

DUFF FAMILY

compiled by

Loran Raymond Jones

1964

Loran
Raymond
JONES

2415 WISTERIA STREET SARASOTA, FLORIDA

June 16, 1964.

Dear Maud:

At long last I have managed to assemble what is available of the family "pedigree", enclosed herewith. It is not as neat as I would like to have had it, but it is the best I can do under the circumstances. My great hope that it is reasonably accurate, but in a hundred years from now it is hoped that our distinguished descendants won't discover too much wrong with it.

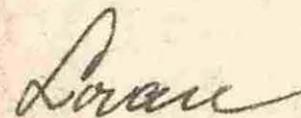
Congratulations on your success as a delegate. We know you will be a credit to yourself and the State of West Virginia. "The chair recognizes Miss Christian, distinguished delegate from the State of West Virginia". And then, Maud, you just rear up on your two sturdy hind legs and give 'em hell! Or, whatever the Democrats need. We are counting on you being a bright spot on the family pedigree.

We have made tentative plans to be in the Chicago area about the middle of July, and it is doubtful whether we can stop anywhere on the way. However, we are looking forward to visiting you and George sometime in the future, and greatly appreciate your invitation. We have been invited to stop in Anderson, Ind., but we may not have time for that, either. There has been so much to do around our premises here. There are two jobs on Bob's and Mary's house that will need to be completed before we leave, too. It is a very nice place, and I am sure you will like it.

I am sending Fae a copy of our family tree. We haven't seen her since our trip down here in 1956. It would be nice if she could come down with you next winter. We shall look forward to seeing you both. It is about time you take a vacation from all those lawyers and other people's troubles. Down here you have a wide choice of activity, or lack of it, such as golf, shuffleboard, fishing, boating, sightseeing, or just sun-bathing, swimming, catching up on your settin'.

Give my regards to George and wish him well. Let us hear from you from time to time, and in the meantime take good care of yourself.

Love,



Miss Maud Christian
Box 310
Welsh, West Virginia

DUFF FAMILY

Latchland Duff was born sometime before the American Revolution, was reared and died in a village near Glasgow, Scotland.

Joshua Duff, his son, emigrated to America and settled in Virginia, where he married a girl named Harrison. Her sister was mother of William B. ("Stonewall") Jackson. To this couple were born four sons and two daughters -

CHILDREN:

Thomas Jonathan

1. Joshua, Jr. He married a girl named Stinnet. To them were born several children at Amherst, Va.
2. John H. Born in Rockbridge County, Va., Mar. 4, 1800, and died in Jackson County, W. Va., Sept. 8, 1867.
3. James Went to Old Orchard, Me., at the age of 17 and hired to a shipbuilder. Married a girl named Redman. They had a son named J. W. Duff, who could still be living in Old Orchard. James was killed by a falling tree.
4. William Settled at Ambrosia, Mason County, W. Va. Married a girl named Grant, said to have been related to President Grant. They had a daughter, who married Joseph Duff, son of John H. Duff. (First cousins)
5. Sarah Married Peter Taylor, Amherst, Va. There were no children. Sarah died a few years after marriage.
6. Nancy Married a Mr. Coffee. To them were born several children, who lived at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Margaret Amanda Allen (Married to John H. Duff)

Born in Rockbridge County, Va., June 12, 1814. Her father, Robert F. Allen, was born in Scotland. He had no brothers nor sisters and died at the age of 48. His widow, Amanda's mother, married William Logan, and to them was born a son, William Monroe Logan. Margaret Amanda had three sisters and two brothers. Two of the sisters died young, and the other one, Mary, died at the age of 35 years. One brother, Robert, died at the age of 17. The other one, W. S. Allen, married and moved to Bridgeport, Ala., and died at the age of 87 years. To this couple was born a son, W. S. Jr., who lived in Bridgeport. Margaret Amanda's great, great grandmother was a Betsey Brown, whose sister was mother of the poet, Robert Burns. Margaret Amanda also had a first cousin, Fielding Brown, and an uncle, Joe Brown, whose father was named Joe Brown, descendants of the older Brown family.

Margaret Amanda had a good education for her day and time. She and John H. were well-bred, and their relatives were regarded as high class.

CHILDREN of John H. and Margaret Amanda Duff:

1. George H.
 2. Daniel C.
 3. Benjamin
- ⚡ Born at Amherst, Va.

In 1837 the family moved to a 160-acre farm near Shawneetown, Ill., where the following children were born:

4. Isaac Newton ("Ike")
5. Charles Edward
6. John Irvin Died in infancy.

The farm was on low ground, and was flooded in the spring; so they sold at some sacrifice and started back east. They settled for a time in Gallia County, Ohio, where they encountered mosquitos and malaria. They were advised to move to higher ground.

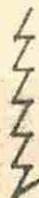
7. Mary Born Nov. 11, 1840, in Gallia County, O.

The family moved to Jackson County, W. Va., and lived for a year on the Hiram Fauber Farm, which was on what is now the Charleston-Ripley Turnpike, near the road that leads off to Mt. Tell.

8. Joseph Born Dec. 25, 1841, on the Fauber Farm.

Great-Grandfather John H. Duff filed claim for some 1,500 acres of public land on Mt. Tell, and proceeded to set up a homestead. The McLain Land Company also claimed the land, and later, when it was divided among the children, all but two of the children fought for their claims through the courts and won. Isaac and Charles paid the land company \$300 each in settlement of the land company's claims, by raising and selling tobacco.

9. Margaret
10. Nancy
11. Perry
12. John H.
13. Robert B. ("Dandy")
14. William S. ("Nick")



Born at the Duff Homestead.

Major Lee Duff (Son of Isaac Duff), CHILDREN: Howard, Alvin, Warren, Ethel (Monday), Carrie (Monday), Beulah (Shamblin), Flossie (Bungardner), and Tillie (Stewart).

Hiram Atlee Duff (Son of Robert B. Duff), CHILDREN: Lester, Lako, Paul, Russell, Parvin, Grace (Hammond), Dessie (Kiser), Hattie, and Verdun.

Hiram was a stone mason, Carpenter, and farmer. He died at 62.

William Cunningham and Mary (Casto) Cunningham, CHILDREN:

Keziah

Nathan (Murdered by Waid Count's Mob)

Miriam

Caroline (Married to Isaac Newton Duff)

Mathilde

Daniel (Deputy U. S. Marshall, tracking down moon-

Robert shiners)

Homer A. Duff (Son of Isaac Duff) and Lillian (Ort) Duff, DAUGHTER:

Connie, born Sept. 20, 1906,

married, 1928, to George H. Reid, Phd.

died, Dec. 8, 1947.

George H. Reid and Connie Reid, DAUGHTER:

Jean, born 1928

married William E. James, Dec. 30, 1950.

William E. James and Jean (Reid) James, CHILDREN:

Carol, born Mar. 4, 1952.

William E. Jr., born June 20, 1954.

To satisfy alleged claims laid to the same public lands held by Great-Grandfather John Duff and inherited in portion by Great-Uncle Isaac and Grandfather Charles E., they raised and sold tobacco.

On one occasion Grandfather and Great-Uncle Daniel were on their way to Cincinnati with a boat load of tobacco belonging to Grandfather and Uncle Isaac. They had intended to lay in a year's supply of staples like coffee, sugar, rice, dry goods for dresses and the house, etc. Uncle Daniel was on his way to Illinois or Missouri. The Tobacco had been loaded at a point on the Ohio River about 11 miles from Ripley, W. Va., known as Douglass Landing (operated by Miranda Douglass).

On the trip to Cincinnati, Uncle Daniel fell overboard during the night, and instead of swimming to shore, he tried to follow the boat until they could pick him up. It seems the waves washed him under, and they found his body six weeks later about fifty miles down the river at a place called Hanging Rock.

Major Lee Fletcher Born in Russell County, Va.
Nancy Fletcher Born in Louisville, Ky.

CHILDREN of Major Lee Fletcher and Nancy:

1. Mary Jane Married Charles Edward Duff.
2. Margaret
3. Leah
4. John
5. Rachel Married John Hunt
 Died Jan. 6, 1943
6. Mahala Married John Ball
7. Albert

DAUGHTER: Beulah

Rachel and John Hunt CHILDREN: Mattie
 Kenny

Kenny Hunt CHILDREN:

John
Russel
Hubert

Charles Edward Duff

Born Feb. 26, 1839, near Shawmeestown, Ill.
Died Nov. 25, 1915, in Jackson County, W. Va.

Mary Jane Fletcher

Born Feb. 11, 1847
Died Nov. 18, 1900

CHILDREN of Charles E. and Mary Jane Duff:

1. Ellen
Born Dec. 11, 1864, in Jackson County, W. Va.
Married Dec. 17, 1895, to Willis E. Jones,
Delaware County, Ind.
Died July 9, 1956, in Muncie, Ind.
2. Joseph Brown
Born Sept. 30, 1866.
3. Margaret Elizabeth
Born Jan. 27, 1869.
Married Feb. 6, 1918, to William Ray
Died Aug. 18, 1918.
4. Oscar A.
Dec. 12, 1871
Married June 3, 1900, to Cora B. Slaughter
Died May 30, 1903
5. Martha Ann
Born Jan. 17, 1873
Married May 1, 1901, to George Thomas
Christian, Logan County, W. Va.
Died Dec. 17, 1943
6. Reuben D.
Born Oct. 5, 1875
7. Omer E.
Born July 22, 1877
Died Sept. 13, 1918, at home of sister,
Ellen, near Anderson, Ind., and buried
in Bronnenberg Cemetery, Chesterfield,
Ind.
8. Nancy E.
Born July 20, 1879
Married June 28, 1908, to Albert J. Whether-
holt, Jackson County, W. Va. He
died Nov. 4, 1943.
9. Luther Otto
Born Feb. 4, 1882
Died Oct. 7, 1883
10. Lula Belle
Born Apr. 14, 1885
Died May 9, 1889
11. Emma
Born Mar. 20, 1889
Died Feb. 14, 1890

CHARLES EDWARD DUFF was hard-working, quick-tempered, ambitious, and a strong advocate of education for everyone. He was anxious to have all his family amount to something. More or less self-educated, he was skilled in mathematics, stone-masonry, carpentry, and fruit and vegetable farming. He appeared to have little respect for people who were unskilled. He was well-read on Biblical subjects, and took great pleasure in arguing with country preachers, or air-curtain riders who came to his house. He made his kitchen furniture, such as tables, wove hickory-bottom chairs, etc., built chimneys and fireplaces for himself and neighbors, coffins for some of the neighbors, and made shoes for his children while they were in school. He also made shoes for a neighbor or two, one a clubfoot. In all he did, he worked rapidly. He kept liquor in the house, but would not tolerate social drinking. While he did not drink nor use tobacco, his liking for candy aggravated a diabetic condition, from which he died at the age of 76.

JOSEPH DUFF graduated from the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati on May 11, 1897. He is reported to have practiced medicine in a small mountain town in Kentucky for two or three years; then left for parts unknown. Some twelve or fifteen years later, his brother, Gaer, located him in Oklahoma and worked with him in the harvest fields of Nebraska and Kansas for several seasons. He wrote to his sister, Ellen, occasionally, but early in 1911 his landlady in Oklahoma wrote that he had left for some place in Tennessee. He furnished no forwarding address.

HEUBERT DUFF was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, after which he worked in lumber camps in Nicholas and Greenbrier Counties, W. Va. He and a friend had saved some money, and in 1900 decided to leave for the reduced regions of Washington and Oregon. The last word of him came as a newspaper clipping, describing some new equipment installed in Gray's Harbor Commercial Company's lumber manufacturing plant at Cosmopolis, Washington. In pencil, on the bottom of the clipping was the notation, "this is the co. I work for."

Ellen (Duff)

Born Dec. 11, 1864, in Jackson County, W. Va.
Married to Willie R. Jones, Dec. 17, 1895,
in Charleston, W. Va.
Died July 9, 1956, in Muncie, Ind. Both buried
in Brownenberg Cemetery, Chesterfield, Ind.

Willie Elmore Jones Born Sept. 9, 1864, in Delaware County, Ind.
Died April 5, 1941.

SON:

Loran Raymond

Born August 18, 1897, in Delaware County, Ind.
Married Dec. 5, 1925, in Chicago, Ill., to
Lena Mathilde Gunderson of Waukegan, Wis.

**Loran R. Jones
Lena M. Jones**

DAUGHTER:

Dorothy Patricia

Born Oct. 31, 1926, in Swedish Covenant Hosp.,
Chicago, Ill.
Married Jan. 2, 1946, in Chicago, Ill., to
Phillip Thomas Ryder of Oak Park, Ill.

**Phillip T. Ryder
Dorothy P. Ryder**

Born Sept. 9, 1924, in Oak Park, Ill.

CHILDREN:

**Janis Lee
James Phillip**

Born Mar. 3, 1947, in Oak Park, Ill., Hospital
Born Oct. 25, 1950, in Oak Park, Ill., Hospital

Martha Ann (Duff)

Born Jan. 17, 1873
Married May 1, 1901, to
George Thomas Christian, of
Logan County, W. Va.
Died Dec. 17, 1943

George Thomas Christian

Born Dec. 6, 1876
Died Apr. 10, 1908, in Longmont, Colo.

CHILDREN:

Faren Charles

Born June 11, 1902
Married Aug. 2, 1932, to Larena Worrell
Died Oct. 19, 1932

George Thomas, Jr.

Born July 7, 1903
Married Feb. 13, 1929, to Irene M. Killoy

Mary Isabel

Born Nov. 26, 1904
Married May 21, 1938, to Robert E. Wright

Maud Truby

Born July 2, 1906

Gladys Virginia

Born May 18, 1908
Died May 26, 1908

- - -

George Thomas Christian, Jr.
Irene M. Christian

CHILDREN:

Doris Marie

Born Sept. 10, 1931
Married November 22, 1961, to
John Clarke Childs of New Rochelle,
N. Y.

George Thomas, Jr.

Born Nov. 20, 1937

Oscar A. Duff
Cora B. Duff

DAUGHTERS:

Fae

Born Mar. 22, 1901
Married Mar. 24, 1918, to Bryan Mays of
Jackson County, W. Va.

Hazel

Born April 13, 1902
Died April 13, 1902

Freda O.

Aug. 13, 1903, Born
Married to Horace L. Jackson, May 26, 1923

Fae Mays
Bryan Mays

SONS:

Paul Bryan

Born Dec. 10, 1918
Married May 11, 1940, to Charlette Swartz

Oscar Franklin

Born Sept. 14, 1920,
Married Ethel Haynes
Died July 8, 1961

Freda Jackson
Horace L. Jackson

SONS:

Horace Lyman Jackson

Born June 19, 1924
Died Dec. 18, 1943, in World War II (Ensign)
and is buried in National Evergreen Cemetery,
at Seattle, Wash.

William Russell

Born Dec. 4, 1925
Married Beulah Adelaide Hoffman, Apr. 3, 1948

Robert

Born Jan. 24, 1928
Married Oct. 24, 1950, to Mattie Belinda Redd

Franklin David

Born June 25, 1936

Paul Mays
Charlette Mays

CHILDREN:

William Franklin
Bonnie Jane

Born Aug. 10, 1942
Born June 5, 1949

Oscar Mays
Ethel Mays

CHILDREN:

James Edward

Born Dec. 12, 1946

William R. Jackson
Beulah A. Jackson

Born May 10, 1925

CHILDREN:

Russell James
Sandra Kay

Born Oct. 12, 1950
Born Nov. 30, 1952

Robert Jackson
Mattie B. Jackson

Born Mar. 8, 1929

CHILDREN:

Robert Dale
Michael Joe
Kerry Allen

Born Aug. 17, 1950
Born Feb. 9, 1953
Born Sept. 12, 1959

Nancy E. (Duff)
Albert J. Whetherholt

CHILDREN:

Hazel

Born May 28, 1909
Married in 1929 to Hubert Estep
Died Aug. 25, 1952

Bertha

Born Oct. 13, 1912
Married in 1930 to Joseph Townson

Orville

Born Feb. 19, 1914
Married June 11, 1945, to Thelma Neal

Tom

Born May 1, 1916
Married Oct. 1962

Hazel Estep
Hubert Estep

CHILDREN:

Patsy Lynn

Born Sept. 3, 1933
Married Sept. 3, 1954, to Harold Ball

Ruth

Born Aug. 22, 1935
Married Aug. 25, 1956, to Gilbert Fisher

David Hubert

Born July 25, 1937
Married July 20, 1963, to Kathleen Rall
Born April 17, 1946

Thomas Franklin

Bertha Townson
Joseph Townson

Born Jan. 21, 1909 - Died Jan. 18, 1959

CHILDREN:

Joseph Glenn

Born Nov. 18, 1930
Married Aug. 28, 1948, to Reba Boggess

Peggy Ann

Born June 4, 1932
Married Mar. 12, 1952, to Denver Reedy

Nancy Charlotte

Born Aug. 6, 1939
Married to Jackie Lee Shaffer Jan. 16, 1960

Joseph Glenn Townson
Reba Townson

CHILDREN:

Lou
Cindy ~~DEVA~~ Townson
Joseph Glenn Townson, Jr.

Born Aug. 3, 1949
Born Sept. 20, 1954

Peggy Ann Reedy
Denver R. Reedy

CHILDREN:

Judith Faye Reedy
Joyce Ann
~~XXXX~~ Lynn
Janice

Born Mar. 2, 1950
Born Apr. 18, 1951
Born Aug. 12, 1953

Nancy Charlotte Shaffer
Jackie Lee Shaffer

CHILDREN:

Donald Lee
Paul Douglas
Jeffry Dean

Born July 19, 1958
Born Jan. 9, 1961
Born Nov. 7, 1963

Harold Ball
Patsy Lynn (Estep) Ball

CHILDREN:

Ramona

Born Jan. 17, 1962

Gilbert Fisher
Ruth (Estep) Fisher

CHILDREN:

Gilbert, Jr.
Gregory Thomas

Born Nov. 13, 1960
Born Dec. 25, 1962

(NOTE: George and Robert Duff were victims of this mob.)

(Copied from "Pages from the Past", date unknown)

VENGEANCE OF HEAVEN SEEN IN FATAL FLASH - Bolt From Blue Sky Kills Man Whose Name Long Had Been Associated With Many Atrocious Murders in Neighboring Roane and Jackson Counties.

From a cloudless sky came a flash of lightning and Waid Counts lay dead by an unfrequented roadside.

It was not far from the scenes of a long series of murders, in connection with which his name had been on many a tongue's end. And tongues which had not wagged before did so when they heard the way in which death came to him.

"The vengeance of The Almighty," was the verdict of his enemies, voicing the sentiment that, while Counts had never been convicted in an earthly court, he had been condemned by a higher authority than any human judge to pay the extreme penalty for numerous hideous crimes.

The freak flash of lightning was seen by many persons and the accompanying report was heard for miles around. But it was four days later when the result of the deadly bolt became known, and the body of Waid Counts was found. Beside him lay his son's dead body - a son unsuspected of any crime, undeserving of punishment by either Divine or finite authority, so far as the public was aware.

From the fact that the boy was killed, as well as the father, friends of Waid Counts insisted that their deaths were strictly accidental and could not be regarded as an act of supreme justice. But others recalled the score or more of gruesome murders that had occurred over a long period of years in Roane and Jackson counties. In connection with them the name of Counts or some of his intimate associates had been whispered, though few were sufficiently outspoken to charge him or his friends with complicity in the atrocities. But after the result of the thunderbolt was known, many were bold enough to assert the belief that heaven had avenged the murdered men.

Just what part, if any, Waid Counts took in the murder of a score of men in Roane and Jackson counties, or who may have been directly responsible for the crimes, in all probability will never be known, nor can there be an answer in this world to the question whether Waid Counts owed his death to Divine interference. But it will not be denied that there were many murders in Roane and Jackson counties; that the victims were in almost every instance known to be antagonistic to Counts and his associates and that, while there has been little done in the way of prosecution, and practically nothing in the way of conviction, Counts and some of his kin and associates are believed by a large number of people to have been responsible for the reputation these counties have borne for years, as the home of slayers.

Attention has been called by one familiar with the details of most of the crimes committed in these two counties to the fact that either those suspected of the many murders there, or their forebears, came to West Virginia many years ago from the same immediate section of the Allegheny mountains, were closely related and became more so through intermarriage. He speaks of a criminal taint in the blood of immigrants, which prompted murder, arson, and other cruelties, and increased in later generations as a result of intermarriage.

Be that as it may; the writer has no knowledge of the causes. But it is known that crimes and cruelty have caused these counties an undeserved reputation, for the lawless element, though forced by its brutalities into undue notoriety comprises an infinitesimal part of the population, and the people generally are of the good old sturdy American stock that has made this nation great.

It was before the civil war, when this part of the country was not so thickly settled, nor so accessible to the outside world as today, that immigrants from the mountain region began to come to Roane and Jackson counties, and there to intermarry. And it was before the civil war that the murders there began. Perhaps the bitterness of sectional strife intensified an innate cruelty, and cheapened human life. But most of the crimes that stand out in the history of our neighboring counties occurred a long time since the war between the states.

In the summer and fall of 1887 there were six murders near the line between Roane and Jackson and four of them were committed within three days.

This revelry of crime and brutal murder started on October 13, 1887, when the Rev. T. P. Ryan, of Countsville, on the Roane county side of the line, a Methodist minister, was shot and killed in his home.

On the following day, a mob surrounded the home of George Duff, Jr., and although he defended himself as well as he could, he was shot down and died.

The next night a mob took Ches Coon and Robert Duff to the Lynn Camp school house, hanged Coon, and cut Duff's throat.

Robert Duff had assisted Dan Cunningham, now of Charleston, and James E. Wenen, still residing in Parkersburg, both deputy United States Marshals, in locating and destroying some illicit stills and it is believed that the minister and the three other victims of the mob in those three days were put to death to prevent the prosecution of "moonshiners".

On the night of Oct. 13, 1887, after the Rev. T. P. Ryan had retired for the night, a mob appeared outside his house, and shooting occurred. Mr. Ryan, in defense of his home and his life, is said to have fired the first shot, which was quickly followed by firing from the outside, and the almost immediate shooting of the preacher. The fatal shot was fired from outside the house passed through the outside wall, through the foot board of the bed, through Mr. Ryan's body, through the head board of the bed and was imbedded in the ceiling when found. Ryan lived a few hours and said he thought he recognized the voice of one of the mob which shot him, but was not certain, and nothing ever was done about prosecuting the suspected man. Outside the house where Ryan was killed the smell of a cartridge was found and it was ascertained that one of the Counts family owned the only rifle in the whole county side that would fire such a cartridge.

Having had their taste of blood, the mob worked day and night. On the morning of Oct. 14, a mob appeared at the home of Robert Duff, who was securely tied and taken with them.

At the home of George Duff, Jr., who was reading when they approached, the mob without warning fired a volley into the house. Duff tried to get out of the house, but was stopped by a rifle shot from which he died in a few minutes,

but not before he and Ches Coon had driven the mob away.

Coon was told he had been accused of murdering Rev. Mr. Ryan, and surrendered, on the promise of protection. He and Robert Duff were taken to the Ryan home and left under heavy guard while the rest of the mob gathered in the Lynn Camp school house, a short distance away, discussed their further procedure and decided to kill both Coon and Duff. It is said that, although a password was required before one was admitted to their meeting, many outsiders learned it and were present when the lives of these two men were demanded.

It was partly because of what they knew to have transpired at that meeting that many persons were so strongly inclined to believe later that Waid Counts' death was a demonstration of the vengeance of the Almighty.

It was said at the time that a near relative of Ches Coon, bearing the same name, was chosen as leader of the mob which hanged Ches. Jesse Goode, who was first chosen to lead the mob but declined to do so, although he is said to have participated in its work as one of its members, was afterwards seen in Point Pleasant where he was a regularly installed minister and preached regularly. But mention of his former mob connection was not made to any of the members of his congregation.

The cruelties told of that double lynching will hardly bear repetition even now, though almost half a century has elapsed since their perpetration. Ches Coon was hanged to a water beech tree, with a rope left just long enough for him to touch the ground with the toes of his shoes. All night he is said to have struggled with the rope around his neck and his hands tied behind him. In the morning he was dead but the toes of his shoes were worn through and even the toes of his feet were bleeding.

When Duff was taken by the mob to be strung up, he saw the struggling figure of Coon, and he resisted his captors so vigorously that one of them drew a knife and cut his throat from ear to ear. Waid Counts has been alleged to have been one of the most active members of this mob, and it was said of his brother, Si Counts, that he was so close to Duff when his throat was cut that blood spurted into Si's face and caused him to faint. And the lightning later killed Waid Counts.

Ten years later, in November, 1897, a triple murder in Jackson County caused by the lure of \$100 shocked not only that county but the entire country as well, and resulted in the last public hanging in West Virginia, the second in Jackson county.

Mrs. Chloe Pfost, a widow, married a man named Green, and they continued to live in her old home on Stone Lick Creek, about two miles south of Fairplain, Jackson County. Green also dies, leaving his widow, who had been known so many years as Mrs. Pfost that she was more often called by that name than Mrs. Green, with a family. Two grown sons by the first marriage had left home, but Matilda and Alice Pfost, young women, and their half brother, James Green, remained in the old home. Not far away lived John Morgan, who worked at times for Mrs. Pfost on her farm.

Mrs. Pfost sold a horse for \$100, taking a 30 day note in payment, and Morgan knew when the note was due. On the night of Nov. 2, 1897, Morgan asked young Green to go coon hunting with him, and while they were out he asked if the note had been paid. Green replied that it would be paid the next day.

The next night, after the note had been paid and Mrs. Pfost had the \$100 hid away, Morgan went to the home of the Pfosts, called James Green outside and beat his brains out with a mattock, beside the hog pen. Morgan then went into the house and meeting Alice coming out he fractured her skull, and thought she was dead, but she recovered and hid herself in a chicken house, where she lay all night unattended and later told who her assailant was. Morgan went on into the house and killed Mrs. Pfost and Matilda. When Alice told of the crime the next morning Morgan was at once arrested and within 50 days he had been indicted, tried, found guilty, and executed.

This John Morgan's mother had married Andy Marion Raines and lived at Gay, Jackson County. A man by the name of Morgan, living in the neighborhood, paid attentions to Mrs. Raines, and she and her husband separated. But Raines got even. He went to a field where Morgan was working and shot him, killing him instantly. He then fled to Nicholas county, and a warrant for his arrest was sent there. Flem Rader, a Nicholas county official and later a Charleston policeman, searching for Raines, found him in a tree watching a deer lick. When Rader demanded his surrender, Raines aimed his rifle at Rader, who fired first and Raines fell from the tree dead, killed while resisting arrest.

One of the coldest-blooded of the murders in this Roane-Jackson region was that of Nathan Cunningham, older brother of Dan W. Cunningham, now of Charleston, who has spent most of his life in the service of state, nation, city, or county, or large private interests, in detecting crime and punishing criminals. It was in August 1877 that Nathan Cunningham was killed. A few months before that, Cunningham's barn had been burned and he was preparing to go before a grand jury at the September term of court and swear that he had seen Cain Counts, a brother of Waid Counts and another man set fire to it.

Nathan Cunningham had been a deputy marshal and was an agent for the Bruens in looking after their enormous tract of land in Jackson and adjoining counties, and ready to testify against squatters on it. For that reason he was not liked. One afternoon he was ambushed from behind a big rock along the roadside and shot through the breast and the abdomen. Dying, he said to his 11-year old son, who was with him, "To home and tell your mother that Waid Counts has killed me." To Counts he called out, "Waid Counts, you have killed me; don't kill my little boy." His daughter passing along the road, saw him and he asked her for water, but she was not permitted to bring it to him. For three hours he lay suffering, his slayers preventing anyone from bringing him even so much as a drink of water.

Though these are not all the murders committed in the two counties within approximately half a century, they are the most atrocious of the lot, and while but one execution, or even conviction of murder resulted, the tales told of them go far toward explaining the verdict of so many of the people of that section that the death of Waid Counts by a bolt of lightning that flashed from a clear sky was the vengeance of the Almighty and his punishment for cruel murders.

About the same time that Waid Counts was struck by lightning, one of his aids died with a throat infection; another one died of a rotten leg; and two others went to Missouri, where they were executed for robbery and murder.