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MS 76
BX 8
NBK 8

[Rafting on the Guyandotte;
Bias Family]

MS 76
BX 8
NBK 8

Rafting on the Guyandotte

By Sam Bias

Jan 5, 1942

(Blk 1)

* It took 5-6 days, & about 6 men to push a large boat to Logan. They had to haul boats around the dam, or unload & carry the goods. Skids were put under the boats & all the men help put it over the dams. At other times they hired oxen, or made a ~~rod~~ windlass. Raftsmen often brought considerable quantities of ropes with them. Ropes were often wrapped around trees to chuck rafts by degrees to land them. One steered the boat, and about four pushed. They men started at upper end of boats & gradually walked back. They generally had pads on their shoulders to keep from hurting their ^{them} shoulders. In shoals, they often unloaded part of the goods to lighten the weight. It took about 6 days from Guyandotte to Logan. A man named Chambers & another named Couley

Lester
Have Lester of Logan, ^{were raffish} Mack
Johnson had a store on East
side below the Falls. Have
stopped & had 3-4 doz. eggs
cooked & ate them all. Once
a constable tried to arrest
him (Andy Dick, was constable)
& others above Falls 200-300 yds.
Dick was shooting at him, as
he swam. John Justice, Ben
Justice, etc, were large men -
almost giants. One of them brought
down a whole bear - sold it
in Guyandotte about 1875. My
father served some at his hotel.
The Hotel stood on the bank
of Guyan & Ohio River. Andy Dick
wasnt afraid of anything. No one
was arrested. The charge was
for cutting the dam out.

Boats mostly came down empty.
Nothing but timber & coal to bring
out. There was coal at Four
mile. Coal was loaded on boats
& floated down here.

Coal was wheeled out of the mines with wheel barrows. Much coal went to Inonton, Portsmouth & Cincinnati. I think they re-loaded at Guyandotte in barges for points down the river. It took a little more than a day from Logan to Guyandotte, 6-7 days back.

The mines were on the west side of Guyandotte above Branchland. They were just above the mouth of Four Mile. At Upper Two Mile the river bottom is a solid bed of coal. People, blacksmiths, etc would pry up coal there to use at home. Upper 2 miles is two miles above Falls & a mile above West Hamlin. People used to hunt at Falls for silver. Walden Beech used to look for it. They mined coal there before Civil War. They never mined after the war. People cut the dams up & mines were opened at Logan or near it.

After Guyan Valley R. R. was built, mines were again opened at Four Mile. Coal was run by a large wire, in buckets, & dropped into ^{cars} ~~baskets~~. They are still mining there. It is said to be a good quality of coal.

John Ray lived on Bear Creek I believe he married a Johnson.

I suppose he is dead long ago. Matilda Johnson was from Tyler's Cr. She was wife of Joe Johnson of about Enon Church. She was grandmother of my son-in-law of B'ville.

Flood Mc Kendree was called old "punkin head".

I remember Rev. Ben Perry very well when I was a boy.

Canoes were cut out of large poplar trees & dug out some times 2-3 families owned one in common. A foot adze was used to dig them out. A broad axe & foot edge adz were often skilfully used.

Goods not often used for long hauls, in canoes. Flat boats would haul more. Sometimes people would come down quite a distance - 20-30 miles for a barrel of salt or flour - say a day's trip.

Cooking was done on bank.

They took along skulls, pans, etc.

Stop *

My father & Tuck made shingles on Tom's Creek. Corn bread bacon, pickled pork, etc. after the war. Hogs often large 500-600 lbs. Sides of 100 lbs. or more.

Potatoes. No canned goods. Often fished at night & had fish next day. Fried in bacon grease. Fished - 3-4 of them - till midnight. Used hook & line. Had a gun. Often killed ducks. I killed an eagle - bald eagle - just above Falls. It had been catching Lewis & Clark's geese. It measured 7 ft - on wings.

Women very modest. Wore long dresses. People scarce - 5-6 miles apart in some cases.

Comber Bias beartunted at Hart's
Cr. They got a bear after the
war & I ate some of it.

Winston Noel lived at Two
Mile. Comber Bias lived at
Fork of Two Mile - Bias Fork.
His wife was Polly Beach, ^{sister} ~~brother~~
to Walden Beach who was old
& sometimes staid with them
I was a young boy but was
present when he died. Noel
lived about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from West
Hamlin. & Charley Simpson lived
just above him. I was present
about when he died. He had
several children.

Angelina m. Bobby Short

* Lived on Mud River on
a large farm, about
3 miles above Hamlin.

(Stop here)

4

Don't copy this page
Don't copy any more in this
book.

Ray - Peter

Deed Bk 7 p. 76.

July 17, 1838, John Meadows,
for \$ 75, deeds to Peter Ray
all the interests he holds in
the lands of Jesse Ray deid " &
"which he purchased by deed
from Edmund and Daniel
Ray" of Feb. 3, 1838, being the
two undivided eighth parts
of said lands also all the
interest of said John Meadows
in said land which he pur-
chased of Elias Ray, and
for which he has said Ray's
title bond, "being one eighth
part of said lands" of "which
Jesse Ray died seized", etc

(By above Peter Ray got
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of Jesse Ray's land)

Don't copy

Ray - Peter et al

deed Bk 7 p. 137

Nov. 5, 1838, Peter & Charlotte

Ray, for \$100, deeds to Levina
Ray, all their interest in Jesse
Ray land, as well as that
purchased of Meadows "as of
his own right," being three
undivided eighth parts

Copy this & indent it
like I have it.

Winston Noel m. Polly Beach. Her
brother was always hunting
minerals at Falls, Head 2 mile
etc. Noel owned a farm
about 1/2 mile up 2 mile.

Noel died several years before
Polly did.

Children:

Willis Noel. m. Annie Bias.
my oldest sister. He was
a soldier. & lived at
St. Albans after the War.
A fine scrub. A magistrate.
Raised his family mostly
in Huntington. Work-
master here several years.
Died at West Hamlin.
Buried at Bias' graveyard
He & wife, & 2 sisters
buried there. The
Cemetery is on mt.
bet Bias Fork of 2 mi
& 2 mile

Children - Walter, William
Roland, ~~Jimmie~~, Jimmie
and a dau. Eva Noel.

Sarah Noel, Inez Noel,

Eva Noel lives in Logan with her dau.

Sarah m. Charles Petit. His father ^{worked at C & O Shops.} a good preacher. Sarah & Petit both died at 20th St. Several sons - one in Huntington. Prominent.

Inez m. Stonewall Shelton, son of Jerome Shelton. He went west & died several months ago.

Waller Noel m. Bias, dau of Neeley Bias.

2. Angeline m. ~~Maria~~ Bobby Short
Lived 3 miles above Hamlin on Mud River. Farmer.

Sam Short, lives on Big Cr. Son
Jum " , lived on Big Cr. ^{Both} dead?
1/2 above Hamlin

Old Jessie Smith lived below mo. of Big Cr.

Samp Burns lived opposite Jesse
Smith on E. side of Mud R.
also John Burns who
probably never m. Samp
m. _____ Smith. Samp
was father of Atty.

Edith Burns, deid.
Dave Burns, a bro to Sam &
John also lived there also
Edith Burns had a brother,
no sisters, I think.
I don't think Bob Short had
any girls.

Jim Short's boy Boss (Dolph?)
Short lived here in my
house. He has a bro. in
St. Albans. He works for
Nickel Plant. His bro
has a restaurant at
St. Albans. Boss lives
near Nickel Plant.

3. Emeline Noel m. Bobby Short. I made a mistake in Angeline.

4. Mary J. Noel m. Gabriel Smoot a farmer who lived on Flat Creek, Jefferson Dist, Lincoln Co. Had a tanyard she died & he m. Emilee Stone. All dead. Smoot had previously m. ~~in Va~~ or Va. & had 3-4 children by 1st wife Bud, Jasper, George (Lawyer) Martha & ~~year~~ ^{year} ~~Pottery~~ ^{Pottery} if alive. Bias. All were nearly grown. Bud m. Bias, dau. of Rev. Roland Bias, Jasper also, I think. Martha m. Bub Shellon of West Hamlin, son of Elisha Shellon of near Cr.

(Youngest)
5. Maria m. Ira Perry, son
of Jim Perry. Lived near Erion
A bro. Joe Perry lives in
Guyandotte.

6. Matilda m. Charles Hudson
She was smartest & most
beautiful of them. Lived on
Mahone Branch above Hamlin.
Mollie Williams taught school
in that section. She
had a sister Lillie.
No children that I knew
of.

Larkins Obe Bias m. Adkins,
dau. of Blackhead John.

Comber Bias m. Mary Burns.

Neely " m. Bias

Joni " m. Martha McComas
dau. of J. J. McComas

Ludsey m. Tooley.

Obe Bias (Wood Obe) m. Jane Neely.

She was dau. of ~~Sam~~
sister to Zack etc

Zachariah Neely lived in
head of Buffalo.

A Neely lived in B'ville in
Civil War. He was bro.
to Zachariah.

Sam Bias Jan 7, 1942

I had an Uncle Jerry, Uncle
Lindsey (d. of Measels in War
Jim (Flaxhead)

Jerry died at Kyle farm.

He lived with Aunt "Tuck"

I have four uncles
buried there

Larkin Noel d. of Cancer

& is buried at Enon. His
wife Polly also & about
3 of his boys

Arthur & Jim.

Larkin Noel lived

near Buck Plant

He bought of
Beulving but sold
out for \$1600 & bought
near Enon. He
raised tobacco.

I doubt if he was kin
to Winston Noel.

9

(I believe I missed below on "Rafts")
Check.

Billy Mahone

Virgil Mahone a son

m. Eliza Shelton, dau of

Jerome Shelton. Oldest
son is Will - keeps store at
Logan, of living.

~~Eliza Mahone~~

Gunwales & lumber for flat
boats was first squared & then
sawed with whipsaws. One on
top, the other below. Lumber was
lined. Smoothed it with a hand
plane. Square nails 6-8 in - 4 in
with heads on them. Made
at Trouton, Portsmouth or Cin-
cinnati. Blacksmiths made them
in emergencies.

Boats didn't often sink
Steamboat blew up ^{about} 1874,
at Guyandotte. Several lives
lost. I forgot name of boat
It was a passenger boat. Some
ones burned & taken to Riverside
Hotel, I heard.

Thousands of lines were on
rafts time they jammed here about
& went out. They broke cables 1 1/2" X 100 ft

Booms were a later development after rafts. Then timber was branded on both ends, by special branding hammers. I used one made in shape of a fish - It belonged to Gobel & Williams of Catlettsburg

It was against the law to saw off brands - penitentiary offense. However, many were stolen, & taken up creeks, ^{backwater, etc.} kept a long time & then brought out & sold at mills. There were mills at Huntington

There was a boom at the mouth of Mud also.

If brands were sawed off - it would show up fresh sawed. Both sides had trucks. They often sent men in skiffs to go up the branches. Billy Carroll lived at mouth of Mahone Cr.

John Webb owns the farm owned by Zack Neely in head of Buffalo. I owned it. Stonewall Shelton, etc.

Geo. W. Zirds lived _____? I knew him.

Begin here

*

Nicholas Lake owned the John
Wilkinson farm below Hamilton.
There was another Lake ^{Joey}. They
bought it of Dr. _____

Jerome Shelton lived at mouth
of Two Mile

Larkin Bias + family

Winstou Noel

Sam Mitchell - In head

This was about all just
~~of~~ after war

Charley Simpson.

• "Maulcher" McComas near mouth

I don't know his name.

Henry & Bill Peyton about
close of War on one mile

Andy Adkins moved to near mouth
of mile cr. Son Sheridan
_____ Hartman

Ive? Curry - Lived on Buffalo

"Boag" Bias " " "

Han " " " "

John Webb " " "

(Quit here)

Emell Bias

Larkin Bias 50 Farmer 500

493 Rutka 48 (Rutka Chadders)

Ludsey 17

James 13 (m Bowden

Obediah 10 (m Nancy Adkins,
of Beech Fork

Thomas 8 m McComas (of

Cornelius 4 J. J. McComas

m Bias of
mason Co. D

Winston Noel 49

494

Mary 41 m. Mary (Polly) Beach

Angeline 16 m. Bobby Short

Emeline 14

Mary J. 12 m. Gabriel Smoot

Wilkes 8 (Willis)

Matilda A. 6 m. Hudson

Nancy 3 m. Ab Cook, Cross Roads

Others in same? neighborhood

Wm. Mahone

Cynthia Miller

{ James T. Carroll 60

Nicholas Lake

{ Nancy Clark 50

James B. Smodgrass 41

John Fory

James 76

James Webb

Geo. W. Zircle

Bias - James F.
86 Age 25 Farmer b. Va
Sarah 22 " "
Emily J. 3
Cornelius 10/12

91 Daniel Bias
Age 42 Farmer \$3000 b. Va.
Janetta 42
Nancy A. 14
Julia A. 12
Thomas A. 8
Sarah E. 6
Daniel B. 4
Janetta 2

Roline Bias 56 Farmer \$3000
~~86~~ 99 Martha 31 (Martha Mitchell
America 17 (m. Sol Medkiff
Hugh 14 (m. Sally Davis,
Margareth 12 (m. Amos -
Emerline 10. (m. Amos -
went to Va.
William 8 not m.
Lrusilla 5
Mars 3
Adèle 7/12 m. Columbus
Johnson. Lived Sall
Rock.

By Euell Bias

James Bias 34 Farmer \$800 b. Va.
 100 Polly 26 (Mary Adams, dau Parker)
 Crosby 10 (m. Emily Medkiff (of Sol))
 Hiley 8 (m. Arch Rousey)
 Lavinia 7 (m. Joe Deacons)
 Roline 5 (In Rebel army, d. single
 about 1938)
 Clarissa 4 (m. Jim Morrison (of Wash))
 not Angeline Angelina 2 (m. Salem Carter 1941?)
 Wm. B. Jenkins 4

Anderson Bias 37 Farmer
 107 Nancy 27 (Nancy Morrison, Sister to
 "Fatty John M.")
 Unis 16 (not certain who
 this Anderson
 was)
 William 13
 Evermout 11
 Lewville 7

Rolin Bias 28 Farmer
 411 Matilda 43
 Emily 16
 Jeremiah 21 Farmer
 William 18
 Lindsey M 10

479 Absalom Bias 30 Farmer (Son of Jack)
 Elizabeth 31 (m. Lakin
 of Putnam Co.?)
 Wm. A. 11 (m. ———— Burton, near
 Hurricane.)
 John N. 8
 Marietta 6
 Melvil 4
 James P. 2
 Broadus D. 2
~~Margaret~~
 Mary A. 16

480 John Bias 60 Farmer \$800
 Sarah 57 (Sarah Ray, Sister to
 Bill Ray
 James 18 (Near Perry)
 Mary 16 L. Perry
 Charlotte 12
 William B 10

485 Obediah Bias 26 Farmer ("Wool" Obey)
 Martha J. 22 (Nicely) | Son of
 Jack.

Wm. Ray 486
 David .. 487.