

Memorandum — 1798. July 15th. (By John Stuart.)

The inhabitants of every County and place are desirous to enquire after the first founders, and in order to gratify the curious or such who may hereafter incline to be informed of the origin of the settlements made in Greenbrier I leave this memorandum for their satisfaction being the only person at this time alive acquainted with the circumstances of its discovery & manner of settling. — Born in Augusta County and the particulars of this place often related to me from my childhood by the first adventurers I can relate with certainty that our river was first discovered about the year 1749 by the white people. some say Jacob Marlin was the first person who discovered it others that a man of an unsound mind who's name I don't now remember had wandered from Frederick County through the mountains and on his return reported he had seen a River running westward supposed to be Greenbrier River. However Jacob Marlin and Stephen Suell were the first settlers at the mouth of Knaps creek above what is now called the Little levels on the land still bearing the name of Marlin's. These two men lived there in a kind of huddle, having no families, but frequently differing in sentiment which ended in rage. Marlin kept possession of the Cabin whilst Suell took up his abode in the trunk of a large tree at a small distance, and thus living more independant their animosity would abate, & society ensued. — not long after they had made their settlement on the river, the country was explored by the late Genl. Andrew Lewis at that time a noted and famous woodsman on who's report an Order of Council was soon obtained granting one hundred thousand acres of Lands on Greenbrier to the Honble John Robison (Treasurer of Virginia) & to the number of twelve including old Col. John Lewis and his two sons William & Charles. with condition

of settling the lands with inhabitants, and certain emoluments of three pounds per hundred acres to themselves. But the war breaking out between England & France in the year 1755 and the Indians being excited by the French to make war on the back inhabitants of Virginia, all who were then settled on Greenbrier were obliged to retreat to the older settlements for safety, amongst whom was Jacob Martin but Smeal fell a sacrifice to the enemy: this war ended in 1764 and then some people returned & settled in Greenbrier again, amongst whom was Archibald Clendinen whose residence was on the lands now claimed by John Davis by virtue of an intermarriage with his daughter and lying two miles west of Sewsburg.

The Indians breaking out again in 1763 came up the Kenawha in a large body to the number of sixty and coming to the house of Frederick Sea on muddy creek, were kindly entertained by him and Felly Golmeom; not suspecting their hostile design were suddenly killed & their families, with many others made prisoners: then proceeding over the mountain they came to Archibald Clendinen, who the Sea, & Golmeom, entertained them until they put him to death; his family with number of others living with him being all made prisoners or killed, not any one escaping except Corroot Golmeom, who doubting the design of the Indians when they came to Clendinen's took his horse and out under the pretence of hobbling him at some distance from the house. soon after some guns was fired at the house and a loud cry raised by the people, whereupon Golmeom taking the alarm mounted his horse and rode off as far as where the Court House now stands, and there beginning to ruminate whether he might not be mistaken in his apprehension, concluded to return and know the truth. But just as he came to the corner of Clendinen's fence some Indians placed there, presented their guns

Just as he came to the corner of Clendinning's fence some Indians placed there, presented
and attempted to shoot him, but their guns all missing fire (he thinks at least ten) he immediately
fled to Jacksons River alarming the people as he went, but few were willing to believe him. The
Indians pursued after him and ^{all} that fell in their way were slain untill they went on Carrs Creek now
in Rockbridge County. so much were people in their days intimidated by an attack of the Indians that
they were suffered to retreat with all their booty, and more prisoners than there was Indians in their
party. I will here relate a narative of Arch^d. Clendinning's wife being a prisoner with her
young

Young child as they were passing over Keeneys ridge from Muddy creek, a part of the Indians being in front with the remainder behind & the prisoners in the center, Mrs. Clendinen handed her child to another woman to carry and she slipped to one side and hid herself in a bush. but the Indians soon missing her one of them observed he would soon bring the cow to her calf and taking the child caused it to cry very loud. but the mother not appearing he took the infant and beat out its brains against a tree, then throwing it down in the road all the people & horses that were in the rear passed over it untill it was trod to pieces. many more cruelties were committed too horrid to be related, & too many to be contained in this memorandum. Thus was Greenbrier once more depopulated for six years. but a peace being concluded with Indians in 1765 and the lands on the Western waters with certain bounderies being purchased at a Treaty at Fort Stanwix by And Lewis & Thomas Walker Commissioners appointed by government the people again returned to settle in Greenbrier in 1769 and

I myself was amongst the first of those last adventurers, being at that time about nineteen years of age with Robert W. Blenachan, another very young man, our design was to secure lands & encourage a settlement in the country but the Indians breaking out again in 1774 Col. Andrew Lewis was ordered by the Earl of Dunmore (then Governor of Virginia) to march against them with fifteen hundred volunteer militia. which army march from Camp Union (now Lewisburg) the 11th day of Septm^r 1774 two companies of the said army being raised in Greenbrier & commanded by Capt. Rob. Blenachan & myself, we were met by the Indians on the 10th day of October at the mouth of the Kenawha & a very obstinate engagement ensued and the Indians were defeated tho with the loss of seventy five officers & soldiers amongst the slain was Col. Charles Lewis who commanded the Augusta Militia & my friend Capt. Rob. Blenachan. Col. Lewis

persuaded his victory crossing the Ohio until we were in sight of some Indian Town on the Waters of Trotter
where we were met by the Earl of Dunmore who commanded an army in person and had made his
route by the way of Fort Pitt. - The Governor capitulating with the Indians Col^o Lewis was ordered to retreat
and the next year hostilities commenced between the British & Americans at Boston in New England
and I have since been informed by Col^o Lewis, that the Earl of Dunmore (the Kings Governor) knew of the
attack to be made upon us by the Indians at the mouth of Kenawha, and hoped our destruction. This
secret was communicated to him by indisputable authority

Independance being declared by America the 4th July 1775 and the people enjoying the rains of
Government a County was granted to the People of Greenbrier under the Commonwealth in May 1778
and a Court was first held at my House on the 3rd Tuesday in said month. Not long after which we
were invaded again by the Indians who had taken part with the British & on the 28th Day of the same month
Col^o Andrew Donnalys house was attacked about eight miles from Lewisburg by Two hundred Indians
these Indians were persuaded from the mouth of the Kenawha by two Scouts from that Garrison town
Phil Hammon & John Prior, & passing the Indians at the meadows gave intelligence to Col^o Donnalys of
their approach who instantly collected about Twenty men, & the next morning sustained the attack of
the enemy until he was relieved about two O'clock by sixty men from Lewisburg, I was one of the number
and we got into the house unhurt, being favoured by a field of rye which grew close up to the House
the Indians being all

the Indians being all on the opposite side of the house. Four men were killed before we got in, and about sixteen Indians lay dead in the yard before the door, some of these were taken off in the night. ~~list~~ we scalp'd nine the next morning; this was the last time the Indians invaded Greenbrier in any large party.

Peace with the British followed in 1781 and then the people of this County began to make some feeble efforts to regulate their society, and to open roads and passes for waggons through the mountains which by many had been thought impracticable, no waggon at that time having ever approached nearer than the Warm Springs. - our petition the assembly granted a law empowering the

to Levy a certain annual sum in commutables from the inhabitants for the purpose of opening a road from the Court House to the Warm Springs. — a conveyance so necessary for the importation of salt and other necessaries of Lumber as well as conveying our hemp & other heavy wares to market would readily be expected to receive the approbation of every one, but such is the perverse disposition of some men unwilling that any should share advantages in preference to themselves that this laudable measure was opposed by Mr William Hutchison who had first represented the County in General Assembly — on this occasion without the privity of the people went at his own expense to Richmond & by his insinuations to some of the members with unfair representations obtained a suspension of the law for two years. but the following year Col^o Thom^o Adams who visited this County satisfied with the impropriety of Hutchisons representation had the suspension repealed and full powers were allowed to the Court to levy money for the purpose aforesaid, and by this means a waggon road was opened from the Court House to the Warm Springs which made way for the same to the Sweet Springs — The paper money emitted for maintaining our war against the British became totally depreciated & there was not a sufficient quantity of specie in circulation to enable the people to pay the revenue tax assessed upon the Citizens of this County wherefore we fell in arrears to the public for four years. — But the assembly again taking our remote situation under consideration graciously granted the sum of five thousand pounds of our said arrears to be applied to the public debt.

to be applied to the purpose of opening a road from Lewisburg to the Kenawha river. The people greatly
for such indulgence willingly embraced the opportunity of such an offer and every person liable for
27 years of tax agreed to perform labour equivalent on the road, and the people being formed into
districts with each a superintendant the road was completed in the space of two months in the year
1786 and thus was a communication by waggons to the navigable waters of the Kenawha first effected
and which will probably be found the highest and best conveyance from the Eastern to the Western
Country that will ever be known. May there be a conjecture that has often occurred to me
since I inhabited this place, that nature has designed this part of the world a peacable retreat
for some of her favorite children, where pure morals will be preserved by separating them from
society at so respectful a distance by ridges of mountains; and I sincerely wish time may prove my
conjecture rational and true - from the springs of salt water discoverable along our river, banks of Iron
mines pregnant with saltpetre, & forests of sugar trees so amply provided & so easily acquired I have
no doubts but the future inhabitants of this county will surely avail themselves of such singular
advantages greatly to their comfort and satisfaction and render them a grateful & happy people.

It will be remembered that Lewisburg was first settled by Capt. Mathew Arbuckle after the town
was laid off in the year 1780, and took its name in honor of the Family of the Lewis in consequence
of their holding a large claim in the Greenbrier grant. Capt. Arbuckle was killed the following year in a
storm of wind by the falling of a tree on the bench leading from the turns of the waters of Anthony's creek
to Jacksons river, he was distinguished for his bravery especially in the battle with the Indians at Point Pleasant.