



Jacob Layton Yancey
and
son George
Courtesy of Nannie Yancey Armentrout.

JACOB LAYTON YANCEY Son of Layton and Fanny Lewis Yancey

The name Jacob Yancey has been observed only once in Court Records. According to his mother's pension papers he was named Jacob Layton Yancey. Although called Jacob, he chose to use Layton Yancey for his legal signature, after the death of his father.

In the War of 1812 Jacob served as a corporal in the 6th Regiment of Coleman's Virginia Militia, under Capt. Adam Harnsberger. (114) In 1814 he was Coronet of Cavalry under Col. Joseph Mauzy. Turning to civilian life, he was appointed Magistrate in 1819 and in 1821 Justice of the Peace for Rockingham County. He was also surety for the \$3600 bond of Tobias McGahey the guardian of Jacob's two younger sisters Clarissa and Louisa, and for the \$3000 bond of his brother John, the guardian of their brothers Will and Albert. It appears that all children under 21 years of age were required to have a guardian and were referred to as orphans even though one parent was still living.

While visiting his sister Fanny Yancey Price, Jacob met Lurennna, a daughter of Michael and Sara Price Moyers of the Stanardsville area. According to legend the first of the Moyers came from the Palatinate along the Rhine, when the father of Catharina Moyers decided to take her to America to avoid an undesirable marriage. Her father died and was buried at sea. But, Catharina married a fellow passenger, Matthias Lehr, who brought her to Virginia and settled in the Brock's Gap area. They lived and are buried near Raeder's Church. Other members of her family followed. Six generations of Michael Moyers are said to have lived in the Brock's Gap section. (134)

When Jacob and Lurennna married, they started housekeeping just as his parents had, in the log house, near the big spring. Because of the trees along the river it was named "Willow Bank". Jacob had inherited that part of his father's land directly back of "Hill Top" which included the house and spring. So he was near enough to assist his mother and brothers. Lurennna's sunny disposition endeared her to all. To those who remembered her, she always seemed to be surrounded by friends. Some of her silver remains in

in the family.

In 1830 when Jacob's brother John S. Yancey, moved to Missouri with his family, Jacob and Lu, as Lurena was called, rented John's house. With three small children the house at "Willow Bank" was becoming crowded. Robert was seven, Richard five and Sarah three. A few months after moving, George was born. He was not quite ten months old when Jacob died. By this time John and Sarah were sure they would like Missouri, so they returned and sold this house. Jacob's great-grandson William Yancey described it perfectly as "square, made of log covered with siding. It had a small porch upstairs and down with tall pillars, and a window to the right and left of each porch." It resembled Monroe's home "Ash Lawn" in Albemarle. The house burned about 1960 but William said that frequently when accompanying his father Layton Lee Yancey and his grandfather George Yancey as they drove cattle to market, this was pointed out as the house where grandfather was born.

Lurena's sister had married Archibald Brock and lived near Lacey Springs, known at an earlier date as Brock's spring. The girls had gone to school in the Valley when quite young and were devoted to each other. So Lurena and her children spent much time at the Brock's home. Near them lived Peter Hinton Jr., whose wife Polly Sellers died about the same time as Jacob Yancey, leaving Peter with a fourteen year old son, Andrew. Polly was a daughter of Silas and Rebecca Sellers.

Four years later Lurena M. Yancey and Peter Hinton Jr. were married. They lived at the home of his father and mother about three miles from Melrose Caverns. It was a large red brick house with tall white columns, located on a slight elevation about five hundred feet back of Hinton's Mill, a picturesque gray stone structure on a branch of Smith's Creek. A graceful stairway and handsome woodwork in the house are still remembered, as is the pine panelled kitchen in a building nearby.

When Peter died Richard Yancey, son of Jacob and Lurena and John and Mary Jane, children of Peter and Lurena were still at home. Richard owned and operated

the mill but had not changed the name. Then Richard married Phoebe Barley, a neighbor of his aunt Sarah Brock. The Barley house was described following its destruction by fire in 1962. The ground sloped so that the house fitted to it, had four stories with a spiral staircase from the ground floor to the attic. The mantels, in each room, were beautifully carved, some of wood, some of marble. This was likely the work of Phoebe's father, whose profession was carving tombstones. Floors in the house were solid pine one and a half inches thick. Locks and hinges on the heavy doors were of brass. "It was a warm house with an inner wall of homemade bricks covered on the outside with weatherboarding," said Travis Maddox who lived there as a boy. He later married Lillian Yancey, a great-granddaughter of Jacob and Lurena.

January 3rd 1861, Richard enlisted in the Confederate Army (80) and served as Lt. Co. H 10th Va. Cav. under Capt. John P. Brock. Later he was transferred to Co. E 14th Inf., then finally back to the 10th Va. Cav. Co. K. Since soldiers in that day furnished their own horses the transfer probably signifies, that the horse was not so fortunate as he and a new horse had to be found. A horse was valued at \$150.00 and equipment at \$25.00.

Richard's wife, Phoebe, died while he was in service, and was buried in the Barley cemetery, near the house. A small stone near hers, on which one could identify only P ____ Y ____ may be a grave of an infant daughter. Later that year the mill, which Richard still owned, was burned by incendiaries. (81)

Some years after the war Richard married his cousin Lucy Garth. Her mother, Louisa Yancey Garth was a sister of Richard's father Jacob Layton Yancey. Lucy and Richard lived near Lacey Springs, where he was Postmaster. Their daughter Loula could recall spending the day at Aunt Sallie Allebaugh's, and playing with Margaret and the boys, before her family moved to Barboursville, Virginia.

* * *

Robert, the oldest son of Jacob and Lurena Yancey married Amanda Brock, daughter of Archibald Brock.

She was also a granddaughter of John Brock who, when quite a small boy, was the only member of his family found, after an Indian raid. Amanda's grandmother was born in Holman's Fort during an Indian attack.

Robert enlarged the house at "Willow Bank". Adding a center hall at the back of the original house, he duplicated the two rooms upstairs and down, on the other side, with a fireplace in each room. The hall was now a center hall and the door opened onto a small porch with pillars supporting a porch above, both facing the mountains. The door opening onto each porch was surrounded by oblong panes of frosted glass, ornamented with clear amber stars which in daylight, cast a sunny glow over the entire hall. From the second floor the stairway descended five steps, to a landing which crossed the back of the hall then completed the descent to the first floor. The graceful lines of the walnut rail continued to the bottom ending in a coil. The original front porch, between the stone chimneys, now became the side porch. A short walk, eventually covered with wisteria, extended from it to a two story frame building, which included dining-room and kitchen on the first floor and sleeping quarters for the single servants on the second. Married couples already had their own log houses on a high bank of the river, mid way between "Willow Bank" and "Hill Top". The greenhouse was near the side porch. Unlike those of today, it extended below ground level to avoid freezing in winter. One could stand up comfortably, to plant seeds in early spring or care for plants.

Cotton, flax and wool grown on the place were spun into thread, woven into cloth and made into garments for family, and servants, augmented occasionally by purchases made in the city. One large reel and a spinning wheel have been preserved; also a small boys suit of homespun linen marked "Richard's".

Robert and Amanda lost their first four children. Two drowned. The others died from illness when quite young.

Several times when the river reached flood stage in Spring, wagons were packed with food and essentials and everyone on the place was prepared to flee to

higher ground. If the water rose to a certain point the river would change its course, and surround the house. This never happened but after repeated anxious incidents, it was decided to build a new house on a knoll directly opposite the present location. Lumber was cut and stacked near the site, ready to begin construction as soon as the weather permitted. Instead there came rumors of war and finally war itself. Long ago Robert and his brother George had freed everyone on their plantations, though all chose to stay. So they decided to pay some one else to fight while they devoted their attention to farming. By the end of the war, Sheridan's soldiers had destroyed the lumber for the new house and it was never built.

Robert died a month before his youngest son was born. Amanda named the baby Robert Jr.. The son who drowned had been Robert Lewis. The baby was Robert Layton. Amanda did not move but continued farming. Shortly after her husband's death, she was awakened by foot steps. The children were still asleep and the steps came nearer. Visible in the moonlight she walked onto the upper porch and raised her gun just as a voice from the dark said, "Don' shoot Miss Manda, it me. I jes' came early to start de breakfas' biscuits".

When Ashby, frequently called "Tallie" was twenty-one his mother arranged a real celebration. Cousin Lizzie Taliaferro described it in a letter to Bessie Yancey, in Missouri. She wrote, "Cousin Manda gave Tallie a big party on Feb. 3, as it was his 21st birthday. She went to town and bought confectionaries and lots of good things. She sent for me to come over and help to bake cake and fix. So Mrs. Allen and I were there two or three days helping her, and I tell you we did fix a spanking good supper. There were between fifty and seventy-five persons there. The invitations were printed in town, also, a program of the dance was sent to all the dancers, with the invitation. I tell you they put on style, danced all night and had splendid music. I danced until half past three o'clock. Brock took sister, Charlie took Kate Krebs and Leet took me, all in sleighs." All friends and neighbors must have had house guests, because for most of those attending, the distance from their home to "Willow Bank" would be a drive of from half a day, to one or even two days. The hostess had

not only guests to plan for but horses and sleighs.

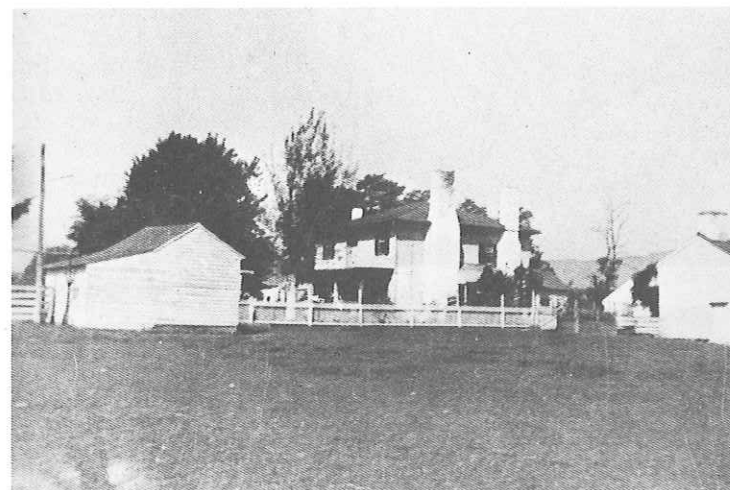
The following year Amanda Yancey died. Ashby was of age and Sallie almost so. Richard, fifteen, was allowed to stay at home with them. His guardian, George Sipe married Pet Yancey, a cousin of Richard's father. Charles Brock, Amanda's brother, took her two younger sons Bernard and Robert to grow up with his children near Lacey Springs, Virginia. Sallie chose Ashby as her guardian.

Ashby married Alice McDonough Hedrick, a daughter of Nancy Catterton and her husband, George Wainright Hedrick. Their home "Sunnyside" was about a mile up the river, on the opposite side from "Willow Bank". Sometime after Alice came there to live, Ashby added a large kitchen to the back of the house and his mother's downstairs bedroom became the dining room. A long pie safe with ornamental panels was built along one wall, extending from floor to chair rail. It was both attractive and essential for in those days, besides family there were always visiting aunts and uncles and other guests, who came not for a meal or day but for a month or longer. A large window opposite the door greeted one on entering the room with a refreshing view of the river.

Ashby was a successful farmer, dealing principally in cattle. In late years, he was a director of The Bank of Elkton. Due to an accident, when still quite young, he lost a foot. While watching the men put up a fence, the wire slipped and struck him with great force. Not realizing that it had cut, he was amazed, when he returned to the house and found that his boot was full of blood. Telephones did not exist. Someone had to go for the doctor. Examination showed the wound was already infected, and any delay would be unwise. So with the nearest hospital miles away, the doctor had no choice but to put Ashby to sleep on the dining room table for, or as he thought, further examination. It was a terrible shock, when Ashby regained consciousness, to learn that his limb had been amputated just below the knee. In due time he was back in the saddle and continuing his activities.

Ashby and Alice had three children. George only

lived a year and a half. Mamie married Charles Burner, a son of Jacob and Frances Brille Burner. His ancestors came from Germany, where they were known by their beautiful cabinet work. Some fine old pieces are still in the family. Mamie's sister Nannie married as his 2nd wife, Raleigh Armentrout. Their families had been friends for years. Raleigh and his 1st wife, Lucy Argenbright, had two daughters. Alice married Everette Smith and lives near McGaheysville, not far from her father's home on the Shenandoah River. Dr. Mary Armentrout married Francis Jackson. They live in his home near Cross Roads, which is an interesting old house built by Jacob Bright Nicholas.



"Willow Bank" when Ashby and Alice lived there.

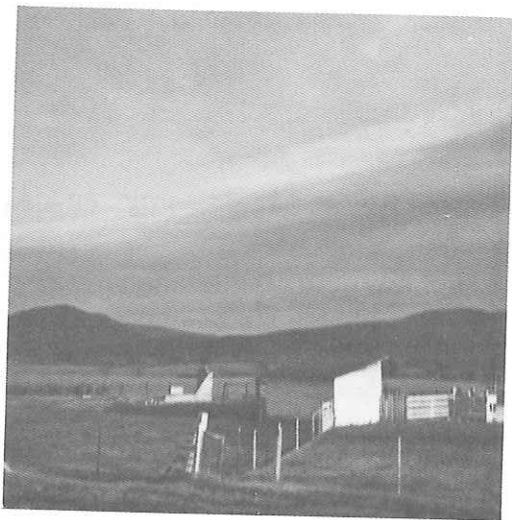
Sallie Yancey Ashby's sister married William Moffett Yancey. Their paternal grandfathers Jacob Layton and William Burbridge Yancey were brothers. Dr. Moffett Newman, Will's maternal grandfather purchased "Hill Top" and gave it to them for life. It would then go to Will's step-sister, Annie Myers. (After the death of Will's father, Thomas L. Yancey, his mother married Lycurgus C. Myers) Only a portion of the original house remained as Layton and Fanny Lewis Yancey knew it. A later owner disliked the H and converted it to an L shaped house. Sallie recalled seei-

ng the beautiful old mantles, and ceiling ornaments, tossed onto the scrap pile. But it was a genuinely appreciated gift because of the family ties and the magnificent view.



"Hill Top"
remodeled.

View of the
Allegheny
Mountains
from
"Hill Top"



There was a question about sharing the farmland, at "Willow Bank" or dividing it. Alice wrote to her mother saying: "I wanted to come up this week but the river is up. ... The commissioners have been here surveying and dividing the land. Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Harnsberger and Cousin Billy, were the men appointed. They all met here last Monday. Uncle Charlie and Bernard were around, and Richard and Ashby. All wanted the land divided but Ashby. Uncle Charlie told Ashby it would be better for him to have it divided. He said he was willing for Ashby to have the buildings for 800 dollars ... So then Ashby told the commissioners he would have it divided. Ashby gets an equal share with the others, one orchard, and the greater part of others, and the buildings at 800 dollars. Richard's land lies next, on the lower side. Bernard's comes next above Ashby's and then Robert's. So Ashby can buy Richard's, then if he wants it. Uncle Charlie said he could rent Robert's and Bernard's as long as he had anything to do with it. So I think Ashby has done this very thing. They all seem satisfied.

Six years later Will died following a fall, when getting off of the train near his home. Sallie never remarried. Bernard, now of age came to live with her and farm his portion of the land while helping her.

He was tall and slender, with light hair and complexion and blue eyes. This, Sallie said, she had been told, was typical of Yancey men. She said it seemed to be true of the generations she had known. It has also been true of descendants of other branches, of the family of Lewis Davis Yancey we have met. Considering the description of Thomas Lewis, one would expect to also find very dark hair in the family.

The family school still stood at the foot of the hill, back of the house, on the river road. Here, at least two generations of Yanceys had begun their education. Books in storage revealed the names of both. The subjects included Arithmetic, Algebra, History English Grammar and Literature, the equivalent of three years of French (as we think of it today), Latin Grammar and on through Virgil, and some Greek. A governess or tutor lived with the family so long as children were young. These subjects were not unusual in those days even for the very young. When Robert and

Amanda's children reached their teens, they attended private schools in McGaheysville, sometimes as boarding, sometimes as day students. In winter, if the snow was deep, the straddlebuck served as transportation. It was a sled, six feet long, wedge shape and made of wood but pulled by a horse. In good weather the miles were walked.

Bernard married Sarah Eiler whom everyone called Sadie. She was a daughter of James R. Eiler, a wealthy farmer and life long resident of Rockingham County, who married Amanda Catherine Nicholas. Sadie's paternal grandparents were William and Cynthia Huston Eiler, whose farm southeast of Massanetta Springs was part of the Huston tract. (82) Peter Eiler, grandfather of James Rush Eiler, came to America from Germany. He settled first in Pennsylvania, then came to Virginia, where he married Elizabeth Rush. In the early 1750s, they inherited a considerable amount of land from her father. James Rush Eiler entered the Civil War as a member of the 1st Va. Cav. commanded by Capt. Thomas L. Yancey. He was present at Appomattox, when Lee surrendered, after which he came home riding the same horse that had served him through the entire war.

Bernard and Sadie made their home with Sallie at "Hill Top". It was a beautiful location, facing up the river which meanders gracefully along the hillsides. Across broad fields on the opposite side mountains are paralleled by the Norfolk and Western Railroad just as the Chesapeake and Western Railroad parallels the other side of the river. The train whistle served the same purpose as a town clock. Watches and clocks were forgotten. If the train was late everything along the line was delayed. Days were filled with activity but no one hurried. Why should they? Someone did go for the mail once a week, usually.

The dirt road, along the river, was practically a private road, serving different branches of the family, and a few friends. Even if the County was willing to improve it the idea did not appeal to them. It would only increase traffic and destroy their privacy. And the changes! Gates would have to be removed and fences built, and arrangements made for providing water for the stock! With fences running to the

river, the animals could wander down at will for water. Each fence had a gate across the road and those traveling were generally not in a hurry. There were perhaps no more than five or six gates. On horse back or in a carriage the horse would stand until the gate was opened, and after being led through, wait until the gate was closed and fastened, and his rider or driver returned. In a car the procedure was more complicated. It could not be led. So, the driver left his engine running as he got out; opened the gate; got in; drove through; got out; closed the gate; usually by this time the engine had stopped. So it had to be cranked a time or two before driving to the next gate, perhaps the length of a city block away. Though much of the road was only wide enough, for one carriage or wagon there were places here and there, where two could pass or stop to chat. Visitors accustomed to wider public roads said many a prayer, on the narrow sections as they looked down the steep bank into the river.

Guests arriving on the Chesapeake and Western got off the train at "Inglewood" across the river. Bernard met them with the carriage. At "Fordwell" just a short distance beyond the station the horse turned down a diagonal road into the river, which was no longer deep enough for shipping, as in the past. There were only row boats on it now. The horse could pick its way across the rocky river bed. Sometimes a carriage wheel rolled up onto a large rock only to slide down its side. If heavy rain in the mountains had caused swollen streams to raise the level of the river, water flowed through the carriage making it necessary to hold feet up or out. There were rare occasions when the current carried the buggy down stream. But, by swimming the horse always worked its way back to the proper point on the opposite shore near "River Bank". Guests unaccustomed to this mode of travel, welcomed the sight of "Hill Top" in the distance.

If Bernard liked to tease his guests, he also did much to make them happy. Sadie and Sallie divided the household responsibilities. Sallie liked to delve into family history and also bring one up to date concerning relatives, and friends up and down the river. So much was overlooked in writing. Now and

then cousins from across the mountain would drive in.

In the fall Sallie would rent a house in McGaheysville so Bernard's three children and some of their cousins could live nearer the school. Peyton, the youngest of the three, riding his bicycle after school looked back and failed to see a stone in his path. He fell, struck his head on a rock and died. After finishing school in McGaheysville they all scattered to complete their education else where.

Virginia married Michael Harrison Jr., a neighbor. His mother, Emily Wood was a daughter of "Capt. John" of Island Ford, Virginia. His paternal grandparents were Reuben and Hannah Sellers Harrison. All the families were from early settlers of Rockingham County. Eiler Yancey married Mary Sue Hammersley of Randolph Virginia. She traces her family back to a Lord Mayor of London. "Hill Top" then became their home.

"Willow Bank" never seemed like home to Richard, without his mother. Even though Ashby and Alice urged him to stay with them he decided to go to Harrisonburg and live with his father's cousin George Conrad who had a son, George, about Richard's age. His first job was at the telegraph office. Later he clerked in a wholesale grocery company "Yancey and Kent" operated by another cousin of his father, John Yancey. After a year in town, he felt he should seek his own quarters. There were others about his age, at Mrs Pollock's Boarding House, now the Craft House on South Main Street, so he too took a room. She called them all "her boys".

While at the store, one of the men decided to go to Ohio and open a grocery store. Richard was urged to join him. Of course, it would be necessary for him to put up part of the money. He was not yet of age so his guardian, Mr. Sipe, could not let him have it. But when his brother Ashby saw how disappointed Richard was he loaned him a thousand dollars and the adventure began.

The location of the new store was not wisely chosen and prospects for success seemed dim. Richard saved every cent possible of his returns and eventually his guardian released some of his inheritance,

so that he could buy his partner's share, make a few changes, then run the store himself until it could be sold and Ashby repaid. He had no intention of returning to the Valley a failure. At this time the two Berger brothers and their friend Mr. Ed. Langenbaugh, formed a small metal company and he joined them as a bookkeeper. It became The Berger Manufacturing Company, eventually a part of Republic Steel. At retirement he was Vice President in charge of Purchasing. This included every item required for the mill, fabricating plant and the company store.

Soon after arriving in Canton, O. he began playing the violin in the Methodist Church. One Sunday a class had no teacher and he was asked to substitute. It was here that he met Kate Hay, whom he later married. She was the daughter of John Adam and Rebecca Lovett Hay, and granddaughter of Rodman and Catherine Martin Lovett. John Hay's parents lived outside of Philadelphia for many years and the Lovetts nearer Harrisburg. Both moved to Ohio about the same time seeking better opportunities for their sons. They settled in Canton, where in 1830 Rodman Lovett purchased and operated a hotel located on Tuscarawas Street, known as the old Indian Trail through Canton and Steubenville to the South.

Richard and Kitty as she was called, were invited to spend their first Christmas at "Hill Top" with Sallie and Will. Uncle Charlie Brock could not be there so he sent the Brock family coach, to be driven to the train. It was black with red upholstery. Uncle Bev' who had served more than one generation, of Yanceys polished and brushed till it looked like new. On the morning they were to arrive, he was up at dawn so he would not miss the chance to drive to the station for Mistah Richard and his bride. As the hour approached, Will, noted for his teasing, sent for Uncle Bev and told him to hitch up the wagon, the train was almost due. Uncle Bev was horrified. "Oh, Mistah Will, no Mistah Will, not de wagon. De carriage all polished and ready." When Will insisted that it was to be the wagon, Uncle Bev shook his head and said "No Mistah Will, not dis boy. Somebody else hav' to meet dat train." Before it was too late the order was changed and a smiling Uncle Bev drove down the lane, to meet Mistah Richard.

To a bride of eighteen,visiting Virginia for the first time it was an experience filled with surprises. As they left the carriage and walked toward the house,servants lined the path,calling "Chris'mas Gif Mistah Richard,Chris'mas Gif".Kitty was stunned and bewildered. He had not told her of the difference in customs. But Richard was ready, with something for each one. Inside, the gracious welcome, and meeting of new relatives, soon absorbed her thoughts. There were many visitors and the holiday was a gay one.The highlight was the dance. The large dining room was transformed into a beautiful ballroom with a background of native holly and pine. One question puzzled Kitty. Repeatedly that evening, she was asked about this or that "out west",to which she could only reply,"I really don't know". Too late she realized that to her "out west" was beyond the Mississippi River and she had not been there. But to them Ohio was "out west."

One memorable evening,many years later, is often recalled. As we sat on the verandah, at "Hill Top" shortly after dusk,the still of the evening was broken by the dripping paddle of boats gliding down the river. The servants from the neighborhood were gathering for a dance. Unknown to those of us who were visiting, preparations had been in progress all day. One cabin,we were told,had been cleared for dancing,another for refreshments. Soon,laughter and the rhythm of fiddles and dancing feet,filled the air.

The row of cabins along the ridge between, "Hill Top" and "Willow Bank" gradually shortened. As the last member of a family died, or went to live with a son or daughter,their cabin was torn down. Early in the twentieth century only five remained. Those able to work,helped at either house, depending upon where they were needed. Uncle Bev continued to occupy his favorite quarters,in the upper story of the smokehouse at "Hill Top". Sometimes, he walked up to Miss Sarah's,just to see how she was getting along. Sarah Yancey of "Willow Bank" after her marriage lived near Staunton,twenty or more miles from "Hill Top".

Finally only Susan and her invalid daughter remained. Susan continued to assist either household

when she could. She had helped to raise Ashby,Sallie and Richard,also Bernard and Robert until their mother died, and they went to live with Uncle Charlie's family. So she felt a certain responsibility for each one. The Daingerfields had lived across the river below Port Republic,and the children of both families had played together. One Sunday, having added a few years and quite a few pounds, Algernon Daingerfield came to "Hill Top"for a day with Sallie and the boys. During dinner the playmates indulged in a bit of friendly teasing about Algie's excess weight. Feeling that they were very discourteous to their guest,Susan stood it as long as she could. Then with a stern look at each of her former charges,drawing herself up to a commanding stature,she said, "I think, Mistah Algie has a mighty fine figure fo'showing off a watch chain."

For those not familiar with that period it might be well to explain,that under his suit coat,a gentleman wore a vest which buttoned down the front. On either side of this fastening was a small pocket.His watch was kept in one and from it a chain,Algie wore a gold chain,festooned to a button hole through which it slipped then festooned to the other pocket where it was anchored with a fob. Algie's was a gold ornament.

Robert Yancey Jr.spent most of his growing years near Lacey Springs,Virginia after he and his brother Bernard became part of their uncle's family. When he was old enough to go away to school,Oak Hill Academy in McGaheysville was decided upon.There he would rejoin his cousins and friends from along the Shenandoah. Professor Kimler, who was in charge of the school was highly regarded in the academic world. After Oak Hill, Robert graduated from Augusta Military Academy commanded by General Roller. His free time and short vacations from there, he spent at Aunt Sarah Shafer's,with Bess,Janette and Carrol Summerson her grandchildren,who were nearly his age. Aunt Sarah lived northeast of Staunton,not far from the Academy. So,that became his second home,and trips to Uncle Charlie's thirty miles away were on long holidays only.

All through life, music and horses were Robert's

chief interests, both of which, Uncle Charlie, himself an avid horseman, encouraged. Robert played the violin and Mamie Jennings his wife was a gifted pianist. She had majored in music at Hollins College.

During the early years of their married life Robert and Mamie lived at her father's in Lacey Spring because of his illness and for a few years after his death. Dr. Jennings was widely known as a practicing physician and for his interest in politics. His wife was Martha Moore, daughter of Madison and Lydia Harrison Moore. It was on a portion of the Madison Moore estate, that Robert and Mamie built their own home. They selected a location on one of the highest points on the Valley Pike, with a magnificent view in all directions, very much like "Hill Top".

As their children reached their teens, she played for their dances at The Hall at Lacey Springs, while Robert guarded the door against intruders who wished to take advantage of the music. He also kept an eye on the dancers lest a young gentleman forget the white handkerchief in his left hand to protect his partner's evening gown, or any of the other courtesies. There was plenty of fun, but now they were young ladies and gentlemen and must behave accordingly.

When his son Leonard was capable of managing the farm, Robert shared his enthusiasm for Endless Caverns with the tourists at the Information Center. His was a genuine appreciation of the marvelous creation in these subterranean passages, wrought solely by nature. Leonard's only brother died while a student, at Randolph Macon. He had three sisters. Helen associated for a number of years with The Potomac Power and Light Co., married Lewis Kiefer and lived in Washington, D.C.. Martha spent a number of years in the office of the Superintendent of Rockingham Co. Schools. Lillian after a few years of teaching, married Travis Maddox, a colonel under Gen. Patton, later Pres. Rockingham Milling Co. of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

* * *

Layton and Lurennia Yancey had only one daughter, Sarah Frances. Some say she resembled her father and that both were very erect and aristocratic in bearing.

ing. Sarah married Zebulon Dyer Shafer, also a member of one of Virginia's oldest families.

There is a ledger, dated "Harrisonburg, Monday September 30th 1822", in which is a record of the members of the families of Zebulon's grandfather and his own, from which one learns ———

"Nicholas Shaver and Magdalena his wife were married Nov. 25, 1763. Their children were Elizabeth, b. 12:3:1764, Margaret b. 11:11:1766, Lusanne b. 2:8:1769 John b. 11:5:1774, Catherine b. 12:11:1776, Nicholas b. 10:15:1778, Barbara b. 10:16:1780, George b. 1:25:1782, Henry b. 1:15:1785 and David b. 10:10:1787. John Shaver married 12:24:1799 Dorothy ——— b. 11:30:1778. They had twelve children, Elizabeth b. 1:6:1801 Catherine b. 1:15:1802, Jonathan b. 6:11:1803, Polly b. 3:7:1805, (changed her name to Shafer) Josiah b. 1:16:1807, Abraham b. 9:12:1808, David b. 4:3:1810, John b. 11:2:1812, Nicholas b. 9:2:1814, Zebulon b. 11:5:1816, Benjamin b. 5:5:1818 and Jacob b. 12:26:1823."

Benjamin and Jacob like Polly spelled their names with an f instead of v. This ledger belonged to John Shaver, who owned a general store in Harrisonburg, selling everything, from nuts and bolts, to dry goods, whiskey and cord wood. "A. Lincoln", the President's grandfather was listed among the customers.

The Shavers came from Germany to England, thence, to the Chesapeake Bay, then Virginia. John Shaver was a major in the War of 1812. The family has wondered who Dorothy was before her marriage. Since Zebulon and Margaret Cravens Harrison had a daughter Phoebe, born about 1758 who married James Dyer, who was a justice of The Rockingham County Court in 1778 the year that Dorothy was born, according to the ledger, she may have been Dorothy Dyer. But proof is inadequate. When Pendleton County, West Virginia was formed from Virginia, Governor Edmund Randolph commissioned James Dyer one of the County's first justices. In 1803 permission was granted to James and John Dyer, for the first grist mill there. (17)

Sarah Yancey and her husband Zebulon Dyer Shafer lived in a stone house, near Hebron Church, built by Hessian soldiers. It was located approximately six

miles northeast of Staunton, Virginia. Though no longer occupied by a member of the family, the exterior of the house appears unchanged, according to Jannette Summerson East, their granddaughter.

It has been said that Sarah and Zebulon had nine children most of whom died in infancy. They were likely buried in a family cemetery which no longer exists. So, no record has been found of two sets of triplets. Only Layton, "Pet", and Fanny are known. Sarah inherited a portion, of her grandfather's bounty land in the Ohio Section of Virginia, which she gave to her son Layton on his twenty-fifth birthday. After exploring it, he found that he liked the people, the soil and the climate. So he settled there. Eight years later he married Josephine Miller, a native of that area. Some of the land near Belfountain Ohio is still occupied by his grandchildren. Layton frequently drove or rode back to the Valley, to see his family. He often came in a wagon, so he could take back a load of his favorite apples from Uncle George Yancey's orchard, near Keezletown. Sometimes his son Floyd, now living in California, came with him. It was a long, dusty trip for man and horse, but time and distance meant little in those days. Layton's daughter Sara Ethel Lease, also visited her grandparents. In 1915 Pet Shafer Shuey, of Staunton visited relatives in Ohio.

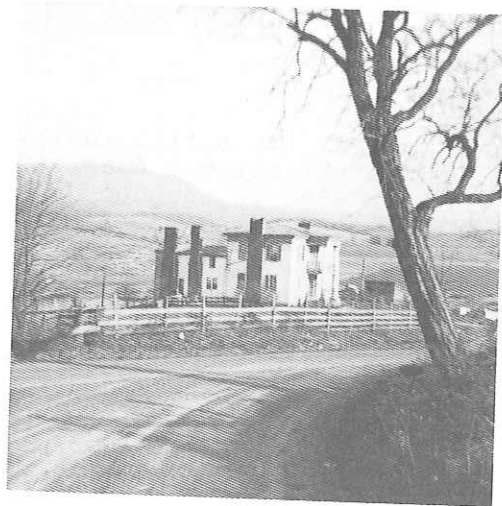
Fanny Shafer, Layton's other sister, married William Frazier Summerson, a Confederate Veteran, of the Richmond-Petersburg Line. A daughter, Bess Summerson married Joseph T. Houck, who with his father operated a large tannery on Black's Run, in Harrisonburg Virginia, also a department store on Main Street. Their house on East Market Street, with broad green lawn, was one of the most picturesque in town. It had been the home of several generations of Houcks. Each one, had added to it artistically. Perhaps the last addition was the circular solarium, on the east side which enclosed a winter garden. A member of one of the early generations belonged to the Dutch East India Company and brought back rare dishes. Janet Houck was the last member of the family to leave Harrisonburg, when she moved to Richmond. Her brother Joe was practicing medicine in Lynchburg, and her sister Frances living in North Carolina.

Jannette Summerson married Charles Macauley East graduate of The University of Virginia Law School, a Capt. U.S. Army WW I and Staunton hotel owner. Their home, located on East Beverly Street, is on the route to the old stone house of her grandparents. Mary Elizabeth, Sarah, and Charles William, their children, graduated from Goucher, Stanford and V.M.I.. Sarah and her husband Joseph Randolph Nutt lived in Ohio where he was State Senator 1945-50. Later in Virginia he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. In WW II he was a captain in the U.S. Army, while Hans Joachim Lembke, his future son-in-law, served the German Army and was captured by the Russians. But following the War he graduated from the Berlin Institute of Technology and is now a naturalized American. Capt. Charles William East was severely wounded while leading Co. L 116th Inf. 20th Div. U.S.A. on D Day, but recovered.

* * *

George, the youngest son of Jacob and Lurena Yancey, married Frances Ellen Flook, daughter of, Daniel and Margaret Sellers Flook, who lived in a log house a quarter of a mile from the Keezletown Road. This became the home of George and Ellen Yancey, when Flocks, and their daughter Eliza moved to the large square brick house, at the bend of the Old Indian Trail called the Keezletown Road. The two properties had a common boundary but the new one faced east and was close to the main route for travelers going east or west. A large iron ball eighteen inches in diameter, painted a bright blue was mounted on a tall pole, with a smaller glass ball above it. The sight of this told the weary traveler that he was approaching Blue Ball Tavern, also referred to as Flook's Stage Coach Depot. One wonders whether there were tavern chains in those days for such names as Blue Ball, Travelers Rest, were not uncommon. Perhaps Blue Ball was just a reminder of Blue Ball Tavern in London. Travelers from Baltimore and Richmond brought news from the east and those from the Ohio and Missouri sections of Virginia, from the west. They came on horseback, by wagon or stage. Some were driving cattle for which a field was reserved. All were welcome. No one recalls the accessories provided for the travelers. A recent display of antiques included a handsome embo-

ssed brass cabinet, comparable in size to the average medicine chest, with a mirror in the door. When opened, one found, instead of shelves two large hooks. One was for a comb, the other for a clothes brush, so that the disheveled traveler could primp upon arriving at the tavern. Blue Ball may have had something similar,



"Blue Ball"
Home of
George Yancey

The stile at "Blue Ball" was at the right of the gate, over which a high arch supported the sign. A broad sawdust walk to the main entrance divided, leading to other gates at right and left. Mary Eliza Flook took great pride in planting wide borders of bright flowers on both sides of the walk. At the right of the house was the sunken greenhouse. A little farther back, on the left, stood the out-door oven. Down the hill behind the house the mill took advantage of a winding stream. Beyond, were the rolling green fields and blue, blue mountains.

When Daniel Flook died, George and Ellen moved to "Blue Ball" to care for Ellen's mother. Since, their family needed the entire house, the tavern was closed. But, tinkling bells in the distance always caused Mrs Flook to say, "The waggoners are coming". The lead horse always wore bells for the others to follow.

Sarah Yancey married Michael Allebaugh. An old newspaper clipping reports: "The Trinity Lutheran Church near _____ was the scene Thursday afternoon... of a brilliant marriage. The contracting parties M. A. Allebaugh, son of S. R. Allebaugh, a prominent farmer, of this County, and Miss Sallie Lewis Yancey, one of Rockingham's most charming young ladies. The following composed the wedding train: — Miss Nannie Yancey and Dr. Myers, Miss Lizzie Allebaugh and L. S. (L) Yancey, Miss Nannie Harrison and C. Allebaugh. The groom came in with his brother and the bride with her sister. Ushers T. A. Moore and S. Myers. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Condor. The bridal presents were numerous and beautiful. Mr. and Mrs. Allebaugh left on a trip south.

The following is a list of presents: Mr. and Mrs. George Yancey chamber set, Mrs. Flook large family Bible, Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Bowman silver castor, Mr. S. R. Allebaugh parlor lamp, Mrs. S. R. Allebaugh solid silver — ces, Miss Lizzie Allebaugh silver — castor, Mr. Henry Berry silver butter — h, Miss Dora Barley silver napkin rings, — W. Speck reclining chair, Mrs. Sidney — offett silver fruit spoon, Mr. Douglas Bird and wife silver molasses pitcher, Mr. Wm. Loch and wife + Saml Loch and wife handsome lace curtains, a very beautiful clock was presented by the following gentlemen T. A. Moore, S. R. Allebaugh, L. S. Yancey, C. H. Allebaugh S. D. Myers and Dr. Myers, Ora Yancey silver sugar spoon, Minnie Yancey silver butter knife, Miss Nannie Harrison and Nannie Yancey silver butter dish, Moffett Co. and W. N. Peal silver castor, Miss Belle Hannah key rack, Senator Keezle and wife glass fruit stand and pitcher, Prof. I. N. Brennehan water service, Mr. Adam Howard set of silver fruit knives, Mr. Joe Byrd water service, Miss Bruce Bowman silver butter knife, Mr. B. F. Myers lamp, Miss Lucy and Reba Shaver berry dish with dessert saucers, Mrs. Jeb. Shafer half doz. linen towels, Miss Nell Moore splasher, Mr. Samuel Bowman 1 doz. dessert saucers, Misses Flook a valuable cow, and an exquisite piece of workmanship in the shape of a gold, and silver cake plate from the groom.

Trinity Lutheran Church stands on a hill opposite "Blue Ball" but facing the road to Melrose, which explains the incomplete location in the article. The area around "Blue Ball" was generally called "Latona".



George Yancey and grandson Samuel Allebaugh.
Courtesy of Sallie Hulvey Acker.

At a given time, each year, George would ride to "Willow Bank" and Ashby Yancey, his nephew, would join him for a trip across the mountain into Green County to visit relatives, and buy cattle. "What a picture Uncle George made, with his light hair flying, as he rode his white horse, bedecked with the handsome beaded saddle bags the Indians had given him." One has heard the comment many times.

Even when George Yancey was almost eighty, it was his custom, to each day ride over to see his son Layton Lee Yancey, whose farm adjoined his, drop the reins, and his horse would wait. One day when he came back the horse was gone, so Layton took him home. George went straight to the stable. Yes, the horse was there. No one ever knew whether he lost his balance as he jerked the rein in reprimand or just fell. Layton was summoned and a doctor.

When we arrived for lunch, we were told that Layton was away but would return shortly. We were living in Ohio then. Recently Aunt Sallie had met Cousin Layton in town, and had told him we would be visiting on the River and promised to bring us over to lunch some day. That morning at breakfast she suggested taking advantage of a beautiful day. Telephones to warn of approaching company, had not yet reached the rural areas. When Cousin Layton arrived, there was no hint of concern, only the pleasure of meeting. One could never forget that delicious fried chicken, killed no doubt as we drove up the lane to the house or the warm frosted cake. After dinner, various members of the family were in and out but this was not unusual when there is a large family. Uncle George and Aunt Ellen were mentioned, but nothing was said, even to Aunt Sallie, about his fall. Nothing marred a very pleasant visit. Three days later, just before we were to leave, someone rode up from Capt. Billy's, the next plantation, to say that Uncle George was dead. The word had been relayed from one plantation, to the next for miles.

Friends and relatives came to his funeral from across the mountain and up and down the Valley. Many traveled on horseback. Others came in family carriages, arriving mid morning or later. In those days, neighbors not only brought in baked hams and turkeys

but some took charge of the kitchen. Nearly all who came to the funeral would have traveled long distances and would be there for one or two meals. No one could tell, how many times the table would be reset, and served again. Those who lived farthest away would return for supper and spend the night. Funerals were a real family gathering.

As the hour approached, the undertaker arrived in his high silk hat and swallow tail coat, riding beside the driver of the horse drawn hearse. The services were long and duly sorrowful. All of the family wore black, including heavy veils for the ladies.

George Yancey was buried in the Seller's graveyard, on the hillside facing Fellowship Church (Methodist) for which Ellen's grandfather, Michael Sellers, gave the land. For years the congregation met in the home of Michael Sellers or under the arbor. Eight circuit riders preached there. Then in 1794 Governor Patrick Henry signed a grant, designating this land for a church.

George and Ellen had six children. Nannie married as his second wife, George Hulvey, an outstanding educator, who had his own school near Mt. Crawford. He later became Superintendent of Rockingham County schools. During the War Between the States he lost an arm in the Battle of The Wilderness. His first wife Josephine Bader, died leaving three children, Arthur, Elmer and Frank. George and Nannie had five, Layton, Brown, Lynwood, Sallie and Nina.

Sarah Y. and Michael Allebaugh selected for their home the former Reuben Harrison house, which John Sevier mentions in his diary. It was here that Loula, Richard Yancey's daughter, remembered playing at Aunt Sallie Allebaugh's with Margaret and the boys. George Allebaugh joined the Canadian Mounties and served in the Canadian Forces in WW I. His sister Margaret was an American Army Nurse. Samuel married Frances Kelley and had a son Paul.

Layton Yancey married Elizabeth Sellers, daughter of Jacob and Mary Shaver Sellers. Of their seven children: William, Mary, Edgar, George, Edith, Catherine, and Daniel, most live nearby on farms of their own.

Catherine married Charles Earman, of "Maple Leaf Farm", where he continued curing hams for market, just as his grandfather did when meat was hauled to market by a six horse team. Charles' father, Newman Earman had developed the business so that Earman's Sugar Cured and Hickory Smoked Hams were known overseas as well as here.

William, Layton's oldest son, married Pearl Hilton daughter of William and Lillie Bond Hilton. The sons of Pearl and William are all engaged in a business. Layton Lee II who married Virginia Sipe, like his parents lives near Keezletown. Walter married Margaret Fultz and moved to Page County, near Luray, Virginia. Though his farms are north of town, Andrew moved to Harrisonburg with his wife, Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Thomas and Frances Moore Harrison. Their summer home on the Valley Pike had belonged to Elizabeth's grandfather, Madison Moore. It included Harrison's Cave, now Melrose Caverns. There are indications that the cave was used by Indians seeking protection from another tribe; by the early settlers seeking protection from Indians and by soldiers during the War Between the States. It was here that a Confederate soldier found Fremont's favorite pipe, made especially for him, with a long slender stem and small ceramic bowl molded in his likeness.

Edith Yancey another daughter of Layton's married Elmer Hasler. They lived in his boyhood home near Keezletown. Her sister Mary's first husband, William Bowman was killed in WW I. Her second, Frank Bailey was from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where they lived. Two sons of Layton and Elizabeth Yancey, George and Daniel have adjoining farms. George and his wife, Ruth Heldreth, live on theirs. Daniel operates his but he and his wife, Frances Miller, live in Broadway, Virginia, where he owns and operates Broadway Motors Company. Another brother, Edgar, married his cousin, Frances Yancey. They live on the farm of his maternal grandfather, not far from his brothers. Edgar's great-grandfather, Jacob Yancey and William Burbridge Yancey, Frances' great-grandfather were brothers.

Two, of George and Ellen Yancey's daughters, were artists. Ora, the youngest painted an excellent portrait of her brother Layton which hung at "Blue Ball"

Layton kept in close touch with relatives and friends across the mountain. Ten years after the death of his first wife he married Kathleen Duff of Stanardsville, who won the admiration and affection of all of her new relatives and friends.

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Lureнна (widow of Jacob Layton Yancey) and her second husband Peter Hinton, the son of Peter and Mary Scothern Hinton, had two children, John and Mary Jane. Their daughter married Frank Armentrout, who purchased the mill, from Mary Jane's half brother, Richard Yancey. He changed the name to "Armentrout's Mill." Years later Robert Armentrout sold the buhrstones, for use in restoring "McCormick's Mill" located near Steel's Tavern. It was in a little shop near this mill, that Cyrus McCormick and his father, developed their first reaper, in 1831. "Hinton's Mill" was built before the Revolutionary War, so if these were the original stones they probably came from France.

Mary Jane and Frank Armentrout had nine children which meant that Lureнна, who lived nearly twenty-four years after Peter's death was always surrounded, by some of the younger generation. Her Yancey grandchildren often referred to visits with "Grandma Hinton." For them it was an all day trip with horse and carriage. Lureнна spent her last days with her sister Sarah Brock and is buried in the Brock graveyard,

John Hinton is referred to, only in his mother's will. There she lists her children: "George, Richard, Sarah, and Amanda, widow of Robert Yancey, also Mary Jane Armentrout and Ellen, wife of son John." It is recalled that a cousin, who could have been a daughter of John and Ellen, frequently visited her "Uncle George" Yancey, and "Cousin Nanny" Yancey Hulvey. Someone from her family would bring her to Hinton, west of Harrisonburg, and some of her cousins in the Valley would meet her there. She is remembered but not her name or where she lived.

Sallie Armentrout, daughter of Mary Jane and Frank, married Charles Sellers and lived near New Market, Virginia. Most of the others lived in the area of Lacey Springs, except Lewis who lived near Elkton.