

Ballard Preston Petrey

Ballard Preston Petrey (April 2, 1845 at Pettry in Mercer Co.-Feb. 2, 1930 Raleigh Co., Dry Creek, WV) was the son of William Lacy and Mary "Polly" (Christian) Petry. William Lacy Petry was the son of James and Mary (Lacy) Petry. Mary "Polly" Christian was the daughter of Elizabeth Christian who had a brother named John H. Christian. James and Mary Petry are buried in the Petry Cemetery at the intersection of Glen Lynn Road and Bent Mountain Road about three miles east of Concord Church, now Athens, WV. This intersection is called "Pettry", a misspelling of the local "Pettrey" surname by the US Post Office Department. The Petry family surname is spelled many ways by different members in Europe (Germany) and USA. The Petry surname is often spelled; Pettry, Petrey, Petrie, Pettrey, ect, always having an "r" after the "t". Ballard was named after an old Indian fighter, William Ballard Preston, and at Dry Creek, WV he was often called "Uncle Bal".



Burton & Effie (Pettry) Peters, John Roscoe & Lessie (Pettry) Meadows, Ivory Mae (Pettry) Massey, Mary Bensie Gunnoe
Tacy Faye Gunnoe - Dora Hester Pettry
Nancy "Nan", Georgia, Orville & Tracie Gunnoe - Ardellia, Ballard & Ben Petrey
Ballard Preston "Uncle Bal" and Ardellia "Deliah" (Pettry) Petrey,
in front of their home on Sturgeon Fork, Dry Creek, WV. ~1922

More identification data on those in the above photo.

James Burton Peters	s/o Daniel & Margaret J. Peters h/o Effie Pettry
Effie Pettry	d/o William Lacy & Laken Erie (Jarrell) Pettry w/o #1 James Burton Peters, #2 Bryon J. "Burney" Cooper
John Roscoe Meadows	s/o William & Amanda (Asbury) Meadows h/o Leslie "Lessie" (Pettry) Meadows
Leslie "Lessie" Pettry	d/o William Lacy & Laken Erie (Jarrell) Pettry w/o John Roscoe Meadows
Ivory Mae Pettry	d/o Nancy Jane "Nan" Pettry w/o James Allen Massey
Mary Bensie Gunnoe	d/o Oatie & Nancy Jane "Nan" (Pettry) Gunnoe w/o Clayton Homer Williams
Tacy Faye "Tassie" Gunnoe	d/o Oatie & Nancy Jane "Nan" (Pettry) Gunnoe w/o #1 Ballard Shumate Christian, #2 George Thomas Bradford
Dora Hester Pettry	d/o William Lacy & Laken Erie (Jarrell) Pettry w/o William Sheridan Bone
Nancy Jane "Nan" Pettry	d/o Ballard Preston & Ardellia (Pettry) Petrey w/o Oatie "Oattie" Gunnoe
Georgia Katherine Gunnoe	d/o Oatie & Nancy Jane "Nan" (Pettry) Gunnoe w/o Thomas Woodall Skaggs.
Oliver Lee Gunnoe	s/o Oatie & Nancy Jane "Nan" (Pettry) Gunnoe h/o Daisy Dorothy Richardson
Tracie Gunnoe	d/o Oatie & Nancy Jane "Nan" (Pettry) Gunnoe
Benjamin Franklin "Ben" Pettry	s/o Ballard Preston "Uncle Bal" & Ardellia "Deliah" (Pettry) Petrey

Ballard was impressed on Aug. 9, 1863 into the 23rd Battery, Va. Infantry Co. G, CSA, at the age of 18 and deserted a few times. He served some military prison time for the desertions and deserted again on May 5, 1864. He and an in-law deserter, George W. Pennington, was recaptured by the Home Guard, turned over to Confederate Soldiers and escaped while being escorted to Richmond to be hanged. Escaping, they killed some of their Confederate pursuers and Ballard joined (Aug. 7, 1864 to April 20, 1865) Captain Benjamin Franklin Ballard's Co., W.Va. State Troops as an independent scout in Monroe Co. near Concord Church (Athens, W.Va.) area. The newly formed W.Va. State Government formed the W.Va. State Troops to try and control the Union and Confederate Home Guards who were terrorizing local population. Ballard was described as 5'-9" tall, light complexion, blue eyes and light hair. Ballard was shot in the leg during a small skirmish with the local Confederate Home Guardsmen. Ella Pettry, his cousin and sister in-law, often claimed he was shot in his leg while stealing a horse. Ballard is credited with killing Confederate Home Guardsmen Andrew Jackson Gunnoe on Aug. 14, 1864 on Craney Creek in

Wyoming County and James Thompson on May 23, 1865 on Laurel Creek in Monroe [now Mercer] County, for their actions against Union soldiers and their families during the Civil War.

Ballard married (May 30, 1865) #1 Elvira Walker Lane (b.1847 Mercer Co.) in Kanawha County and she died while giving/or shortly after the birth of their son, Green Lee (June 7, 1865-Feb. 28, 1942). After his wife's death he married (Dec. 28, 1866) his cousin, #2 Ardellia Pettry (April 2, 1847 Monroe Co.-April 24, 1933 Dry Creek), the daughter of Nancy Avner Pettry (March 13, 1823-March 8, 1905) and Green Gore (1816--Feb. 26, 1863). Nancy A. Pettry later married (July 21, 1866) James Crusenbury "Berry" Anderson. Because of continuous harassment and threats on his life by Confederate neighbors, Ballard and his wife moved from the Athens-Pipestem area of Mercer County to Marsh Fork of Big Coal River area of Raleigh County about 1871 living on Sturgeon Fork, Dry Creek, WV. Here they raised their family of 10 children and both are buried, as most of their children and their spouses, in the Pettry Cemetery at Dry Creek.



Ballard Preston Petrey, USA
Pettry Cemetery, Dry Creek, WV



Cousin John Petry, CSA
Pettry-Cook Cemetery, River Ridge, WV

Ballard's Union headstone reads; "B.P. Petrey Ballard's Co. W.Va. State Troops". Union headstones have slightly rounded tops and Confederate headstones have a slightly pointed peak at their tops. Confederates claim that if you sat on their headstones, the pointed peak will give you a pain in your ass.

Ballard and Elvira's son:

Green Lee	married	#1 Mrs. Sarah (Walker) Williams
		#2 Melinda Esteline Marks (Miricks)

Ballard and Ardellia's children are:

William Lacy	married	#1 Laken Erie Jarrell #2 Luemma Clay
Robert W. "Bob"	married	Luemma F. (Massey-Meadows) McBrayer
James Allen	married	Louisa Anna Alabama "Being" Marks (Miricks)
Anderson Ballard "Buck"	married	Ida Mae Massey
Benjamin Franklin "Ben"	never married	(1877-1949)
Nancy Jane "Nan"	married	Oatie "Oattie" Gunnoe
Mary Elizabeth	married	Jessie Crockett Pettry
Henry Clifton	married	Audrey Pettry
Walter, twin to Clifton	never married	(1885-1953)

Note: The German family "Miricks" changed their family surname to "Marks". All of Ballard and Ardellia's children used the surname spelling "Pettry".

Ballard and Ardellia gave Ardellia's half sister, Ella Pettry, 4.29 acres of their farm with a house on it on October 18, 1913 for \$1.00 and other considerations. He and Ardellia signed the deed with their mark (X) because they could not read or write. This parcel of land is located on the left hand side of Sturgeon Fork on Dry Creek. In the deed, Ballard and Ardellia, stated that a cemetery plot [Pettry Cemetery] was already started by Dorcas Wilson (Abbott) Byrnside, with her infancy daughter Martha, who died Sept.17, 1870. Ballard's farm was originally part of Andrew Smith and Dorcas Wilson (Abbott) Byrnside's 400-acre farm that they had bought from Wilson Smith Abbott. Wilson S. Abbott had laid claim to the whole of Dry Creek in 1838. Wilson S. Abbott was Deputy Sheriff and tax collector before and during the first part of the Civil War in this area, which was then part of Fayette County. Wilson and his wife Mary (Keatley) Abbott are buried in the Cooper-Bone Cemetery on Dry Creek. Ella Pettry's 4.29-acre property now belongs to her G-G-Grandson, Charles Stanley Pettry, II.



Half-sisters Ardellia P. Petrey and Ella Pettry.
Dorcas Wilson (Abbott) Byrnside.
Dry Creek, WV



James Crusenbury “Berry” and Nancy Avner (Pettry) Anderson
 ~1898 Dry Creek, WV
 Both are buried on a knoll across Coal River from Charlie Jarrell’s store
 at the mouth of Dry Creek.

Ardellia's father, Green Gore (1814-Feb. 26, 1863), was the son of Robert and Tomsey (Jarrell) Gore. Before Green’s parents moved to Boone Co., on April 4, 1840 they gave him 217 acres of land on Island Creek in the Pipestem area of Mercer County, W.Va. Two years later, Green began raising a family by his negro slave, Sarah, and by 1850 had four children by her. In 1847 he fathered, Ardellia, by Nancy Avner Pettry, the only known white child of Green Gore. Green Gore and the Gore families in the US are well and expertly documented by James L. Gore for any researcher who has a Gore connection. The 1860 Census has Green owning 22 slaves, most of which were his children (mulatto) by Sarah and slave Margaret. At this time he was considered to be the fourth-wealthiest man in Mercer County. When Green died, he had ten children by Sarah, two children by Margaret, and Ardellia, by Nancy Avner Pettry and possibility more. The 1860 census list Ardellia at the home of Green Gore. I was told at a Pipestem Reunion on River Ridge, in Summers Co., that Green Gore had twins and another child died at birth. James L. Gore list Green Gore's known children names as:

by Sarah	Jacob H. Gore	married	Sarah Jane Gore
by Sarah	William A. Gore	married	Caroline M. Jones
by Nancy A. Pettry	Ardellia Pettry	married	Ballard Preston Petrey
by Sarah	Madison Floyd Gore	married	#1 Caroline Gore
			#2 Sarah Elizabeth Burke
by Sarah	Martha Louise Gore	never married,	had 5 children

by Margaret	Clara Jane Gore	married	James Turley Gore
by Sarah	Jeremiah Gore	never married	
by Sarah	Levi Gore	married	#1 _____ #2 Harrett Jennings
by Sarah	Catherine Gore	married	#1 Willis Gore #2 Dennis Haynes
by Margaret	Angelina Gore	married	James Mdenay Davidson
by Sarah	James Gore	never married	
by Sarah	John Henry Gore	married	#1 Christine Davidson #2 Mary Hale
by Sarah	Manerva Jane Gore	married	John C. Gore



Jacob and Celia (Gore) Petry
Edwight, WV

THE KILLING OF ANDREW J. GUNNOE

as told to me by my father, Dewey Pettry, and great-aunt Lula Faye (Pettry) Acord, who
heard it from Ballard Preston Petrey

-James R. Pettry-

Andrew Jackson Gunnoe, a southern sympathizer, did not join in the fight as a soldier at the beginning of the Civil War. It may have been because of his age [42 years old at the beginning of the Civil War, but joined the CSA regular army as a Lieutenant on May 18, 1863 and was wounded on May 9, 1864 at Cloyd's Mountain]. Gunnoe, Captain and leader of the ruthless Wyoming Co. Confederate Home Guard and his sons, terrorized the families of men that had joined the Union Army in Summers, Mercer, Monroe, Wyoming, Raleigh and Boone Counties. Roaming this area, they stole hogs, cows, and horses at their leisure while the men were away in the Army. Gunnoe and his men would also shanghai men and turn them over to the Confederate Army for compulsory service. Union soldiers' home on leave were subjected to being shot from ambush (bushwhacking), captured and turned over to the Confederate Army as prisoners

of war, or captured and shot while trying to "escape". He and his men would also enter the homes of Union sympathizers and steal clothes and household articles. Granny Sarah Webb, who lived on Peach Tree Hollow's Cherry Pond Fork, had her feather ticks (mattresses) dragged out of the house and after cutting them open; Gunnoe shook them in the wind looking for money. Andrew J. Gunnoe was ruthless and just plain mean as hell.

Upon hearing of Andrew Gunnoe's terrorist acts from their families, 1st Lt. Jacob Webb asked for leave to return to kill him. Lt. Webb had received word that Gunnoe was home on military furlough. His Commanding Officer, Captain Fletcher C. Lanham, was told that he was going home to kill Gunnoe with or without his permission, but he would return to his command if he was granted furlough. This was in early August 1864.

The Lt. Jacob Webb was from the 7th W.Va. Cavalry, Co. H, and Granny Webb's son. Lt. Webb secured the help of Ballard Preston Petrey, _____ Milan, and George W. Pennington. Lt. Webb and Ballard Petrey had brothers serving in the Confederate Army. While home, they were very visible, attending church and visiting friends for about four days. During this time, Andrew Gunnoe went into hiding. On an appointed day, they met as a group and marched away as if returning to their command in the Shenandoah Valley near Waynesboro, Virginia. They went as far as Clover Bottom on the Bluestone River before stopping to wait for dark. After dark, they returned and stationed themselves in the woods around Gunnoe's cabin, which was located in a clearing. Gunnoe lived on Craney Creek in Wyoming County, WV. Andrew and his brother, John H. Gunnoe jointly owned ~1400 acres on Pond Fork in Logan County. In 1847, John's part was in Boone County when it was formed. In 1850, Andrew's part was in Wyoming County when it was formed. Joining Lt. Webb, Petrey, Pennington and Milan were Pemberton Cook and his son Perry, who had been enlisted to help kill Andrew Gunnoe. All had deep personal hate and reasons to kill Andrew J. Gunnoe.

As the sun came up, Gunnoe's son, John William Gunnoe, came out of the back door of the cabin and gathered an arm full of stove wood before returning inside. Smoke from the chimney gave evidence that breakfast was cooking. Short time later, Gunnoe's dogs began to bark sounding the alarm alerting him of the presence of men stationed in the woods behind the cabin. About 20 minutes later, Gunnoe and John bolted out the front door and ran up a path to the forest. Gunnoe's cabin sat in a clearing with farm fields about. Gunnoe had on a coat with a single large white button, fashioned from a clamshell, holding the coat together in the center of his chest. He was carrying a rifle in one hand and a piece of sweet cake in the other. The "cake" was molasses sweeten corn bread made with a mixture of flour and corn meal laced with applesauce. This was in the morning of August 14, 1864.

Lt. Webb, Milan, Pemberton and Perry Cook and others had stationed themselves at the back of the cabin. They thought Gunnoe would try to escape into the woods from the back entrance of the cabin, which was only about 50 yards away.

Petrey and Pennington were stationed in the woods near the path gate in front of the cabin. They agreed to take aim at the white button on Gunnoe's coat and fire as he

drew near. When he was within a few yards of them, they fired, the button disappeared, and Gunnoe fell dead. John, about 18 years old, life was spared only because Lt. Webb rushing to the scene calling out; "For God's sake, spare the boy!" Reverend James Peters [Andrew Gunnoe had shot and killed Rev. Peters' nephew, George Peter Stewart (1810-Oct. 10, 1863) on the road between Oceana and Craney, the son of Capt. Ralph and Mary (Clay) Stewart.] later reported that the bullets had made a single hole large enough to drop a pebble through. Gunnoe's heart was removed, which was often done at that time. John William Gunnoe became a farmer-P preacher. At this time, Ballard Petrey was 19 years old, George Washington Pennington, married to Ballard's aunt Jane, was ~39 years old.

Choosing Sides

In the area of Flat Top where Summers, Mercer, Wyoming and Raleigh Counties join, there were mostly southern sympathizers. People living in the Hinton and the Marsh Fork area of Big Coal River were mostly Union sympathizers. Citizens of Hinton in later years, subdued by southern romantic novels, became wannabe Southerners. Everyone sided with one side or the other for protection, but in reality, people were too busy trying to cope with making a living than being concerned with the "virtues" of the Civil War.

Home Guard

Both the Union and Confederate sympathizers formed Home Guards, and each terrorized the other. Most were opportunists that murdered and stole for their own gain under the banner of the Home Guard.

7th West Virginia Cavalry

Most Union sympathizers joined the 8th Va. Infantry; later it became the 7th W.Va. Infantry. On July 20, 1862, West Virginia's Independence Day, this command became the 7th W.Va. Cavalry.

Andrew Jackson Gunnoe

Andrew J. Gunnoe (1819-Aug. 14, 1864), the son of Daniel H. and Sarah "Sally" (Stewart) Gunnoe, married Mary Pauline "Polly" Canterbury (May 3, 1822-Feb. 27, 1921 house fire with daughter, Amy), the daughter of John and Amy (Stewart) Canterbury. Andrew and Mary are buried in the Gunnoe Cemetery at Carney, Wyoming Co., WV. Andrew and Mary had five children according to the 1850 census. The 1850 census lists the family as:

Andrew Gunnoe	31	farmer	\$500
Polly	29		
Rebecca Jane			
James Anderson	8	married	Hannah Acord

John William	4	married	#1 Sarah M. Webb #2 Juliann Ann (Stewart) Laxton
Sarah Jane	3	married	#1 William P. Wesley #2 George Snuffer
Daniel Henry	1	married	#1 Mary Ella Marshall #2 _____

Other children born after the 1850 census are:

Mathew Ellison		married	Pauline Acord
Amy	1853-Feb. 27, 1921	married	John Hasty Cozort
Andrew	b. March 20, 1854		
Mary Ann		married	Leander Harvey
Nancy		married	Isaac Bailey
Marinda Ellen		married	Crockett David Morgan
Zany "Fanny" (Nov. 9, 1862-Aug. 1, 1892)		married	William Corden Bailey

James Anderson Gunnoe

James A. Gunnoe (July 10, 1841-Jan. 31, 1924) married (July 2, 1869) Hannah Acord, the daughter of James "Zur" and Sarah (Harper) Acord. James was in the Confederate's 45th Va. Battalion, CSA, lost his right leg at the Battle at Cedar Creek and became a Union POW. He was also tried and convicted of killing John Lester and Edley Whitt, who were Union sympathizers. They were shot while in the care of the Confederate Home Guard who claimed they tried to "escape". James spent about 2 years in prison after being convicted but was released by W.Va. Gov. William E. Stevenson. He was the only person to be sent to prison for this type of crime after the Civil War in W.Va. He often stated he was innocent of the crime. He became a schoolteacher and taught in Raleigh and Wyoming Counties, dieing at his daughter Edna's home in Kanawha Co. Known children of James and Hannah are:

Sarah Jane	b. 1870	married	William Lewis Allen
David Lewis	b. 1872	married	Sarah Belle Cozort
William Harrison	July 29, 1873-Feb. 19, 1950		
Mary	May 1876-Dec. 21, 1876		
Matthew Franklin	b. Nov. 15, 1877	married	#1 Rosa Belle Maynor #2 Mary Ethel Thompson
Mahala Catherine Crock	Mar.16, 1879-June 28, 1948 d. Aug. 15, 1881	married	William Johnson Lamb
Bertha Azona	1883-1950	married	Lawrence Robertson
Henry Reed	1885-1951	married	Ada Lee Burton
Robert Felex	1886-1964	married	Hazel _____
Ollie	1889-1950	married	Elias Emmett Phipps
Edna	Dec. 27, 1891-Aug. 1, 1950	married	_____ Fields
Homer A.	b. 1895		

Jacob Webb

Jacob Webb, the son of James and Sarah (Gillimore) Webb, was born April 3, 1839 on Pond Fork ("Cherry Pond Mountain" Peach Tree Hollow in Raleigh County) and died Oct. 24, 1908. A water spring can still be seen near where he once lived. He married #1 Mary Emaline Ellison, the daughter of Felix and Mary Sue Ellison, and #2 Clarinda Jane Bailey, the daughter of Leftridge and Arena (Pettry) Bailey. Jacob (18) and Mary Emaline (14) married on July 12, 1857 and they had four children:

James William Riley Twins	married	Mary Greaver died infancy, Dec. 15, 1859
George M.A.	married	Amanda Victoria Clay

Jacob and Clarinda had four children:

Pauline Emaline	married	#1 John Ed Cook #2 Ward Cook
Rosebell	married	William Thomas Bone
Ulysses Stark	married	#1 Nannie Scraggs #2 Eloda Ball
Lou Emma	married	Van Buren Green

Jacob "Jake" Webb enlisted as a private in the Union Army on Oct. 10, 1861 and had been promoted to 1st Lt. when discharged. Jake enlisted in the 8th Regiment, Virginia Infantry, which later became the 7th West Virginia Cavalry, USA. Jacob was in Co. H and was described as 6'-1" tall, fair complexion, hazel eyes, with dark hair. Lt. Webb participated in battles in the Shenandoah Valley and was in the Salem Raid. At Droop Mountain, he fought against his brother, John R. Webb, 63rd Va. Inf. Co. I, CSA.

George Washington Pennington

George W. Pennington (b. 1825), the son of James and Martha Drury (Waddle) Pennington and the brother of Parkinson F. Pennington, born at the base of Bent Mountain in what is now Mercer County, W.Va., was killed (bushwhacked) while fishing in a boat near Bull Falls on New River shortly after the Civil War. Shot from the brush on shore, he fell into the boat and was found the next day near Pack's Ferry at Leatherwood near Hinton, W.Va. His boat had drifted there and beached itself in the brush along the shore. During and after the Civil War, bushwhacking was a common way for a person to settle their grievance. The bushwhacking was most likely connected to the killing of Andrew J. Gunnoe and/or James Thompson. George was married to Jane "Jenny" Petry (b. 1828), the daughter of James and Mary (Lacy) Petry. George and Jane reared Jane's nephew, Henderson French Petry after his parents, Sylvester and Sarah (Abbott) Petry died. Henderson married Albertenia Angelletta Caperton, the daughter of

“Major” Augustus William James and Rachel Kelley (Wiley) Caperton. Henderson was a Confederate soldier and was captured and died in a POW camp at Elmira, NY on 25 July 1864, grave #152. Henderson and Angelletta’s children are:

Grandville	married	Virginia Ann F. Ellison
Allen G.	married	Theresa J. Hatcher

George and Jane’s known children are:

G. Wheeler	married	Wilmouth Cantley
William M.	married	Almeda Farley

Ballard Preston Petrey

Ballard Preston Petrey, the son of William Lacy and Mary “Polly” (Christian) Petrey, was named after the old Indian fighter, William Ballard Preston. Born April 2, 1845 at Pettry, near Athens, in Mercer County, Va./WV, he died on Feb. 2, 1930 at Dry Creek, in Raleigh County, WV. He married #1 Elvira Walker Lane in 1865 and #2 his cousin, Ardellia Pettry on December 26, 1868. Ardellia was the daughter of Green Gore and Nancy Avner Pettry. William Lacy Petrey was the son of James and Mary (Lacy) Petry. Ballard and Elvira had one son, Green Lee (June 7, 1865-Feb. 28, 1942). Elvira either died in childbirth or very soon after. Ballard and Ardellia had at least 9 children, and a large number of their descendants are still living in Marsh Fork of Big Coal River area of Raleigh County spelling their last name like their Coal River cousins, "Pettry". Ballard, Ardellia and most of their children and their spouses are buried in the Pettry Cemetery at Dry Creek, WV. Ballard’s Union headstone: “B.P. Petrey Ballard’s Co. W.Va. State Troops”. The 1880 census lists the family as:

Ballard P. Pettry	35		
Delia	35		
Green Lee	14	married	#1 Mrs. Sarah (Walker) Williams #2 Melinda Estiline Marks (Miricks)
William Lacy	13	married	#1 Laken Erie Jarrell #2 Luemma Clay
Robert W.	11	married	Luemma F. (Massey-Meadows) McBrayer
James Allen	10	married	Louisa Anna Alabama “Being” Marks (Miricks)
Anderson Ballard "Buck"	7	married	Ida Mae Massey
Benjamin Franklin “Ben”	6	never married	(1877-1949)
Nancy Jane “Nan”	1	married	Oatis “Oattie” Gunnoe

Other children born after 1880 are:

Mary Elizabeth	married	Jesse Crockett Pettry
Henry Clifton	married	Audrey Pettry
Walter, twin to Clifton	never married	(1885-1953)

After the killing of George W. Pennington, Ballard and Ardellia moved from Concord Church, now Athens, to Dry Creek in the early 1870s. Both had family and friends, all of which were Union sympathizers, living in the Marsh Fork of Big Coal River area.

Ballard's parents, William Lacy and Mary "Polly" (Christian) Petrey lived in the Pipestem area, but also lived in Kanawha and Boone Counties working in the coalmines before returning to Pipestem at old age. Mary had dementia when old and was being cared for by her son, Dal. While on her way to visit her brother, John H. Christian, she either got lost in the woods or was murdered. When she was found the next year, all that remained was Mary's skeleton, hair comb, bonnet and cape. Both William and Mary are buried in the Petrey Cemetery at the area known as "Petrey" [~3 miles east of Athens past Concord College] in Mercer County, WV.

Petrey and Pennington

Petrey and Pennington, both born near Concord Church (now Athens), were shanghaied by Andrew Gunnoe's Home Guard and were impressed into the Confederate Army. After a few months, they went AWOL and returned home. Gunnoe, with his Home Guard, again captured them and turned them over to six Confederate soldiers. Petrey and Pennington were to be marched to Richmond, stand trial and be hanged for desertion. On the third day of the march, with their hands cuffed behind them, they crossed Cowpasture River and followed Simpson Creek to cross North Mountain in Rockbridge County, Va. Halfway up Simpson Creek, they stopped at the iron works and ate boiled cabbage and potatoes with the ironworkers. The ironworkers were producing low-grade iron (pig iron) for the Confederates and local consumption.

North Mountain, at that time, had been heavily timbered and uncontrollably burned over so many times that all that was left was a heavy growth of small brush and mountain laurel. As the group approached the crest of the mountain, Petrey and Pennington made plans to escape. Two guards were in front of them and four behind, all were walking two abreast. They were afraid of being shot while trying to "escape", and once in Richmond they knew they would be hanged. Their plan was to have one of them break and run to the right through the brush and mountain laurel while the other would break and run to the left. During the escape, each man was "on his own", and if successful, they would meet at a designated place and return home. As they approached the crest of the mountain where highways Interstate 64 and US 60 now cross North Mountain, they made good their escape plan. Returning to Concord Church (Athens, WV) in handcuffs where their families freed them.

The six soldiers returned, hoping with the help of the Home Guard to recapture their prisoners. Hiding out on Bent Mountain in Mercer County, Petrey and Pennington realized the hopelessness of the situation. Armed with a rifle and a pistol each, they slipped up to a roadhouse where the soldiers were sleeping on the dirt floor, and through a window, discharged their weapons into them. They then joined Ballard's Co., W.Va. State Troops USA, created by the newly formed W.Va. State Government, the safest thing they could do.

Pemberton Cooke

Pemberton Cook (1807-Aug. 8, 1885 of dropsy), the son of William and Catherine (Stewart) Cook, married Ruth "Ruthie" Shumate (1805-Aug. 15, 1885), the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Ellison) Shumate. The 1880 census lists them as:

Pemberton Cook	73
Ruth	75

Pemberton "Pem" and Ruth lived on Marsh Fork of Coal River, Raleigh Co., [between Bolt Mountain and Arnett, WV} and may have had more children than listed below:

Andrew L.	Died Dec. 6, 1862 of disease, in the Union Army.	
William Pemberton	married	Melinda Caroline Sarratt
James Perry	married	Julian Ann Sarratt
Louisa Emily	married	Dudley Milam
Rebecca	married	Isaac Quinn Brooks
Mary Jane	married	Dr. James Franklin Webb
Daniel (Died of disease in Union Army)	married	Emily Webb
Betty Elizabeth	married	Leonard Webb
Evaline	married	John C. Stewart

Pem's sons, Andrew and Daniel died of disease while served in the 7th W.Va. Cavalry USA. Leonidas Hamilton Cook, son of William Newton and Fanny (Pinnell) Cook and a nephew of Pem, was blinded from a shot fired from ambush on Peach Tree Creek by Andrew Gunnoe in 1863. Andrew shot him as he was working in his cornfield. Andrew said he thought Leonidas was Pem or Perry Cook when he fired the shot. Leonidas had been captured by the Confederates and sent to POW prison and later paroled. He went home to visit before reporting back to the 7th W.Va. Cavalry, Co. I, USA. Leonidas was 6'-2" tall, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair. He was married to Lurana Webb, daughter of Martin Webb. After the shooting of Leonidas and afraid of retaliation, Andrew joined the 45th Virginia Battalion, Co. "C" CSA on May 18, 1863 as a Lieutenant in an attempt to hide [Getting out of Dodge]. On May 9, 1864, Gunnoe was wounded in the battle at Cloyd's Mountain. Gunnoe had returned home for a short military furlough when the killing occurred.

When a young man, Pem lived in (then Logan Co.) Wyoming County near Andrew Gunnoe. Panther Hollow, in Wyoming County, is named so because of a panther that was killed by Pem and John Logan Cooke with a stick while Pem held it by its tail and could not let it go.

James Perry Cook

James Perry Cook (b.1847), the son of Pemberton and Ruth Cook, married Julian Ann Sarratt, the daughter of John T. and Nancy Sarratt. The 1880 census lists Perry's family as:

James P. Cook	33		
Julian	39		
Flora Ollie	12	married	Rev. John A. Cook
James A.	11		
Nancy Romanzy	10	married	John McGinnis
Ruth Alice	8	married	Parker Honaker
Cordelia "Fannie"	7	married	Jasper Lee Honaker
Elizabeth A.	6	married	L.W. McGraw
Laura Florence	4	married	Oak J. McGraw
Charles Wesley	2	married	Rosa Belle Surratt

_____ ? Milam

I am not sure of Milam's first name but believe it to be Dudley Milam who married Pemberton Cook's daughter, Emily. If this is true, Dudley Milam (1840--Jan.1930) married #1 Louise Emily Cook (b. 1844) and married (July 5, 1899) #2 Parthena Catherine (Phillips) Burlison. Dudley was the son of George and Nancy (McMillion) Milam. Known children of Dudley and Emily are:

James Harrison	b. May 1861	married	Nanny Tolley
Nancy C.	b. Dec. 27, 1866	married	James M. Webb
Ruth	b. Dec. 27, 1866		
Henry Frances I.	b. May 12, 1870		
Sarah Rosetta	b. Mar. 14, 1872	married	James S. Pettry
Margaret J.	b. June 1873		
Lauvenia Elizabeth	b. May 1874		
William	b. Aug. 8, 1875	married	Laura Belle (Pettry) Bone
Lewis M.	b. July 1880	married	Emily Stewart
Ida	b. Dec.13, 1883		
Susan	b. March 1885	married	Sellie Webb

My father knew Ballard Preston Petrey for 30 years and Lula (Pettry) Acord knew Uncle Bal for 36 years, both living near him at Dry Creek, WV. I have read many variations of the killing of Andrew Gunnoe. Some accounts have stated that Pemberton Cook and his son, Perry, were responsible for killing Gunnoe. Pemberton and Perry have stated they did not kill Gunnoe. I have read three different accounts given by Gunnoe/Ball family members, Dr. Goode's account and that of the James Thompson killing in Mercer County. This is the only account I know of that has been given by the party who claim to have done the deed. Somewhere in all of these tales, there may be the correct tale of the killing of Andrew Jackson Gunnoe. One thing was for sure, Gunnoe had made so many enemies with his outrages behavior in the area, that someone sooner or later would have killed him.

The Killing of James Thompson

Captain James Thompson (1810-May 23, 1865), of the Mercer County CSA Home Guard and an ardent Confederate, was bushwhacked and killed on May 23, 1865 for hanging Parkinson F. Pennington (Aug. 15, 1828-Aug. 29, 1861), a Union advocate, from a dogwood tree with a hickory bark rope near Concord Church (Athens, WV) without due process of law. Parkinson, the son of James and Martha Drury (Waddle) Pennington, was married (April 11, 1853) to Moriah E. Rumberg and had children. Union bushwhackers (Captain Benjamin Franklin Ballard's Company, W.Va. State Troops USA, Pennington's father and friends) surrounded Thompson's farm and shot at him as he was running from his barn to the woods with his daughter, Mary Jane, in an attempt to escape. The Bushwhackers shot many times at the fleeing James Thompson, but none struck him or Mary Jane. Ballard Preston Petrey, then 20 years old, was credited with firing the fatal shot as James Thompson reached the forest. Ballard Petrey and Parkinson Pennington's brother, George W. Pennington, are also credited with killing Andrew J. Gunnoe of the Wyoming County's CSA Home Guard on Aug. 14, 1864 in much the same way for the same reason. Thompson's wife, Luce Ann (Allen) and daughter Mary Jane, had gone to the barn to warn him of the Union bushwhackers' presence. Although he was expecting retaliations for his actions against Parkinson Pennington and other Union soldiers and their families during the Civil War, Thompson had momentarily dropped his defenses.

Judge James H. Miller, author of the "History of Summers County, West Virginia", published in 1908, and a Confederate sympathizer, described the incident most correctly in his book as the following:

"James Thompson resided on Lick Creek, in Pipestem District, at the breaking out of the war. He was a man of tremendous size, being a powerful and muscular man physically, and was a captain in the Confederate Army. He was married, having a family of boys and girls. He was an ardent secessionist, and sought to serve out vengeance against those of opposite views in those stirring times. Parkinson Pennington was a Union advocate, and he and Thompson had had some personal differences. Thompson, after the declaration of hostilities, had Pennington arrested, called to his aid some of his neighbors, and some of his family and connections, and after walking a few miles they determined to dispose of Pennington without process of law, and proceeded to court-martial (drumhead) and to hang him by the neck to a dogwood bush until he was dead. This occurred about four miles east of Athens, in Mercer County, then known as Concord Church. The rope used was a piece of hickory bark, taken from a sprout cut on the roadside.

From this execution of Pennington in the early days of the Rebellion until after the close of the war, Captain Thompson kept himself heavily armed, and especially so at his own home, where he could possibly have resisted an attack by his enemies against great odds. Immediately on the close of the war, in 1865, Mr. Thompson was advised by his neighbors and friends to leave the country to avoid a suspected attack by the enemy, until the excitement of war and the killing of Pennington had subsided; but Thompson,

being a brave and fearless man, would not listen to these pleadings and advice, but prepared himself for war, posting pickets on his own farm at such points as seemed necessary for them to observe the approaching enemy. This continued for a short while and up to the time of his death. Those guards for some cause were removed one day, and the approach of some thirty armed men, consisting partly of those attached to the Union cause and partly of men who had emerged from their hiding places at the closing of hostilities, not being observed until they were on the premises, advanced to the house and surrounded it. Thompson being at his stable at the time, was called by his daughter, Mrs. McCorkle, now Mrs. Charles Clark, and secured his weapons to defend himself; but was employed by his good wife and daughter not to shoot or fight, but to make his escape by running away, Thompson, at his wife's request, dropped his gun, and started to make his escape, running down a line of his enemies with his daughter, Mrs. McCorkle, at his side, and as near as possible for her to be to screen her father from bullets, even if it resulted in taking of them into her own body. It was a long run through cleared land; Thompson's house being set in the mist of a considerable clearing. He had succeeded, however, in getting through the first line of guards and apparently out of danger, when he ran upon a mere youth who was posted behind a tree, and who fired point blank into the body of Captain Thompson the fatal shot which killed him instantly. This occurred in the month of May, 1865."

I "believe" James Thompson was the son of James O. (1756-1840) and #2 Elizabeth (Shantafner) Thompson. Charles C. Clark (May 20, 1824-1917), developer of the Saltworks on Lick Creek, married James Thompson's daughters #1 Arthelia (May 10, 1836-May 10, 1876) and on April 13, 1884 married, #2 Mrs. Mary Jane (Thompson) McCorkle (1839-1906). Mary Jane had two sons from her first marriage and they are: James and John T. McCorkle. Most are buried on the ol' James Thompson farm on Little Island Creek in Mercer Co. WV. This farm is now owned by the heirs of J.B. Eads and is often call the Clark Cemetery near Elgood, and is in much disarray by trampling of cattle and horses. All headstones have falling. Capt. Robert Gore, Company D, 17th Virginia Calvary, CSA (Aug. 15, 1825-Apr. 7, 1876), noted for his heroic action at Gettysburg, is buried here as is his wife, Mary Elizabeth A. Thompson (Mar. 13, 1835-Mar. 17, 1876), another daughter of James Thompson.

I have recently heard that James Thompson is the son of Linus and Sophia L. (Holsten) Thompson. Anyone reading this article that know the truth please contact me with the correct information.

Judge David Emmons Johnson, author of "A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory", published in 1906, describes the killing of Captain James Thompson as the following:

"After the retreat of General Wise's forces from Kanawha, a plain unlettered farmer of Mercer County, by the name of Parkinson F. Pennington, who resided on the waters of Laurel Creek, in August of the year mentioned, took his team and wagon loaded with produce, and went to the Valley of the Kanawha and purchased goods, salt, etc, returning to his home, and known to be a strong Union man in sentiments, and freely

expressing his views, made himself quite obnoxious to some of his southern neighbors, and was arrested without warrant and charged with being a spy. The party arresting Pennington was headed by Captain James Thompson a strong secessionist, bold southern man of quick temper, and when aroused became wholly unmanageable. Pennington's captors started with him to the Court House, and he on the way becoming very boisterous and insulting incensed the party that had him in charge, and they halted and put him to death by the road side, by hanging him by the neck, with a hickory withe, to a dog-wood tree that stood nearby. This was a very unfortunate affair for all the parties concerned, and the first act of the kind that had ever taken place in the county, and greatly shocked the community. Great regret was experienced by the people, as the act portended no good to the party engaged nor to the southern cause. The civil authorities were powerless to punish the perpetrators, and the military would not. After the close of the war, the most of those engaged in hanging Pennington except Captain Thompson, had either been lost in the war or left the country. Pennington's father with a body of eighteen United States soldiers went to the house of Captain Thompson intending to arrest him, but Captain Thompson discovering their approach attempted to escape, but was shot by one of the party and killed."

James Pennington (George W. & Parkinson F. Pennington's father) had good reason to seek out revenge, for he had lost two sons to the Confederate Home Guard and Bushwhackers.

Not stated in either article, is the fact that Parkinson Pennington also drove his cattle to the Valley of Kanawha and delivered them to the Union Army. This was done to keep the cattle out of the hands of the Confederates.

The Home Guards were groups of opportunists who formed together under the Union or Confederate banner and roamed the area to steal and raid farms for their personal gain, while the men were away in the army with only women at home. The Home Guards were often referred to as "Outlaws" in W.Va. history. On occasions they would capture soldiers of the other side of their alliances when they were home on military, wounded or sick leave, turning them over as prisoners of war or simply kill them. Most states had Home Guards; in W.Va. the Union or Confederate governments sanctioned none of these but did nothing to discourage their formation.

The W.Va. State Troops were formed by the new W.Va. State Government (June 20, 1863) to curb the outlaw activities of the Home Guards and individuals taking advantage of the turmoil of the Civil War. Since W.Va. State Troops were commissioned and sanctioned by the W.Va. State Government, their rough and crude dispensing of justice was not questioned or brought to trial. It appears that this origination agency evaporated away soon after the Civil War was over. On June 19, 1919 the W.Va. State Legislature formed the W.Va. State Department of Public Safety, which was the forth-oldest Law Enforcement agency of its kind in the USA. Known as the WV State Police, its 850+ members are known as Troopers.

The author of this sketch invites comments, corrections, additions, and variations to this bit of southern West Virginia history. This is work in progress. You are welcome to copy the contents of this report in part or whole.



The best New and Coal Rivers has to offer.

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