

## CHAPTER IV.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

One of the first acts of the County Court of the newly organized county of Harrison was to order a bridle road opened from Clarksburg to Wickwire's ford on the Valley River. The great number of similar orders for the opening of bridle roads and later, wagon roads show the determination of these early settlers to get better communication with other sections of the country. A bridle road was made from Clarksburg to the home of Isaac Williams opposite Marietta in 1789; over this road the cattle collected at Clarksburg were driven to the new Marietta settlements.<sup>1</sup> The following year in answer to a petition made by people on the Little Kanawha a road was made to a lower point on the Ohio. The petition stated that travelers from "Caintucky" who left the river at Belveal (Belleville) often had to hire a pilot to guide them through the wilderness. The opening of this road made communication between Clarksburg and Kentucky much easier.

These earliest roads were not much more than blazed ways through the wilderness, but by 1803 wagons could pass on the road from Philippi to Clarksburg and by 1808 the road to Williamsport was much improved,<sup>2</sup> and a wagon road surveyed from Clarksburg to the Mason County line by way of Elk River to intersect the road leading to Point Pleasant.

In 1798 when John Reynolds came through from Virginia, Court adjourned when informed that a wagon was coming down

1. J. M. Callahan, History of West Virginia.

2. I bid.

Jackson's hill and all hands joined in hasty grading of the creek banks in order that the wagon could cross the stream. This was the first wagon to pass over the streets of Clarksburg. The coming of the wagon created a greater need for bridges, accordingly a bridge across Elk Creek was authorized by the Court in 1795, but was not constructed until 1806. In June 1816 a bridge was constructed over the West Fork at the mouth of Elk Creek, and a second bridge across the same stream was built in 1836.

The first through route from the East to the Ohio by way of Clarksburg was sponsored by a higher authority, the State of Virginia. In 1786 the Assembly appointed a commission consisting of Hezekiah Davisson, Daniel Davisson, William Haymond, Nicholas Carpenter, Thomas Webb, and John Powers to lay out and open a wagon road from some point on the State road to the mouth of the Little Kanawha.<sup>1</sup> The road was to be thirty feet wide. Its construction from Clarksburg to its junction with the State road near Cheat River was soon completed in a very satisfactory way, but the work westward was so slowly carried on that in 1798 it was not much more than a blazed way through the forest. It served, nevertheless, as an important part of the mail route to Chillicothe, Ohio after the establishment of a postoffice in Clarksburg. Contracts made by Nathan Davis and John Davis show that these two men in 1807 carried the mail by this route from Gandy's in Preston County to Chillicothe and back once each week.

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1. The State road ran from Winchester to Morgantown by way of Romney. ✓

A postoffice had been established in 1798. John Webster was the first postmaster, and Asa Davis was one of the first mail carriers.<sup>1</sup> Mails were received very irregularly especially during seasons of high water which sometimes for days made the crossing of streams an impossibility. Few letters, however, were written in those early days, and the lack of interest of even the most prominent business men in the mail as late as 1830 is reflected in the following advertisement of letters remaining uncalled for in the postoffice January 1, 1830: Waldo Goff, Adam Hickman, Thomas Haymond, John Horner, Richard Moore and Joseph Israel.<sup>2</sup>

The considerable amount of various products sent down the river on flat boats gave Clarksburg an interest in the improvement of navigation on the West Fork and Monongahela. In 1817 the Monongahela Navigation Company received a charter from the State of Virginia. The object of this company was to make a channel navigable at all seasons of the year for flat boats rafts, and lumber from the mouth of Stone Coal Creek in Lewis County to the Pennsylvania line. Authority was given the company to construct locks and dams, and to divert the waters of the Buckhannon River to the waters of the West Fork. A survey was made from Weston to the State line, and several

1. These mail carriers were very obliging and carried many other things beside letterw. In a letter written June 5, 1827 Phineas Chapin mentions sending a horse by post to Mrs. Pindall.

2. Clarksburg Enquirer, January 16, 1830. Joseph Israel was the editor of the paper at this time.

dams were constructed on the West Fork. But a flood did so much damage to the property that the enterprise was abandoned. Judge John G. Jackson was the principal mover in this undertaking.<sup>1</sup>

Clarksburg's transportation facilities were so good after the coming of the Northwestern Pike and the railroad that very little if any interest was manifested by her citizens in the later attempts to improve river navigation.

By 1830 Clarksburg had made such connection with the National Road that its merchants could reach Baltimore in six days, traveling on horseback, or much sooner by the stage line to Uniontown established about this time. But this route was soon to give place to a better one.

In 1827 a charter was granted to the Northwestern Turnpike Company to construct a turnpike from Winchester to Parkersburg by way of Romney and Clarksburg. This famous highway reached Clarksburg in 1836; the road inside the town is still known as Pike Street. Many Clarksburg citizens became prosperous by the taking of contracts for the making of sections of the road. The general stores reaped a harvest from the large bands of laborers engaged in construction work, and even before the pike was in a condition to use its coming had brought a wave of prosperity.

The labor used in the building of the road was drawn, for the most part, from the section through which the road passed. Later, when the road was macadamized, the work was done by immigrants fresh from Ireland. True to their

1. Haymond's History of Harrison County, p.427. ✓

love of a good fight these sons of the Emerald Isle frequently interrupted the progress of the road by a lively battle with stones and shillalaha. In one of these conflicts between two rival groups the fun grew so fast and furious that the civil authorities interfered and began making arrests. The combatants took to their heels and the officers pressed into service a number of negro slaves to chase them down. The darkies were delighted and, being fresh, soon overtook their quarry, already half exhausted from the fight. One Irishman was heard to wail as he was brought in, "Just to think I'd have come to America to be arristed by a nagur constable!"

The road being finished, stage lines were put on, new taverns were opened and daily mail connections were made with the steam boats at Parkersburg. Wagons drawn by four, six, and even nine horses with harness gaily decorated with bells carried great loads of freight from Baltimore to Clarksburg for two and one-half to three cents per pound. Great droves of cattle, sheep, hogs, and turkeys were driven eastward transporting themselves to market. Clarksburg could find a market for her surplus products and bring back the things she needed by a round trip by freight wagons to Baltimore taking only thirty days.

The fast time made by the stage coaches, moreover, induced more people to travel. The arrival of the stage from the east was heralded by a long blast from the driver's horn as he reached the top of the Jackson hill. A similar blast rang out from the stage from the west as it

reached the summit of the hill between Sixth and South Chestnut streets. The object of these signals was to inform the postmaster and tavern keeper that the stage was at hand, and to notify the keepers of the stage horses to have fresh ones ready to take the place of those bringing in the stage coach after covering ten miles of road. Many famous people traveled through Clarksburg by this stage line and a goodly number broke their long journey by a stop over at the widely known North Western Hotel kept by James Carder. It was one of these stage coaches that Stonewall Jackson Clarksburg's most famous son galloped to overtake on his journey to be examined for a cadetship at West Point.<sup>1</sup> The old mile stone which marked the stopping place of the stage is now preserved in the foundation of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

But the day of the stage coach was short. Its clear bugle was drowned by the shrill whistle of the locomotive as horse power gave way to steam.

The most of the farmers and tavern keepers of the community were bitterly opposed to the extension of the railroad through Clarksburg, fearing that through traffic would injure their business of selling their surplus products and providing for the wants of the stock and its drovers that passed through the town. The prevailing sentiment of the people of the town was, however, heartily in favor of extension of the railroad. In 1843 a meeting was held to consider the propriety of instructing its representatives in the Legislature to use their efforts to procure the passage of a law authorizing the Baltimore  
 1. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson was born in a small brick house which stood back of the site occupied now by the Wells and Haymaker Pharmacy.

procure the passage of a law authorizing the Baltimore and Ohio company to extend their railroad from Cumberland to some point on the Ohio not lower than the mouth of the Little Kanawha. W. P. Goff was Chairman of this meeting and Joseph Johnson was Secretary. Addresses were made in favor of the railroad by Judge Edwin S. Duncan, William A. Harrison, and A. J. Smith, and a committee appointed to send a memorial to the Legislature concerning the extension of the railroad.

A second meeting held July 29, 1844 adopted resolutions concurring with Lewis and Wood counties as to the terminus of the railroad and suggested October 4, 1844 as the date of a meeting to adopt measures to procure from the Virginia Legislature a law giving the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad right of way through her territory.

This meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church October 5, 1844. A memorial was drafted begging the Legislature as connection with Richmond was impracticable to pass a law which would give the northwestern section of the state a better outlet for its products. This meeting also registered a complaint of the lack of the use of money in northwestern Virginia. Judge Duncan was the presiding officer of this meeting.

The railroad was extended and the first train reached Clarksburg on a Saturday in July 1856. Water for the engine was carried in barrels. A station was built at the east end of the town near the location of the present freight depot. A telegraph office also was located in the

L. Harrison Republican, July  
Ibid. October 4, 1844.

station building. Passengers from all parts of town were collected in one huge omnibus driven by Edward Nuzum at such a tremendous speed that the unwary traveler who lost his grip on seat or strap risked riding the rest of the way on the floor.

The successive steps by which Clarksburg came into full communication with the outside world were accompanied by a corresponding development in her churches, schools, and newspapers.

## CHAPTER V.

## CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND NEWSPAPERS

A deed recorded in the office of the County Clerk of Harrison County June 21, 1790 reads in part as follows:

"Daniel Davisson and Prudence his wife in consideration of 10 shillings current money doth bargain and sell to the Hopewell congregation and their successors one certain tract of land in the county of Harrison containing 3 roads and 7 perches situated on the south side of the publick woad which leads from Clarksburg to the mouth of Elk creek; and on the north side of the first drea<sup>n</sup> that enties into the West Fork above the mouth of said creek."

On this plot of ground used as a burial place for over one hundred years Clarksburg's first church had been built at least two years previous.<sup>1</sup> The Hopewell congregation was closely connected with the older Baptist organization on Simpson's Creek. By 1817 the pastor of the church had gone on farther west and the congregation had become scattered. Baptist missionaries from Massachusetts visited the town from time to time preaching to both white and black.

It was not till November 18, 1848 that the present church was organized. James Woods was the first pastor; the membership numbered seventeen. From this time on the organization has continued. The membership increased

slowly at first perhaps because of the many expulsions  
 1. Bishop Asbury in his journal writes of preaching in "a logg close room belonging to the Baptists" in the year 1788 to a congregation of seven hundred people.

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from church membership. In 1850 a man was expelled because he did not believe in a devil, and in 1856 another member was turned out of the fold for duelling. In a churchmeeting held in 1852 it was resolved that any member who absented himself from church three successive months should be waited on by a committee to find out the reason of his absence. One frequent cause of the trial of members was "non-fellowshipping" with one another. Disputes between members were settled and damages assessed at church meetings.

Steps were taken in 1850 to erect a new building, and shortly after a brick church was built on Pike Street not far from the site of the present church. Rev. Cleon Keyes and Rev. J. G. Shilling were prominent among the early pastors of the Clarksburg Baptist Church.

In 1788 the Redstone Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was divided and the congregations of the upper valleys of the Monongahela River were grouped into the Clarksburg Circuit. An organization in the town, may have been effected before the visit of Bishop Asbury in 1788. The fact that he held communion service on this visit indicates that the occasion was a "Quarterly Meeting" of the church.

The first church erected by this denomination stood where the Towers School is now located. It was built in 1824. The people of the community donated cash and products to be sold or exchanged for building materials. The church was either large or else unusually well light-

ed for 214 panes of glass were bought for its windows and eight scones for candles.<sup>1</sup> Both the Baptist and the Methodist churches had galleries in which the negroes sat.

The division which arose in the Methodist Church on the question of the right of one of its bishops to hold slaves led to the secession of a number of the members of the Clarksburg congregation in order to organize a Methodist Episcopal Church South. In some cases families were divided, the father and a part of the sons and daughters remaining in the older church while the mother and the other members of the family found a church home in the new organization.

After 1853 this congregation had regular preaching services held at first in the Baptist Church and later in the courthouse. The Rev. S. H. Mullian was pastor in 1853. A church was erected in 1857 almost exactly where the present one stands during the ministry of the Rev. S. K. Vaught. During the Civil War this church was used as a hospital, and the congregation was broken up and scattered; but the church was restored and its membership gathered together again by the Rev. S. Wade at the close of that unhappy period.

A Presbyterian Church was organized in Clarksburg October 10, 1829 by the Rev. Asa Brooks together with the elders from the French Creek Church. Thirteen persons presented letters from other churches and five others were received into membership on this occasion. The erection of a church was begun in 1834 on the site of the present

1. Samuel Butters' Memorandum.

church. Very little money was subscribed, but the old subscription paper shows that the community gave generously in goods and services. There are many entries of this nature such as the following:

Daniel Wilson 10 sheep; Waldo P. Goff \$20.00 in goods; and various other persons "\$5 in blacksmithing," "3 bushels of corn," or "\$2 in shingles." Robert Wilson of Green County, Pennsylvania agreed to make 80,000 brick at seventy-five cents a thousand, \$50 of the bill to be paid in money and the rest in goods. The pastor, the Rev. Asa Brooks, died before the building was completed and was buried under the pulpit in which he had hoped to preach.

As in the Methodist Church the slavery question led to a division. The Central Presbyterian Church representing the Southern Presbyterian denomination resulted from this unfortunate schism.

In 1821 the Rev. William F. Lee was sent as the first Episcopal clergyman to the territory then known as Western Virginia. He came directly to Clarksburg and preached repeatedly, but an organization was not effected at that time. In 1834, however, Bishop Meade after personally visiting the field sent the Rev. William Ward to take charge of the work. Mr. Ward lived in the home of Mr. Trapnell until the latter's death after which he abode with Richard Despard, a devoted friend of the church. The Rev. Ward left the town in 1837 and the Rev. James H. McMechen became rector in 1840. Mr. McMechen at his

own cost provided a house to serve for church service and also for school. This building was located on the north side of Pike Street. The membership of the church was very small in those early days. In 1852 when the Rev. R. A. Castleman came to take charge of the work he found only thirteen members. But he, nothing daunted, immediately began the erection of a church which was completed in 1855. This building is still a monument to his energy as well as his good taste. Mr. Castleman went into the woods and selected the timber, supervised the sawing of it and graded the walnut for the pews and interior woodwork. The lot on which the church stands was donated by Burton Despard.

Clarksburg Catholics had no permanent parish organization before 1864, and owned no property except a graveyard donated by James M. Jackson. Mass was celebrated monthly, however, first in the home of Mrs. Ann McCauley, later in the home of James Clifford by the Rev. Dennis Brennan from Weston.

An account of the churches of Clarksburg would not be complete without a mention of the traveling preachers who visited Clarksburg, and the campmeetings which the Methodists held each year. One of the most famous of the itinerant ministers was Lorenzo Dow. His coming was the occasion each time of a gathering of the people for miles around to hear him preach. On one occasion the courthouse was crowded so much that he, followed by the whole congregation, marched solemnly through the streets to a grove on the west side of the river to hold services. When

the crowds were large barns were frequently used as places of worship. Bishop Asbury in his journal mentions his having preached in a barn belonging to Daniel Davisson.

The preacher, however, who could draw the largest crowds at camp meetings and revivals in general was the Rev. Samuel Clawson. He preached the doctrine of eternal damnation and pictured the future punishment of the wicked in such vivid terms that even the rough element of Clarksburg for a time at least after his visit grew decent. Mr. Clawson never remained long in one place. His parting remark was usually that he had "another half acre of hell to grub out" in the community to which he was going.

The campmeetings supplied the double purpose of religious instruction and social enjoyment. They lasted from one to two weeks during which the families shut up their homes and lived in tents and shacks on the camp ground. Great quantities of food was prepared and taken to the grounds and further cooking was carried on at huge camp fires. Three services were held each day and between times the people enjoyed a social intercourse not possible during the labors of the rest of the year.

Clarksburg had from its earliest settlement a strong interest in education. Its first schools were of the "Old Field School" type. They were held in log cabins whose only furniture consisted of a home made desk for the teacher and slabs with pins driven into them for legs to serve as seats for the pupils. An open space between the logs was hewed out at one side of the room and

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the space thus formed covered with greased paper to allow the light to fall on a board supported by pins driven into the wall. This board supplied a place for the larger pupils to learn to write with the quill pens made by the teachers. The books used were Webster's Spelling book and the Testament, and the branches taught, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

A higher grade of school was added by the action of the Virginia Assembly in 1785. An academy to be known as "Randolph Academy" was authorized to be located in northwestern Virginia. As a preparatory school for William and Mary College. Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison and Governor Edmund Randolph, and Ebenezer Zane were appointed trustees. These trustees appointed a committee composed of citizens of the northwestern part of the State to decide upon the location of the school. Clarksburg was the place chosen. The institution was to be supported by an allowance of one-sixth of the surveyor's fees collected in the counties of northwestern Virginia. The trustees were in 1787 authorized to hold a lottery to raise the additional sum of \$1,000 for the academy. James Madison and John Mason took places on the board of trustees in this year, and a course of study including Latin, Hebrew, Greek and "the Sciences" was prescribed.

The trustees lived far away and little was accomplished until a local board was appointed in 1788. This body after many delays erected a frame building 36 by 20 feet near the place where the Junior High School now stands.

The academy was opened in 1795 with the Rev. George Towers a graduate of Oxford, England in charge at the princely salary of \$250 per year. After the death of Mr. Towers in 1817, the principalship of the school changed frequently. Alexander Wither became the head of the school in 1830 and J. S. Horner took charge in 1834.<sup>1</sup>

Instructions given to the Rev. Towers by Benjamin Wilson on behalf of the trustees in 1799 clearly indicate that the students of this institution were not models of behavior. His attention is called to the evils of the town "as well without the Seminary as within viz: the wilful breach of the Sabbath day, lying, cursing, swearing, quarreling, frequenting taverns of still houses by night or day, and in particular the infamous ill of gaming together with ills not enumerated."<sup>2</sup> Punishment for such offenses were to be for the first offense admonition by Mr. Towers; for the second, admonition by the trustees; and for the third offense trial and expulsion by the trustees.

The Northwestern Academy was built in 1843 on the same lot just west of the Randolph Academy. The building was financed by private subscription, but was turned over to the Methodist Episcopal Conference for a school. The Rev. Gordon Battelle was the first Principal and Alexander Martin the second. R. A. Arthur followed the Rev. Martin as head of the institution. An advertisement of the school mentions the rate of tuition as being \$5 to \$12 for the term of twenty-two weeks. It also calls attention to the

1. Old letters in the State Department of Archives.  
 2. Minutes of the Randolph Academy.

fact that students may use the second story of the academy for "self board," and states that all necessary expenses above tuition need not exceed fifty cents per week.<sup>1</sup>

The Northwestern Academy came to an end by the action of the national government. Shortly after the beginning of the Civil War the building was taken over for a prison and barracks.

Coexistent with the Northwestern Academy during its later years were two other schools which also drew pupils from distant communities. The Clarksburg Institute was in charge of the Rev. E. Quillin, pastor of the Presbyterian Church from 1838 till about 1859. This school offered according to its advertisements, "facilities for English and classical education." The Clarksburg Female Seminary founded in 1842 was also under church control. Its head was the Rev. James H. McMechen, rector of the Episcopal Church. The objects which this school set for attainment were scholarship, piety, and amiable disposition. The Episcopal Church also conducted a school for boys. The lads were taught by Joseph W. Browning.

Numerous other private schools testified to Clarksburg's interest in education. Miss Margaret Stein taught a school which corresponded very nearly in its subjects and scope to the high school of the present. The Misses Phoebe and Isabella Davisson conducted schools in which the former was celebrated for her sweetness of disposition and the latter for her rigid discipline. Mrs. Ann Hugill was also a terror to truants for when a boy was absent from school she invariably visited his family in the even-

<sup>1</sup> The Harrison Republican, October 4, 1844.

ing to find out the cause. If he had no excuse she after enjoying tea with the family gave him a sound whipping in the presence of his parents.

All these schools were open during ten months of the year. A fund for the education of the poor gave even the most destitute an opportunity to learn to read and to write at the very least. But many were too proud to take advantage of the provisions of this law and Clarksburg in common with the other communities of the State felt the need of a free school system.

The Educational Convention held in 1841 at Clarksburg was a recognition of this need. Representatives from nineteen counties met September 8 in the Presbyterian Church to formulate plans to induce the General Assembly of the State to establish a more liberal and efficient common school system. The convention lasted three days during which papers were read and addresses made. George Hay Lee was the presiding officer. Reporters from the newspapers were invited to be present so as to give as much publicity as possible to the movement.

Clarksburg's from about 1828 on had a continuous line of newspapers, and before that date there had been a number published for short periods. Luther Haymond gives the following list of newspapers published in Clarksburg before 1860.<sup>1</sup> The date attached is that of the copy or copies of the paper examined.

1815 The Bystander  
 1816 The Western Virginian  
 1817 The Republican Compiler  
 1819 The Independent Virginian

1. Haymond's History of Harrison County.

1822 The Clarksburg Gazette  
 1822 The Rattlesnake  
 1823 The Clarksburg Intelligencer  
 1824 The Independent Virginian  
 1829 The Clarksburg Enquirer  
 1832 The Western Enquirer  
 1835 The Countryman  
 1840 The Clarksburg Democrat  
 1840 The Tippecanoe Flag  
 1840 The Clarksburg Whig  
 1844 The Scion of Democracy  
 1845 The Harrison Republican  
 1855 The Age of Progress  
 1856 The Clarksburg Register

A copy of the first paper issued in Clarksburg bearing the date of Nov. 4, 1815 gives the whole number of the issue as 149. This indicates that the paper had been started in 1811. The name was spelled Bye Stander and the publishers were A. and F. Britton. Two interesting articles in this copy of the Bye Stander are a communication concerning the proposed diversion of the waters of the Buckhannon River into Elk Creek, and Bonaparte's protest against his transportation to St. Helena.

The Clarksburg Intelligencer for September 28, 1826 calls for a general muster of the Volunteer Rifle Company, Captain Eli Marsh, and also for a meeting of the Stockholders of the Saline Bank. Alexander G. M'Rae was its editor.

The full title of the Clarksburg Enquirer in 1829 was "The Clarksburg Enquirer and Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Lewis, Wood, Mason, and Tyler Counties' Advertiser." Joseph Israel was the editor of this paper. In the issue of October 4, 1829 he advertised for an apprentice "from the country." This apprentice must not have liked the trade for Jan. 8, 1830 the following notice

appeared: "Ran away from the subscriber in the latter part of December last an idented apprentice to the printing business named J. W. Mitchell about 18 yrs. of age 5-10 high, fair complexion and slender made had on new broadcloth blue Coat, dark cassinet Pants and a white Hat. Any one who will harbor or employ said Apprentice will be dealt with according to law. \$5 reward given if taken in this county and delivered to me, or \$20 if taken out of this county and secured in the county were taken.  
Joseph Israel"

In the issue dated October 5, 1830 the following notice appears:

"The Ladies and Gentlemen of Clarksburg who are favorable to the formation of a Sunday School in this town are respectfully requested to meet in the Methodist Church on Thursday next." The same issue announces the organization of a Bible Society.

In the issue of the Enquirer June 13, 1831, an advertisement dated March 14, of the proposed publication by subscription of Border Warfare to contain three or four hundred pages to be put to press in May and delivered to the subscribers by October 1, 1831. Israel printed this edition in his printing office in Clarksburg, but did not complete the work by the date set.

The Harrison Whig of Sept. 6, 1840 mentions the contract for a new jail. The closer connection of Clarksburg with the East is reflected in the advertisement of the Washington Inn located at Winchester.

This paper had been preceded by the short-lived Tip-

pecanoe Flag, a Whig paper which boasted in the issue of March 16, 1840 of having seven hundred subscribers, but which lasted only a few months. Of the Harrison Republican which succeeded the Harrison Whig in 1843 the Richmond Compiler said in commenting on its first issue: "It cast its fortunes and hopes in a region where Democrats are as thick as autumn leaves so that if it does not make converts it will not be for the want of men who ought in its opinion to be converted." This paper was edited by R. Robert A. Sommerville who announced obligingly in his first issue that he would take wood in payment of subscriptions. It was a four-page paper that in everything but local news compares favorably with village newspapers of the present day.

The issue of April 29, 1844 prints an advertisement which reads as follows: Pioneer Line of Stages--Green Spring Valley--B&O. Stage leaves Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after the arrival of cars from Baltimore via Romney. Clarksburg in one day. In the issue of June 28, 1844 the following significant statement is made: "Neither liquor nor partizan or political toasts will be allowed at the Fourth of July Celebration."

The advertisements are very well written. November 15, 1844 A. F. Barnes has the following characteristic announcement:

Variety's the Spice of Life

Nail, nutmegs, powder, snuff, sugar, lead, tobacco, coffee, shot, tar, molasses, white lead, crackers, wine, brandy, temperance cook books, looking glasses, padlocks, razors,

ropes, curry combs, penknives, window glass, soaps, kid gloves, turpentine, sewing silk, boots, buckets, brooms, knives and forks, etc. etc. for sale by A. F. Barnes.

The Clarksburg Democrat first appeared during the campaign of 1848. It mentions the progress on the Clarksburg and Buckhannon Pike in the issue for Dec. 1, 1848. Dr. Dolbeare was the editor of the "Democrat."

The Age of Progress was the official "Know Nothing" newspaper. It was edited by Philip F. Crichfield in 1855.

Among the earlier newspapers the Rattlesnake was especially clever. The following anecdote from this paper is given by Haymond.

The hill of Pinnickinnick was in the early day noted for the number of rattlesnakes inhabiting it, and one day when the old mother rattlesnake returned to her den, the young snakes eagerly told her that a great party of young ladies and gentlemen from Clarksburg had been spending the day on the hill holding a picnic, laughing, talking, playing the fiddle, dancing and having a great time generally.

The old mother snake listened to her children's account of the day's doings and in a solemn manner said, "My children, when the Clarksburg people come up on our hill and invade our home it is time for the snakes to leave and go further back in the woods." And the editor stated that from that day to this no rattlesnake had been seen on Pinnickinnick.

CHAPTER VI.

LIFE IN CLARKSBURG 1850-1860

Clarksburg was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature passed March 15, 1849. The voters of the town were given the power to elect viva voce the first Monday in May seven freeholders to serve as trustees for one year.

The boundary was given in the Act as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Elk Creek thence running up the same to the mouth of a small drain a few rods below the North Western Turnpike Bridge on the land of James M. Jackson, thence due East one hundred rods to a stake; thence due South to Elk Creek, thence down the same to a point in said Creek lying due West from a certain spring known as the Monticello Spring on the land of John Stealey; thence due west to the West Fork of the Monongahela River and thence down the same to the mouth of Elk Creek to the beginning.

The newly incorporated town had probably a thousand inhabitants, of which almost one-fourth were negroes. Clarksburg had grown very little since 1835 when it was said to have had one hundred houses and seven hundred people of whom twenty were attorneys and four regular physicians.<sup>1</sup>

The streets of the town were with the exception of Pike Street very bad, and attempts to extend other thoroughfares besides Main and Pike met with much opposition from the owners of property taken for this purpose. Mechanic

Street was crossed by a foot log at South Third Street,

1. Gazetteer of Virginia by Joseph Martin; 1835

and Trader's Alley had a pond between Third and Fourth Streets popularly known as "Lake Erie." An ordinance passed by the new town government forbid hogs to wander at will and "Pig Tail Alley" took on new dignity as Lee Street.

There were but few good buildings in the town in 1850. Thirteen log houses were yet standing. East of the Creek the Despard and Jacksons lived in elegant homes, and near the center of the town rose the colonial mansion of Waldo P. Goff. Far to the west Judge Gideon Camden had built a mansion high on a hill which was terraced to the street below. The courthouse, jail, North Western Academy building, four churches and four taverns with a number of frame dwellings made up the town.

On the night of May 10, 1851 all the buildings on the north side of Main Street from Third more than half way to Fourth burned, and November 12, of the same year the most of the buildings on the south side of the street from Second Street to the courthouse were also destroyed by fire. It was positively known that both fires had been caused purposely and all Clarksburg felt relieved when the fear of discovery led one of the young criminals to confess. All three young men implicated in the affair were from prominent families and could give no reason for their action. The prejudice against foreigners which was so strong all over the country at that time led to the fixing of the charge of planning the fire upon a French artist named Jaques and his wife. But after keeping them in jail for several months the Court released them because of

the lack of evidence of their guilt. The young men had set fire to the buildings by means of balls of tow saturated in turpentine which they ignited and tossed on the shingle roofs. Better buildings slowly took the place of those burned.

The following year, 1852, a flood carried away the bridges which gave access to the town and for a time "Daddy" Eib did a flourishing business at his ferry across the river near the street now named Ferry Street. An epidemic of smallpox and the death of several members of one family from Asiatic cholera completed the disasters of the town during the first few years of the decade.

The people of the town, J.H. Dis Debar a young Frenchman who visited Clarksburg shortly before this time described as "a somewhat exclusive, conservative set with all the traditions and social prejudices which pertain to an ancient and moss-grown aristocratic town with pretensions by common consent founded upon antiquity of pedigree and supreme culture and manners." This set was noted for its hospitality and social gatherings. Many formal balls were given at the hotels and also in the courthouse. During the sessions of United States Court the social season reached its height in the great ball given each time at the Carder Hotel. Formal parties were given frequently by the richer people of the town in their own homes. Written invitations to these parties were carried in a basket by a slave from door to door and the friends of the family each picked out his own invitation. The darkey did not know how to read, but did know where all "the quality"

lived and of course no one else would receive an invitation.

There were beside this society set many people in Clarksburg whose consciences and church rules forbid their indulging in any social gatherings aside from church festivals, singing schools, and temperance lectures. The churches would be crowded with these people, moreover, to hear the ministers of the town argue on the particular doctrines of the various churches; such as predestination, immersion, and free-will. On these occasions one minister presented his views on the doctrine which he himself held and this presentation was answered by a minister of a different belief. During the winter, revival services called "protracted meetings", sometimes lasted for six weeks, and during this time it was thought improper for any social function of any kind to be held.

The care-free existence of a considerable number of Clarksburg's families was due largely to the existence of slavery. Though slaves were not so numerous as in the eastern part of the state, Clarksburg always had a goodly number. The most of these were employed in domestic service and in day labor. They were kindly treated and many of the older ones called "Uncle" and "Aunt" with mingled respect and affection.

Uncle Frank Sehon who lived until long after the Civil War had been owned by Daniel Davisson. Uncle Ben Dempsey who had belonged to Dr. Williams always had a crowd of children around him to listen to his stories. An abolitionist in the town persuaded Uncle Ben to try to run away

to Canada. He had, after hiding in the woods three days, made his way almost to Salem when some one met him and called him by name. "Lawd bress my soul who knows dis nigger 'way out here in Canady?" he exclaimed. Upon finding that he was still near home he went back to the delight of all the children of the town. Aunt Rosa shouted and prayed as she walked up the street from the river with a tub of water poised on her head which she was carrying to her quarters for laundry purposes. Uncle Watt belonged to Judge Lee and such was his courtly manners and his fine appearance clad in his master's cast off broadcloth that he was frequently called "the black judge."

Yet another race contributed a last surviving member to the population of the Clarksburg of this period. "Linn" was a full blooded Shawnee Indian abandoned by a strolling party who had left her a tiny infant in a barn early in the century. A kind family had tried to rear her in civilized and Christian ways but all in vain. When grown she yet preferred to wander from place to place working here today and miles away tomorrow. Poor Linn died of smallpox alone in the woods.

Over this dreamy old town with its indifference to civic improvement, and its interesting contrasts of worldliness and puritanism, and wealth and poverty, the war cloud hovered and threatened all during the closing years of the decade. Though the anti-slavery advocates outnumbered the slave holders the latter were richer and more influential in many instances. Speeches for and against

the extension of slavery were made in the courthouse in 1858. Life long friends quarreled and two prominent old gentlemen, both grandfathers and church officials, beat each other over the head with their canes in Lowndes' Store. Churches and Sunday Schools divided and pro-slavery parents refused to send their children to school to a "Yankee" teacher. Meanwhile the Harrison Rifles drilled on with their flint-lock muskets in preparation for the conflict in which some of its number were to fight and fall on the one side and some on the other. And the year 1860 found Clarksburg roused from her Rip Van Winkle sleep ready to play her part in the rapidly approaching conflict.