

THE NAME AND FAMILY  
OF  
CHRISTIAN

Compiled by

NOTES OF ICY MAUD CHRISTIAN BRANCH  
(Presumably in about 1936)

## THE NAME AND FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN

(From the History of Logan) First Settlers Enter The Guyandotte Valley: Upon the passage of the law of 1792, referred to in the last chapter, the owners of grants made before that time saw the necessity of seating and cultivating the lands which had been patented to them before the expiration of the period to which that right had been extended (1799) and at once went to work to get some one to take charge of their lands.

In the company of John Breckenridge, at the time of battle of the Islands, now Logan Court house, was one James Workman, who in addition to being a gallant soldier, was in every respect a trust-worthy gentleman. Breckenridge, as soon as possible, engaged him to take charge of his survey at the Island (Logan Court House) and in 1794 James Workman with his brothers, Joseph and Nimrod, built a cabin on the Island, and planted a few acres of corn. They planted the same island again in 1795-96 and in the fall of the latter year James Workman, who was a man of family, moved his wife and children from their old home in Wythe County and settled on the Island, where the three continued to live until the year 1800, when they moved to the farm now occupied by Henry Mitchell (Lucian). More will be said later.

We have already noticed that when William Dingess purchased the farm now covered by the city of Logan the Workmans left it and settled on a farm now owned by the Mitchells. They remained there, however, but a short time selling their place to another pioneer and moved to the waters of Cole River.

Joseph Baker came from Montgomery and settled on Big Creek. He was the father of four sons and one daughter. Of his sons, John moved to Kanawha County, now Boone, and settled near Peytona. William married Dorkas Workman, a daughter of Joseph Workman and grand-daughter of James Workman who has been heretofore mentioned as being the first settler at Logan.

Ben Smith was another one of the early settlers. He came here as a young man and married a Stratton. He moved to Buffalo where he remained for years as a leading citizen and was one of the early members of the Virginia Legislature from this county. He had one son, William "Crawley" Smith. His daughters were Eliza and Rebecca who married Alexander Pine.

On the 27th day of June 1776 the convention adopted by a unanimous vote a constitution in which the ties which bound it to Great Britain were entirely dissolved and Virginia declared a free and independent state.

With the people of Virginia the right of self government in local affairs which had been granted to them by "James First" was held to be sacred and was retained by them in the surrender made to Cromwell, and was regranted or continued to them when Charles II was restored to the throne. This second Magna Charta was carried

in the bosoms of these young Virginians to their mountain homes so we find that while West Augusta was contented to be ruled by Gov. Dunsmore's Lieutenant, Dr. John Connelly of Fincastle in 1772 demanded local self government, and the appointments of officers who resided within the district. And while the rights of a country were not conceded, the governor was compelled to grant the request of naming it a county and appointing justices, a sheriff, and a clerk who resided within its bounds and making it entirely independent of the county of Botetourt, yet including within its boundary all of Southwestern Virginia and the present state of Kentucky.

The following officers were appointed for the new county thus established: Gentleman Justices William Ingles, Robert Doach, James McGavock, Stephen Trigg, Walter Crockett, James Thompson, and Arthur Campbell; Sherriff was William Preston; Clerk, John Byrd, who admitted Colonel William Christian as his deputy.

This first court for the county of District was held on the 5th day of January, 1773; no representative, however, was allowed then in the house of Burgesses.

By the ordinance of the Virginia Convention which convened at Richmond on the 17th day of July, 1775, providing for the election of delegates to the convention which was called to meet at Williamsburg on the 6th day of May, 1776, the right of franchise was granted to the inhabitants at Fincastle.

Colonel William Preston was a member of the first legislature of the state as a colleague to Colonel William Christian, who had been mentioned as the commander of the Fincastle troops at Point Pleasant. And as a member of the Virginia Convention Col. Christian was one of the most influential members of that first State Legislature.

Col. Christian was not so well versed in books or so eloquent as many of his associates, but he was in close touch with the people and fully understanding their wishes, he had the courage to represent them.

Some time near 1800, Thomas Christian, a nephew of Col. William Christian settled in Logan County. He married <sup>Margaret, the daughter of</sup> Alexander Pine of Montgomery County, Virginia. Thomas Christian was the father of three sons, James, Thomas and Allen. They all moved to Kentucky except James, who was born in 1800. In the year 1820 he married Anne More. He was a member of the first County Court of Logan County and held many positions of trust. He was the father of Paren Christian.

The first meeting of the Logan County Court was held May 7, 1824. James P. Christian was the last survivor, dying in 1892 at the age of 92 years.

Of this Court James O Christian was  
the last survivor having died in 1892 at the  
age of 92 years.

## Cricket's History of Fajell Co Va

and West Augusta, and C. William  
Christian was elected from Fincastle  
as a member of the Convention and  
participated with all of the members  
of the Convention in the following  
resolution:

That the delegates appointed to  
represent this Colony in general Congress  
be instructed to propose to that respect-  
able body to declare the United Colonies  
free and independent States absolved from  
all allegiance to or dependence on the  
Crown or Parliament of Great Britain and  
that they give the assent of this Colony to  
such declaration and what ever measures may  
be thought necessary by Congress for forming  
foreign alliances and a confederation of Colonies at  
such time and in the manner that to them  
shall seem best provided that the power  
of forming governments for and the regulations of the  
internal concerns of each Colony be left to Colonial  
legislature

## Farmers Market &amp; Truckers Co-operative Association

CORNER SEVENTH AVENUE AND FIRST STREET

Huntington, W. Va.

Some time <sup>near</sup> 1800 - Thomas Christian  
 a nephew of Col. Wm. Christian settled in  
 Logan Co he married Alexander Paul  
 of Montgomery Co Va. T. Christian  
 was the father of 3 sons James Tom & Allen  
 They all moved to Ken, except James  
 in the year 1820 James was born in 1800  
 married ~~to~~ Anna Moore he was a member  
 of the first County Court of Logan Co  
 and held many positions of trust he was  
 the last surviving member leaving an honorable  
 name he was the Father of Paren Christian  
 my grandfather.

The first meeting of the Logan Co Court  
 was held May 7 - 1824 Hon Lewis Summers was judge  
 It was composed of of the following gentle men whose  
 names are still honored by the people of Logan.  
 William Gony - Wash. Hinckman John B Clark John  
 Ferrall James O Christians James Shannon  
 John Cook Anthony Lawson Griffin Stottings

Montgomery Va

Mitchell Archelaus - Jordan - Micajah <sup>Emm</sup>  
Doddin —  
More

Christian Thomas - James - Parren - Albert  
Pine - Alexander - Unknown, " "  
More - Ann - - " "

# Logan County Was Once Part Of Cabell County; Was Formed In Year 1823

By W. H. ALLEY

Logan county was once a part of what is now known as Cabell county—but that was back in the years when what is now West Virginia as a part of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

When Cabell county was established it was one of the largest counties in the state, extending from the Ohio river on the north to the Flat Top mountains on the south, and from the Big Sandy and Tug River on the west, eastward so as to include the waters of the right hand fork of Cole.

Elections were then held at the courthouse of the county, and the voters were compelled to travel over one hundred miles for the purpose of voting. While the right of suffrage was limited, the law provided "every male citizen of this Commonwealth, aged 21 years (other than free Negroes or mulattoes, or such as have re-

fused to give assurance of fidelity to the Commonwealth) being possessed, or whose tenant for years, at will is possessed of, 25 acres of land, with a house, the superficial content of the foundation whereof is twelve feet square, or equal to that quantity, and a plantation thereon, or fifty acres of unimproved land, or a lot or part of lot of land in a city or town established by an act of the General Assembly, with a house thereon or the like superficial content and quantity, having, in such land, an estate of free hold at the least, and (unless the title shall have come to him by descent, devise, marriage or marriage settlement), having been so possessed six months, and no other person shall be qualified to vote for delegates to serve in the General Assembly, for the county, city or borough

(Continued on page six)

# Logan County

(Continued from page one)  
respectively, in which the land  
lieth."

At the same time every qualified voter was required to cast his vote. While none but those who had an interest in the soil was allowed the highest privilege of citizenship, yet this privilege was regarded as a sacred duty, and a duty which was rigidly required, and in order to compel a discharge of this high duty, the law further provided that "any elector qualified according to this act failing to attend any election of delegates, or of senator, and if a poll be taken, to give, or offer his vote, shall pay one-fourth of his portion of all such levies and taxes as shall be assessed and levied in his county the ensuing year."

In order to enforce this provision, the sheriff was required to lay before the grand jury a list of the land owners of the county, and also to furnish the clerk a copy of the poll taken, which copy was required to be given to the grand jury by the clerk.

The name Logan, is generally thought to have been given the county in honor of Tal-gah-jute, a son of Shikellamy, a chief of the Cayugas, who was called Logan, after James Logan of Pennsylvania, who educated him. There are others, however, who claim that the name (which implies a well balanced stone) was given because the people were not only well balanced, but were as solid as a stone in principle and their devotion to the Commonwealth.

In 1820, William Dingess was elected as one of the members of the General Assembly from Cabell county, and commenced at once to make a fight for a new county. He was re-elected in 1821-22 and in 1823, he had the proud satisfaction of seeing the act creating the new county of Logan passed by the General Assembly.

The first circuit court was held at the residence of William Dingess, within the present limits of Logan, which was then called the town of Aracoma, on the 7th day of May, 1824. Hon. Lewis Smith presided as judge, Jos. M. Donald was the first clerk, and John Laidley prosecuted the pleas of the Commonwealth.

The first county court was held at the same place but at an earlier date. It was composed of the following gentlemen whose names are still honored by the people of Logan: William Toney, William Hinchman, John B. Clark, John Ferrell, James B. Christian, James Shannon, John Cook, Anthony Lawson, and Griffin Stollings. Of this court, James P. Christian was the last survivor, having died in

1822, at the age of 92. He was first appointed as first surveyor of the county. The first election for the county assembly was held at the home of James P. Christian in 1824, and James P. Christian was elected.

# Young Words Of Princess Aracoma Related In Story Taken From Banner Files

By W. H. ALLEY  
Feature Writer

Though much has been written on the history of Logan county, just as much has been forgotten about its early development.

One of the county's first historians, Henry Clay Ragland, mayor of the city, church worker and editor of the Logan County Banner, recorded some of the high spots of the development of Logan county in a series of articles which he ran in his newspaper during 1896.

It is from this series of articles that the following story of the early settlement of Logan county is taken.

Records show that a large number of white men first set foot in what is now Logan county in the spring of 1777, when Captain Charles Hull with 20 men pursued a band of marauding Shawnees to the site where Oceana was later

built. They lost the trail at Oceana and had to turn back. The Shawnees had raided a white settlement near the falls of New River one spring night and had stolen thirty head of horses. The army captain and his men set out in pursuit but the redskins had too great a start.

Huff Creek was given its name on this expedition in honor of Peter Huff who was killed in a skirmish on the banks of the stream as the men returned home. Huff was buried near the spot where he was killed, which is believed to have been near where the town of Malory now stands.

Other men on this expedition and who returned to the valley of the Guyandotte later and built homes, were John Cook, James Hines, William Dingess and James Hensley.

The first white man really to be identified with what is now Logan

(Continued on page six)

(Continued from Page One)

county was Boling Baker, a renegade white, but the old-timers would not give him credit for being a white man. They said:

"He lived with the 'Injins' and that makes him an 'Injin'."

Baker, however, dastardly he was, was indirectly responsible for the settlement of Logan county in 1780-85.

The renegade had one great weakness. A weakness that they hung men for in those days. He was a horse thief. He would take a party of Indians a hundred miles through the mountain passes of Logan county to raid a white settlement in order to steal 20 or 30 horses.

Baker had gone into the business on a large scale. At the head of Gilbert Creek, on Horse Pen Mountain, where the mountain rises abruptly with almost cliff-like sharpness, he had stripped bark from hickory trees and stretched it from tree to tree making a pen in which to keep his stolen stock.

Old settlers of the county who have had the story passed down to them from their great grandfathers say that the pen was somewhere in the hollow below the road which leads to the fire tower on Horsepen Mountain. It was from this improvised corral of Boling Baker that the mountain was named.

But, back to how Baker was responsible for the settlement of the county:

He left his Indian camps on the Guyan river in the fall of 1780 and visited the white settlements in the Bluestone valley in the Flat Top mountain territory. There he told the settlers a story of how he had been captured by the Indians when he was a young man and had learned their ways. He said he had just escaped from the Shawnee tribe known to be hunting in the Guyandotte valley and was on his way back east to see his father and mother who lived in Boston.—Shrewd chap, this Baker!

The settlers were taken in by his story and allowed him to remain with them for several weeks during which time he got the location of all the settlers barns well in mind and after a time departed "back east".

Soon after the renegade left the Bluestone settlement the whites awoke one rainy morning late in autumn and found every barn empty. The Indians had come with the storm which lashed the valley and had gone without arousing a person. Thirty horses from the settlement went with them.

An expedition head by Wm. S. Madison and John Breckinridge—son of the Breckinridges who settled much of Kentucky—was made up in a neighboring settlement and set out in pursuit of the thieving Shawnees.

They trailed the party over Flat Top Mountain and southwest to the headwaters of the Guyan River by way of Rockcastle creek and Clear

Fork. Trail marks showed that the band had gone down the river, up Gilbert Creek to Baker's pen and thence over the mountain.

Madison and his 75 men did not follow the Indian trail over the mountain but the redskins probably brought their herd of 50 or 75 horses down Island Creek to the Guyan.

The white expedition chose to follow the Guyan in a hope that they would find the party encamped somewhere along its banks. Scouts had reported that a large tribe of Indians used the Guyan valley as its hunting grounds.

Madison's party followed the river down to Buffalo Creek—named because the white men found such a large number of buffalo grazing in its bottoms—crossed Run Creek and pitched camp for a night at the mouth of Dingess Run because "Guyan" Green and John Carter, scouts sent ahead to reconnoiter, had reported finding ten Indian lodges in the canebrakes of an island formed by the joining of a large creek and the Guyan river.

The men rested on their guns for the night and the following morning divided into two parties and attacked the encampment from the front and rear.

In the furious fighting that followed, nine of the thirty Indians in the camp were killed and ten or twelve wounded. Only a few escaped the slaughter of the white men. Among those captured was an old squaw 50 or 60 years old, who by her bearing, was obviously leader of the party. She was wounded but refused to talk.

Near midnight, however, following the massacre of the camp the old squaw felt death creeping upon her and called Madison to her quarters and told him in broken English the following:

"My name is Aracoma, (a corn blossom) and I am the last of a mighty line. My father was a great chief and a friend of your people and was murdered by your people (This was Chief Cornstalk who was murdered soon after the battle of Point Pleasant) when he had come to them as a friend to give them warning.

"I am the wife of a pale face who came across the great waters to make war on my people, but came to us and became one of us.

"A great plague many moons ago carried off my children with a great number of my people, and they lay buried just above the bend in the river. Bury me with them with my face to the setting sun that I may see my people in their march to the happy hunting ground. For your kindness I warn you to make haste in returning to your homes, for my people are still powerful, and will return to avenge my death."

The proud princess died before morning and the white men buried her "near the bend in the river." The Indian captives were all killed.

Four days later the men returned to the valley of the Bluestone.

Among those who helped Wm. S. Madison rout the Shawnees and who

vowed to possess the valley of the Guyandotte for themselves and their children were George Booth, George Berry, Elias Harman, Ben Stewart, Abner Vance, Joseph Workman, Ben White and James White. All these names are familiar in the county today.

After the Indians were pushed to the west surveyors allotted the land to the first settlers who had dared, with Madison, to come into the wilderness of the Guyandotte and open it up for the white man.

Madison owned several thousand acres of land on Island Creek, Gilbert Creek and Dingess Run. Other fighters were given like parcels of land.

# First White Settler To Make His Home In Logan Lived On Hatfield Island

BY W. H. ALLEY

The first white settler to make his home near Logan was James Workman who was with the force of men who struck the blow that broke the power of the Shawnee in the valley of the Guyandotte.

He was a member of the group of white settlers who pursued Boling Baker from a settlement in the Bluestone valley to the island that is now known as "Hatfield Island", and there burned an Indian village and mortally wounded Princess Aracomá. Boling Baker escaped.

After Workman had a glimpse of the beautiful, lush valley of the Guyandotte, it took little persuasion by John Breckinridge, who had been granted much of the valley after the battle of the Islands, to get Workman and his two brothers, Joseph and Nimrod,

to make settlement there. Breckinridge was forced to settle the land by the law of 1792 in order to hold title to it.

Workman and his two brothers came to the island in 1794, and built a cabin and planted a few acres of corn. In 1795 and 1796 the brothers planted the same land and James, who was a man of family, brought his wife and children from their old home in Wythe (now Tazewell) county, Virginia, where they continued to live until about the year 1800 when they moved to a farm nearby which was later owned by Henry Mitchell.

The first recorded permanent settlement was made by William Dingess, son of Peter Dingess, a German. Dingess was the oldest son in a family of eleven children.

(Continued on page six)

(1)

To Virginia, to New Amsterdam, to New England, the Indians were a mighty military power, often superior in battle, and all but victorious in the great Campaign which lasted more than a hundred years.

If the red man had the musket, and the white man the bow and arrow, we should today be writing the history of the United States "as the lion would have painted it." In these contemporary narratives, many of them inter fused with fancy and few recognizing the red squalor, degradation, and sinfulness of savage life, we have a great cycle of — historical material told in the simplest historical fashion. The soul of a true son of Virginia never tires at the recital of the bravery and daring deeds of the little Colony which settled at Jamestown in 1607 and planted the seeds of civilization in the Western world; and the Patriotic Child of New England still venerates the spot where the little Colon Pilgrim fathers landed in 1620. With an equal veneration should <sup>we</sup> regard the hardy pioneers who

three-hundred years after the <sup>planting</sup> ~~planting~~ of the colony at Jamestown, ventured into this then almost impenetrable wilderness, whose silence, up to that time, had been unbroken, except by the roar of its clear waters as it broke over our mountains precipices the growl of the wild beast, or the no less savage yell of the red man.

(2)

From the time of the first settlement in Virginia the aggressive spirit of the Anglo-Saxon turned his face to the wilderness of the west; and, step by step, he advanced up the James River valley, until, reaching its head, he crossed over the mountain to the valley of New River, where a stream running from the sea was found. Here the stream of civilization divided, a part of it going with the current down the Kanawha to the broad bottom along the Ohio, and the other ascending the steeps southward towards the sources of the river or turning a little to the west to find homes among the rich coverts and verdant valleys of the Guyan River. Of such stock were the first-pioneers who came here.

And of such stock were the workmanly brothers, <sup>my ancestors</sup> who were the first white men to venture to build a cabin in Logan Co. after the battle with the Indians in company of John Breckenridge.