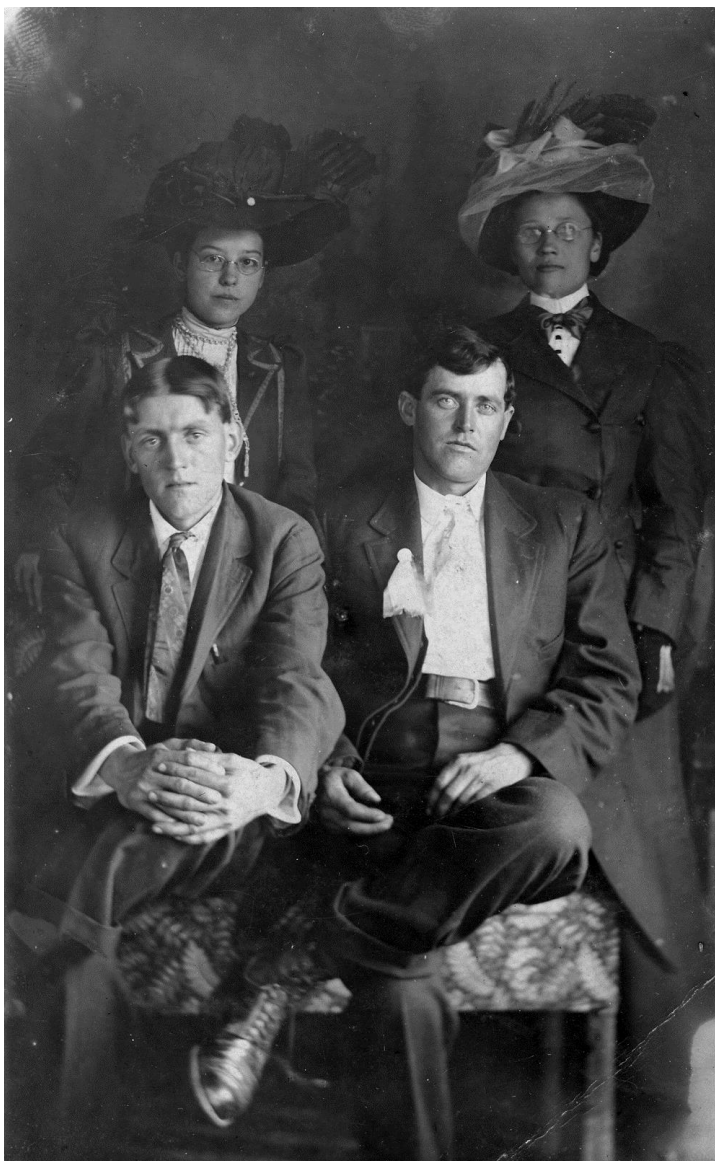
Peter Hartwell Epperly, Mettie Florence Anderson Epperly, Edith Mae Epperly c. 1912



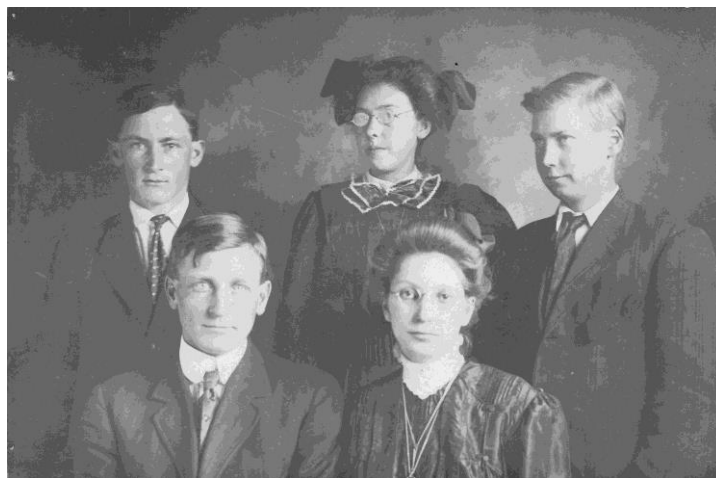
According to Bess Richards Laphew (Wm. J. Price's granddaughter), Ruby was given this basket by Tom Hungate, who Bess said was Ruby's boyfriend. He gave it to her before her surgery, which took place at Wm Jefferson's house on Laurel Creek Rd, on his couch. Ruby had surgery for appendicitis in 1913. She did not survive the surgery and died. Bess was there for the surgery and Ruby's death. [Sheryan has the basket.]



Ruby M Epperly



Ruby Epperly back left -- boyfriend sitting in front -- Oct 30, 1908



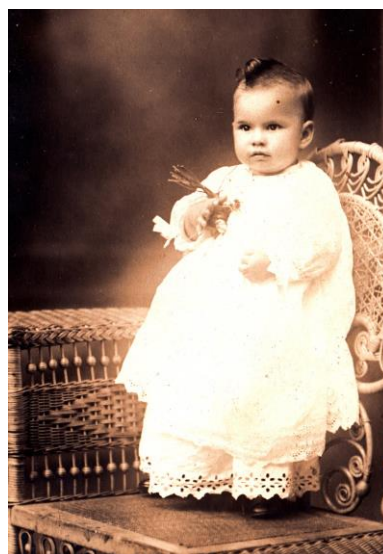
Rear - Euertte Sowers, Ruby Epperly, Euertte Epperly Front - Charlie Sowers, Durlie Epperly Feb 6, 1911



Likely Ruby Epperly's boyfriend



Lemmie D Epperly as teenager



Postcard picture – likely Lemmie D Epperly

Epperly House Renovation

The house had been slowly deteriorating over the years, especially the floor joists. Many were resting on the ground when we purchased the farm, having moved off the original stone piers that had supported them, mostly as a result of water that had flowed under the house. The underpinnings of the back part – the Addition (dining room and kitchen and two upstairs bedrooms) -- were particularly bad all the way around, and it was not clear whether it could be salvaged. We thought that the front Original part might be restorable by jacking it up and replacing some of the sill beams and floor joists underneath and rebuilding the foundation. The Northwest brick chimney had been undermined by groundhogs and shifted, which distorted the house frame -- so that chimney needed to be removed. We hoped that at least the Original part of the house could be saved – it had very wide white pine boards (most over a foot wide) lining many of the rooms – though many had also been removed. When the roof became breached in multiple places, the deterioration proceeded much more rapidly. Our choice was basically to let the house deteriorate beyond any possibility of renovation – or to at least try to stabilize it. So – with not a small amount of uncertainty about where it would lead – we embarked on the adventure of seeing how far the renovation would be doable (and reasonably affordable).

The Original two-story part of the house was a very well-crafted mortise/tendon joint construction. There are markings on the timber to show where the studs were to be located, etc. There were old writings in the upstairs walls, presumably by the Epperly's – which have been preserved photographically.

The Epperly Addition was balloon-style framing, in which the external wall studs went from the bottom sill plates to the roof rafter plates. It was a style that allowed rapid construction – which would have been desirable for the Epperly's to get a kitchen, bedrooms, and dining room relatively quickly and inexpensively in 1912. The 2" by 6" (true) second floor joists were undersized for the 16 foot span and notched to just 3" wide at each end, which rested on a 1x4 plate nailed to the studs! Not adequate support – and making it impossible to jack up that part of the house using what was there to do the renovation. There had been a fire that badly charred the studs at the end of the Addition just below the roof line (Miss Molly's room) – which needed to be repaired.

David Brown was the mastermind of preserving the old structure. After splitting the house into its two parts, the east side of the Original house was jacked up lifting the bedroom floor joists. The stone foundation on the west side was stable enough to support that side of the house. Three temporary footers were poured in the crawlspace for the support columns that were used to jack up the building. Temporary 2x10's spanned the length of the house under the bedroom floor joists, and the jacks, set in wooden cages at the top of the temporary



Epperly House in 1992 – maple tree on left is still healthy



Epperly House circa 2005 – maple tree gone



Epperly House circa 1992



Epperly House in 1992 – Charlie's diesel drums on porch



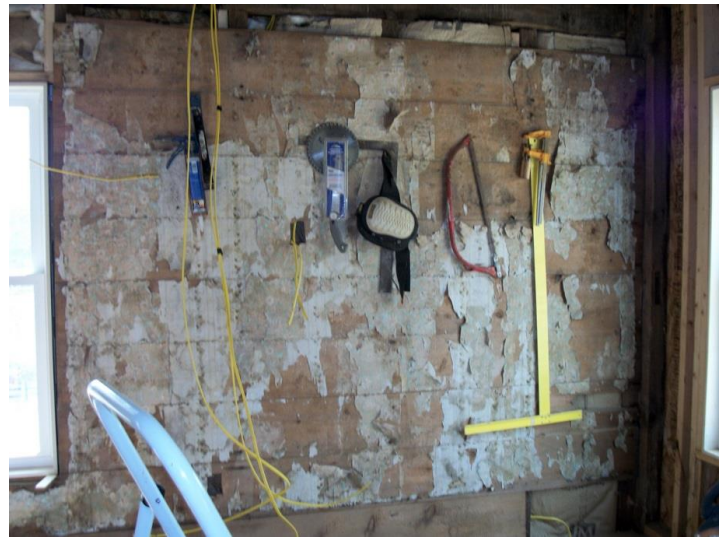
NE end of Parlor in 2011 sitting on ground



Collapsed Southeast end of Living room in 2011 – sill beam of original cabin in foreground



Parlor/Living room after stairs taken out, 2011. Much wood on walls and ceiling long gone.



Northwest wall of Parlor, 2011



After brick north chimney taken down, 2011



Old House circa 1993



Old House circa 1993



Tree removed in east wall, 2011 (Solana)



Addition sitting on ground, 2011



Lemmie's room before door moved left to where original chimney was, 2011



Wall covering in Miss Molly's room, 2011



Peter's bedroom fireplace, 2011



Molly room woodstove fire damage



Tree growing out of east wall, 2011



Addition sitting on ground; door with red sign went from outside to upstairs



Living room fireplace, 2011



Addition sitting on ground, 2011

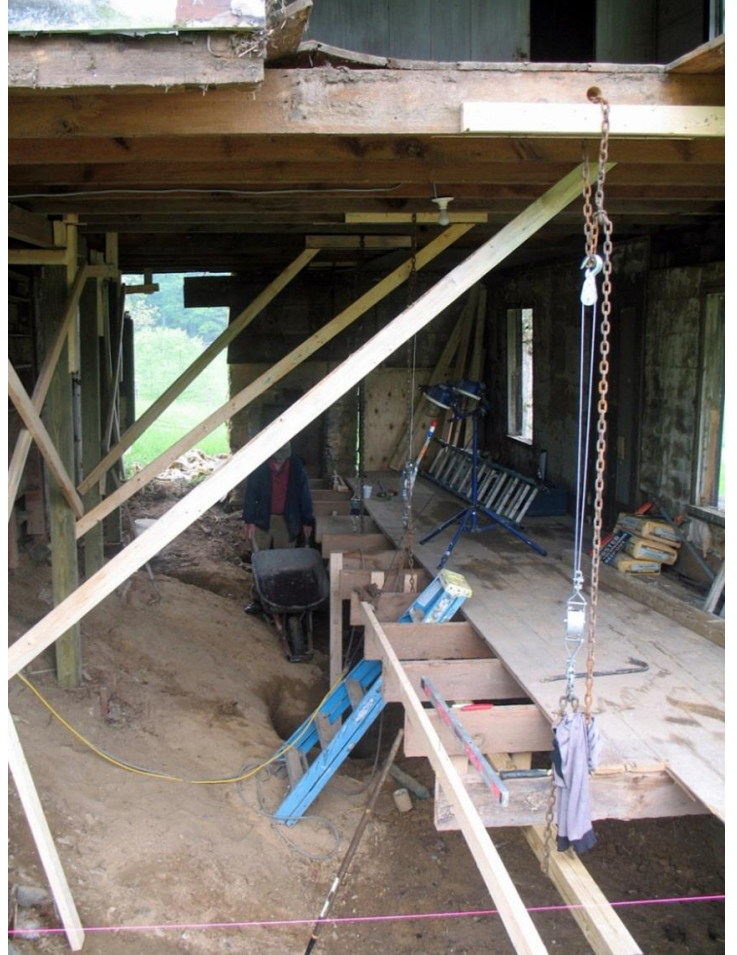


Under newspaper on Molly wall



Addition before jacking

Original part of house jacked up, half of floor suspended from ceiling joists, center support for floor being built, 2011



Addition braced and jacked up after floor, internal walls, 10" of dirt removed, 2011



Addition jacked up 18" above ground, freestanding, 2011



Jack main part of house



Addition braced to jack



Addition new floor system and sill



Build centerline of support



Addition sitting on new foundation

support columns, pressed against the 2x10's to slowly jack it up – about 18" total. Then three piers and sill beam were built to support the middle of the downstairs floor joists (which were undersized for a 16 foot span). And three piers were added under the east wall (common wall with the Addition) so that the sill beam, floor joists, and a new 2x6 first floor east wall could be rebuilt. Advantek was used to stabilize the floor joists and then the Original part of the house was lowered back down a few inches onto its new moorings.

Come alongs and chains were used to straighten the building in three directions. As little inside wood was removed as possible – so that when the clapboard was removed, those walls needed to be insulated from the outside. Some of the wiring was done then as well. OSB board was added to the exterior to give greater structural strength (before the chains for straightening could be removed), and also provided some wind break. We decided to replace the roof rather than repair. The old wood was removed (not very solid to hold nails) and new purlins and metal roof installed – after the roof rafters had been reinforced.

Then a similar process was used for the Addition. After the Addition was braced, the internal walls, flooring, and floor joists were removed – leaving just a shell resting on the ground perimeter. Apart from two large groundhog holes, the dirt under the Addition floor was relatively flat. Michael Kiley and David Brown dug out 8-12" of dirt under the floor by hand to make room for the eventual new 2x10 floor joists and to give a little space underneath to put down plastic. Temporary 2x10's were then lag bolted to the external wall studs just below the bedroom floor joists – since the floor joist were resting on a 1x4 plate and notched to just three inches, not giving adequate support for them. Had we jacked directly on the floor joists, they would have lifted up inside the building – without lifting the entire building. Those 2x10's created a solid connection to lift against when the Addition was jacked up. (Later, the upstairs floor joists were doubled with 2x8's to get sufficient strength across the 16 foot span, and to create a level plane for the downstairs ceilings.)

Then temporary 4x6's were placed under the 2x10's to span across the Addition -- at each end and in the middle of the Addition. Six jacks placed under the 4x6's near the walls were used to raise the entire structure. The 4x6's turned out to be insufficient, tending to bend instead of lift – so 2x10's were scabbed onto them for additional strength – which worked fine.

The Addition was lifted about 18 inches – and was free standing (though with substantial bracing) for about three weeks while the sill beams and floor joists were rebuilt -- and the wall studs repaired or replaced, since most had rotted at the bottoms. We were fortunate not to have high winds during that period! Then the Addition was lowered back onto its new platform; OSB was put on the exterior side walls, and Advantek provided flooring underlayment. The below-floor rough in plumbing needed to be done before the Advantek was completed



West wall framed, little inside wood removed



New roof supports and purlins, 2011



Roof supports, new metal roof, 2011



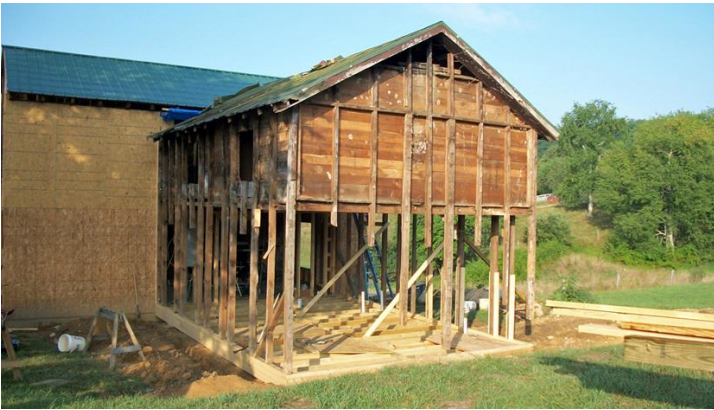
Oak underlayment, Addition roof, 2011



South end framing, drainage over inverted brick 'V' needed to be addressed, 2011



Original house framing, Addition stairs that went to outside, 2011



Addition sitting on new foundation, 2011



John Ellis Basham Family, 1897. Nathan H (top tallest) bought 'Epperly Place' in 1907



Shell of Addition before jacking, 2011



Mortise-tendon joint & pegs



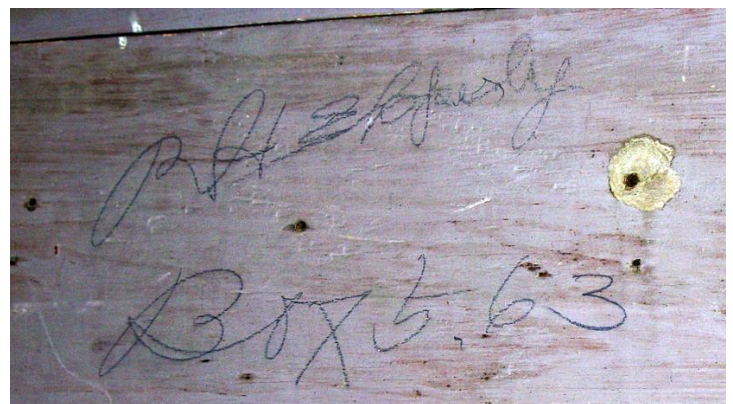
Chimney in Addition before it was removed



On Miss Molly's wall



**Written on master bedroom wall:
'Nettie Collins July 19, 1908 Simpson, VA'**



**Written on Peter's bedroom wall:
'P H Epperly Box 563'**

The roof of the Addition had tar paper and rolled roof on it – under the existing badly damaged metal roof. The wood surface was primarily closely spaced oak boards – in pretty good condition, though some needed to be replaced. The overhang supports were rebuilt, since they were virtually unsupported because of deep notching at the wall plate. There was a straight line of board cuts along one rafter, suggesting an extension of the roof over Miss Molly's room and kitchen area – or perhaps to repair fire damage.

The roof was covered with OSB to make it more uniform. And then a new metal roof was installed. The unusual junction of the two parts of the house required a significant amount of effort when doing the roof. The building was pretty square so it took minimal work with the chains. An effort to address some bowing (an inch or so) in the side walls was not successful – so that is now a feature of the house.

The upper part of the south chimney in the Original house was made of brick – set on a lower part made of stacked stones with two flues. The bricks had the characteristics of being made on the land. The mortar was a mixture of limestone and clay (presumably from the land). Ricky Eanes, who had responsibility for the chimney renovation, had it analyzed in Richmond and a match made by a cement company in Richmond, adding a bonding agent for greater longevity. The mortar mix needed to be just right so that it was about the same hardness as the bricks – so that the bricks didn't freeze and crack. The upper part of the chimney was repointed with that mortar mix. Mortar was put between the stones in the lower part of the chimney for stability and aesthetics – replacing a substantial amount of dried mud deposited by mud dauber wasps. It was a major issue to figure out and implement an optimal way to rejoin the chimney to the house structure – to keep it relatively air and water tight. But it seems to be working.

The north end chimney, which leaned badly, was very weak structurally (especially around the downstairs fireplace) and needed to be removed – leaving gaping holes in that north wall, both upstairs and down. Tons of bricks were loaded into the tractor bucket and moved to a storage pile down in the woods. The kitchen in the Addition – where Charlie had had his still – was in very bad shape. It appeared to have a dirt floor -- but digging deeper, we found a brick floor resting on the earth (bricks laying on their sides), which needed to be removed and stored down in the woods adjacent to the chimney pile.

At the same time, we removed and moved the old chimney in the central part of the Addition down to a pile in the woods. The chimney actually only went through the second story up above the roof. Two oak boards in the kitchen ceiling is all that supported it!. It served four woodstoves in the Addition – one in each of the four rooms. (We still have the woodstove that was in the downstairs entrance room.) It was necessary to remove that chimney in order for the back staircase to



Living Room



Living Room/Parlor



South Bedroom (Peter)



North Bedroom (Master)



Original door to old kitchen/Charlie's 'still'



Entrance Room

Various rooms after old wood reinstalled, 2012

not be too steep (as it had been originally – 10" riser, 8" wide steps), and had to be removed before the roof was redone. There was a large tree growing out of the north end wall of the Addition – which I removed carefully with chainsaw and tractor so as not to overly disturb the wall.

Miss Molly's room had newspaper covering the wood to block the wind, with wallpaper over that – all in very bad shape. Some of the wallpaper was floral print; some actually had a newspaper design. The dates on the authentic underlying newspaper was around 1925, but went up as high as 1938. There were small tin plates covering knot holes in the floor that went through to the first floor space below. The sharp edges could cut feet, so they were mostly removed (except for one in Lemmie's Room closet); a wood plate was put under the knot holes, which were then filled with wood putty and painted. There was a hole in the floor and ceiling of Miss Molly's room in front of the middle of the east wall. A flue pipe had gone from the kitchen below and out the east wall above the ceiling. That is the flue that caught fire. I had to replace charred wood when I removed the wood on the wall, insulated that back wall and ceiling, and then reinstalled the wood. Miss Molly's closet door – 24" wide – was a single piece of pine!

When the septic drain field was put in, we needed to take down the stump that remained from the huge maple tree in front of the Epperly house – well over 100 years old. It had pretty much died 15 years ago – so we cut it back then. The stump was 54" across just below where branches emerged, and 11' feet high; removal was quite an effort for an 18" chain saw and some wedges.

David and Larry redid the exterior in hemlock, after new windows and doors were installed. Hemlock should age naturally to a silver gray. Then David, Larry and I painstakingly restored the inside of the house using the old wood where it was available. Significant wood was missing from the downstairs of the Original part of the house – e.g., in the north parlor room there was no ceiling wood and no wood on two of the walls. Some of the wood had been damaged when it was removed, and some of the splits needed to be repaired. I searched a long time until I found wood that came fairly close to matching the old wood in width and contour – and of course it needed to be pine.

The front stair steps were too narrow (in both directions) to be reused, so were planed down to $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick and placed floor to ceiling in the east wall of the fireplace room – the 36" wide section with the natural reddish hue. The west wall of Lemmie's room was made of exterior clapboard taken from the back of the house (less warped), but turned over to expose the back side. The Addition in fact was originally built over the clapboard on the Original house, with clapboard visible both downstairs and up.



Miss Molly's Room



Opposite ends of Lemmie's Room



Dining Area



Back stairs



Kitchen Area

Almost all the original doors were used -- though they all needed to be re-sized in some fashion -- one was narrow and too badly damaged to use. No door is not original -- except for the exterior ones (for energy efficiency). Three doors include the original rim locks: living room closet (which was half of the original front door), Lemmie's room door at the top of the back stairs, and the upstairs door between the Original house and Lemmie's room (which actually was in the location of a boarded up window -- the two parts of the house had never been connected upstairs). The remaining rim locks, keepers, and porcelain door knobs were purchased at Black Dog Salvage in Roanoke, and a few off eBay -- all authentic from the same period. The lock set with brass key on the downstairs door connecting the Original house and Addition was made in 1862. The downstairs bathroom door was originally the entrance to the kitchen (which later became Charlie's 'still') -- and had 'Laboratory' painted on it -- very close to its current use as the Lavatory door.

Heart Pine was pretty standard flooring back then, so it was used in the Addition downstairs. We could have gotten 3" wide heart pine taken from a 1900 home in South Boston, VA from Black Dog Salvage in Roanoke at \$8/sf -- but chose to use new 5" heart pine planks (at \$2.39/sf) -- which was closer to the original width. Because of a pipe that burst when the floors were being refinished, the floor was badly water damaged and cupped -- so was replaced with rustic red oak.

The west side of the two Original downstairs rooms had thousands of fasteners in them that needed to be removed (thumb tacks, staples, and two sizes of carpet tacks) that had been used to hold down four layers of wall covering over the years -- three of wallpaper and one of fabric.

The electrical and plumbing were brought up to code -- mostly by Matt Sebas of Floyd. Some of the plumbing is under the Addition floor and needed to be roughed in prior to closing the floor with Advantek (by Robby Robbins of Floyd). Electrical service was upgraded to 200 amps and was brought in underground from the pole (by Chuck Yoho). And of course the framing and insulation met code. The ceiling insulation is R30 on the flat and R13 on the 2x4 Addition slopes; R30 was used in the first floor ceilings and R19 in the 2x6 wall between the buildings. The various sections of the house were insulated on the interior walls, as well as the bathroom walls, both for sound proofing and so that particular sections can be isolated and not heated extensively when not in use.

I lowered the dirt around the uphill part of the house by 8-10", using the tractor, to get better drainage -- which is why the sill beams rotted in the first place. The front stone foundation needed to be repaired -- there were stones missing at the corner and there was a huge hole in the middle where the stones had fallen out. There was (and still is) no footer under those stones. I sealed the foundation wall from the inside with mortar, and rebuilt the north end foundation wall with ground contact wood and installed steps and an entrance door -- so that the

crawlspace would be sealed from critters. But they still get in! At the same time, I hand-trenched around the Addition and dug down well below the new sill beam, and installed ground contact plywood along the sill and 10-12" below – to discourage groundhogs and protect the sill and crawlspace from water and air penetration. The large fan in the crawlspace of our house was no longer being used, so I moved it to the Epperly House crawlspace and vented it to the outside. It draws air under the Addition via three vent pipes I installed at the east end of the Addition.

When the house was taken apart to do the renovation, the wall and ceiling wood that need to be removed was not labeled. The materials were mostly stored in the barn – by section of the house (up/down; Original/Addition). Only the Original bedroom wood was (primarily) stored in its original rooms. As different sections of the house were rebuilt, the wood for that section was inventoried and sorted by length and type (ship lap, tongue and groove, thickness). Alas, there were wide variations in these parameters, even in a single board! Some of the T&G boards were more like ship lap the way they were cut – suggesting that some of the original wood was purchased as 'seconds', or simply could not be made in a consistent fashion with the tools available. This created substantial difficulties in fitting the pieces back together. Once the wood was sorted and inventoried, it became a huge jigsaw puzzle to optimize use of the available wood to restore that section and fill the parts of the walls and ceilings that were missing. That complicated process was repeated for each room until all the walls and ceilings were complete – using the new wood to supplement on specific walls and ceilings. It drove Larry and David crazy, since the boards had a specified order and location to be placed. Huge quantities of shims were used to get the walls reasonably flat!

The house originally had four fireplace mantles. One was missing (downstairs north end). The upstairs north end mantle was in pretty good shape and was installed on the wall at the north end of the downstairs parlor – to accommodate future gas logs, since the chimney needed to be removed. The mantles at the south end of the house were in pretty bad shape, the upstairs one having a significant part missing. Since we fixed the stone chimney to expose more of the stone, we decided to dismantle the mantles and the nice wood was used to frame the up and down parts of the exposed chimney. The wood from the upstairs mantle was actually used downstairs, and vice versa.

We did not purchase upper cabinets for the kitchen, to keep an old time feel. And we needed full 12" wide shelves to accommodate plates, etc. I built all the shelving in the kitchen from spruce, since it is easier to work with than Southern Yellow Pine – and has a more mellow grain. I built the downstairs bathroom shelves next to the sink from the risers of the Original front stairs, and the shelves in the upstairs bath from the old steps of the Addition stairs.

The upstairs walls and ceilings were all sanded lightly to remove surface grime. I bit the bullet and did intense sanding of most of the old wood downstairs to bring out the natural grain in the walls and original doors. I sanded for about five full days (with mask, of course). I wish that I could have done more. Some of the wood had a hard white lacquer-like finish – someone suggested varnish mixed with lye – which was particularly hard to remove. I had no alternative but to sand off Charlie's 'Laboratory' sign on the bathroom door. Mary painted a replacement on a board made from the original wood.

In most rooms, I tried to keep a balance of the old and new; sometimes a wall and/or ceiling was kept as it was, and covered with sanding sealer – both to preserve it as well as to make it cleanable. The walls/ceilings in the Original bedrooms were 'antiqued'. Home Depot scanned samples of the Original painted wood in each room and prepared a small amount of paint. By experimentation, I found that adding 50% water just about matched the Original paint consistency – which I then used to blend in unpainted areas of the old wood, knot holes that had been patched with dura rock, etc. The backer on knot holes that had not been repaired were colored black or brown using magic markers.

Randy Roberson did a nice job painting – though we wound up doing surprisingly less painting than I had originally thought. Vaughn Horne provided support. I wanted to make sure that the unpainted walls were sealed so as to be cleanable – and shellacked in order to keep nails and knots from bleeding through. We used BIN as a primer under the painted areas in order to accomplish that. Randy's major conceptual contribution was to use Zinsser's sanding sealer to seal the natural wood, both the new and the old. It is pretty forgiving to put on – and drips, etc. can easily be removed by light sanding and touching up. I wound up putting on nearly all of the sanding sealer/spar varnish – two or three coats -- downstairs (Randy and I did the ceilings together), and a good part of the sanding sealer upstairs.

Linley Gresham came well recommended to do the floors. The plan was to do all the floors, and then finish the painting. Unfortunately, he quickly experienced debilitating kidney stones and, with just some rough sanding done, needed to take time off to heal -- so Randy came back to finish the painting. A few days into the second attempt to get the floors done, while Linley was sanding in the downstairs bathroom, he rose up and his butt hit the cold water PEX pipe for the sink – which broke off, flooding the bathroom. Linley and Beth quickly put a tub under the pipe to catch some of the water – and Linley drove up to the barn to find out where the shutoff was. I tore ass down to the house and turned off the water.

Water followed the channels under the flooring into the entrance room and into the kitchen. We cleaned up what we could, but the next day the floors had cupped badly. Linley thought that he might need to replace half of the kitchen floor as well as the bathroom floor. He removed the bathroom floor so that it



David Wiley and David Brown planning



David Brown rebuilding Addition roof overhang



David Wiley removing tree roots from Addition



David Brown and Michael Kiley



Larry Tarlach and David Brown



Matt Sebas doing electrical/plumbing

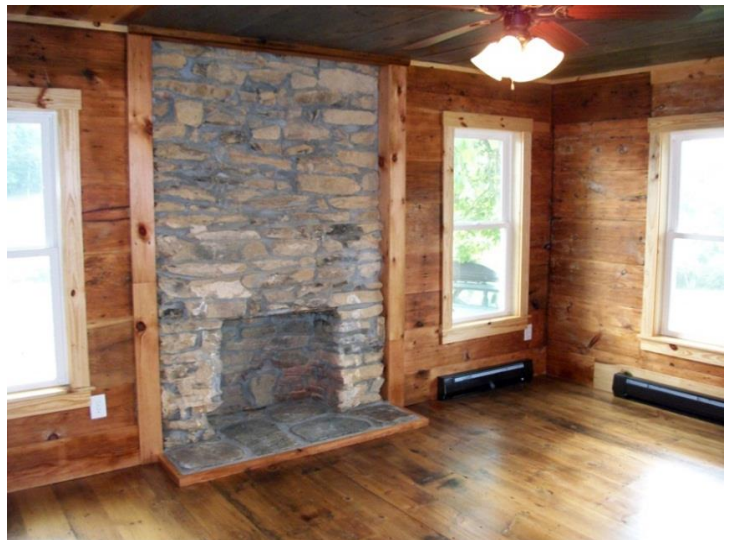


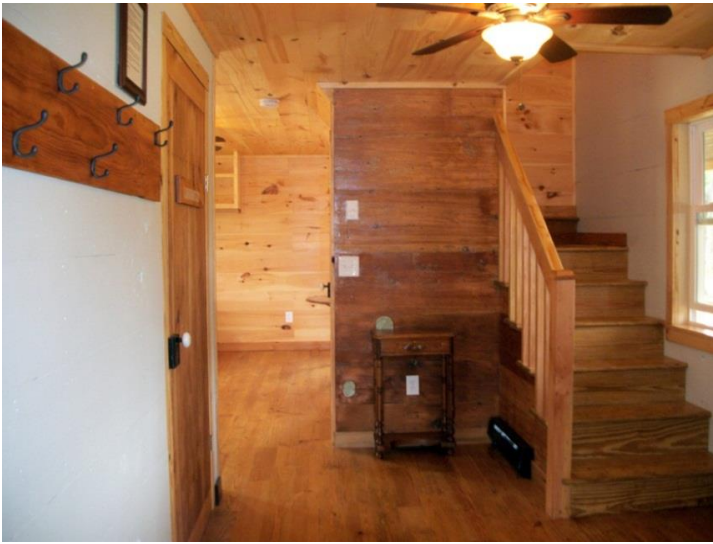
Linley Gresham sanding floors



Randy Roberson applying sanding sealer

FINISHED!!





Back stairs



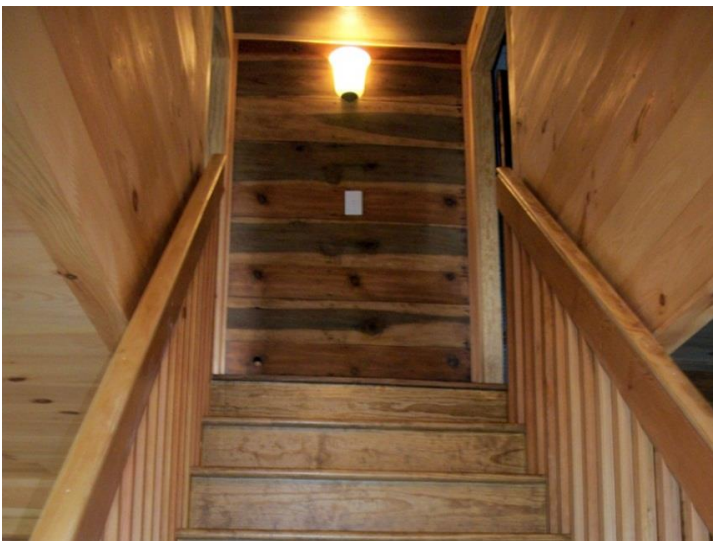
Charlie's 'Laboratory' door, kitchen



Downstairs bathroom



Grandma Wiley's (born 1885) kitchen table



Front stairs



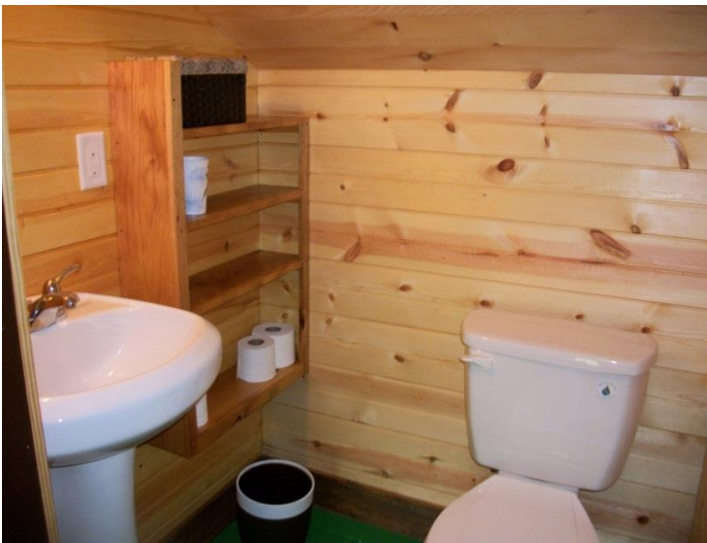
Peter's Bedroom



Original master bedroom



Lemmie's Room, original clapboard & doors



Upstairs half bath



Lemmie's Room



Miss Molly's Room



Miss Molly's Room, closet door

OPEN HOUSE September 29, 2012



Peggy Underwood Trump with pickle dish from Miss Jane (120 years old)



Peggy Underwood Trump talking with Larry Tarlach, David & Mary Brown



Annie Guppy, Mary and David Brown



Larry Tarlach and David Wiley



Ricky & Whitney Eanes; Terry & Mark Vaughn



Randy Vest, Vaughn Horne

could dry out. As it turns out, he only needed to replace one long board in the kitchen and entrance room (the one with the spline), but the rest of the floor settled back down when it dried, requiring just a little sanding.

We did decide to replace the floor in the bathroom with #2 rustic oak from Ten Oaks in Stuart, since it was easier to sand and less likely to cup. We paid for the wood and Linley did the work at no charge – he felt badly, but PEX should not have broken off that way. The perimeter of the bathroom was sealed with flexible silicone to hopefully prevent serious water damage in the future. Linley then completed the job and the floors looked great. The goal was to retain the antiqueness, rather than uniformity, so he tried not to sand too deeply to get down to the appearance of ‘new wood’. Because of wide variations in the thickness of the original flooring when it was put back, he would have needed to sand down more than a quarter inch if the goal had been uniformity. The floors are the only place in the house where a light stain was used, so that Linley could get the different types of flooring to more closely blend. Linley used his sander on the downstairs floors, but because of the cupping in the upstairs bedrooms, Vaughn and I had hand sanded them to bring out the richness of the wood.

David Connor and crew did the retaining wall out of stone picked up in the woods in Tennessee. It has a gravel footer about 8” deep, and gravel behind to keep pressure off the wall. Danny Weeks carefully graded the land so that it had good drainage away from the house. The Powers family helped clear stones from the area before it was grass seeded and hayed, and helped restore the stone walkway from the side porch out to the farm road.

Through the 16 month process Mary was supportive and mostly let me do my thing, for which I am most grateful. Her biggest contributions were to agree to go ahead in the first place to try to stabilize a structure that was in pretty bad shape – a really gutsy gamble -- and then to urge that we make the house functional, not just stabilize it. We had intended to add a bedroom to our house, but used the money for the Epperly House instead. The bright colors on the walls and floor in Miss Molly’s Room – the Sunshine Room – were Mary’s inspiration. She insisted on having three windows in each room of the Original house – five of the rooms had only one window originally, and the sixth had but two.

Our daughter Katherine refurbished the old iron beds she had used growing up in Lincoln, MA – and are now in the original master bedroom. They were taken from an old farm house near Layton, NJ that was about to be flooded to make a new lake – gifted to us by Frank and Hilda Maier. Our daughter Sara gave us the Welcome sign that hangs on the porch. I am grateful to my dad for hoarding bottles of nails and screws and various tools over the years until his death in 1985, a number of which became useful in the renovation process.

On August 21st, 2012, Mark Bolt did the final inspection for the Epperly House. He wanted graspable handrails and found a few electrical problems -- which I promptly fixed. He then issued an Occupancy Permit.

This undertaking could not have been accomplished without the sustained and highly skilled work of David Brown over 14 months and Larry Tarlach over 8 months – for which we are most grateful. It was great working with them, and a wonderful learning experience for me. Except for his initial thought that we consider torching the old house, David Zachow's suggestions and wise counsel throughout the renovation process have been indispensable. I have saved and labeled a box full of artifacts that were uncovered in the renovation: old bottles, animal bones, hand-made square nails of all sizes, examples of mortise-tendon joints and pegs, hardware (locks, latches, hinges), newspaper wall coverings, fabric wall coverings, roofing materials, etc.

Retrospective on the Renovation: I feel that we made the right decision to do work on the Epperly House to forestall further deterioration, rather than to burn it. It has historical value to honor the families who came before and the hard life that they lived as farmers, as well as sentimental value to us and Epperly family members. Our children and grandchildren like to stay there a few times a year during the warmer months when they come to visit.

While the work done was of high quality and the final result is aesthetically attractive, it turns out that the old farm house is not really livable on a sustained basis for a number of reasons: all the wood surfaces and cracks in the wood make it hard to keep clean; animals still penetrate the crawl space; there is significant iron in the water (especially problematic for washing clothes), and no space to install an iron removal system; it must be closed in winter because of inaccessible pipes potentially freezing, especially during power outages; the lack of adequate kitchen and dining areas; a small septic system sized just for occasional use (with no area for expansion); lack of its own water supply; and unusually high maintenance and operating costs for relatively little usefulness. On balance, the old farm house may be seen by most as more of a liability than as an asset.

In spite of these factors, we love being able to look out from our house and seeing a significant connection to the past.

B – Trombold/Wiley House. Our current home was built in the 1974 – 1978 period by Charles and June Trombold, and sits about 300 feet east of the Epperly House. Story has it that the house was to have been pretty fancy – but the house plans did not arrive from the architect and Charlie and the architect got into an argument about whose responsibility it was. Absent any agreement on who should pay for a second set of plans, Charlie went off and designed his own house – a one-story frame using barn trusses that he was familiar with from building the block barn up the hill past the Epperly House. One of the hallmarks of the house was a free standing roofed picnic area out back -- with stone walls, fire place, and year-around Christmas lights – called Kon Tiki.

Kathy Stott (Charlie's daughter) and Jill Lisk (June's daughter), said that Charlie saw the ad for the 'Simpkins place' in the Wall Street Journal. They came down and loved it. While here, they camped next to the Epperly House – Hurricane Camille hit and it rained all week – but they still wrote a Contract! They came down in June 1972 to close. Charlie retired in 1974, at age 62, as Senior Vice President of Campbell Soup in New Jersey and they bought a house in Hunting Hills, Roanoke. They put a trailer next to the Epperly House, which Charlie and June stayed in when June came out to the farm some weekends. Charlie was here during the week working on the farm and the construction. They also built a barn. They sold the trailer and the Roanoke house in 1978 after the house was built, and they moved to the farm full time.

One day Deanna Boswell saw a woman dressed in high heels standing in the middle of the dirt road at the corner of Lovell Rd and Laurel Creek Rd. Charlie had wanted June to live in the Epperly House or perhaps a camper adjacent to it. When he asked her, they were driving down Lovell Rd. She refused to live in either place and said to let her out of the car! – so Charlie did and that is when Deanna saw her. Charlie then bought her the house in Hunting Hills, Roanoke – but she did come to visit the farm on some weekends and stayed in the camper – never the Epperly House – it was pretty run down by then.

Charlie had 3 or 4 horses – and loved them. He loved being a cowboy. Charlie was born in Kansas, then moved to Illinois, where he also went to school. He had 'farm' in his blood. Charlie appears to have had a successful second-career business as a farmer on Laurel Ridge. He had a strong will and wanted things done his way. Story tells it that the experienced farmers who worked with him said that there were two ways of doing farm things: 'Charlie's way and the right way'. Charlie had a number of people help him on the farm, but he was especially close with Tommy Simpkins , and eventually let Tommy have the 'Lower 40' for his own herd.

Back in the 1980's, Charlie and Tommy took a road trip to Illinois so Charlie could attend a school reunion. Charlie loaded two 40 gallon barrels of off-road diesel

on the back of his truck -- to save money (no tax)! On another trip to St. Louis, they went to a bar (the Mule Lip Bar) and maybe had a bit too much to drink – Charlie wanted Tommy to take the Mule Head that sat above the mantle, and said he would serve as decoy while Tommy did it. Tommy said he didn't want to go to jail, but Charlie said he'd get Tommy out. Tommy said he was not worried about jail as much as getting out of the bar alive – looking around at the big guys at the bar. Of course, nothing ever happened.

One of the pictures below shows Tommy at the sawmill – which was back on the knoll on the farm road that ran between the house and the log house we built in 2003. The reason that there was a farm road there in the first place was that a logging company had logging rights on or near the farm – including the right to bring the logs through Charlie's land. Charlie did not want the trucks going down the old road that came from Hook barn past the house, so he got the loggers to build that farm road so that the logging trucks could exit on the other side of the house directly onto Lovell Rd, most likely down the old farm road that we opened up in 2014 – that crossed the creek (where it joined with the farm road that came down from the Basham House) and joined Lovell Rd closer to Laurel Creek Rd than our driveway.

Charlie had a very close friendship for many years with Junior Vest down at the end of the road near the hard top (High Rock Hill Rd) – adjacent to the Lawrence, Weaver, Bugg Cemetery! Junior and Charlie got into some disagreements – Junior asked Charlie if he could hunt on the Trombold farm, and Charlie said 'no'; Charlie's mailbox was in front of Junior's house, and he told Charlie that he couldn't turn around in his driveway when he came to get his mail, so Charlie had to go down to the corner to turn around -- they never spoke again. Sometime later, Junior came up and dumped some garbage at a spot on Lovell Rd Charlie had posted "No Dumping" on his farm. Tommy later bought the Vest's farm from Olean Vest after Junior died.

Because of Charlie's background and unusual name, people who didn't know him very well called him Mr. Trombone; they speculated that he had money buried all over the farm – and urged us to look for it.

June had a flower and vegetable garden, but never really liked the farm. She apparently got tired of the fact that Charlie only wanted to talk about the farm, animals, crops, etc. She spent much of her time at Garden Club, Bridge Club, and traveling with her friend Dixie Nichols, Deanna Boswell's mother on the next farm over.

Jill said that Charlie and June sold the farm in 1993 because she and her husband were moving away (her husband was transferred to Charlotte). Jill had been working on her PhD in statistics at Virginia Tech. Charlie had had lung cancer, but was past it in 1993, and it never came back. He and June built a large home at Smith Mountain Lake – but he never really liked it. He couldn't shoot his guns and

had to live with all the building and other restrictions. He would come back to the farm occasionally to go off and shoot his pistols. Apparently June loved living at the Lake.

Charlie later developed bladder cancer and another form of lung cancer – and that took his life on the last day of 1996. June developed cancer in the leg that was not diagnosed or treated properly. After three unsuccessful surgeries, the leg was amputated above the knee. She developed brain lesions, perhaps from the long periods of anesthesia, and now has Alzheimer's. In 2012 she was in Assisted Living in Sarasota, Florida near where Jill and her husband live.

So Charles and June sold the farm to us in 1993. Charlie held out for a full price offer on the farm and then was generous after closing. He very kindly gave us his old '79 Ford truck – which our grandkids came to call the 'old green truck' – so that we would have an appropriate farm vehicle. He left an incredible assortment of nuts, bolts, pieces of metal, used farm implement parts, and so forth in the barn workshop. I rarely come away empty handed when I go up to the barn looking for something that might help me fix something on the farm, thanks to the treasures that Charlie left for me. Charlie wanted us to be able buy his Massey Ferguson tractor at an agreed upon price – but had already signed a contract that it be sold at auction, along with his other farm machinery. On the day of the sale, Charlie kindly instructed the auctioneer to tell people that the tractor had been burned badly in a fire – which it had. Even though it had been repaired, that announcement discouraged most others from bidding, and Mary was able to get the tractor at the agreed upon price – which again was very kind of Charlie!

We had come down in the summer of 1992 to visit an acquaintance in Giles County. We fell in love with Floyd County and started to look for a place to retire with our close friends Judy O'Brien and John Hanson (their daughter Kalin was not born yet). Mary came down later and real estate agent Tom Moser said that there was an exceptional farm that had been on the market, but had been taken off. Apparently Charlie had been upset that no one had bought his lovely farm.

Charlie allowed her to see it – and Mary immediately fell in love with it. She called me and I flew down from Massachusetts that weekend and immediately fell in love with it, as well. Charlie and I hit it off right from the start, in part because of our mutual connection with MIT – he had taken a graduate program at MIT's Sloan School of Management. Although I was nowhere close to retirement, we liked the farm and Floyd County so much that I decided that I could commute back and forth to MIT! We wrote a Contract in the Fall of 1992, and the Trombold's graciously let us close in the Spring to give us time to sell our home in Lincoln, MA. We closed April 30, 1993 and moved much of our belongings to the farm.

In readying the house to move in, we noticed a huge amount of diesel fuel on the kitchen floor under the linoleum that Charlie had used to start the woodstove – and wondered what role that that diesel, the woodstoves, and the diesel tractor had played in developing lung cancer. We always felt that if Charlie and June had built the home that they had intended, we would never have been able to afford the farm – or it would have been snapped up before we saw it. We feel very fortunate.

We lived in Lincoln, MA with a friend, Martha DeNormandie, for a year while Mary finished up her job at Minuteman Vocational-Technical High School. Patty and Tom Extenkamper lived in the house and took care of it that year. We then made our final move in June 1994 to the farm, and I began commuting back and forth to MIT. First, I was at MIT for 10 long days, and came to the farm for four days – a long weekend. And then as internet technology developed – and after the new Student computer system was put into operation -- I would be at MIT for 11 very long days and at the farm 10 days, working and managing the Registrar's office by email and telephone. I took early retirement in 1996, at age 57, and moved to the farm full time.

After we bought the farm, we asked Tommy Simpkins, who had had a herd in the Lower 40, if he wanted to use the entire farm for his herd, in exchange for keeping it up. He agreed and that arrangement worked well for six years. Then he remarried, and decided that he needed to spend more time at home – and gave up our farm in June, 1999, since ours was the furthest farm from where he lived. He sold us part of the herd that was on the farm and I took over the farming operation at that point. I quickly learned to love the cows – their gentle ways – and the cow-calf operation. We are grateful for all that Tommy has done for us over the years, and for being my teacher and mentor. Mark Vaughn has now taken over the farm and has been doing a great job, including helping do many things for us to ease our daily living.

The part of the Edgar Simpkins farm that we bought from the Trombold's had various names. Some called it the 'old Epperly Place' or 'old Eply Place', and some 'the sheep meadows'. It also was called 'Double Gates' – there were double gates at the entrance to our driveway on Lovell Road. They were in place when Edgar had the farm, and the hinge pins and 12 foot posts are still there.

Robert A Lovell – Waller Lovell's father and Wayne, Pierce, Margaret, and Ray's grandfather – and perhaps Edgar Simpkins and others, helped build Lovell Rd (from Laurel Creek Rd up to our driveway) with pick and shovel in the 1930's, and Lovell Rd was named after him. I heard that they basically moved the road up the hill from an old farm road that was down along the creek – but I think they were really talking about moving Laurel Creek Rd up the hill from the creek. Lovell Rd was built to create a shortcut to High Rock Hill Rd. It is possible that Robert Lovell built it while he was living in the Basham House – to get better access to Laurel Creek Rd and the new house he was building at the sharp curve

on Laurel Creek Rd. He would have come down the old farm road from the Basham House that we opened up in 2014 -- that crossed the creek and then joined Lovell Rd about 900 feet from the intersection with Laurel Creek Rd. It was apparently called Burnt Chimney Rd because there was a burnt chimney remaining from a school house located somewhere along the road – but we have never found it. Gaye Simpkins apparently taught at that school, and then at the Rifton School House – a one room school located in what is now Marvin Jones' house further up Laurel Creek Rd at the corner with Old Rifton School Rd.

The entrance to our farm on Lovell Rd in the 1950's was apparently a congregating place, since people could pull off the road (the gates were set back quite a bit). In earlier years, that end of the farm had been pretty isolated, so young women were warned never to go up that road. Coon hunters would gather there and walk up the road to hunt. That was the culture back then, and perhaps explains Mary's experience after we first moved to the farm. At 11 pm one night when she was alone (I was in Massachusetts), two people walked up the quarter-mile driveway and came to the door asking for permission to coon hunt. It was the only time Mary recalls our poodle 'Bear' growling and baring his teeth. But people had been accustomed to walking up the driveway from 'Double Gates' to hunt. When they got to the house, they must have been surprised to see someone there – so decided to ask for permission – at 11:00 at night. The horrendous noise from the barking dogs treeing a coon would have been very evident had they not asked for permission.

Extensive renovations and additions to the house have been done by the Wiley's over the past 18 years to modernize it and adapt it to the needs of our extended family.



Charles Trombold and his sister Mary Dixon



**Tommy Simpkins and Old Green Truck
at farm sawmill**



**Trombold living room looking at fireplace
and front door**



**June Trombold and neighbor Eleanor
Cash in southwest corner of living room**



**Trombold living room looking at hallway
door and kitchen**



**Charlie (on horse) and June at camper
next to northeast end of Old House**



Charlie Trombold at Kon Tiki and porch of old Mudroom



Patty and Tom Extenkamper around 1991



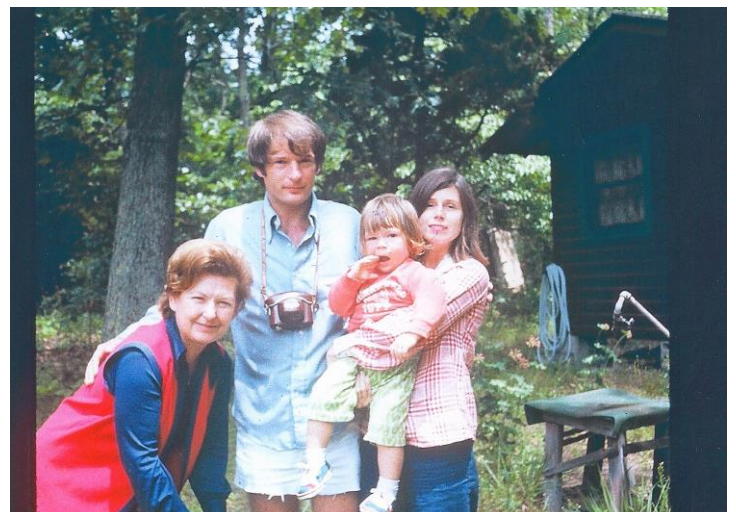
Front porch in 1980's



Tommy Simpkins and original fence in 1993 while pond being constructed



Back of house and gravel drive to Mudroom



June Trombold with son Bent Zepke, Chad, and Anne Zepke



Front porch and fence in 1993 with Grace and Mary



June Trombold after left farm



Behind garage in early 1990s before pool and stone wall constructed



1993 before pond built



View to the west in 1993: barn, old house, June's garden area in foreground



Farm viewed from the west in mid-1990s – before fodder pit filled and fields fenced



House in 1993 with freestanding Kon Tiki, rear shed, adjacent cow fence -- prior to 1996 addition



Back of house in 1990s with original Mudroom and freestanding Kon Tiki, with split rail fence closer to house



Kitchen in 1990s: original dark oak cabinets, countertop, woodstove & wall covering



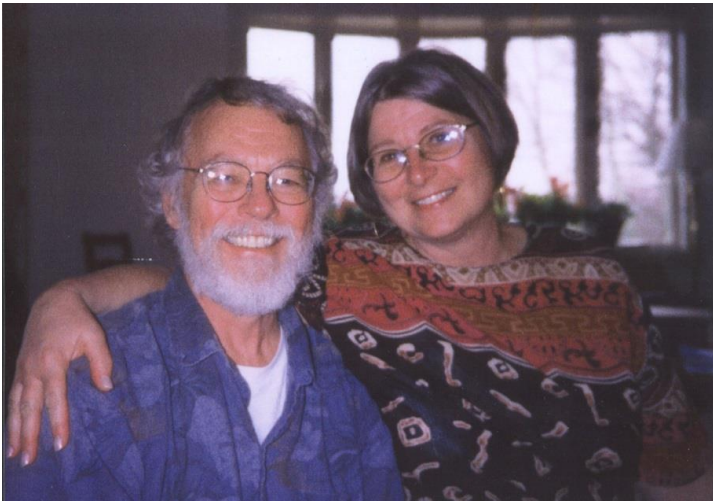
Kitchen in 1990s with original windows and fridge in corner



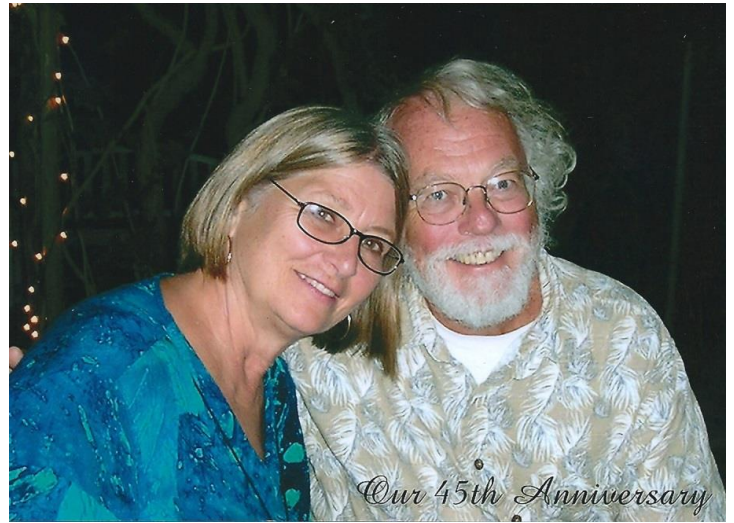
Old Green Truck



View from Wedding Field to Hook Field



David and Mary



Mary and David



**David Jr, Mary, Katherine, David Sr, Sara
at Katherine's wedding, May 1999**



**View from house to old house & barn circa
2003 (Grandma Wiley's peonies foreground)**



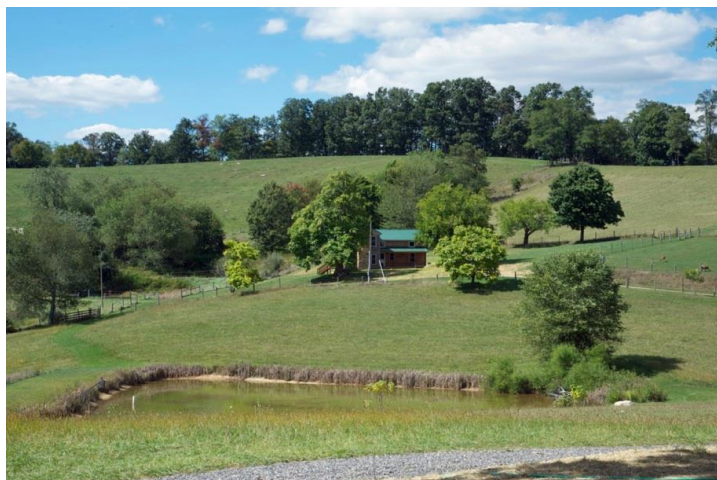
**Front porch in 2012 (porch expanded
and stone walkway)**



**Back of house in 2011 (dining room
and family room added)**



Hay bales in Wedding Field



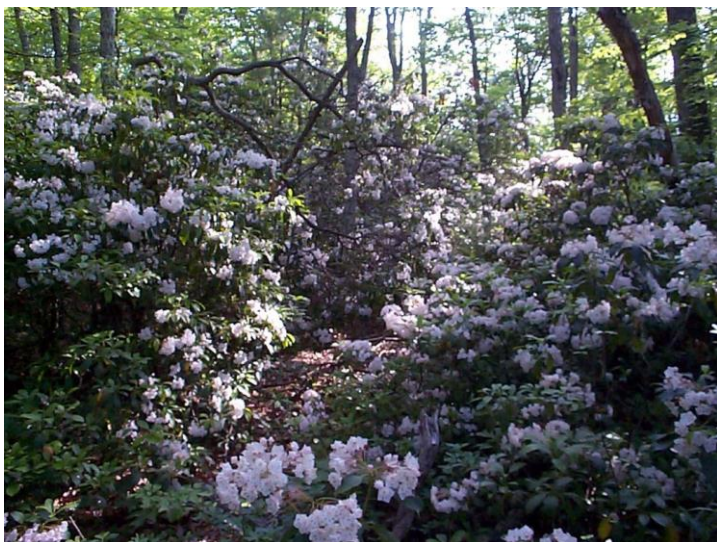
Pond and renovated Old House



Log House

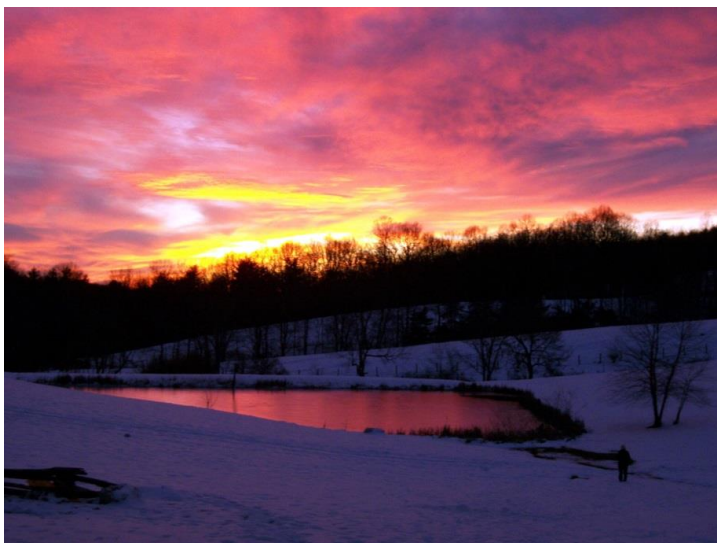


View from house to Poor Mountain in Fall



Laurel in bloom

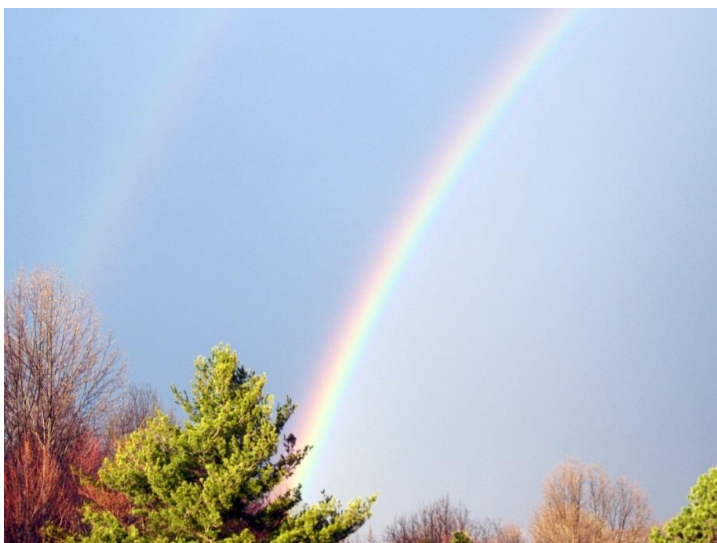




Sunset over pond in winter



Sunset



180 degree double rainbow, March 2000



Ice storm, January 2014



Winter landscape – pond, barn, old house

C - Basham House (Lawrence House). The Basham House was built in the early 1870's by James E Lawrence and family (apparently before he took ownership of the land in 1876). He and Elizabeth Ann Lawrence raised their 7 children there. The picture below, a rare gift, shows the family around 1895 – presumably at the Basham House.

Roy Howard contributed the family picture. Vince Howard, Roy's son, is the Great Grandson of Mamie Ethel Lawrence – in the back row of the 1895 picture. Mamie moved to Roanoke and lived on McClannahan St. Elder John Lawrence Sr set up the Meadow Creek Baptist Church, but at some point the congregation became disgruntled and asked him to leave. He was replaced by Pastor Howard. Eventually the two families came together when Mamie Lawrence married a Howard.

The family sold the land in 1907 to James' brother Jacob, left the house, and moved to Christiansburg. Elizabeth had become ill -- she died in 1909 -- and needed to be closer to medical care we think. In the early 1930's, the house was lived in for a period by Robert A Lovell and family, including his father (Waller Lovell's grandfather) James K Lovell, after he bought land on Laurel Creek Rd and was building their house. After that, it may have been occupied by farm workers helping the Simpkins. The last person to live there was Tom Clemmons and it became known as 'Old Tom's Place'. Wayne Poff confirmed that there was a farm road off Lovell Rd that went up to where Tom Clemmons lived. It was about 900 feet from the intersection of Lovell and Laurel Creek Rd. That is the farm road that James Lawrence family also must have used to get back and forth to the log house on Laurel Creek Rd. It went up along the hollow to the backside of the Basham House, going past their spring. I determined where the old road must have been and opened it up again in 2014 – installing three water crossings that had washed out. Tom (age 64) and his wife Myrtle (age 18) appear in the 1940 Census – as the adjacent entry to Mary Jane Epperly and Mary Anderson.

My recollection is that the home had two rooms downstairs and two upstairs (with a single chimney that served all four rooms), plus a one-story wing to the south that served as a kitchen and pantry. The home was irretrievably deteriorated when we bought the farm in 1993. Charles Trombold had stored hay in the house for a time. It became progressively worse and walls began to cave. The cows were pushing underneath in the winter, and it became dangerous and could have collapsed. The remains of the building were pulled down in 2006 by Grand-daughter Cecelia and me – and Grandson Misha and I burned the remains and carted the standing seam roof material to recycling in Floyd. The only thing standing today is the chimney – which opened on two sides to both of the downstairs rooms. We regret very much that we did not take detailed pictures of the house before it was lost.

Jacob E Lawrence and his wife Mary (Molly) E Dobbins Lawrence had 5 daughters between 1868 and 1877. James E Lawrence and his wife Elizabeth Ann Stuart Lawrence had 4 of their 7 children between 1869 and 1877. At some point it must have become too much for the two families -- and their parents -- to live in the 4 room log house on Laurel Creek Rd (House 'D' on the Annotated Map). James E and family built their home in the early 1870's to address this crowding. Gessner was a baby and Edgar Lee a toddler when they moved in. The land James E Lawrence received from his father in 1876 was clearly configured to include the Basham House site, plus some buffer that extended out to Lovell Rd -- since the house had already been built. The Annotated Glendale Farm Map also shows that the house had a driveway off Lovell Rd, making it easier to get back and forth between the Lawrence houses. The southeast facing house site had an excellent spring water source, and was down from the hilltops to reduce wind and protect from the north.

According to the Census records, James E Lawrence was listed as living with his parents, James P and Sarah, in 1860. In the 1870 Census James E, his wife Elizabeth, and their son Edgar Lee had their own household in the Little River Magisterial District -- maybe in the log house with his parents and his brother's family, or maybe in the Basham House. In 1880, James E Lawrence (age 36) was the head of a household that included his wife Elizabeth Ann (35), Edgar Lee (11) [who became a doctor and practiced in Roanoke], Gessner Harrison (9), Mamie Ethel (7) [the Great Grandmother of Roy Vincent Howard], Annie M (5), John S (3), and James Grayson (1) [Sala Wilmer (Uncle Sala) was not born until the next year]. Sarah Catherine Epperly Lawrence (then 77 and a widow) also lived with them.

Based upon scant evidence, it is possible that James E Lawrence's middle name was also Epperly. His brother Jacob's middle name was Epperly, and his father James and uncle John had Peden as their middle name -- so it is possible that there was a family tradition that at least some of the males carried their mother's maiden name as their middle name.

The 1890 Virginia Census was burned in a warehouse fire. In 1900, James E and Elizabeth had three children at home: Annie M (25), John S (23), and Sala W (19). Sarah was then deceased. In 1910, James E Lawrence was living in Christiansburg with children James G and Annie M. His wife Elizabeth was deceased. James remarried in 1910 and then died in 1915 at age 71.

The name given to us when we bought the farm was the 'Basham House', but it is not clear why, since the land had never been owned by members of the Basham family as far as we can tell. It may have taken its name from the fact that it was in the Basham community and Basham post office area, as distinct from the James P/Jacob E Lawrence house on Laurel Creek Rd, which was in the Walcot post office area at one time. As late as the mid-1900's, the entire Simpkins farm was shown in the land records as "Little River District, Basham Community, Laurel Creek area". The picture caption below of the James E Lawrence family says

'Basham'. Another possibility is that when N H Basham bought the 'Epperly Place' 90 ½ acres in 1907, the Lawrences had moved out, and perhaps he and his family lived there while they worked on making the Epperly House livable. Nevertheless, we feel that it would be fitting to change the name to the 'Lawrence House'.



James E. Lawrence family of Basham, Floyd Co. circa 1895. Back row (L to R): James Grayson Lawrence (1879-1950), Dr Edgar Lee Lawrence (1869-1954), Mamie Ethel Lawrence (1873-1961) (Vince Howard's great grandmother), Gessner Harrison Lawrence (1871-1909); Front seated (L to R): John S. Lawrence (1877-1961), Annie M. Lawrence (1885-1976), James E. Lawrence (1844-1915), Elizabeth Ann Stuart Lawrence (1845-1909); Sala Wilmer Lawrence (1881-1955). (Contributed by Roy Howard, 10/04)



Chimney of James E Lawrence home (Basham House) in 2011. Metal roof of Lawrence/ Simpkins Victorian House can be seen in the distance in photograph below left.



Metal roof of Victorian house visible about a half mile to the east of Basham House



Log Sheep Barn on southern side of James E Lawrence's land (age unknown)



James E Lawrence Family graves at Sunset Cemetery (Section D) , S. Franklin St, Christiansburg, VA (Picture by Vince Howard)



Gessner Lawrence

D - Old Log House. The Log House on Laurel Creek Rd was probably built by James Peden Lawrence in the late 1840's or early 1850's – shortly after he purchased the Tinsley land in 1846. The Log House was 'dog trot style' – basically two log houses close together, with a central inside hallway that provided access to both log houses, as well as outdoors to the front and back of the house. It had front porches on both sides and a chimney at either end.

The two houses that were joined in this way were two rooms each, one downstairs and one up. All four rooms had a fireplace. It had clapboard on the outside, but was essentially a hand-hewn beam log home. The inside walls were lined with 18" wide boards – so it didn't look like a log house. The 1" diameter pegs were hand carved, square nails were used, everything was hand-hewn with an adze, and it had mortise & tendon joints. Gary Long still has the inside doors and fireplace mantels. Deanna Boswell did a painting of the Log House, which we are trying to track down to make a copy.

According to Census information, there were three separate Lawrence households on the farm in the 1860 -1900 period: (The 1890 Virginia Census forms were destroyed in a warehouse fire.)

	1860	1870	1880	1900
Head	James P	James P		
Head		Jacob E	Jacob E	Jacob E
Head		James E	James E	James E

Hence, there need to be three separate residences in the 1870 – 1877 period (James Peden Lawrence died in 1877) on the farm -- it seems unlikely that any of the families would have moved off the farm since they all farmed the land. When James P and Sarah gave the land to their two sons in 1876, they reserved the log house for their use, so they must have lived there continuously. Since the Victorian house was not built until 1913, presumably in the 1870 – 1877 period, James P and Sarah lived in one half of the Log House on Laurel Creek Rd, and Jacob E Lawrence's family lived in the other half. The Log House was designed in such a way that that would be possible. James E Lawrence and family lived in the Basham House for most of that period on what would become their land. Since the Basham house was built in the early 1870's, there were a few years when three small families (a total of six adults and four children) must have lived in the Log House, sharing it in some fashion.

In 1860: James Peden Lawrence (age 53) was head of a household that included his wife Sarah Catherine Epperly Lawrence (54), and three sons: Jacob Epperly Lawrence (22), Canaan Lawrence (20), and James E Lawrence (16). Phillip Jackson Lawrence (30) had already left home.

In 1870: One household consisted of just James P (63) and Sarah (64) Lawrence. Jacob E Lawrence (32) was head of a household that included his wife Mary (Molly) Elizabeth Lawrence (32), and two daughters: Jennie (Virginia) Ellen Lawrence (2) and Lula Jane Lawrence (1). James E. Lawrence (26) was head of a household that included his wife Elizabeth Ann Stuart Lawrence (25), and their first child, Edgar Lee Lawrence (0); it is possible that James E's family was living in the Basham House by then.

In 1880: Jacob E. Lawrence (42) was head of a household that included his wife Mary (42), and five daughters: Jennie (12), Lula (11), Sallie E Lawrence (8), Addie Lawrence (6), and Ollie (Olivia) Alice Lawrence (3). Sallie and Addie died in early 1890, thought to be from scarlet fever.

In 1900: Jacob E. Lawrence (62) was head of a household that included his wife Mary (62), and three daughters: Jennie (32), Lula (31), and Ollie (23).

In 1910: Jacob E Lawrence was deceased, and Earl Putnam (Put) Simpkins (35) was head of a household that included his wife Ollie (Olivia) Alice Lawrence Simpkins (33), Mary (Molly) Elizabeth Lawrence (72), Jennie Lawrence (42), Lula Lawrence (41), and three sons of Olivia and Putnam: Irvin L Simpkins (1902 – 1968), Byron Seibert Simpkins (1905 – 1997), and Edgar C (Canaan) Simpkins (1909 – 1981). Put and Ollie were married in 1900.

A fair amount of mail was found in the Old Log House addressed to Gaye and/or Edgar Simpkins, and a few to Put -- from the 1945 - 1960 period, but mostly mid-1950's. I went through one box of the materials that Gary Long had stored – but found nothing of great interest with regard to the farm itself, although they may have some historical value in general. There were no first class letter communications. It was mostly newspapers (both Floyd and Montgomery County), magazines, journals, etc. -- farming magazines and reports, NEA education reports, Methodist church and other religious materials, and shopping (Sears catalog and others). Those categories fit well with their life interests. Once the Victorian house was built, the Log House was never lived in again – it was used for storage and chickens. The material left in the old Log House suggests that up until the mid-1950's, the address of the Victorian house was Basham, VA; after that, Pilot, VA.

Many family members had lived in the Log House over a period of about 60 years, many of them born and raised there. The large Victorian House on Laurel Creek Rd 100 yards to the northwest was built around 1913, and the family moved across the road.



Jacob E. Lawrence family, Floyd County, circa 1900. Back row (l to r): Olivia (Ollie) Alice Lawrence Simpkins (1877 – 1968), Lula Jane Lawrence (1869 – 1959), Virginia (Jennie) Ellen Lawrence (1868 – 1958); sitting: Jacob E (Epperly) Lawrence (1838 – 1909) , Mary (Mollie) Elizabeth Dobbins Lawrence (1838 -1917). (Contributed by Leah Gillie)



Lawrence Log House on Laurel Creek Rd before dismantled and moved to WV



Inside stairs and door frame



Simpkins Victorian House on Laurel Creek Rd



Put Simpkins shelling corn

E – Victorian House. According to Gaye Simpkins, the current Victorian house was built around 1913. This is reinforced by the fact that it is late Victorian style (Eastlake Victorian), which reasonably would extend into the 20th Century, and the fact that wire (round) nails were used, which dates it to no earlier than turn of the Century. The house was built out of red oak timber harvested from the property. The old Log House chimney stones were put into the foundation of the Victorian house!

The house was very fancy for the times – with gas lights. There was no anticipation of electricity in 1913. Electricity didn't come to Laurel Creek Rd until the late 1930's (FDR's Rural Electrification program). The Alton Underwood (later to be the Crowgey farm), Lawrence/Simpkins, and Lovell families built a 'crank up' local telephone system that they maintained themselves – so they could keep in touch with each other. [Underwood's were related to the Lawrence's.] The Victorian House housed the Simpkins family members until 1971.

In 1920: Putnam (Put) Simpkins (45) was head of a household that included his wife Ollie (43), Jennie Lawrence (52), Lula Lawrence (51), Irvin Simpkins (18), Seibert Simpkins (15), and Edgar Simpkins (11).

In 1930: Putnam (Put) Simpkins (55) was head of a household that included his wife Ollie (53), Jennie (62), and Lula (61) – the sons had gone off. In 1937 Edgar Simpkins married Gaye Rachel Vest (1911 – 2006). She joined the household, which stayed the same until Put Simpkins committed suicide in 1950. Edgar Simpkins was then deeded the farm and he became head of household. Jennie died in 1958 at age 90, Lula died in 1959 at age 89, and Ollie died in 1968 at age 91.

Roy Cole remembers being over at the Victorian house in the late forties and seeing Ollie, Jennie, and Lula making bars of soap out in the yard from lard and lye. The sisters had a large garden below the old log house. They had sheep, horses, chickens, turkeys, and guineas – and were seen as nice ladies!

Put Simpkins was suffering so badly from arthritis that they didn't think he could get to a gun, but he did -- and took his life by putting a rifle in his mouth in 1950.

Gaye Rachel Vest (Simpkins) was born and grew up in the Stonewall area of Floyd County. Her parents were William Flenar Vest and Tabitha Jane Rierson Vest. [Rachel was a middle name Gaye adopted by age 8 to honor a favorite aunt-in-law.] Gaye went to Bridgewater College – a Brethren school. She and Edgar married in 1937. Edgar had been married before -- which meant Gaye married a divorced man –and she was kicked out of the Brethren church by her father, Willy Vest, who was the minister.

Gaye was a very frugal woman, and patched clothes almost until there were patches on patches. She was a very strict 'old school' teacher, and taught at the one-room Rifton School just off Laurel Creek Rd. She was Wayne Poff's school teacher in grades 1 -7 (early 1940's), and Alton Underwood's kids (became the Crowgey farm) went to school with Wayne. Gaye was a sweet lady, but very strict – and therefore not well liked by the kids.

Archie McAlexander also went to Rifton School -- for three years in the early 1940's; it closed and Archie went to Red Oak Grove School (and Gaye went into Floyd to teach at the School where the School House Fabrics is now located). The school bus was a closed truck bed with benches. [The Christmas House on Christiansburg Pike in Possum Hollow was also used as a school at one time.] Then Archie went to high school in Floyd (via school bus) – which had grades 6-7 and then four high school years (no 8th grade).

Gaye was very strict – Archie got two spankings in one day. Five boys got in a fight and Gaye gave them all spankings; she had them bend over a desk. One of the boys told one of the girls that it didn't hurt – and it got back to Gaye. She came out and brought the boys back in for another spanking – which hurt that time; then the boys got another spanking from their dads when they got home. If you were not doing what was expected, Gaye would come up from behind, grab your collar, and shake you. But she was a really good teacher

Gaye was active in the Bethlehem Methodist Church – and played piano. That church had an affiliation with Camp Creek Methodist Church (on Christiansburg Pike). As the two churches dwindled in size, they combined into one church and formed the Camp Bethel United Methodist Church. Lula, Jennie, Ollie, and Frances and Junior Poff all went to Camp Bethel church – the women sometimes met in the Victorian house for prayer meetings. Gay Simpkins started using the name Gaye Simpkins sometime in the 1960's. Gaye was a superwoman – she held the farm together – and was a 'very nice lady'.

Edgar was a serious drinking man. Edgar had a deep baritone voice – which carried up the hollows when he was cursing the cows. On occasion Edgar would come and ask Roy Cole's dad Irvin (they were good friends) to take him to White Cross in Roanoke to dry out. He apparently went there many times – and often stopped for a drink on his way back home after a visit to White Cross.

Edgar Simpkins was a very smart man and made a lot of money by farming the 600 acres – chickens, sheep, beef, milk, hogs, hay, wheat, oats, corn, etc. He also had an ice house down by the creek near the Simpkins home. Wheat and oats were hand scythed and shocked – to let stand and cure before thrashing. The Simpkins paid their workers hardly anything at all – little cash, leftover vegetables (seconds), and old clothing – characterized as being almost a slave-master relation. They did provide primitive housing for some of the workers.

Edgar made a lot of money in investments – his estate at his death was reputedly over \$1M. His broker used to drive up from Roanoke in a Cadillac to visit him, and then Gaye after Edgar's death.

It is not clear how much Edgar's drinking impaired his functioning. But Gaye was apparently the glue that held the farm and family together. Shortly after Gaye married Edgar, she tried to go back home to her parents – but they wouldn't allow it, and sent her back. Many years later, Gaye's mother said that that was a mistake she had long regretted. But Gaye told her niece late in her life that she was glad she went back. It seems clear that Gaye endured a great deal – perhaps of heroic dimension -- and was a woman of extraordinary character and values shaped by her life's situation and choices.

Hay was cut by hand and shocked and stacked around a pole. Wayne Poff helped Edgar do his hay. Archie McAlexander (who remembers doing hay with Jack Craven) said that two smooth poles and two people were used to move shocks of hay. They were then stacked around a central pole up pretty high – the equivalent of 40-50 round bales. There has a fence around the piles of hay so that the cows couldn't get to it; in the winter hay was pitch forked over the fence to feed the cows outside the fence. There were hay piles all over the farm to feed the cattle. The hay was stacked in such a way that it shed water – so the hay underneath was still fine. One time a fresh, very green locust tree was used as the central pole in a hay stack – lightning hit it and the whole pile burnt to the ground, including the pole.

Dr Harmon was a 'country' vet who worked during the time the Simpkins owned their farm. He loved to tell stories (in fact he wrote them down, and his wife has thought about publishing them.) Bill and Sue Bowen conveyed some of the stories: "The Simpkins got tired of dehorning their cattle, so they bought a huge mulie bull with large head but no horns. Many of the calves then needed to be 'pulled' because of their large heads and they would call Dr. Harmon. Dr Harmon said that he wanted that bull around for a long time – best thing that happened for his business!" "One day Dr Harmon went way out into the woods to tend to an old, very sick cow that was down and couldn't get up. Dr Harmon made an infusion of pond water, salt, and antibiotics – and quickly that old cow got up and walked." "When Dr Harmon was a boy, walking in the woods one day he came across some rustling in the grass. It was a black snake that had a copper head by the back of the neck and was coiled around its body – systematically stretching the copper head until it died." "A little boy was having serious health problems and Dr Harmon asked if he drank from the nearby creeks. After being treated for parasites, the boy returned to normal."

Edgar Simpkins had 2 brothers, Irvin and Seibert – only one had children, a daughter. She had 5 children and one day just left and disappeared, and later divorced. The children are the last of Jacob E Lawrence's line – but their whereabouts are unknown. Will Angle married a Ridinger daughter, and ran

Angle's market in Christiansburg – on Main St adjacent to the site of the new Courthouse. Seibert Simpkins worked at Angle's market, as did Jack Trump, but Seibert was Will Angle's right hand man. Irvin Simpkins became a pharmacist and owned a store in Blacksburg for many years.

Laurel Creek Rd was straightened in the early 1960's. Edgar wouldn't let them work on the part of the road through his land, because it would have been too costly to rebuild the fence. (The less affluent neighbors just did it, because it was the right thing to do.) Laurel Creek Rd formerly had turned at Margaret Lovell Easter's, went over to the road coming through the woods from Waller Lovell's direction, passed in front of John K Lovell's old home place, and went up through the field where Brandon and Michelle Lovell are building. The work really took out the curves in Laurel Creek Rd.

Just past Judith Shrum's, across from Rifton Ln, is the stone work for a foundation that was the old Ridinger store on Laurel Creek Rd – Florence Ridinger lived next to the store as well.

There also was a Lawrence Store on Rt 615 pretty much in front of Tekoa. It was run by Alonzo Lawrence and his wife Martha Jane. Later, Junior Poff and Frances Poff ran the store for a while; Frances was a Lawrence and kin to Alonzo. The store closed in the 1980's. Lawrence's also owned the Terry's Fork grocery (and the brick house next to it), before Vernon Nolley bought and ran the store.



Mrs. EP Simpkins, Basham VA (Ollie)



Miss Jennie Lawrence



Lula, Jennie, Ollie



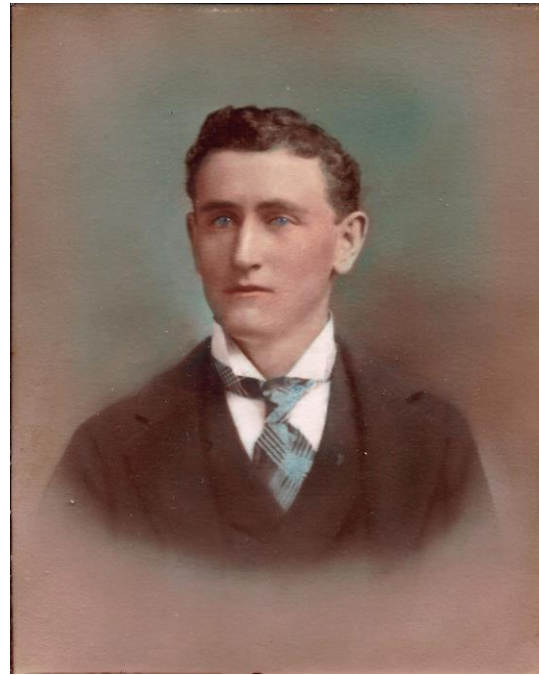
Miss Lula Lawrence



Lula, Put, Ollie, Jennie at Victorian House



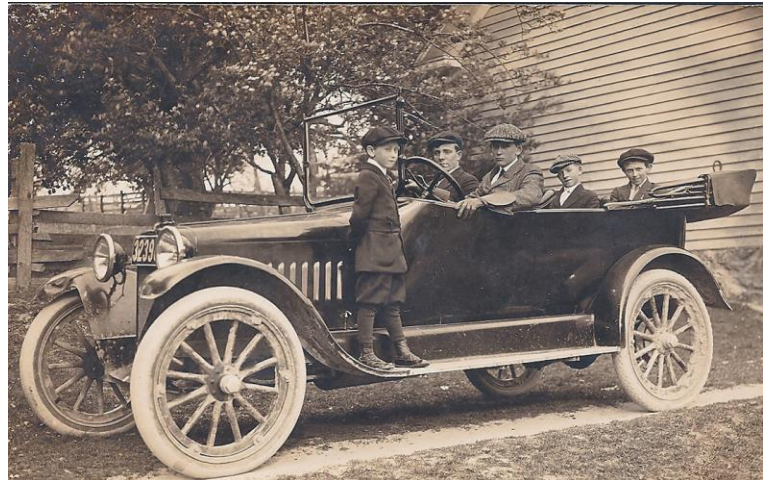
Put Simpkins



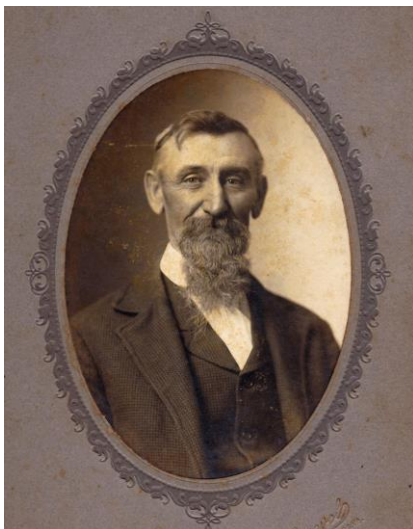
Put Simpkins



Olivia Lawrence Simpkins



Edgar Simpkins on running board



Daniel Simpkins - Put's father



**Mary Catherine
Dobbins Lawrence**



**Andy & Letitia Peterman Dobbins -- Mary
Catherine Dobbins Lawrence's parents**



Gaye Simpkins



Gaye and Edgar Simpkins



Edgar Simpkins



Edgar (I), Irvin, Seibert Simpkins



Seibert, Irvin, Edgar (r) Simpkins with Ollie



Gaye Simpkins' parents – Elder Vest

F – Simpkins Brick House Prior to selling the farm in late 1971, Gaye and Edgar Simpkins built a new home on two acres they had retained on Laurel Creek Rd at the east end of the farm (adjacent to the Lovell land). That was their home from 1971 until Edgar died in 1981 and Gaye died in 1906. Thomas and Cara Gillie currently live in the home; Gaye was Leah Gillie's Aunt, and her son Thomas' Great Aunt.

G – Dr. Edgar Lee Lawrence's House. A log house was built on Parcel 9 by a 'Dr Lawrence'. Since the land was then owned by James E Lawrence, that would be Dr. Edgar Lee Lawrence, the eldest son of James E and Elizabeth (see family picture above). Based upon the tax records, it appears to have been built around 1900.

Dr. Lawrence finished Medical School in 1900, at age 31, and started building his log house on Laurel Creek Rd perhaps around 1902. Dr. Lawrence first practiced at Tindall (near the top of the steep hill on Rt 615 about a mile from Bethlehem Church Rd heading toward Floyd – about 2 ¼ miles from the log house) and then practiced in Floyd from 1903 – 1919 (from a written record at the Floyd Museum). The family moved into Floyd around 1909-1910. By the 1910 Census, Dr. Lawrence and family were listed in the Town of Floyd, perhaps renting before they built a house. They may have moved to Floyd after his parents sold their part of the farm to his uncle Jacob in 1907 and moved to Christiansburg. Dr. Lawrence never owned the land on which the log house was built.

Dr Lawrence moved to Roanoke in 1919 and practiced medicine there for the next 35 years until his death in 1953. The obituary provides additional information. He had married in 1893 in Roanoke, VA; the youngest child in the picture below (James Harry Lawrence) would have been born in the log house.

Dr Lawrence bought two lots in the Town of Floyd, one on Main Street in 1910 (known as the N.B Scott hotel lot) and the adjacent parcel on Oxford St in 1912 (part of the J.T. Jett hotel property). They built a large home at 212 E Main Street in the 1912-1915 period. The doctor's office was on Main St next to the house – it was later moved back off the street and a shed added, where it stands today (in great disrepair) between the house and the Bank of Floyd parking lot. See early pictures of house and office.

In 1919, when the family moved to Roanoke, the Lawrence's sold that property and home for \$5,000 to M G Conduff. In 1978 his heirs (his widow and children) sold it to Dixie Nichols -- who had purchased Tract 5 (62.2 acres) when Edgar and Gaye Simpkins sold their farm -- and was June Trombold's closest friend! Dixie was Deanna Boswell's mother, who along with husband Bob, had purchased Tract 1 (59.4 ac) and Tract 2 (43.4 ac) when Edgar and Gaye Simpkins sold their farm. Interesting chain of relationships.

It is not clear what the log house was used for after the Lawrence's moved to Floyd -- certainly rented, perhaps for farm help. At some point, perhaps in the 1940's, the house burned. (Wayne Poff remembers the original house before it burned -- the Pratt's lived there then). All that remains today is the original small log outbuilding -- standing behind the house site.

Sometime later after the fire, mid-1900's, the Simpkins built a simple 1 ½ story cottage on the site, in which they housed farm labor. It was partly constructed of charred wood -- likely the useable remains of the original house. The cottage was pretty shabby and primitive -- no plumbing or heating. Out behind the cottage was an old spring box that had been used by Edgar Lee Lawrence's family. The cottage was red, and it was called the 'Little Red House'. Gary Long remembers 'jamming' in that cottage with Ben Hansel (the owner at that time), Fred Jones, and others -- sometime in the 1980's.

After Meads Davenport bought the property in 1995, he tore down the cottage and built his current house. The road that cuts through Mead's property, now discontinued, formerly went to Bashamtown, a black community in Floyd in the Basham area. Archie McAlexander said that HS Claytor owned a lot of land in the area, as did some other black families. That land was eventually owned by Joe Stewart, including HS Claytor's 300 or so acre farm. There was a black school in Bashamtown and Archie sometimes went there for various events, like Christmas party. There was another house on Meads' road, on the left, about 300 yards off of Laurel Creek Rd (presumably the Price's house described next).

Laurel Creek Rd didn't exist past his house in the old days -- there was essentially a farm road that led to where the Lovell's lived. The main road went through what is now Meads' land and what became Joe Stewart's land, over to Coles Knob Rd. Up Meads' hollow was a blacksmith's forge on the left side of the road. Meads noted that when the chestnut trees died in the 1920's, subsistence farming in Floyd went down the tubes, although there was sawmill activity for several decades clearing up the trees that had died.

One Of Roanoke's Oldest Practicing Doctors Dies

Roanoke Times 3/22/1954

Dr. Edgar Lee Lawrence, one of Roanoke's oldest practicing physicians, died Saturday afternoon in a Roanoke hospital. He was 84.

Dr. Lawrence, who resided at 2212 Broadway, S. W., had not been active since he was injured in a fall a few months ago.

A native of Floyd County, he taught school at Shawsville for a brief time before entering the Medical College of Virginia.

Upon his graduation from medical school in 1900, he returned to Floyd County, practicing there until he came to Roanoke in 1919. As a general practitioner, he enjoyed a large practice in Roanoke.

He was a member of the Medical Society of Virginia, the Southwest Virginia Medical Society and the Roanoke Academy of Medicine. He was also a member of Trinity Methodist Church and of several social and fraternal organizations.

Surviving are three sons: H. P. Lawrence, Ernest L. Lawrence and J. Harry Lawrence, Roanoke; a brother and two sisters: S. W. Lawrence and Mrs. C. A. Howard, Roanoke, and Mrs. E. C. Reed, Richmond, and one grandson.

Funeral will be conducted at



Dr. Edgar L. Lawrence

Oakey's Chapel at 4 p.m., Monday by the Rev. C. F. Moseley. Interment will be in Sherwood.

Dr Edgar Lawrence Obituary, 1954



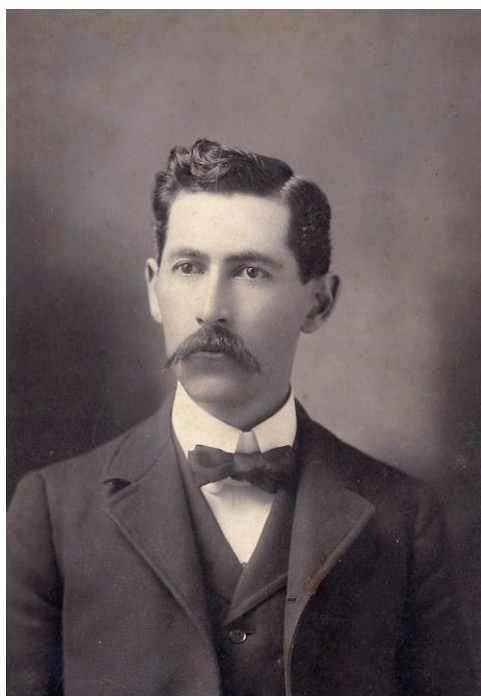
Dr Edgar Lee Lawrence (1869-1954), wife Nannie B Kitterman Lawrence (1874-), Ernest L Lawrence (1895-1970), Herman Page Lawrence (1900-), and James Harry Lawrence (c. 1903-), around 1905



Dr Edgar Lawrence and Family



**Dr Edgar Lawrence Home and Doctor's Office at 212 E Main St, Floyd, VA
(next to the Bank of Floyd parking lot)**



Dr Edgar Lee Lawrence



H – William Price House. William Jefferson Price -- Mary Jane Price Epperly's father by his first marriage -- bought the property in 1900. His house burned down before 1930, and little survived but a mantle clock that currently sits on Sherry Epperly Chester's fireplace mantle (see picture). The house was apparently rebuilt, because WJ Price's 1930 Will refers to his daughter Eliza's help in that effort.

Eliza was William J Price's daughter by his second marriage. In the latter part of her life, she lived in the house with her niece Bess Laphew, but before that she apparently lived some of the time with her half-sister Mary Jane Price Epperly -- here on the farm. Sherry has a chair that Bess gave her that was Eliza's -- it may have been in the Epperly House at some point in time!

William Jefferson Price was conscripted into the Confederate army (Virginia 51st) in February 1863. He served a short time and then apparently deserted. Surviving accounts from his commanding officer described the cold and horrible conditions the men lived under during the winter of 1862; family stories talked about men hiding in nearby caves after deserting. Interestingly, William J was later able to get a small veteran's pension from Virginia, as a friend certified he served honorably in the CSA [Confederate States Army] and William Jefferson signed the same for his friend, also a deserter! William Jefferson was invited to the 75th anniversary celebration of Gettysburg in 1938. At the time he was very old and decided not to make the trip, even though Put Simpkins offered to drive him to the ceremony. Sherry has that invitation, framed and hanging on a wall in her house. William Jefferson Price died in 1939. Perhaps his daughter Mary Jane Epperly cared for him at the Epperly house! He is buried in the Huffville Cemetery and his tombstone reports "PVT 51 VA INF CSA". [Alex Chester researched this information in the National and State Archives.]

In 1992 Sherry interviewed Bess Laphew -- the daughter of Indy Price, Eliza's sister. Bess talked about the Epperly House as well as her grandfather William J Price, and also about Put Simpkins. See transcript of Tape 1 in the Appendix -- which includes quite a bit of information about the goings on the Lawrence/Epperly/Simpkins farm! Bess' daughter, Mary, had begun researching the family. Bess gave Sherry all Mary's files remaining and all the family's photos (Sherry can identify very few people in them). William J Price's daughter Eliza lived with her father after her divorce.

William J Price's Will gave everything to Eliza. And when Eliza prepared her will, she left everything to Bess. Eliza's sister Indy (who was Bess' mother) and other family were incensed and tried to void the will. According to Bess "Let me tell you the funny thing. My Putz [Bess referred to him as Putz] Simpkins came down there one morning, almost before daylight, and said 'Bessie, you and Mary (Bess' daughter) and Guy (Bess' husband) get ready. We're going to Floyd'. I asked for what, and he said 'Miss Lawrence has told Charlie and them a tale, about them

(Grandpa Price and Aunt Lizy) giving you and Gus everything you had, and they are going to try to stop it'. Well, honey, they didn't stop it. You know when Putz Simpkins went to do something, it stood. They deeded us everything they had, and they got mad.... at us."

Archie and Lena McAlexander remember picking apples and grapes at Liza Price's house.



William Jefferson Price – Mary Jane and Eliza's father. Lived on Laurel Creek Rd.



Eliza Francis Price c 1940 – Mary Jane Price Epperly's half sister. Lived on Laurel Creek Rd.



Bessie Hallie Richards Laphew

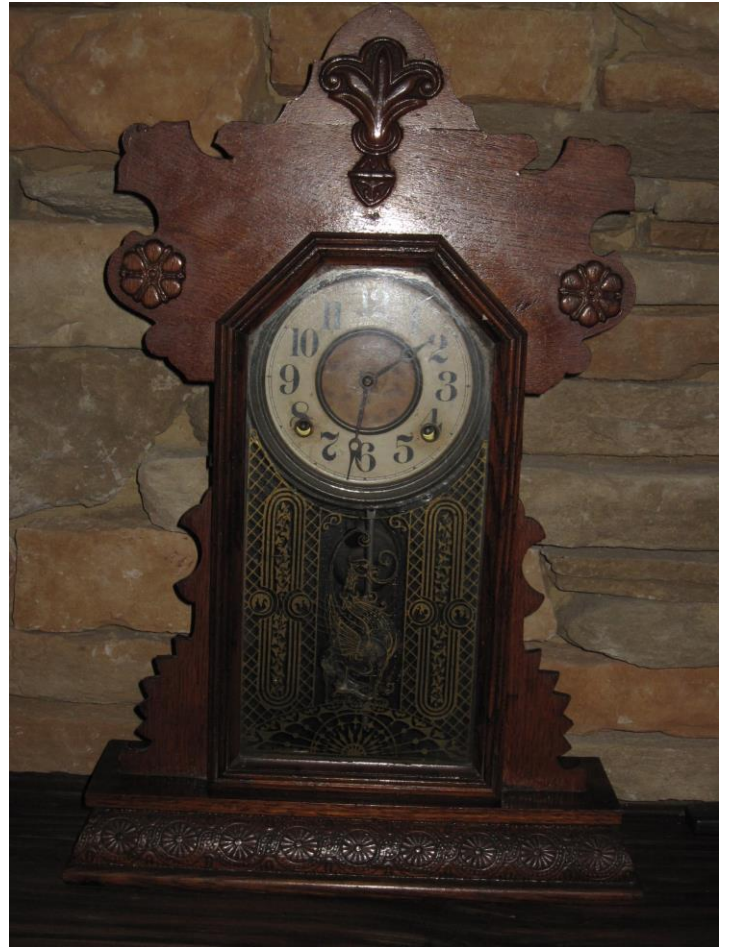


Melissa Jane Milton Neel - Michael Dean Neel - Evan Milton Neel 9-1992

From Sherry: On that 1992 trip we visited Aunt Bess (Bessie Hallie Richards Laphew). She was a grandchild of Wm. Jefferson Price (her mother, India, was Price's daughter and thus Jane's half sister) and spent time at the Epperly house with her Aunt Jane. Bess had a daughter Mary. Mary married Mike Milton and they had a daughter Melissa Jane Milton (she went by the name "Janey"). Mary died young. Janey moved in with her grandmother, Bess, to take care of her. Janey's husband was Michael Dean Neel and their son was Evan Milton Neel. Above is a very poor photo of Bess in her home in Dublin, VA and a photo of Janey and her family. Sad ending - Janey left the house (and her marriage), leaving behind her husband and her young son. Michael stayed on to take care of Bess. I've lost track of Bess, but I'm sure she has passed away by now.



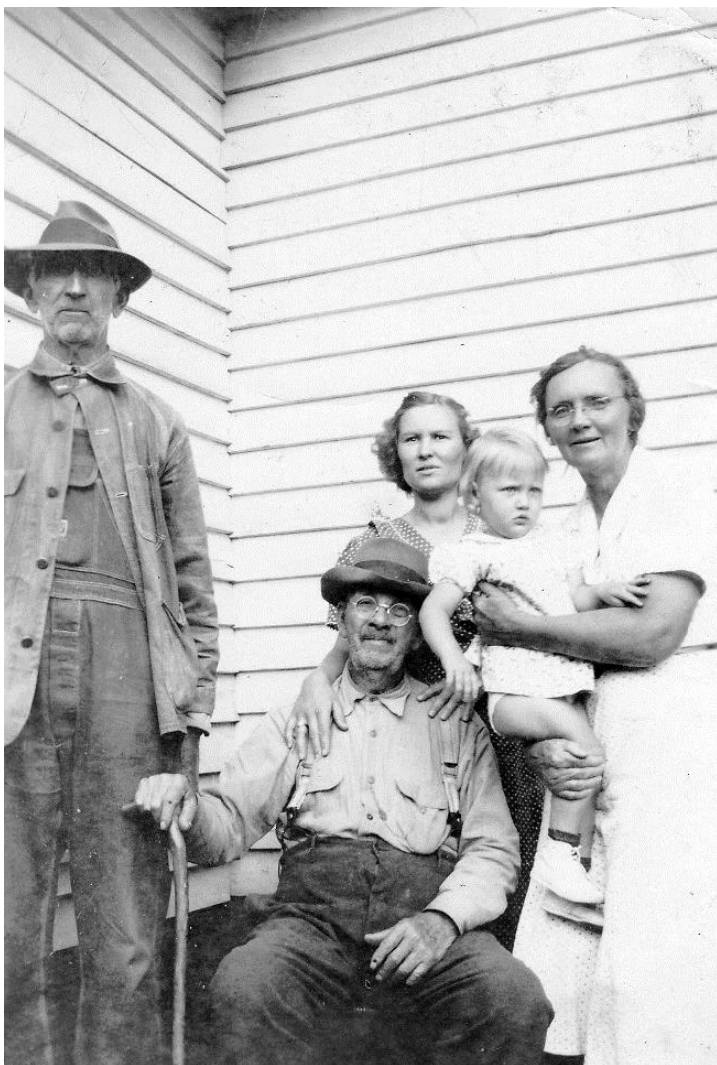
**Wm Jefferson Price stamped Sep 1937
-- two years before he died.**



Mantle clock of Wm Jefferson Price. From Sherry: It was passed to his daughter Mary Jane (which means that it was likely in the Epperly house), then to my grandfather Lemmie (I remember it in his house), then to my father Ray (it sat on the mantle over our fireplace), and then to me, where it is photographed on our mantle today. Price's house burned down, so I don't know if this was something they managed to salvage or something he acquired after the fire. I'm guessing he took it to his daughter's house (Mary Jane) when he moved in with her.



Wm Jefferson Price and daughter Mary Jane Price Epperly - both seated - stamped Sep 1937



William Jefferson Price sitting



Unknown – perhaps Mary Jane Epperly



Unknown – perhaps Mary Jane Epperly



Price Home site



Sewing machine of Mettie Anderson Epperly

S – Bowen Cabin. Sue and Bill Bowen bought their property in the late 1960's (part of Fleming Lesneur's property prior to 1882). When they retired in 1985, they built a lovely log cabin on the site of the previous log home. They have pictures of the previous home in its waning years hanging on the cabin wall. They are both retired chemists from Virginia Tech and live in Blacksburg, but come to the property fairly often. Though around 90, they especially come when severe weather is expected -- since the cabin has everything they need to survive, including wood heat and a strong spring. They have built lovely walking trails around their property, including one that comes up behind Hook barn – they even constructed a 'fence walkover' to make it easier for us to get there. They are the sweetest couple you would ever want to meet.

T – AME Church. When Fleming Lesneur sold the 52 acres on Laurel Creek Rd to William T Epperly in 1882, adjacent to what became the Bowen place, he cut off an acre of land, including his house, and deeded it to the African Methodist Episcopal Church to be used as a place of worship. Wayne Poff says that it basically was a four-room, two-story home. It had a strong spring head and spring box. It was located in the hollow next to where Jason Redinbo's (Linda Haas') pond is now located. It is not clear whether or to what extent it was used as a church, but it eventually was no longer church property and became part of the Ridinger land that was eventually sold to us, then Jason Redinbo, then Linda Haas.

It was rented for a long period. Alton and Gracie Lovell Correll lived there for a time, then Stanley Bland. Josephine Poff married a Nichols and they lived there. (Margaret Lovell Easter's brother JC married Josephine's daughter.) The house burned down at some point, but Wayne Poff remembers the house. I found evidence of old wire and glass when we dug Jason's pond.

J, K, L, M, N, O, P, R – Lovell Houses. Robert A Lovell and his family built their home on their land in the sharp curve on Laurel Creek Rd around 1931, and family members lived there until their son, Waller Lovell, died in 2002. Robert's father, James K Lovell, got a pension from the Civil War and they used that to help purchase the land on Laurel Creek Rd. As can be seen from the Annotated Map, Robert A and Lucinda Ellen Conner Lovell's four children anchored the east and southeast side of the Simpkins farm: heading down the abandoned road that connects Laurel Creek Rd at our farm to Laurel Creek Rd further north, Waller and Ruby Weddle Lovell's house was to the right in the sharp curve on Laurel Creek Rd ('J'), Roy and Lottie Lovell Poff had a house on the left about 1,000 feet off Laurel Creek Rd ('K') which has since burned down, Alton and Gracie Lovell Correll had a home in the hollow behind Waller's land ('L'), and John K and Frances Lovell had the old farm house located near where the discontinued road met with Laurel Creek Rd ('M'). The discontinued road was used by locals and was not maintained. It is how the various Lovell families got back and forth. The main road was Laurel Creek Rd.

And some of Robert and Lucinda's grandchildren and great grandchildren continue to live on the family land. Burley and Margaret Lovell Easter live in the house they built just past Gaye Simpkins' house ('N'). And the next house on the left is where Ray Allen Lovell and his wife Sharon live ('O'). Their son Brandon and wife Michelle live in the new home just past the old farm house on the right (P'). And Wayne Poff now lives part-time in the block house across from our Bottom Land ('R').

Margaret Frances Lovell Easter's parents -- John Knox Lovell and Frances Elizabeth Huff Lovell -- were married on July 13, 1936. They lived with Robert A and Lucinda Lovell several years -- until they moved to the farm house to the east of Margaret's house on Laurel Creek Rd around 1939 ('M'). That house had been built a number of years earlier. It appears that Margaret Frances, Ray Allen, and John Cecil Lovell were born and raised in that house. John Cecil died when he was 36 (1943 – 1979) as a result of drugs.

Wayne Poff and his parents Roy and Lottie Lovell Poff also lived in that old farm house on Laurel Creek Rd. They then moved to the house in the hollow (the house to the left on Swede's road) for a few years, and then moved for a short period into the house that Robert A Lovell built. Many families lived at various times in that house -- what I call Waller Lovell's house. Pierce Lovell was born there and Robert A Lovell lived in that house until his death. It is interesting that Waller Lee Lovell was born Walter Robert Lee Lovel (one l) on 6/14/1920 and changed his name in 1967 (DB 93, p 340).

The Lovell family has been intimately connected with the Simpkins farm for many years, including building Lovell Rd and living in the Basham House for a period of time.

U – Underwood/Crowgey House. As described earlier, this was the home to Peggy Underwood Trump, who knew Miss Jane as a child, and then was sold to Dr. Junius Crowgey in the mid-1960's. It is currently owned by Guy and Nancy Crowgey.

V, W, X, Y, Z – Land sold to Friends and Family. As described earlier, during the 1993 – 2014 period, the Wileys sold the southwestern part of the farm to friends and family: **V** - 27 acres to Jerome and Grace King in 1993, who gave it to their son Jerome (Skip) King (Mary Wiley's brother) to build his home; **W** - 26 acres to Patty and Tom Extenkamper in 1993, currently owned by Kathy Gruber; **X** - 12 acres to the Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine in 2006; **Y** - 3 acres to Jason Redinbo in 2006, currently owned by Linda Haas; and **Z** - 44 acres to Mark and Terry Vaughn in 2014, who are building their beautiful home.

State Roads and Farm Roads

As can be seen on the 1952 Annotated Map, Laurel Creek Rd ran near the southerly part of the farm, and the farm was bisected by Lovell Rd (which was basically a farm road until the 1930's). Some of the roads are shown by double black lines, but there were other farm roads in use in the late 1800's and early 1900's shown by dashed lines. The various roads described below are also shown on the aerial picture that follows the annotated map given earlier.

One road went the length of the farm – starting at our gate on Lovell Rd, up what is now our driveway, going through what is now our front porch -- and then branched to the right to go to the Epperly House, and branched to the left heading along the fence line to near where the Hook Field Barn currently stands.

It then branched again: to the right (west), crossing Hook field, into the woods, and down to the stream, following the existing trail that has been opened up (it passed a moonshine still on its way down through the woods; that part of the woods was apparently called the 'big laurel' – or perhaps 'big ivy' -- because of the dense vegetation), and then following along the road next to the stream until it headed south down Sue and Doug Edwards' land back to Bethlehem Church Rd (this was before the two ponds and house were constructed by Milton Reed – the road currently ends at the levee of the large upper pond). And it branched to the left (heading southeast from the Hook Field barn) along the inside edge of the woods, down the hill along the fence line, and then across the middle of the sheep field, past the Sheep Barn, and down to Laurel Creek Rd. The Basham House may have connected over to that road in some unknown manner.

There also was a 'shortcut' farm road that went off Lovell Rd at an old gate (about 900 feet from Laurel Creek Rd), crossed the creek on a land bridge, and branched left to go up the hill about 700 feet to the Basham House and branched right to go up the hill to the farm road that connects the Log House with our house. We restored those farm roads in 2014, including the water crossings.

The farm road from our house to the log House (built in 2002) was not added until the mid-1970's. It goes on the east side of our house, around a wooded knob, and then along the fence line parallel to the other old farm road. The Bowling's, who bought the western part of the Simpkins farm in 1952, had a deeded right to cross the farm to remove timber from their property. Shortly after Charlie bought the farm, the timber folks stopped by – but Charlie would not let them use the farm road that went through his cow pasture on the west side of his new house. So they built the new farm road to get their timber out.

This was the network of roads on which people got around the farm, as well as traveled to Floyd and Christiansburg.

Post Script: When I started this project about five years ago, I knew virtually nothing about what is reported above. I had only heard the name “Epperly”, and even then wasn’t certain of the spelling. I searched the Floyd County land records for last name Epperly in the Little River Magisterial District. Of course, many entries came up. I tediously read each of the deeds and sketched out the plat when metes and bounds were given. I took a long hard look at one plat of 90 ½ acres in particular – and eureka! – it appeared to have the shape of the land that we see every day when we look out from our house – along Laurel Ridge, then the dividing line with the Bowling land, then the dividing line with the Bowen land. I drew the plat in detail and it matched exactly to the surveys that I had of our farm!

I now knew who had purchased the 90 ½ acres that included the Epperly House in 1912 – William T and Mary Jane Epperly. With this solid information, I could search land records and the Census records. I was led back in time to the Lawrence family and their involvements on the land. And it led to the Epperly genealogy given in the preface, which gave the names of great grandchildren who might still be alive. I did many telephone searches (state by state) on those names to see if any were listed in the eastern part of the US. Most were dead ends. But one, Ray Epperly – the great-grandchild of William T and Mary Jane – answered the phone. He referred me to his sister, Sheryan Epperly Chester in Florida (who he said was the family historian), and that has led to a four year conversation and sharing of information. Once those initial inroads were made, one contact led to another – and the information I have been able to get from public records and numerous conversations has been astounding – and is reported above. But it all started with the small serendipity of recognizing a plat that felt very familiar!

I wish that I had talked with the remaining members of the previous generation – especially Gaye Simpkins and Waller Lovell – before they passed. I had talked with Patty Extenkamper about doing that in 1994, but never made the time to do it. That would have enriched this history enormously.

Pedigree Chart - Lemmie Dowell Epperly

11 March 2011

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____



Lemmie D Epperly Pedigree

APPENDIX I:

Information on the standing seam metal roof taken off the Epperly House
Addition when it was replaced:

Black stencil:

ORDER F.O. SCHOEDINGER
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA U.S.
NOTFIY H.B. SMITH
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA

Yellow stencil:

50 LINEAL FT
IC
FF SEAMLESS
MANION PROCESS
8 LB 24 IN

Stamped into metal:

HAYMOND
8 LBS
IC
MANION PROCESS
LICENSE

APPENDIX II:

Contacts made and resources used:

“Descendants of Elder John Lawrence of Southwest Virginia and New England”,
rev. 1999, by Ora Belle Mayberry McColman, William L Lawrence, and others,
available in the Montgomery-Floyd Public Library.

Information on the Epperly family can be found on
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/j/e/n/Charles-K-Jennings/GENE4-0055.html> -- as well as other sources.

Roy Cole, Pilot, VA. His father was friend to Edgar Simpkins.

Archie McAlexander, Floyd County, VA. Grew up in the area.

James Basham/Rose Epperly Basham. Her mother knew Nathan H. Basham.

Pierce Dwayne Lovell, Floyd County, VA. Descendant of Robert and Lucinda Lovell.

Leah Gillie, Riner, VA. Niece of Gaye Simpkins.

Thomas Gillie, Floyd County, VA. Grand Nephew of Gaye Simpkins.

Tommy Simpkins, Pilot, VA. Worked with Charles Trombold on the farm, and friend of the family.

Margaret Frances Lovell Easter, Floyd County, VA. Descendant of Robert and Lucinda Lovell.

Virginia Deal Lawrence, Blacksburg, VA. 102 years old when spoke with her. Granddaughter of James Peden Lawrence's brother Canaan. Now deceased.

Roy Vincent Howard, Athens, GA. Great Grandson of Mamie Ethel Lawrence and Great Great Grandson of James E. Lawrence. Family historian.

William Lindsay Lawrence, Gloucester, VA. A co-author of Ora Belle Mayberry McColman's book cited in the Preface.

Clifford Hensley, Roanoke, VA. Husband to Peter Epperly's granddaughter Madleen (now deceased).

Anna Epperson, Roanoke, VA. Daughter of Peter Epperly's Granddaughter, Kathleen Epperly Epperson.

Fermon Meads Davenport, Floyd County, VA. Current owner of Tract xx, once owned by James E Lawrence.

Ben Hansel, Roanoke, VA. Former owner of Parcel 9, once owned by James E Lawrence.

Sheryan Epperly Chester, Tavares, FL. Lemmie Epperly's Granddaughter.

Gary Long, Floyd County, VA. Current owner of the eastern part of Simpkins farm, including the Victorian house.

Wayne Poff, Floyd County, VA and Bassett, VA. Descendant of Robert and Lucinda Lovell.

Ray and Sharon Lovell, Floyd County, VA. Descendant of Robert and Lucinda Lovell.

Bill Bowen, Floyd County, VA and Blacksburg, VA. Current owner of Parcel 11.

Judy Blackwell, Floyd County, VA. Family historian.

Charles D Trombold Jr, St . Louis, MO. Charles Trombold's son.

Kathy Stott, Pennsylvania. Charles Trombold's daughter.

Jill Lisk, Sarasota, FL. June Trombold's daughter.

Bob Boswell, Florida. Former owner of the eastern part of Simpkins farm, including the Victorian house.

Horace Vest, Floyd County, VA. Grew up in the area. (Now deceased)

Kathleen Ingoldsby, Floyd Museum.

Mrs. Peggy (Velma) Underwood Trump, Floyd County, VA. Grew up in the Crowgey house on Lovell Rd, and knew Miss Jane as a young child. (Now deceased)

Deanna Nichols Boswell, Floyd, VA. Former owner of the eastern part of Simpkins farm, including the Victorian house, and past owner of Dr. Edgar Lawrence's house at 212 E Main St in Floyd, VA.

Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

Floyd-Montgomery Regional Library, Floyd, VA.

The original of the 1952 Glendale Farm map is held by Jones & Associates, South Boston, VA 24592 434-572-2993; it can be pulled from storage and copied for a fee.

APPENDIX III:

INTERVIEW WITH BESS LAPHEW SEPTEMBER 26, 1992, DUBLIN, VA

PRESENT: Ray C. Epperly, Sheryan Epperly Chester, Alexander J. Chester, Grayson E. Chester, Bess Laphew, Janey Milton Neal, and Mike Neal. The conversations were recorded. [The tape was transcribed by Sheryan Epperly Chester; the notes in GREEN are editorial comments by David Wiley. The parts highlighted in yellow have some connection to the Lawrence/Epperly/Simpkins Farm on Laurel Ridge.]

Tape #1

Bess's daughter, Mary Milton, had done a lot of research on genealogy. Frequently Bess accompanied her daughter on her searches. Bess began talking about cemeteries and individuals that were good sources of information. She mentioned a cemetery in Pilot, where several (6) graves

were destroyed so that houses could be built. "Up on the hill - the cemetery." She was up to Huffville and Stanley Epperly's wife, Janey (Turner) asked ... "Bess got a girl to write out information on Grandpa Price. His first wife, and Aunt Jane's mother, was a Martin. His 2nd wife was a Basham. Ray Epperly told Bess that we had visited Grandpa Price's house and she said that "they" had let the old house burn down. Ray told her that he was told that Basham's had owned it [and that] Miss Gay sold the property and the little house below Grandpa Price's. Bess told Ray that Grandpa Price had sold that property. [As far as I can tell, there were actually two properties: one by the road (now Laurel Creek Rd) that was part of the old Lawrence farm (acquired in 1889), that Gay and Edgar Simpkins eventually sold; and one just off the road to the NE of the above property that Wm J Price owned (acquired in 1900) - that eventually went to Bess.]

Ray told Bess that we had walked to Grandma's house (Jane Price Epperly). She asked if the man was nice and told us that he was the President of the Campbell Soup Company. [He actually was Senior Vice President.] Ray told her that he didn't look like a President, and that he looked like an old farmer. She said that was ok -- "that's who it is."

Sherry asked about Bess' mother. Bess said it was India Ardella and that she had about 3 names. Aunt Sally was Uncle George Nolley's wife. [Sally was Wm. Jefferson's daughter by his second wife. Sally was India and Liza's full sister.] " She had all those Nolley boys". Charlie Nolley lived in Roanoke (he's dead), and Aunt Sally was his mother.

Sherry asked Bess about Grandpa Price's military records – the Civil War. Bess said in the old house (Grandpa Price's) - "that house' burned up - and all of his war records burned up - his cape, his coat and his hat". She said that if we had a metal detector - "he left all kinds of things at Aunt Lizy's house - that was Aunt Liza's house". [Liza lived with her father after her divorce.] "That (house) was the one they got - Indy and Charlie and ?Ora [Charlie's wife] - they got mad at me [Bess] and my family (she was an only child) because Grandpa [Price] and Aunt Liza deeded me [Bess] everything they had before they died". "Let me tell you the funny thing. Mr. Putz Simpkins came down there one morning, almost before daylight, and said 'Bessie, you and Mary and Guy get ready. We're going to Floyd'. [Guy was Bess' husband, and Mary was their only daughter.] I asked for what, and he said 'Miss Lawrence has told Charlie and them a tale, about them [Grandpa Price and Aunt Lizy] giving you and Guy everything you had, and they are going to try to stop it. ' Well, honey, they didn't stop it. You know when Putz Simpkins went to something, it stood. They deeded us everything they had, and they got mad... at us. And do you know what? After we moved up here [Dublin] and bought this place, and moved up here and Aunt Liza live with us for 6 year before she died. They never did... and they come down here to see Aunt Liza, they would, and bring

her a Christmas gift and you know, they wouldn't never give momma [India] one thing, not one thing. No, they was that good and mad."

Bess asked if any of Aunt Jane's house was still there at Locust Grove. We told her what we saw - the whole house was standing. The smokehouse and the springhouse, and the barn were gone. The barn had been replaced. The well was still there. The cellar, which was under the front porch, was gone. The groundhogs had gotten under the chimney near the springhouse, and undermined it, causing the whole house to shift. She asked about the upstairs rooms. She said that the old wooden beds had been sold for 50 cents apiece. "They didn't have springs and mattresses, they had feather beds, and 'oars' to put the 'mattress' on." Ray reminded Bess about the rocking chair she said she was going to give Sherry. She answered "Well, I haven't got it done yet. I'm going to have to do that again. I had some more things I wanted to give them. I'll get them together, and we'll bring them down there some day."

Sherry asked Bess for stories about Grandpa Price. "He was in the Civil War, of course, but at Stanton". You know Uncle Ike [Ira was Wm. Jefferson Price's brother]? Uncle Ed, Uncle George and Aunt Jane and he said they put Uncle Ike in the penitentiary for making counterfeit money." She told us all of Uncle Ike's children's names: Ida, Mary (Aunt Nan Dickerson was their mother), Roy, Edgar, and Basel.

Ray asked Bess if his dad [Lemmie D. Epperly] and Uncle Pete [Peter Hartwell Epperly], and all their other children were born in Aunt Jane's house in Locust Grove. Bess said she thought they were, but she was not sure. [They were not born there. I don't think that any of Wm T and Mary Jane's children were born there since they bought the property in 1912 and all their children were born before then. But Lemmie and Ruby lived there. And Peter visited.] She said they did not always live in that house, but ... "Uncle Billy [William T. Epperly] bought that place from ???Bringer? Basham". [It was Nathan Basham.]

Eldridge Martin is still living and Virginia Bugg (married Stanley Epperly - his first wife died; they live in Huffville)- - they are good source people. [Ray Epperly explained later that Virginia Hodges married McKinley Bugg. McKinley must have died and Virginia married Stanley Epperly. McKinley and Lemmie D. Epperly were fishing buddies, and Ray claimed that Sherry had met him, but she doesn't remember him.]

Bess showed us her picture album. She asked if we went to the Red Oak Grove Cemetery and we told her we did. She asked if we went to see Miss Gay [Simpkins]. She said we should have gone to see Miss Gay, "because she can tell us about a lot of people up there... Mr. Putz Simpkins". Ray explained that after we left Grandpa Price's, enroute to his Grandma Jane's, that where we took a left, if we would have stayed to the right, we would have gone past Simpkins'.

Sherry asked Bess about her parents. India was her mother. Her father was Clet Richards. "They are all buried over there in Huffville Cemetery. My dad and mother, and Aunt Sally Nolley and Uncle George is buried there." She said we should go to see Raney Anderson. [Raney was Mettie Anderson's sister.] She dated George Willie Eddings (she was Uncle George Nolley's sister) for 60 years. Bess was an only child. "Aunt Lizy lived with me then, you know, until she died." That's what Charlie and them got ... Bess went to see Ellie summer before last in Portsmouth, Va. and stayed a week. Bess did not have any pictures she wanted to give Ellie, "but Ellie you see, they raised Ellie Nolley. Ellie's mother, Aunt Sally, died when Ellie was 3 ½ years old, and they raised her, and mamma [India] helped them to raise her." Bess asked Ray if he knew how Charlie and ?Ora done Jessie. When Bess went to Portsmouth, Ellie "was still so mad at Jessie about Charlie and ?Ora. But, they needed it, because she got mad at Jessie, and wouldn't let him stay there a week or 2, and throwed all his clothes out in the road, and everything."

Ray asked about Grandpa Price's nickname that Mary [Laphew Milton] mentioned to him. Bess said that they called him "Uncle Bill". Ray asked about his first wife. Mary had told him that Grandpa had gone to court over alimony, or something concerning his first wife. Bess answered "yeah, he spit in her face. That's what she, Aunt Lizy, told Mary." Bess said they had gone down to where Grandpa Price was born, in Rocky Knob, last week. Mike pushed Bess in the wheelchair... Rocky Knob is right outside the Floyd courthouse [area]. She said that if we wanted to go up to the big Floyd cemetery, we could find out a whole lot of names. The cemetery is as you "go down the mountain" [?615?]. Ray seemed to know where she was talking about. She said she took Grandpa Price to Rocky Knob once to see Uncle John Price.

Bess, Janey and Mike's address is P.O. Box 492, Dublin, Va. and their new phone number is 703-674-2370.

"I tell you, when Aunt Lizy, she sold out over there, momma went down there and helped her, you know, did everything – packed up, and everything and she come and lived with us. Cause I kept her, Ray. I earned what I got. But that place, now if you could see... You know where Eldridge lives? When Eldridge's wife died, they tell me he, married her sister, Marvin. He married his wife's sister. She lived at the Head of the River, they called it.

Philip was W.T. Epperly's father. "I give Audrey and Gladys a whole lot of that stuff. They come up here and stayed all day with me - her and Gladys". Ray said Gladys has it all - the old Bible and stuff, but she doesn't have anything to do with the rest of them. Ray said that he talked with Kathleen [Gladys and Audrey's sister], and she said Gladys and Audrey got into an argument and that she [Gladys] took all of it. Ray said that Audrey was sick of cancer for about 6 mo. before she died. Bess said that Mary, too, died of cancer - she got sick the first of Dec. and died 2 Mar.

Grandpa Price was 97 when he died, according to Bess. Ray said he died about 1939. He had one brother, John Price. "I took Grandpa down there to see his brother, down at Rocky Knob when we was over there one time, and we had the car. You know she offered, and wanted me, and the floors were just dirt - they didn't have no wood floors - she wanted to give me a plate that was 300 years old, and I didn't have sense enough to take it. Now, Mr. Mayberry, out there that has got the funeral home, now he can tell you - that's where Mary [Milton] went when she was doing her genealogy". It's next to Floyd courthouse - Mayberry Funeral Home.

Bess said she was tickled to give us all this information. Sherry asked her how much Mary [Milton] did and where was her work? Bess said her cousin came and got the Richards part. He took it all back with him and was going to work on it. He was Ida Price's boy (she named him Pricey; that's Uncle Ike's children), and he still lives at Roanoke at Glenvar.

Aunt Lizy got a letter one day. They wanted her to come down and look at it and see if it was any good. She wouldn't go. It was a log house. There wasn't much down there then. Right at the foot of the lane, "like as you were going down to Stuart and down in that part". Bess said that Mary "sure did work. Me and her would get up every morning if we was going off, and Mike would say 'Well they going somewhere today. They going road-shacking', and we'd be gone all night. Sometimes till after dark. And we went in every cemetery, I jest bet you a dollar. And we went down, way off, down 5-mile mountain, you know where that is, don't you, Ray? We went down 5-mile mountain, we got down there and we went to Pigg River. You know where Pigg River is?" Ray said he had heard of it, but don't know where it is. Bess said "Well, Ray it's down ?Dalfords? There's a lot of names in there, down to Pigg River. And they was a having a church service that day. And we stayed for that church service. And somebody had told Mary 'Grandpa Richards has got a daughter that is buried in that cemetery over there, and tie's got some children, too, that's buried in there'. We went down there and she found his sister, her name was Katherine. And she found the sister". Bess asked Janey to get her picture book off her dresser. She wanted us "to see that book."

Bess asked, what Lemmie's wife had done with all of his stuff down at the house. Ray said (Ellen) daughter got it all. Janey got the book. Bess said Janey wasn't much of a genealogist.

Sherry asked Bess again about the individual who got the files from Bess. Bess had said earlier that he took the Richards information. Sherry asked if he had taken any of the Price information, and she said he hadn't. 'He didn't take it. He didn't want that". Sherry asked where the Price information was. Bess said "I ain't got that now".

We looked through the photo album and asked Bess questions. Her eyesight was poor, so we had to describe the pictures, and ask her questions about the

picture captions. Salem Church is at the Head of the River. Richards was her father side. Lemuel Green Vest was pictured, as were a few other Vests. Bess said that was Mike Milton's family. Mike's grandmother was a Newberry. Bess said she wished that Terry, Sherry's sister, had come. Bess asked if Sherry or Ray had any of Aunt Jane (Price Epperly)'s pictures, and they said no. Ray said Bobby [Cline, foster child of Lemmie D. Epperly] had a few of them. One picture was labelled "James H. Price, brother of Wm. J. Price" Sherry asked if that was Uncle John, and Bess said it was. The picture was with Ellen Virginia Basham. She then corrected herself, to say that James H. was Grandpa Price's son [note: Wm. J. Price's brother was James M.), brother of India, Liza, and Sally. Sherry asked about the picture labelled "Ira Price". Bess said "that is Grandpa's baby brother". Bess said he had 2 brothers: John and Ira. "Aunt Jane took Uncle Ira Price, and Aunt Lizy helped her. And they kept Uncle Ike, took care of him until he died, out there is [in] the country." "Uncle John Price was just a little bit of man. He wasn't really that tall - you know, real short guy. And they lived down there to ..." Bess mentioned again that she wanted us to go to Eldridge Martin's. We found a picture of Grandpa Price's headstone with the information about his Civil War Regiment engraved on it.

Sherry asked where 'Grandpa Price was buried. Bess said he was at the Huffville Cemetery. Bess said all the Nolleys, and the Eddings, etc. [were buried there]. Miss Ima Jane Eddings lived in the big white house next to the church and Bess said she would have been tickled for us to stop. Bess said we should go to the Huffville Cemetery. "You'd have found out a whole lot of people".

Bess asked again about Aunt Jane's pictures. Ray said that his daddy had some of them, and Bobby got most of them. Ray said he had a few, but there was no writing on them. Ray said he had a picture of Charlie [Nolley] and his wife, ?Ora. Bess said ?Ora was funny, and she never messed with her. (Sherry left to rock Grayson to sleep).

Bess asked if Ray ever got to Portsmouth. She said he should go see Aunt Ellie and Virginia. Bess said Ellie was 79. Bess said she'd tell him all kinds of stuff. She'd get Janey to give him Virginia's address. Bess asked Ray to get an envelope out of the back of her picture album, and he did. Bess said her daughter Mary fixed her the picture album.

Ray told Bess that Alex was real interested in the Civil War, and wanted to find out everything he could about Grandpa Price, and look it up in the books. Bess said she could tell her [Sherry] a whole lot about it. "They lived over back of the hill at Grandpa's. It's the old Basham home. [It's the old James Lawrence and then Basham house.] And they had a cave over there. And grandma said, they always told me that when the soldiers came through, they hid them in that cave. Yeah. [That would make the house older than I had thought - if the house was there in the Civil War?] They was in over there. Guy and Mary,

when they was little, they used to go over there the Basham place. I tell you something. Did you ever know Ed Claytor. He lived down here at Radford. Well Mike can tell you where he lived. He'd have a fit to see you and you tell him who you are. Did you see Walter and Orville. He lives down there to the creek [Ray: 'near grandma'], down there here Mr.Curtis Claytor." Ray said he saw the house. "We'll it'd take us 2 months. Things just come to you, you know. (Sherry had returned).

Sherry found a picture labelled Grandpa Price's house. She described it to Bess as a little white house with a front porch and a lot of stairs up to it. Bess said "That was Aunt Liza's, the new house they built that, you know after Aunt Liza's new house, and he always thought. You know Uncle John Price had a boy named Herman. Do you know him?" Ray said he had heard it. "Herman Price. And Clinton Price married that girl over at Pilot, Edith".

We found a picture of Grandma Jane's house, and other pictures of her family. "...did Lemmie and them used to be so mean. They'd go upstairs, outside to that, you know. Grandma Jane had a parlor. You know, she had a parlor. Well, at times they would go upstairs. The windows were terrible small, weren't they Ray [Ray "Uh, huh"]. And they'd slip up there at night and scratch on them windows when we'd be up there staying all night. Scratch on them windows. It'd scare us to death."

Sherry asked about Ruby [daughter of Jane Price and Wm. T. Epperly]. "See, Ruby was 21. She had appendicitis, and they had to do surgery on her. And they didn't have the hospitals and stuff then, you know. They had to do it at home, honey. And let me tell you what Maureen Basham died, Clem Basham's daughter, died down here. Me and Mollie went over there. I want to see Annette. And they had that old - you remember that old dresser grandma had in that living room? They had that in that living room, and put it up for sale. But I don't think they over sold it. I said 'Lord, I'd be afraid ???? And I bet they still got it'." Ray said "well, let me know". You know where Miss Lawrence lived, don't you, down there. They had that store. [Ray said 'Lawrence store']. You turn down that road [Ray: 'go down the hill'], you know where that road went. You know, way down to the bottom of the hill. Way down where Miss Lawrence, you know, owned that store. And turn down there, and Maureen lived down there. And Mr. Clemmons and me went down there looking after. She died, she died, Maureen did. And see what they had. And devils, I found that dresser, that grandma had, that Aunt Jane had and that ?? had." [Ray: "that's an old one, too"]. Bess: "Yeah, how old was it have been?" Ray: "Lord, I don't know". Bess said "She had a little table set over there at the window, too. Remember? And she had an old iron pot, you remember she used to put on the hearth and bake bread? Yeah. Well that was there. I said 'Lord how mercy. I good know she called him and tell him to come over here' and I thought well maybe I'm doing something wrong. You know Walter. I tell you something else

she had stools in the dining room, and a table, and you know Aunt Jane used to make apple butter so much, and she'd make buckwheat cakes and put apple butter on them. And I bought me a bag of buckwheat cakes when we went down to Mabor [Mabry Mills?] Mills...

"Well I tell you, me and Mary, we went a way down the road below Roanoke somewhere, 'cause she was working on the Richards stuff, you know. And we saw a man up there by the church and we asked him, if there was Richards country, they called it. He said yes m'am lady, you look on down the hill, you see that cemetery? Mary said yeah. He said there's a Richards in every one of them holes."

Bess mentioned Edith, Peter H. Epperly's daughter. She said Edith is in the nursing home, in the medical place near where they (Bess) used to live at Number 10. Aunt Mettie (Uncle Pete's wife, who was an Anderson) [sister of Raney], is 90 some years old and is in a wheel chair and lives over there in the country. She dated George Willy for many years. Bess said those Andersons talked "long". "They're [Andersons] all buried where the store used to be, right out in the field. Miss Gay may have the pictures. Bess knows she has a picture of that road that goes to Floyd, up by Pilot way. That old schoolhouse is up there. Uncle John and Grandpa Price built that old schoolhouse. Miss Daisy Dickerson was a sitting at the end of the class, with all the pupils in it. And told that woman on that place I said 'oh my lord, my granddaddy and Uncle built the house, I ought to know where it is.

Sherry asked Bess about grandpa Price's sister(s). A picture was labelled "Charles Midkiffe, son of Robert V. and Betty Price Midkiffe, sister of William J." Bess didn't know about it.

End of Tape #1

60M

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

Form V. S. 12

PLEASE WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. The correct age is especially important. Physicians: please write the causes of death clearly and legibly.

Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		State File No. _____
1. PLACE OF DEATH		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED		
(a) County <u>Floyd</u>	Registration district No. _____ (For reg. use)	(a) State <u>Virginia</u>		
(b) Magisterial district <u>Little River</u>		(b) County <u>Floyd</u>		
(c) City or town <u>Basham</u>		(c) City or town <u>Basham</u>	Street No. _____	
(d) Name of hospital or institution _____		(d) Is place of residence within corporate limits? <u>no</u>		
(e) Length of stay in hosp. or inst. _____ In this community (Specify whether years, months, or days)		(e) Citizen of foreign country? _____ (Yes or No)		
(f) Is place of death within corporate limits? <u>no</u>		If Yes, name country _____		
3. (a) FULL NAME <u>Mrs. Mary Jane Epperly</u>		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION		
3. (b) If veteran, name war _____	3. (c) Social security number _____ (Answer only if card is available)	20. Date of death <u>Nov. 28</u> 19 <u>45</u> at <u>1:35</u> P.M.		
4. Sex <u>Female</u>	5. Color or race <u>White</u>	21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____ to _____; that I last saw h _____ alive on _____ and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.		
6. (b) Name of husband or wife <u>William Thomas Epperly</u>	6. (a) Single, married, widowed, divorced, <u>Widowed</u>	Immediate cause of death _____ Duration _____		
7. Date of birth of deceased <u>Dec. 16</u> 19 <u>64</u>	(Month by name) (Day) (Year)	Due to _____		
8. Age: Years <u>81</u> Months <u>11</u> Days <u>12</u> If less than one day _____ hours _____ min. _____		Due to _____		
9. Birthplace <u>Patrick Co. Va.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)		Other conditions _____ (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)		
10. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u>		Name of operation _____ Date of operation _____ Major findings: (a) of operations _____		
11. Industry or business _____		(b) of autopsy _____		
12. Name <u>William J. Price</u>	13. Birthplace <u>Patrick Co. Va.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)	22. If death was due to external causes fill in the following:		
14. Maiden name <u>Patty Martin</u>	15. Birthplace <u>Floyd Co. Va.</u> (City, town or county) (State or foreign country)	(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____		
16. (a) Informant's own signature <u>L. D. Epperly</u>	(b) Address <u>Route 1 Box 2811 Salem Va.</u>	(b) Date of occurrence _____		
17. (a) Burial, cremation, or removal? <u>Red Oak Grave Cem</u>	(b) Place <u>Floyd Co.</u> Date <u>Nov. 30</u> 19 <u>45</u> (Month by name) (Day) (Year)	(c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) (County) (State)		
18. (a) Signature of funeral director <u>Maberry's Funeral Home</u>	(b) Address <u>Floyd Co. Va.</u>	(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____ While at work? _____		
19. (a) Filed _____ 1 _____ (Date received by reg.)	(b) _____ (Local, deputy, or sub-registrar's own signature)	(e) Means of injury _____		
		23. Signature _____ M. D., Cor., or other _____		
		Address _____ Date signed _____		

3-7-40-60M.

V. S. 14-36

SEE OTHER SIDE

THIS PERMIT MUST ACCOMPANY REMAINS TO DESTINATION

VIRGINIA

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics

BURIAL-REMOVAL-TRANSIT PERMIT

Full name of deceased Mrs. Mary Jane Epperly
 Place of death Basham Floyd (City) (County) (State)
 Date of death Nov. 28 19 45 Color White Sex Female Age 81
 Method of disposal Burial (Whether burial, cremation, transportation, storage, etc.) (Cemetery or Crematory)
 City or County Floyd Co. State Red Oak Grave Cemetery

A certificate of death having been filed as required by the laws of this State, permission is hereby given to Maberry's Funeral Home Address Floyd Va. (Funeral Director or person acting as such)

to dispose of body of said deceased as above stated.

Dated at Chick, Va. this 28 day of Nov. 19 45 (Registrar's address)Registration District No. 3184 Signature Alford L. Conner (Registrar)

CEMETERY OR CREMATORY AUTHORITY SHALL FILL OUT SPACE BELOW

Body was _____ on _____ 19 _____ in _____ (State whether cremated, buried, stored, etc.) (Cemetery or Crematory)

Place _____ Signature _____ (Sexton or person in charge)

This permit must be endorsed by the Sexton (or by the Funeral Director where there is no Sexton) and returned within 10 days to the Registrar of the district in which the burial takes place.

Mary Jane Epperly Death Certificate (1863-1945) and Burial Permit

FLOYD, VIRGINIA Nov. 28 1945

Mr. L. D. Epperly
Route 1, Box 281, Salem, Va.

IN ACCOUNT WITH

MABERRY'S FUNERAL HOME

1945 Funeral expenses of Mrs. Mary Jane Epperly.

Nov. 28	1-#3118-963 1/3 State 1/3 Couch Casket	375.00	
" "	Embalming Body	25.00	
" "	1-#4369A Black Dress	18.50	
" "	1-Set Vault Lumber	6.00	424.50
" "	Cr. by Cash by P. H. of L. D. Epperly \$105.00		319.50

Mary Jane Epperly Funeral Expenses

MABERRY'S FUNERAL HOME

FLOYD, VA. PHONE 114

DATE Nov. 30 1945

Sold To Department of Public Welfare

Address Salem, Va.

Funeral Of Mrs. Mary Adeline Anderson

Address Bascham, Va.

Casket 1-#110-5 1/3 1/3 Couch Casket 100.00

Embalming

Vault

Suit

Dress 1-# D856A Steel Dress 17.50

Underclothes

Cleaning

Telegrams

Long Distance

Ambulance

Disbursement

Flowers

Vault Covering Set Vault Lumber 6.00

Opening Grave

Closing Grave

Moving Dirt

Cleaning off Lot

TOTAL 117.50

Purchaser's Name

Address

POSTED

**Mary Adeline Anderson
Funeral Expenses**

V. S., Form No. 15-2-25-'24-30M.

Commonwealth of Virginia
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

County Floyd No. 2

District Pittsboro River

Town

City

Full Name William T. Epperly Age 68 Sex Male Color White

Date of death March 8, 1926 Disease causing death General Atrophy

Place of burial West Oak Grove Cemetery

Removal to

Undertaker

A certificate of death having been filed in my office in accordance with the Laws of Virginia, I hereby authorize the Burial of the body of said deceased person as stated above.

(Burial or Removal)

(Registrar's name) Josiah Graham District No. 313 B

Burial permits must be delivered by the undertaker to the sexton or other persons in charge of the burial ground or cemetery where burial takes place. When the body is to be shipped to a distant point, requiring the service of a common carrier, in addition to a removal permit the body must be accompanied with a transit permit containing the certificate of the undertaker, which must be attached to the box containing the body. The local registrar to whom this permit is sent by the sexton may return it to the undertaker if the latter requests it.

William T Epperly Death Certificate (1857-1926)

COPY

Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		<i>Dr. Russell B. Smiley</i> State File No. _____ Registered No. _____
1. PLACE OF DEATH (a) County <u>Roanoke</u> Registration district No. _____ (For reg. use) (b) Magisterial district _____ (c) City or town <u>Salem</u> (d) Name of hospital or institution _____ (e) Length of stay in hosp. or inst. _____ In this community (Specify whether years, months, or days) (f) Is place of death within corporate limits? <u>no</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED (a) State <u>Virginia</u> (b) County <u>Floyd</u> (c) City or town <u>Barham</u> Street No. _____ (d) Is place of residence within corporate limits? <u>no</u> (e) Citizen of foreign country? _____ (Yes or If Yes, name country)		
3. (a) FULL NAME <u>Mrs. Mary Adeline Anderson</u> 3. (b) If veteran, name war _____ 3. (c) Social security number _____ (Answer only if card is available)		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION 20. Date of death <u>Nov.</u> <u>29</u> 19 <u>45</u> at <u>4:00</u> P. (Month by name) (Day) (Year) (Hour)		
4. Sex <u>Female</u> 5. Color of race <u>White</u> 6. (a) Single, married, widowed, divorced. _____ 6. (b) Name of husband or wife <u>William Anderson</u> 7. Date of birth of deceased <u>Aug</u> <u>28</u> <u>1858</u> (Month by name) (Day) (Year) 8. Age: Years <u>87</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>1</u> If less than one day _____ hours _____ min.		21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>on Nov. 29,</u> 19 <u>45</u> to as coroner <u>19</u> ; that I last saw her <u>alive on Nov. 29,</u> 19 <u>45</u> and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above. Immediate cause of death <u>Pneumonia</u> Due to _____ Due to _____ Other conditions <u>Malnutrition</u> (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)		
9. Birthplace <u>Floyd Co.</u> <u>Va.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country) 10. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u> 11. Industry or business _____		Name of operation _____ Date of operation _____ Major findings: (a) of operations _____ (b) of autopsy _____ Physician _____ Underline the primary cause to which death should be charged statistically		
12. Name <u>Jacob Carroll</u> 13. Birthplace <u>Montgomery Co.</u> <u>Va.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country) 14. Maiden name <u>Susannah Sumner</u> 15. Birthplace <u>Floyd Co.</u> <u>Va.</u> (City, town or county) (State or foreign country)		22. If death was due to external causes fill in the following: (a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) (County) (State) (d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____ (Specify type of place) While at work? _____ (e) Means of injury _____		
16. (a) Informant's own signature <u>Mrs. Marian C. Knobloch</u> (b) Address <u>Floyd Welfare Dept.</u> 17. (a) Burial, cremation, or removal? <u>Huffville Cem.</u> (b) Place <u>Floyd Co.</u> Date <u>Dec.</u> <u>1</u> <u>1945</u> (Month by name) (Day) (Year) Signature of funeral director <u>Matern's Funeral Home</u> (b) Address <u>Floyd, Va.</u>		23. Signature <u>Russell Smiley</u> M. D., Cor., or other _____ Address <u>Salem, Va.</u> Date signed <u>12/13/45</u>		
18. (a) Filed <u>1</u> (b) _____ (Date received by reg.) (Local, deputy, or sub-registrar's own signature)				

Mary Adeline Anderson Death Certificate (1858-1945)



**Headstone of Mary Jane
Epperly 1863-1945**



**Headstone of William T
Epperly 1857-1926**



**Headstone of Ray C Epperly
1927-2001**



**Headstone of Phillip S Epperly
1820-1894**



**Headstone of Infant
Epperly 1905**