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Description of Project

The object of this paper is to preserve some of the oral political traditions of a small portion of the great state of Kentucky. More specifically, my stomping grounds are Floyd County. Floyd is a county rich in political traditions, not to mention traditions in politics. The body of folklore latent there is enough to fill volumes. I have been asked to fill only a few pages, and I only hope that I may preserve in currency some of the more imaginative bits and pieces.

I take it that this sort of project is being undertaken by students at various schools in the state. The object is noble, that object being to perpetuate what I would consider to be one of the richer political heritages in the nation. The body of information could prove not only useful and instructive but could provide enjoyment for many people who may peruse the findings, especially elderly people who may revel in nostalgic reminiscences. If this were to occur, the project would have proven worthwhile. I would like to contribute. I'm proud of my neck of the woods- I do mean the woods - and would like to see its oral political contributions preserved in equal stead with all other areas of our state.

With a sound approach, a healthy imagination and diligent effort, I feel that I can contribute to this

ok, Boy!

monumental task. (I ask to be excused for my sonorities, but we're talking about something which plucks the very heartstrings of the spirit that is truly the elan vital of Kentucky.) As minimal in importance as my meager efforts may seem, I will have had the satisfaction of helping achieve historicity for something trivial, which by my standards happens not to be so trivial.

The procedure is to interview several longtime residents of the county who, by virtue of their years and experience, may serve as instruments for tapping the vast store of word-of-mouth political tradition to be had. For the chronological record, Sir, Floyd County is present and accounted for.

Amen

Good

1st Informant (Biographical Summary)

Upon initiating the project, I looked around for a worthy subject to interview. There is an old axiom which says that the convenient approach may often be the best. The logical choice was Mrs. Sadie Martin- bless her soul- my grandmother. Her qualifications for the role are impeccable.

She was born on February 17, 1912, which means she has just recently exceeded 60 years of age. She grew up on Little Mud Creek but has spent the greater portion of her adult life on Branham's Creek. She was married to the late John Martin, my grandfather, and now resides a widow at Grethel, Ky. She has lived in Floyd County all her life and at Grethel for the past 32 years. The extent of her formal education was the level of sixth grade. Her singular occupation has been housewife.

My Grandmother is a strong Republican, this affiliation having been asseverated by family tradition. Needless to say, she is extremely biased, but then bias is the stuff of which politics is made. Grandmother proved to be a delightful subject. Her facility for remembering mundane anecdotes (she was even a little vulgar) made her at least the most earthy interviewee I had.

2nd Informant (Biographical Summary)

My second interviewee was Cline Mitchell, local big-wig and politician extraordinaire. Cline is middle-aged-46 (born March 25, 1925) to be exact-and very successful. He has been in the lumber mill business for a number of years and is independently wealthy. He has used his financial base(not improbably in unscrupulous ways) to augment his avocation as a driving force in local politics.

Cline presently resides at Grethel, Ky. and has lived somewhere on Big Mud Creek all his life. At one time he served as a deputysheriff. This is, I understand, the full extent of his career as an officeholder, However his political prominence goes far beyond this. He has proven a formidable campaigner and is considered a valuable asset to the candidate he supports in any local election.

Cline is a Democrat and he leaves no doubt of it. Such is his considered importance that during the last gubernatorial race he was visited by one "Happy"Chandler. I had supposed that he could help me and I had supposed correctly.

3rd Informant (Biographical Summary)

My third informant turned out to be the first with significant experience as an officeholder. His name was Homer Hamilton and he had served two terms back in the early fifties as magistrate of the Seventh District. Homer is a shrewd sexagenarian(exactly sixty years of age). He runs a grocery store on Beaver Creek, where he has lived all his life.

Homer is a Republican. He isn't very active in politics any more, but his experience encompasses a spectrum of political jousting which made him an ideal subject to interview. He related to me that his days as magistrate made him realize what a "crooked setup"(sic) politics really is. His candor did not surprise me for I have found that if there is one overriding characteristic which applies to elderly people in general in the locale whence I hail, it is candor. This candor is not to be construed as ingenuosity (these people are not naive). On the contrary, as I think Homer aptly demonstrates, it evidences a deep disgust with something with which they have long been affiliated. Homer freely admits that not everything he did in the field of politics was strictly in accord with the "Good Book". However, notwithstanding his brush with immorality, I would like to go on record as saying that Homer Hamilton is a gem.

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itician) to tick. Mr. Hall said the secret was in knowing people. He said "people" education was the greatest education you could possibly have if your purpose was to manipulate the minds of those very same people. It surprised me that this man, whom I had supposed would be exceedingly complex, could have such a simple philosophy which could work so well. It may be out of context here, but it dawned on me that maybe even I could play this game called politics.

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4th Informant (Biographical Summary)

My fourth subject of interrogation was Oliver Hall, fifty-two year old resident of upper Branham's Creek (his mailing address is Galveston, Kentucky). Oliver worked for a number of years as a forestry agent. He is now employed as a co-ordinator in the OEO's "Nelson Project". He has traveled all over the United States. He has always lived on Branham's Creek.

From my point of view at the beginning of the project, Oliver was the most apropos interviewee. He is a firm Democrat and has almost always been able to swing the precinct in his favor. He has long been a friend of our family so there was no social barrier present.

Oliver turned out to be the most knowledgeable and best informed of all the people I talked with. This comes from personal experience. His campaigning power is something of a legend in the area. There is one particular school board member whom he has helped remain in office for as long as anyone can remember. His precinct hegemony is like a microcosmic version of Richard Daley's Chicago.

Naturally I talked with Mr. Hall(notice how my respect for the man has increased as evidenced by the way I now refer to him) for the information he could supply, but the developing purpose of the interview went beyond that. My curiosity was genuinely aroused as to what caused such a man (the quintessential, conniving, and effective pol-

5th Informant (Biographical Summary)

My fifth informant was Mr. Clyde Tackett of Prestonsburg. Clyde is fifty-seven years of age. He has lived in Floyd County all his life except for a period of six years during the late forties in which he lived at Dayton, Ohio. He served in Marines in WWII and achieved the position of platoon commander. He was decorated for bravery for his courageous efforts during that conflict. Clyde now owns and operates a marine store(boats, etc.) and has a thriving business. He is the best educated of all my informants, having achieved a degree in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky in 1952.

Clyde has always had an abiding interest in politics. He is registered as a Democrat, but indicated with characteristic honesty that this affiliation was primarily one of expediency, since Republicans don't fare that well in Floyd County. Nevertheless, he was defeated in a bid for judge in 1958, and never again vied for political office. This has not tainted his role as one of the principal political foci in the county, nor likewise his acknowledged status as a fountain of oral political information.

STORIES

Mrs. Martin's contributions:

Officials in Floyd County are not always characterized by their great literacy. A humorous example of the dramatization of this point came at the expense of a deputy sheriff. The deputy liked to stop motorists and check for their drivers' license. One day he stopped a shrewd young man and asked to see his license. The guy whipped out a commodities relief card. The card was duly okayed as certifying that he was a qualified motorist, and he was allowed to go on without any further static.

A very humorous story surrounds a campaigner and my grandfather. It seems that this young man was campaigning for a candidate for school board member. He saw my grandpa standing by the road and stopped to try and get his vote. He told my grandpa some of the things his candidate would do if he were elected. He would fire the basketball coach at Betsy Layne High and push aside one William Martin as successor in favor of a young whippercrapper by the name of Tommy Hall. What he didn't know was that William Martin happened to be the son of the elderly gentleman he was conversing with. The discourse that followed is too salty to be recorded here.

Mr. Mitchell's contributions:

He told me a story about a constable candidate back in the early fifties. The young candidate was very impressionable. The day after the election, in which he had been soundly trounced, he was come upon by someone, who saw that he had a set of guns strapped on. The person told him that he didn't get elected to constable and therefore had no reason to be wearing guns. The man replied that someone with as few friends as he had (as evidenced by the election) needed as much protection as he could get.

Some time ago a doctor who lived in Martin was serving as county coroner. As election time was drawing near again, some local people bragged that they could run the town drunk against the doctor and beat him. The doctor vowed that, were this to happen, he would leave the country. The local townspeople had conceived the whole thing as a joke, but they proceeded to mount a vigorous campaign in behalf of the drunk against the doctor. The drunk won. The doctor did leave the county and has not been heard from since. However, the drunk was found too illiterate to serve as coroner. Asked what he would report if he found someone dead, he replied, "If he was a little man, I'd say he starved to death. If he was a fat man, I'd say he died because he ate too much."

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Mr. Hall:

One candidate for magistrate was totally frustrated after he had lost the election resoundingly. He simply couldn't figure out how he had lost. He was an immaculate book-keeper. He lamented that he had a list of names of people he or his campaign workers had personally visited and distributed money to, and that, as he counted it, there were enough names on that list to have given him an easy victory. He commented that he might be driven to living an honest life.

There was an old codger named Doug Hayes, or as people called him, "Sawlogging" Doug Hayes. Doug ran for county judge back in the fifties. Since his occupation and nickname were something of a local legend, Doug decided to make the most of it. He drove through Prestonsburg in a wagon with a sawlog in it.

Mr. Hamilton:

This story is about a classic dupe. The sheriff caught aman transporting whiskey into the county (Floyd is dry), and gave him the proper ticket for the violation. The offender asked if he could just deliver it to the magistrate himself. The sheriff okayed this. Such offended carried astiff fine. However, on the way to see the magistrate, the man changed the ticket to appear as if he had merely run a stop sign. The magistrate couldn't read or write, so he charged the guy the smaller fine for running a stop sign. None could be done about it, The caper was complete.

Back in 1961, a sheriff in the county was looking for a notorious moonshiner. He went to the man's home. Nobody was there except the man's little boy. The sheriff asked the little boy where his father was. Came the reply, "He's in the mountains making moonshine." The sheriff told the young that he would give him five dollars if he would take him to his father. The little boy said okay but wanted the five dollars right there. The sheriff assured him that he would be paid the money when they got back. "No!" shot back the boy, "You ain't coming back."

Mr. Tackett:

This happened a long time ago. The sheriff caught a man paying voters on election grounds. The guy was trucked off to jail despite his vigorous protests. It was a known fact that the sheriff was supporting the candidate opposed to the one the vote-buyer was supporting. The sheriff returned to the election grounds. Afterwards, it was widely reported that he was seen buying votes himself.

The validity of this story I tend to question. I suppose it would be more over in the direction of a tall tale. It seems that there was an extremely close race for constable shaping up one election day. As it was nearing closing time for the polls, it appeared that the election was a deadlock between the two candidates with three registered voters yet to exercise their right. However, it was discovered that one was an old man who was home sick in bed, and another was out of the county on vacation so she wouldn't be able to vote either. That left the last one, a sprightly young man who just didn't give a damn. He would vote whichever way he could get the most out of it. It happened that he was visited by each candidate that evening, each trying to purchase his vote. Well, friends, they got into a bidding war, and before you could say whoops, the price had been bid up to 300 dollars. The guy got the money and cast the deciding vote. But it didn't stop there. Word got out of the bidding and the two candidates were visited by the incumbent constable and hauled off to jail.

COMMON PRACTICES

Mrs. Martin:

People that comprise the county administration that is in power, just prior to election time, will often order county workers to dispatch gravel or asphalt trucks to rural areas to dump loads in people's driveways. The salient datum is that these people are voters. Get the picture?

If an election judge isn't familiar with many of the voters in the precinct, some voters may get away with voting twice. This supposedly has been accomplished by going in and voting incognito (the particulars of which I am not sure about), and at another time during the day, going in and voting as yourself.

Here is one very shrewd practice that has to do with the passing of money around election time. If one side is short of funds, they may accept money from people on the other side as if they were selling their votes. They would then use this money for their own illicit purposes.

Mr. Mitchell:

A vote buyer would be in cahoots with the election judge. This practice would be used to make sure that the person would vote the way he had been contracted to vote. The person would have to tell the judge that he couldn't read or write so that the judge would be allowed to accompany him into the booth and "vote him". If the voter told the judge to vote him the right way, the judge would give the vote buyer the proper sign and the voter would be paid. If the wrong sign was given, the voter would not receive any money.

This practice was used to determine the honesty of an election judge. A literate person would be hired to go in and tell the judge that he could not read or write. The judge would have to go in with the person and vote him. The person would tell the judge to cast his vote for the candidate running against the person the judge was known to support. If the judge voted the person incorrectly, one would presume crookedness.

To make sure someone you had paid voted right, get the election judge, if he would, to let one of your people go in with the voter and observe how he cast his vote.

Mr. Hall:

Transferring money when buying votes is not always done conspicuously. One practice is to be in a person's home. Have the money in a paper bag, and as you are walking through the house, just drop the bag somewhere where it is very likely to be found. The deal is very obvious to the person for whom the money is intended. Also, the charge of corruption for this practice is very hard to prove in court.

Very obviously, one of the most widespread practices is buying votes. This may be done as in the preceding practice, or the money may simply be given directly to the voter.

It is a common practice for a candidate to give a youngster on the election grounds a big stack of cards with his picture and name on them, and give the person say, a \$10 bill to distribute them during the day.

Sometimes a youngster whose parents are committed to the man running against the candidate who gave the kid the money to distribute the cards may simply keep the money and throw the cards away.

Mr. Hamilton:

If you paid people to vote for you, you had better make sure that they get out to vote. This common practice is to have people working for you to haul voters to the polls, maybe even all day long. By hauling even uncommitted voters, you may sway them to vote for you.

If you could buy one of the partisan election judges off at the polls, you might be able to swing it so that you could have dead people on the rolls voting for you. The details of this practice I am not familiar with.

This practice involves collusion with the sheriff on the election grounds. Naturally there would be a lot of people buying votes at the polls. If you could get a vote buyer drinking, you might be able to get him into a fight. As prearranged, the sheriff would haul him off to jail. Score one for your side.

Mr. Tackett:

Sometimes votes are bought by means other than money. I was told of people who had bought, for instance, an entire family's votes in a school board election by giving them a pig.

When you're campaigning, go to someone's house and find out what it is that they want. Proceed to promise it to them. Be sure to exercise a little temperance so that you will have at least a modicum of believability. But lay it on thick. Promise the voter a job, anything. Remember, it's a proven commodity.

People that sell their votes sometimes accept money from both sides.

In an election it sometimes becomes obvious that one candidate will be the winner. His opposition may accept a sum of money or some form of favoritism to withdraw from the election and insure the outcome.

COMMON BELIEFS

Mrs. Martin:

When Republicans are in power, only Republicans ever get anything. When Democrats are in power, only Democrats ever get anything.

We have better times under Republican presidents.

We have better times under Democrat presidents.

Grandma said that you could always tell election money when people came in to trade at her store. They were always so crisp and new. She said that people would crumple them up deceptively, but you could always tell.

The way to a voter's heart is through your pocketbook.

Mr. Mitchell:

This traditional view surfaced during one election. A young candidate was very nervous as the ballots were being counted. An old man reassured him, "Don't worry, Son. Elections are won in the last few minutes of counting anyhow..

It is a prevalent belief among some people (aren't they fine Americans?) that if they take the trouble to come to the polls on election day, they should receive something in return for their vote. If not, they are miffed and think they should not vote.

Welfare has ruined the working spirit in Floyd County. There are jobs if people would just work. They like to lay around and get government checks.

If it rains on election day, the people who live in the head of hollows will tend to stay home and this will help the Republicans.

Mr. Hamilton:

Anyone who was ever elected to public had to have been crooked, so it really doesn't matter who it is that gets elected.

All people who are on welfare rolls ought to be put to work. They are all lazy good-for-nothings.

There is a prevalent feeling among many people who receive welfare that if they don't vote to keep the present administration in power, the checks might stop coming and leave them up the creek without a paddle.

A lot of people believe it is a sin not to vote a straight ticket. They think of anybody in the opposing party as being crooked and diametrically opposed to their best interests.

Many believe in the absolute that the sacrosanctity of the party must be preserved.

Mr. Tackett:

The only difference between a donkey and an elephant is their outward appearance.

Bert Combs didn't ^{forget} the folks back home when he got to Frankfort.

Henry Stumbo will be judge of Floyd County until the cows come home.

People aren't really thinking in terms of mom, apple pie, Kate Smith and democracy when they exercise there right of the franchise.

Mr. Hall:

If you can extract a favor from a candidate that you are sure will be kept, you ought to vote for that person, even though his action in keeping the favor might be directly inimical to the interests of the residents of the county as a whole. After all, Darwinism is as pronounced in politics as anywhere.

If you have friends who are also friends of county officials, it is your bound duty to yourself to use those people to get favors. Everybody else does it, so why shouldn't you?

Politics is the route to take if you're intending to do nothing honest in life.

Getting into politics is easy; getting out is not done quite so easily.

JOKES

This category provided me with perhaps the greatest surprise of the whole project. I expected the people I were going to interview would be teeming with jokes. It turned out that they were almost bereft of funnies. However, they provided me with a few choice morsels of levity.

Mrs. Martin:

A quickie: The rooster said, "I'm a Democrat." The hen said, "Me, too."

Grandma gave me a salty one which I will reluctantly retell. It seems that President Eisenhower and his wife Mamie were taking an early morning stroll in a meadow by a bank. Mamie ran up against the necessities of nature and asked to be excused to "use the bathroom". Since it was early morning, the dew was still on the grass. She went over the bank. Presently, she shouted to Ike, "Ike, it's dewey over here." Came Ike's reply, "I don't care, _____ all over him, too."

Mr. Hamilton:

Once a candidate for governor was campaigning and was hopping from city to city by airplane. On one trip, he autographed a 10 dollar bill, handed it to the pilot and told him to drop it out the window so that some little boy would find it and be happy. A reporter covering the campaign shouted from the back of the plane, "Why don't you just jump out and make us all happy?"

A Democrat candidate for Senator went to a farm area to give a speech. There was no time to build a speaking platform. There was a manure spreader nearby, so the candidate asked to use it to speak from. A gentleman in the crowd said, "This is the first time I ever heard a Democratic speech from a Republican platform."

Mr. Hall:

A judge once summonsed a drunk to testify before a grand jury to try to ascertain who were his suppliers. The presiding official over the grand jury inquest directed the question: "From whom did you get these alcoholic beverages?" The drunk replied, "From a man on a mule." "Who was the man on the mule?" "I didn't know the man, and I didn't know the mule."

There were quite a few candidates in this one election. A motorist driving through town held out his hand to make a left turn, and it was shaken six times by candidates before he got around the corner.

OBJECTS OF MATERIAL CULTURE

From all the informants I was able to get some general impressions in this area.

Buttons

Campaign cards

Campaign placards

Signs

Use of barn sides

Name on sheer rock cliff by highway

Campaign shopping bags

Pencils

Rulers

Yardsticks

Pens

Balloons

Hats

Bumper stickers

RIDDLES

It seems that the people in Floyd County disdain the sort of devious ~~subtlety~~ that is endemic to riddles. They ostly like to pitch around good, hard off-the-cuff political repartee. Knowing my grandmother, I expected her to come up with some good ones here, but she couldn't recall any she had heard. I noticed in the guide for doing the paper that there were no examples of riddles. This area seems to be virtually dry. Maybe someone in some other area will be able to pick up the slack.

SONGS

I was able to get only one song. This was contributed by Mr. Tackett.

Ode to Carl Perkins

He's done a lot, he'll do more,
For eastern Kentucky he comes to the fore,
If its highways you want, it's highways you'll get,
He's for plain folks, not the jet set.

Chorus: For Congressman, Carl Perkins is our man,
If anyone can do the job, we know he can,
So vote for Perkins on election day,
For democratic government you will have had your say.

The road to Washington is a rocky one,
For the journey we need our favorite son,
Your votes will supply the gas,
Let's all flock for Carl, together en masse.

Let Carl's opposition lag to the rear,
Antidemocratic sentiment is all we have to fear,
Support Perkins for what you want, lest,
You don't mind settling for less than the best.

PROVERBS AND TERMS

Mr. Tackett provided a few proverbs.

Vote-buyers and vote-sellers will get their just rewards.

Politics is like a swimming hole. Don't dive in just to test the water.

The color of a voter's heart is green.

Don't run unless you're prepared to tell a few white lies.

Government jobs are the best way to make a man quit working.

With a clean slate is the best way to begin.

Mrs. Martin gave me some choice terms.

strikers-These are people that buy votes.

floaters-These are people who sell their votes.

electionsjudges- These (one for each party) are people who more or less supervise the voting at the polls.

voting rig-This means voting the way someone (e. g., a striker) wants you to vote.

kingfish-This is a big local politician.

bagger-Refers to bags with money inside distributed by strikers to floaters.

chain-ballot- This refers to a mechanism for insuring that floaters voted the way they were paid to vote. The striker would go to the polls early, go in, drop a folded, phony ballot into the ballot box and bring the real ballot (unmarked) out with him. He would then mark the ballot properly and give it to the first floater. The floater would take it in, deposit it in the ballot box and bring his unmarked ballot out to the striker. Only then would he be paid. The chain continued until it was broken.

POEMS

My grandmother contributed this little four-liner:

Larry Hale for jailer, he's my man,
He put Wheeler Lewis in the garbage can,
He put that lid down and put it down tight,
He got Wheeler Lewis out of my sight.

Analysis

I determined prior to initiating the research that five people would be enough to interview, provided they each met minimum expectations of helpfulness. They each contributed amply to the project, so I stopped with this number.

Setting the interviews up was no trouble. I already knew three of the five (my grandmother I knew very well), and I had heard a lot about the other two. They were all very co-operative, in fact were eager to contribute. In all cases (my grandmother is not excluded), I felt the informants displayed a great deal of vanity, condescension, or whatever you wish to call it. Each in turn- after I explained the project to them- seemed to wish to convey the impression that their contribution would be the greatest, that they had been around more and seen more than anybody else. It is said that wisdom accompanies old age. Even so, it struck me as quite obvious that character misgivings linger even into one's later years. It may seem ironical, but I think this situation actually contributed to the information I was able to obtain from them.

One thing that surprised me was that none of the informants were reluctant to divulge names or express vulgarity. I have used some of the names in the tidbits that I have transcribed and have tried to suppress much of the vulgarity,

even though some of it may peep through here and there. But that is as it should be. Transcription as nearly similar to the vernacular as possible is needed to preserve the rustic flavor of Floyd County. If I have presented a reasonable facsimile of this flavor, I think I will have contributed.

Evaluation

On balance, I would say the paper turned out to be a success. The relevant question is: To what extent was mission accomplished? My answer would be: To a great extent. The object (pardon me if I have lapsed into redundancy) was to preserve some of the oral political tradition in my county, and I think I have succeeded in salvaging some of the communicative flotsam that was floating aimlessly before projects such as this were initiated.

I learned a lot from the project. I never realized how little of my county's heritage I was aware of until now. But the project's purpose is to inform others, as well as myself, and I think this will have been accomplished, too.

It's hard to offer an objective evaluation of the project, for I have no yardstick (the effectiveness of other such papers) to use as a measure. Notwithstanding the fact that my information may have been lacking in quantity, what's there is there, and that much is that much.

As to the value of the whole project (for all students involved), I wholeheartedly endorse its continuation. Anything that could so effectively give students such valuable research experience, while at the same time serving as an historical and cultural gauge of Kentucky's "politics of gossip", is worth its weight in gold. When all our

resources are pooled, I think we will have produced something worthwhile. Let me say in passing that we have an illustrious past, and for we sentimentalists, no matter how bleak the present or how dreary the future may seem, that, my friend, is what makes it all meaningful.

SUPERSTITIONS

SUPERSTITIONS

"Hit no animal with a willow stick for the curse upon it." The Blessed Virgin, so it is said, whipped her son with a Birch of willow that caused him to say:

Cursed be the "Sally Tree" which maketh me to smort,
The "Sally Tree" shall be the first to decay at heart.

"The Sally" is the local name for willow, in which tree the heart decay very early, without killing the tree.

If it rains on election day, then a Democrat is going to win.

If a politician promises you something while he is campaigning, if he is elected, then you will have to wait for at least another four years.

LITTLE FLOYD, ORPHANED 'COUNTY'

Did you ever hear of Little Floyd? If so, you are one of the very few people living in Floyd county who have.

A question of jurisdiction over the trial of a certain case has brought to the fore facts concerning Little Floyd which is a part of Floyd County, but lying wholly in Pike County. A strip of Pike County one half mile wide separates it from Floyd County, proper.

The facts are that when Pike county was severed from Floyd county about the year 1825, there was a certain citizen named Tandy R. Stratton who wanted to remain a citizen of Floyd, but whose farm of approximately 750 acres was included in the new county of Pike. Mr. Stratton was so anxious to live in Floyd county that his brother, James Stratton, who became a Representative in the Kentucky legislature, had enacted in 1845 a special statute making his brothers' farm a part of Floyd county. A copy of the act follows: "Acts 184445, chapter 254, sec. 3, be it further enacted that the county line be changed on Mare Creek as to include the farm of Tandy R. Stratton on said creek in Floyd county. No other lands were included in the act.

The inhabitants of Little Floyd admit they have no auto roads. They say Pike will not build them because they are Floyd countians. Floyd county will not build them because they are a part of Pike county. So little Floyd is not a part of anywhere.'

When I was a boy it seemed that old Confederate soldiers were as common as world war veterans are now. They were so common that one rarely thought about the time when they would not be. Reunion always created a stir whether local affair or reunion of the whole South in a large city. In my earliest boyhood there were meetings in my county. Since I had a big voice and no fear I had to often say a piece for the old boys that way I looked forward to the annual event to give myself a chance to shine. It's hard for a child to believe that all those that came back were privates. So much honor was attached to the ones being second lieutenants that the title was being transferred to privates just as in our times most preachers and college professors when ever they get their education they are called Dr. One of our neighbors was actually a lieutenant. Long after the war, when he entered politics he was at once a captain. It was a disappointment to me when a later title was given locally and not by the C.S.A. One of the great days in question was the old soldiers dressed in their fragile old uniforms, if they still own them, the stars and bars flew in place of stars and stripes. Some long winded speaker, rarely a soldier, would move us to tears with an account of his heroism of the men who came back and still greater heroism of those who died. One almost regretted that his father or uncle got back. For that argument speaks of cowardness which no real confederate ever admitted having. At the conclusion of the speech the old fellows in quivering

voices gave a famous rebel yell. In spite of their advanced ages the yell has plenty of affect on all of us. We would probably not have been surprised at all or had seen the unconscious humor of the fiery of the speech made some where in the South at which the auditor said at the judgment day that the confederate would rise first and give a rebel yell and take possession of the parade."

' Special Judge Bach decides court suite hears case on Beaver Valley against Stumbo at Hindman. Special Judge Chester A. Bach of Jackson made a judgement case of Pikeville Clinic against Dr. W. L. Stumbo and Anna Stumbo. The court denies the claim of the Beaver Valley Hospital to enjoin the Stumbo Memorial Hospital from soliciting or receiving any patients not listed in a signed contract from Floyd County and in all other respects denied the relief asked for by the plaintiffs against the Stumbo's. Also the court did not pass on or decide to question the breach of the contract on which questions most of the testimony that was introduced by the parties. Judge Bach heard most of the testimony and then this case was put in open court where hundred witnesses testified. The preparation trail of the case has extended over a period of several months, it is understood that both sides will prosecute and appeal to the court of appeals of Ky. According to the report of the attorney in the case, Judge Bach has adjourned the Stumbo Memorial Hospital at Lackey from having as patients any other persons covered by a large number of contracts assigned by W. L. Stumbo and Anna Stumbo of the Beaver Valley Hospital at the time of its sale at Martin. However, most of these assigned contracts were with coal companies, and the contracts for Hospital services are required to be entered into direct contact with the employers and also a majority of the number contracts are not enforced for the reason the companies whom they were made have long since gone out of business.'

RIDDLES AND JOKES

Jokes and Riddles

During a pause in the sermon the deacon leaned over and whispered to the minister:

"Remember, you were going to say something about the high cost of living?"

"I haven't forgotten it replied the minister. I'll speak of it after the collection has been taken up."

The best law_____is the Golden Rule.

The best education_____Self-knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Before we get into the actual meat of this paper, we feel that we should give a brief history of our precious Floyd County. The King of England issued a charter on May 23rd, 1609, to colonize the territory comprising Virginia which included the now present Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Grand Assembly of the Colony of Virginia in the year 1623 met and divided the new colony into eight shires of James City, Henrico, Warwick, Warrior's Oak, Charles City, Elizabeth City, Charles River and Accomack, and in 1720 Spotsylvania County was created, and out of which in the year 1734 the county of Orange was created, then in 1738 Augusta County was formed, then in the year 1754 Governor Dinwiddie issued a proclamation giving George Washington authority to survey 200,000 acres of land on the Big Sandy, Guyandotte and Kanawha rivers. This land included patents of John Frye for later in Floyd county, being lands purported to have been previously surveyed by George Washington.

Most of the 200,000 acres proclaimed to be surveyed by George Washington was patented afterwards by the men of General Washington for bravery and valor for services at the battle of Great Meadows during the Revolution; and then in 1770 Bottetourte County was created then in 1772 Fincastle County formed; on January 1st, in the year 1777 Kentucky boundary line on the east to the Kentucky river on the west, and in 1781 Bourbon County was made covering all of the territory from present state line on the east to the Licking River on the west, (in-

cluding present Montgomery County, Kentucky, that portion of land on headwaters of the Licking River. Then in the same year 1797 Fleming County was made including the present county and lands east of Licking River and Big Sandy lands to present West Virginia line.

On June 1st, 1800, the County of Floyd was formed from parts of Mason, Montgomery and Fleming counties, which boundary on north and west where to Forks of Big Sandy at Louisa and east to what is now West Virginia line, including lands above mouth of Quicksand Creek on the Kentucky river on the west, and Floyd County is the mother county of Pike, Johnson, Martin, Letcher, Magoffin and Perry, which counties were in their entirety created out of Floyd and parts of the counties of Lawrence, Clay, Carter, Elliott, Breathitt, Lestie and Harlan were formed from what was originally in Floyd county.

Floyd County was the hunting ground of the Indian land a refuge for the pioneers in the early days of our Commonwealth, who helped out the destiny of our great people, and the interesting Indian lore of the past includes the story of Jennie Wiley and her escape from the Indians in 1790 where she found an abode of safety in the Harmon Station in what is now Floyd County at the mouth of John's Creek on the Big Sandy River; and the endurance and endeavor of the pioneers of the past and the progressiveness of the greatest industrial sections of our Commonwealth. Starting with the day of the canoe, horseback and steamboat transportation into the present day where railroads and improved highways and modern convenience have made Floyd county with its timber and mineral deposits an industrial empire.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD COUNTY AND IT'S PEOPLE

By

Mary Jo Nelson and Sianna Risner

In the strategic center of this veritable garden ~~of~~^{of} Eden, natural portal from North to South, touched by a national highway; historically significant; and in scenery unrivaled; sturdy, thriving, industrious and ambitious, awaiting but the touch of opportunity to spring forth to the gaze of the world in all her glory, stands Floyd County.

Soil unsurpassed for productivity, rich in natural ores and minerals, a perfect system of hard surfaced roads, splendid schools and churches, beautiful homes and paved streets; practically every type of essential business activity; adequate banking facilities; a trade area of many miles in every direction from the county seat embracing a very large trade population; railroad facilities; bus and truck lines for transportation of freight and passengers, ample sites and a hearty welcome for manufacturing industries.

Gaze upon our beautiful county! Search into it's heart! Listen to it's silent mummur! It's very appearance is that of a true Kentucky domain, it's manner of sincerity, truth, honor and dependability.

It's inhabitants are appreciative and loyal, in others' sorrows sympathetic, in others' joys jubilants.

In her glorious past, her splendid present and her brilliant future, Floyd County welcomes you to share.

SONGS

The Battle of Ivy Mountain, often called the battle of Ivy Narrows, was the theme of a very unusual ballad. The Mountaineers' inclination to roll the "r's" enabled the singer to fill in a measure. It was unusual too, in another respect, for it described the yankees as quaking with fright, an event certainly not consistent with the facts. Today, over three quarters of a century after the Confederate debacle, is heard:

"You ought to have heard them Yankee
shin bones rattle
When at Ivy Narrows
They were stricken with the horrors."

We have other songs such as "Round and 'Round the Mulberry Bush" and "London Bridge is Falling Down" which were of England. "Rim, Timmie, Toe" a childish game often played by them in their quieter moods, and of which "Wild Briar, Limberlock, three geese in a flock" is a quotation, was from the Irish, who being oppressed and denied expression to their tragic lives, invented the game to express in a symbolic way the futility of rebellion. He who "Flew over the cuckoo's nest" was "out" here meaning to hang at the end of an English gibbet.

Here the whole problem is...we can not find any more songs pertaining to politics in or on Floyd County. As We shown here we have songs that children would play, and that is all.

TERMS

Party Office- Holding one of the two major national party offices in your community.

Public Office-Holding one of the general elected offices.

Chain Ballot-The picking up of ones' ballot, taking it out of the voting house, selling it, receiving an all ready marked ballot to take back in, and this manner is continued.

Voter Her Straight-Means in Floyd County simply voting straight democratic.

Court House Gang-Means the men that hold elected offices in the Court house year after year.

The Pot- the money that a county party comes up with to use to buy votes on election day.

The Runner-The man who informs the Court House Gang of who will hold what office.

In the Mountains-Refers to Eastern Kentucky and its' people. The Mountain people refer to themselves as this.

Common Beliefs

"The people are honest, we have good people--Just deceit and conniving of some of the politicians."

"Times were hard,--referring to the hills and depressing era .

COMMON PRACTICES

"In one particular precinct, it was in the November election, we all met three or four days before the election. Now we all get together and put all of our money into the pot. On the morning of election people wait outside of the polls until the men with the money show up to buy their votes."

"Go to precinct and talk to people and go to a big family and hire in that family somebody to work for them and go to another family and get one of them to hire votes and go to another family to give out cards. In this way you pick-up more votes and in you also end up with families giving their names to a certain politician."

SUPERSTITIONS

"Hit no animal with a willow stick for the curse upon it." The Blessed Virgin, so it is said, whipped her son with a Birch of willow that caused him to say:

Cursed be the "Sally Tree" which maketh me to smort,
The "Sally Tree" shall be the first to decay at heart.

"The Sally" is the local name for willow, in which tree the heart decay very early, without killing the tree.

If it rains on election day, then a Democrat is going to win.

If a politician promises you something while he is campaigning, if he is elected, then you will have to wait for atleast another four years.

Jokes and Riddles

During a pause in the sermon the deacon leaned over and whispered to the minister:

"Remember, you were going to say something about the high cost of living?"

"I haven't forgotten it replied the minister. I'll speak of it after the collection has been taken up."

The best law_____is the Golden Rule.

The best education_____Self-knowledge.

Gen. W.O.Nelson already had orders to drive this Confederate force out of Sandy, but running into difficulties with the Militia forces, reported the circumstances to Gen. Sherman, viewing the possibility of Nelson's defeat by May, Began to warn General Thomas of "an incursion from Prestonsburg."

The beginning of the struggle for Prestonburg had several preliminaries--one of these being a move by Nelson's forces to take Hazel Green and West Liberty in Late October, 1861. Capt. May, learning of this move, attempted to hold West Liberty, but because he was wary of committing his entire force, had done so with some few hundred men, the remaining troops under him being held at Prestonsburg. The result was defeat, and he retired to his base in Prestonsburg. Nelson, gathering his men and artillery at Hazel Green, after that place was taken by Major Robinson for the Unionists, on the 23rd, began to push towards Prestonburg. On November 5th he arrived before the town and Capt. May retreated southward toward Pikeville. Casting about for a good defensive position, he chose the narrows of Ivy Mountain at the Mouth of Ivy Creek.

The Confederates did not know that gray November day in 1861, that the advancing Federals were a large, well appointed command. Capt. May had his advices, but they contained only fragmentary reports. One of these reports was that the Union troops possessed one cannon had multiplied into several as the action progressed there in the Ivy Narrows, and so he, ill-advised and with raw recruits, elected to battle Gen. William Nelson and his overwhelming force of troops. Although he possessed one smaller force, Capt. May was in position to elect where the fight should be. He had two choices if the battle was to be in this vicinity. He

could make a stand where he actually did, or withdraw across the narrow wooden bridge that spanned Ivy Creek and give brattle somewhat farther up the road. Either location possessed advantages and disadvantages. Although ill advised, Capt. May suspected that the Federal Army was larger than his reports showed, and this military intuition caused him to refuse a withdrawal over the bridge. If the Federal command did indeed turn out to be overwhelming, then they could divide their forces with one group holding the Confederates in the frontal attack while another part of the army deployed up Ivy Creek through "Drap-in-Link" Creek over a small ridge and attack in the rear. In seeking to prevent what he could foresee might happen, he selected the battle ground below the bridge. To his rear was the bridge over Ivy Creek and the road to Pikeville.

The position he selected had the advantages of higher ground, and this have been the deciding factor in Capt. May's decision, although too, the position offered hardly any possibilities of a flanking movement on the part of Nelson.

Having selected his position he sat calmly upon his horse awaiting the joining of battle. To his troops. he said:"Do not fire until you hear my pistol crack."

General Nelson's scouts advanced, made some kind of desultory skirmishing cinnnection with the advance group of Confederates, and withdrew.

Some time later, the awaiting rebels could hear the movement of a large body of troops up the narrow road between the mountain and the Big Sandy River. Down through the shady and tortuous road there came the clank of Nelson's cannon as it was pushed along toward the Confederate position. There was a brief glimpse of blue anround the curve of

the road. Capt. May's pistol barked, and the Battle of Ivy Creek was on.

Below is an extract from Gen. Nelson's report of the battle:

"At 1-p.m. the column had advanced along the narrow defile of the mountain that ends a Ivy Creek. The mountain is highest along the river and very precipitous and thickly covered with timber and undergrowth, the road which is but seven feet wide is cut along the side of it about twenty five feet above the river, which is close over the road, the ridge descends in a rapid curve and very sharp. The mountainside was blue with puffs of smoke and not an enemy to be seen. The first discharge killed four and wounded thirteen of Marshall's men. I ordered the Kentuckians to charge. Col. Harris, whose regiment was immediately behind me led his men up the mountainside most gallantly, and deployed them along the face of it.

Col. Norton, whose regiment had just reached the defile, anticipating an order from me, led his men up the northern ridge of the mountain and deployed them along the crest, and went at them. Two pieces of artillery were got in position in the road and opened upon them. Owing to the steepness of the mountain, all this required time. On the opposite side of the river which here is narrow, deep and swift, there were also rebels who annoyed us. In an hour and twenty minutes the rebels were beaten and fled, leaving a number of killed and wounded on the ground, and six prisoners unhurt. As I marched immediately in pursuit, I do not report what their loss was. I am told today that thirty two dead were found.

THE BATTLE OF IVY MOUNTAIN

Transcript of these letters and stories about the battles of Ivy Mountain was given to us by: Mr. C "Clie" Robinson.

Col. Andrew Jackson May is Floyd County's chief Confederate hero of the internecine Civil War. He married Matilda Davidson (1830-1896), in 1855. Being admitted to the Bar, he was one of the best barristers of the place and period.

The echoes of the rebellion were soon heard in the Big Sandy, and May was the first of the county's important men to declare for the Confederate. He began to recruit a force at Prestonsburg, and due to a preponderant southern feeling, the force, and for several months the threat of May's force began to seriously hamper the planning of the Union commanders, as witness the following letter.

Next, is a letter from W.T.Sherman to Gen. George H. Thomas,

Gen. George H. Thomas,

Camp Dick Robinson.

Sir: Don't push too far. Your line is already long and weak. I cannot now re-enforce you. Nelson has got into difficulty with the militia and I have no person to send there. An interruption of the railroad by an incursion from PRESTONSBURG would cut you off from that source of supply. Call to your assistance the regiment from Irvine.etc.,etc.

Yours,

W.T.Sherman
Brigadier-General,
Commanding."

C"Ollie" Robinson while running for County Court Clerk before his first term, 1961, stated that some of his campaign stories.

"I had an old Cheverolet car, the only way I could get attention was to pull up in front of their house and stop and campaign with them and when I went out I wouldn't turn my key on ,I would just hit my starter and it would just r--r-r--r, you know. They would say, "Ollie, a poor boy,lets go out and push him. They would push me up and down the hollers."

"Back when I was in radio, I was campaigning on Big Mud. That morning about 4:30. I made a tape for the program that we called 'Trading Post" so it was around 11:30 I was out campaigning naturally during the day. I knocked on the ladies door. She came to the door real neat and nice home, and the lady was real neat; she wasn't dressed fancy, but was real clean looking. Looked like she was in her sixties or so, but she was alert. She ask me to come on in and I say Naw, I've got to be going and she said well let's set on the porch. So, we sat on the porch and we talked about the weather and about this and that. And she ask me if I would like to have a cup ao coffee and I said ,well yes. She said well come on in. I went on through and she said by the way who are you campaigning for? I said, well I'm C"Ollie" Robinson and I'm running for the office of County Court Clerk and about that time I came on the Trading Post on the radio. She looked at me and said who did you say you were? I'm C"Ollie" Robinson, running for County Court Clerk. And she said, Now listen young man, deceit will get you no where. Said

right there is Ollie Robinson, and she got the radio off the mantel. She said if your're not out of my house, off my property in fifteen minutes, I'll call the sheriff. I said I'm Ollie Robinson and I don't care who knows it. And she called the police and said that there is a man up there is a man up here that describes himself as me! Said she thought he wanted money.

C"Ollie" Robinson tells of seeing voters participating in chain balloting, and Mr. Robinson told it like this:

Use to they voted by paper ballot, you see. They had what what they call chain balloting or letter. Let's see how it was; Some kind of voting method. Well, the way it was, see if you went in to vote, when I was a young boy up at Drift, I tell you how it was. Up there at the Drift school, they would hold elections. Well, at that time they held the Primary in August and all of us boyes were over in the creek swimming. So, we were swimming around and we kept noticing these fellows coming over the hills, he said the hills over the banks. And they would take a drink of beer or whiskey and this other guy that gave them the liquor would give them two dollars and he in turn would give this guy his ballot. And in about five minutes there would come another fellow over the hill and he would give him the ballot the other guy had. That is what they call a chain ballot. Well, the did that all day. That's one sure way for getting a vote. Anyway, about four o'clock I remember it was a presidential race or something that was pretty big.

And I went up to this one fellow and I said, he was Daddy's boss there, he worked for a mining company, his name was Ray Reed, anyway I asked, "What are those men going over the hill so much about?" And Mr. Reed said, "Oh my Jesus, they're beating us over the hill!"

Stories

Dr. Walker L. Stumbo and nineteen other prominent citizens of Floyd County got into trouble with the Federal Government during the depression over registering animals up to draw Federal money and food. Trail was held in Federal Court, Judge Cochran presided. One of these men was a minister in our Town and when they arrived at the Federal Pen. the minister fell down on his knees and started crying out to God, "Oh Lord, Oh Lord, have mercy on us...." Dr. Walk looked around at him and said, "Get up off your knees you hipocrat and take it like the rest of us men." While the judge was talking to the minister he was beating the "Good" Minister with his cane.

There was one old lady that got Judge Walker L. Stumbo to make her a set of gold teeth. He did and she came in and got them. She said that she would be in to pay for them in a couple of days. This lady is still living and she is one of the wealthiest women in Floyd. Well, the lady never came back in the Doctor's office to pay her bill. The next time the paths of the Doctors' and lady cross was when she was ill and to call on him again for medical purposes. DR. Walk told her that as long as she was in his office she might as well allow him to check her teeth. She sat down in the chair and the good doctor removed them. She demanded to know what had happened to her teeth and he told her that when she paid for them she could have them back and in a couple days she came in and picked up her teeth.

Doctor or Judge Walker Stumbo and some other men in the Court house wanted to keep another man, Mr. A, out of office, and in order to do this four nights before the election, three of these men went to see Mr. A. He was a good man, but he had one problem, he liked to drink. Of course, these three men from the Court house had taken plenty of whiskey with them and that night they got him drunk. The next afternoon these three men called on him again and proceeded to do the same thing over. With only two days to go before the big day they had to do something to keep him away from the voters and they did. On the third day they got drunk again and took Mr. A to the old motel in town. Mr. A just kept drinking and the three men just kept pouring it down him.

Now Judge Walk new that Mr. A would be out until around four o'clock the next, election day. When the Judge left the old motel he told his three friends to keep an eye on him and that he would return before Mr. A came too. The Judge returned the next day in time to completely bandage Mr. A stomach before Mr. A came to himself. Judge Walk and his boyes were standing over top of Mr. A when he came too and the Judge informed him that he had been in an accident and that he had operated , but that Mr. A would be o.k. Mr. A suffering from a week-long drunk believed completeing in what good old Walk had said. Two days after the election the four men got together and explained the the whole thing had been to keep Mr. A away from the election polls and it had most assuredly worked.

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WORKSHEET

Informant's name: Henry Stumbo

Locality of residence: Prestonsburg Floyd Kentucky
(city) (county) (state)

Street address/route number: Riverside Drive

Date of birth/approximate age: Dec. 15, 1908, 64, Sex: M Race: W

Extent of formal education: 8th Grade

Place of birth (city, county, state): McDowell Floyd Kentucky

How long has informant lived in the county of present residence? 64 yrs.

Has informant lived in other communities in this county? No

Significant travel (include military service): None

Occupation: County Judge

Political party affiliation: Democrat

Has informant held party office? yes
When? 1935
What? County Chairman Democratic Party
Where? Floyd County
How long? 4 yrs.

Has informant held public office? yes
When? 1939, 1929
What? County Judge, Magistrate
Where? Floyd County
How long? 22 yrs. 10 yrs.

Nature of community in which informant presently lives: Progressive

Date of interview: Sept. 8, 1972 Name of interviewer: Mary Jo Nelson

Sianna Risner

Danny Kleehammer

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WORKSHEET

Informant's name: Ted Nelson

Locality of residence: Prestonsburg Floyd Kentucky
(city) (county) (state)

Street address/route number: Town Branch

Date of birth/approximate age: Nov. 22, 1928; 44 yrs. Sex: M Race: W

Extent of formal education: Two yrs. extension program at U.K.

Place of birth (city, county, state): Town Branch Floyd Kentucky

How long has informant lived in the county of present residence? 44 yrs.

Has informant lived in other communities in this county? yes

Their names: Gramm Street

Significant travel (include military service): Overseas (military)

Occupation: American Union AFL-CIO

Political party affiliation: Democrat

Has informant held party office? no

Has informant held public office? no

Nature of community in which informant presently lives: residential

Date of interview: Sept. 8, 1972 Name of interviewer: Mary Jo Nelson

Sianna Risner

Danny Kleehammer

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WORKSHEET

Informant's name: C. "Ollie" Robinson

Locality of residence: Prestonsburg Floyd Kentucky
(city) (county) (state)

Street address/route number: Mays Branch

Date of birth/approximate age: Dec. 26, 1929 age: 42 Sex: M Race: W

Extent of formal education: High School 15 hrs. Lees Jr. College

Place of birth (city, county, state): Bevinsville, Floyd Ky.

How long has informant lived in the county of present residence? 42 yrs.

Has informant lived in other communities in this county? yes

Their names: Jacks Creek, Drift, Maytown

Significant travel (include military service): Fort Knox, Ft. Lewis,

Occupation: County Court Clerk; Radio announcer

Political party affiliation: Democrat

Has informant held party office? yes

When? 1961

What? President of young democrats

Where? Prestonsburg

How long? 1 year

Has informant held public office? Yes

When? 1959; 1963

What? House of Representative; 3rd term as county court clerk

Where? Floyd County

How long? 4 years; 12 years

Nature of community in which informant presently lives: residential

Date of interview: Sept. 8, 1972 Name of interviewer: Mary Jo & Sianna
and Danny

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WORKSHEET

Informant's name: Mr. Henry Clay Stevens

Locality of residence: Prestonsburg Floyd Kentucky
(city) (county) (state)

Street address/route number: Maple and Ghram St.

Date of birth/approximate age: Sept. 19, 1890; 82 Sex: M Race: W

Extent of formal education: Some high school

Place of birth (city, county, state): Goodloe; Floyd; Kentucky

How long has informant lived in the county of present residence? 82 yrs.

Has informant lived in other communities in this county? No

Significant travel (include military service): None

Occupation: Retired Circuit Court Judge; Circuit Court Clerk;
Businessman; Banker; teacher

Political party affiliation: Democratic

Nature of community in which informant presently lives: Conservative

Date of interview: Nov. 1, 1972 Name of interviewer: Mary Jo Nelson
Sianna Risner
Danny Kleehammer

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WORKSHEET

Informant's name: Highland Nelson

Locality of residence: Town Branch Floyd Kentucky
(City) (county) (state)

Street address/route number: Town Branch

Date of birth/approximate age: April 27, 1902; 70 yrs. Sex: M Race: W

Extent of formal education: 8th Grade

Place of birth (city, county, state): Town Branch Floyd Kentucky

How long has informant lived in the county of present residence? 70 yrs.

Has informant lived in other communities in this county? no

Significant travel (include military service): none

Occupation: Retired

Political party affiliation: Democrat

Has informant held party office? no

Has informant held public office? no

Nature of community in which informant presently lives: Residential

Date of interview: Oct. 14, 1972 Name of interviewer: Mary Jo Nelson

Sianna Risner

Danny Kleehammer

GENERAL GARFIELD'S
BIG SANDY CAMPAIGN _____ 1862

In late 1861, it seemed as if Kentucky was to become a great battleground between the North and South. From different points of ingress, bodies of troops from both sides had, or were moving into Kentucky.

On the 14th day of December, 1861, the 42nd. Ohio received orders to move over into Kentucky at Catlettsburg, and Col. Garfield was the recipient of orders to report to General Buell. It is said the Buell was favorably impressed with the inexperienced and young Garfield. December 17th., Buell placed Garfield in command of the 17th. Brigade. This brigade consisted of the Fortieth and Forty-second Ohio; the Fourteenth and Twenty-second Infantry, two companies of McLaughlin's Ohio, and six companies of the First Kentucky Cavalry. While this force was reported to Marshall's, he was expected to make up a deficiency of men and material with audacity, courage, and potent generalship.

And, what of Marshall? In contrast to Garfield, he was experienced, having served in the Mexican War. He had acquitted himself with distinction at Buena Vista, and possessed the confidence that comes to military leaders after long experience. Behind him was an honorable career in civic affairs, having served as Minister to China under President Millard Fillmore, and as a member of congress from Louisville for four terms. He was a commanding figure, weighing over three hundred pounds, and from the Marshall family, had inherited the gift of oratory. Some of his speeches are considered classics in courtroom persuasion. To his troops

he was a great military idol, and they sang, "Humphrey Marshall, he's our boss; big as hell, and brave as a hoss". Against the Marshall prestige and the militant spirit of his men, Garfield would need all of his astuteness as well as his military forces.

Garfield, after seeing Buell, went immediately to Catlettsburg and joined the larger body of his troops that were stationed there. He sent orders to Paris for the rest of his troops to move across Kentucky and effect a junction with the Catlettsburg contingent of twenty-two hundred men that was now moving up Big Sandy--planning to have the two bodies unite below Paintsville.

Marshall had an excellent intelligence system, ably assisted by the Southern sympathizers, and he was soon aware of Garfield's movements. He was soon aware of Garfield's movements. He threw up breastworks in the "narrows" just above the present C.&O. Railway Station at Paintsville, but soon changing his mind, moved back and began to prepare for battle on Hager Hill, a mile to the south. When he had thrown up the breastworks at the upper end of Paintsville, he suddenly began to fear a flanking movement, due, no doubt, to intelligence of Garfield's Paris force that was fast approaching; and now at Hager Hill, he again had that fear. He decided to fall back to a more favorable position where he could, as a good general should, guard his retreat, if necessary.

Garfield, not having intelligence of Marshall's last evidence of cautiousness, sent out a detachment of cavalry to attack Marshall's last mounted men, while the much larger force he advanced to make a reconnaissance in force.. Now, all this time we notice that Garfield seemed to be groping, feeling ever for Marshall, and this seemed to stem from his lack of reports. He came up to Marshall's most recent position, and

COMMON PRACTICES

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"Go to precinct and talk to people and go to a big family and hire in that family somebody to work for them and go to another family and get one of them to hire votes and go to another family to give out cards. In this way you pick-up more votes and in you also end up with families giving their names to a certain politician."

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Chain Ballot-The picking up of ones' ballot, taking it out of the voting house, selling it, receiving an all ready marked ballot to take back in, and this manner is continued.

Voter Her Straight-Means in Floyd County simply voting straight democratic.

Court House Gang-Means the men that hold elected offices in the Court house year after year.

The Pot- the money that a county party comes up with to use to buy votes on election day.

The Runner-The man who informs the Court House Gang of who will hold what office.

In the Mountains-Refers to Eastern Kentucky and its' people. The Mountain people refer to themselves as this.

SONGS

SONGS

The Battle of Ivy Mountain, often called the battle of Ivy Narrows, was the theme of a very unusual ballad. The Mountaineers' inclination to roll the "r's" enabled the singer to fill in a measure. It was unusual too, in another respect, for it described the yankees as quaking with fright, an event certainly not consistent with the facts. Today, over three quarters of a century after the Confederate debacle, is heard:

"You ought to have heard them Yankee
shin bones rattle
When at Ivy Narrows
They were stricken with the horrors."

We have other songs such as "Round and 'Round the Mulberry Bush" and "London Bridge is Falling Down" which were of England. "Rim, Timmie, Toe" a childish game often played by them in their quieter moods, and of which "Wild Briar, Limberlock, three geese in a flock" is a quotation, was from the Irish, who being oppressed and denied expression to their tragic lives, invented the game to express in a symbolic way the futility of rebellion. He who "Flew over the cuckoo's nest" was "out" here meaning to hang at the end of an English gibbet.

Here the whole problem is...we can not find any more songs pertaining to politics in or on Floyd County. As We shown here we have songs that children would play, and that is all.