

## SPRINGHILL TOWNSHIP.<sup>1</sup>

THIS is the extreme southwest township of the county. It has Nicholson on the north, Georges and Wharton east and northeast, West Virginia on the south, and the Monongahela River on the west. The surface is greatly diversified. In the east Laurel Hill, with all the characteristics of a mountain. From the foot of the mountain westward, as far as Morris Cross-Roads, the land rises, attaining its greatest height just before reaching the Uniontown and Morgantown road; thence still westward there is a general decline in elevation until the river bluffs are reached. The river hills are of considerable height, and in general crowd close upon the stream. Some very fertile bottom land is found both along the Cheat and Monongahela Rivers, but in general they are narrow. The most important stream next to the Monongahela is Cheat River, which flows through the southwest corner of the township for a distance of six or seven miles, entirely severing a part of the township several miles in length at its base, and two or more from base to apex. This is called the "Forks of Cheat," or the "Neck." The other streams are Grassy Run, Hardin's Run, McCollick's Run, McFarland's Run. These with their tributaries reach almost every part of the township.

The soil is not remarkably fertile except in a very few localities, and is better adapted to grazing than to tillage. Fruits of all kinds flourish, but grapes especially. Large vineyards are planted from the cross-roads towards the river. Iron and coal are the chief minerals. Potters' clay and glass-sand abound.

Springhill is one of the original townships of Fayette County, having been erected as such by the Court of Quarter Sessions of the county at the first term, held in December, 1783. The name "Springhill" was given by Col. George Wilson, the earliest settler on Georges Creek (at its mouth, in what is now Nicholson township), who had come here from Springhill, in Augusta, Va., and had given that name to the new region in which he settled. That was while all the Monongahela country was included in Cumberland County; and the *old* Springhill township of that county embraced an immense territory, covering all the southern part of what is now Fayette, all of Greene, and the south part of the present county of

Washington. The township as erected by the Fayette County Court, in December, 1783, was embraced in the following description of boundaries, viz.:

"A township beginning at the mouth of Jacob's Creek; thence up the Monongahela River to Mason and Dixon's line; thence by the same to the line of Wharton township on the top of Laurel Hill; thence by the same to the line of Georges township; thence by the same to the place of beginning. To be hereafter known by the name of Springhill township."

The surveyor has never yet (in accordance with this description) reached "the place of beginning;" and Springhill is really only bounded on three sides and a *part* of the fourth, according to the act of the court. Sixty-two years after the erection into a township, Springhill lost the Egypt of her territory by the formation of Nicholson township, losing all that rich farming land lying between Jacob's Creek on the north and Georges Creek on the south, including New Geneva with all its historical associations. In New Geneva was one of the four post-offices of Fayette County in 1805, the other three being Uniontown, Brownsville, and Connellsville.

Prominent among the early settlers of Springhill township was Col. Theophilus Phillips. In May, 1767, he, in company with his brother-in-law, the Rev. James Dunlap, emigrated to Fayette County from New Jersey, and settled, or rather squatted, on a stream which has been called Dunlap's Creek for more than a century. After clearing a piece of land and farming it jointly for a time, they dissolved partnership and cast lots for the land, which fell to Dunlap. Phillips then purchased a large tract of land in Springhill township, called "Phillips' Choice," containing 453½ acres and allowance. The patent is dated Dec. 12, 1786. Mr. Phillips enjoyed the respect and confidence of all who knew him, and was often called to fill public positions. It was near his residence that the courts of Monongalia County, Va., were held in the last half of the eighteenth century. The buildings have long been demolished, and nothing but the foundations of them remain to mark the site. To the left of the New Geneva and Springhill Furnace roads, *via* Morris' Cross-Roads, and about two hundred yards from the same, on a long knoll, with a direction northeast, stood the Phillips residence, with many outbuildings, including shop, negro quarters, still-house, and stables. Among his grandchildren

<sup>1</sup> By James Ross.

are Theophilus P. Kramer, Theophilus Williams, and Adolph Eberhart, whose ages are eighty-one, seventy-eight, and sixty-four years respectively. They recollect hearing their parents say that the Monongalia court was held in the shop which stood near the old Phillips dwelling-house.

Col. Phillips was ordained an elder of the Mount Moriah Church, in Springhill township, in 1774. He was among the first to ship flour and whisky to New Orleans from Wilson Port, as the mouth of Georges Creek was then called. In 1789 he was elected to the State Legislature, which at that time met in the city of Philadelphia. His boats were ready laden for New Orleans, and he resolved to go with them, and instead of crossing the mountains, sail round by the Gulf and the Atlantic to Philadelphia. Before starting he willed his estate, giving to each of his children their portion, in case he should never return. This proved to have been the act of a sensible man, for not long after leaving the port of New Orleans, en route for Philadelphia, he fell a victim to ship-fever, and was buried at sea. He left a numerous family. Capt. John Phillips, of the war of 1812, was his son. He died of cholera near Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1832. Of the Williams family, many of whom have been elected justices, are John P., Thomas, Joseph G., and Thomas, Jr., grandsons, and great-grandson of Col. Theophilus. Dr. William Wilson, of Indiana, brother of Mrs. Elizer Robinson, of Uniontown, married a granddaughter, Miss Elizabeth Kramer. Theophilus Phillips married a Miss Joanna Prater. It is said that on several occasions Washington visited the Monongalia court-house, near Col. Phillips' place. It is, however, doubtful whether he was ever in that vicinity more than once,—in the year 1784.

Though Theophilus Phillips was among the earliest, if not the very first, of the actual settlers within the territory now Springhill township (Col. George Wilson, however, being considerably earlier on the other side of Georges Creek), yet there were a considerable number of warrants taken by others for lands in Springhill antedating the warrant to Phillips of the tract, "Phillips' Choice," on which he settled. Among these early locations of lands in Springhill were the following, viz.: Andrew Contral, a tract containing 347 acres and allowance, warrant dated July 3, 1769, surveyed 2d of July, 1770; Joseph Cox, 302 acres, warranted July 3, 1769, surveyed Nov. 17, 1770; Hugh Evans, 181 acres, surveyed 1785, warrant dated March 23, 1785; Thomas Ashby, 307 acres, warrant dated July 3, 1769. There were a great many others whose warrants and patents are one hundred years old and upwards. Settlements increased very slowly for some years, but much more rapidly after the close of the Revolution, so that in the year 1785 the number of taxable persons, including "single men," in Springhill was over two hundred, and the total assessed valuation of property £12,532 5s. 6d. This, however,

included in addition to the territory that is now Springhill a considerable additional territory that is now in the township of Nicholson.

John Swearingen and Van Swearingen, father and son, were among the earliest settlers in Springhill, being here as early as 1770, and possibly in 1769, Van Swearingen being in the latter year twenty-six years of age. Thomas Swearingen, Sr., and his son Thomas came to Western Pennsylvania about the same time, and settled west of the Monongahela. The ancestors of all the Swearingens in this region were Garrett Van Swearingen and Barbara De Barrette, his wife, who came from Holland to America, settled in Maryland, and were, with their children, Garrett and Barbara, naturalized in that province in April, 1669, as is shown by the records in Baltimore. Two other children of theirs, Elizabeth and Zachariah, were born in the Delaware counties, and so needed no naturalization. The prefix "Van" was afterwards dropped from the surname of the family, but was used, as we see, as the Christian name of the son of John Swearingen.

Of this John Swearingen who settled in Springhill township very little is known beyond the fact of his settlement here, and that he was a resident of the township in 1785. His son, Van Swearingen, did not remain long in Springhill,<sup>1</sup> but removed to a new location on the east side of the Monongahela, near the mouth of Redstone, but retaining the ownership of his lands in Springhill at least until 1785. Before that time, however, he had left his second location near Redstone and removed to Washington County, of which he was elected sheriff upon its organization in 1781. After a few years spent by him in Washington County he removed to land which he had located as early as 1772 in Ohio County, Va., and died there Dec. 2, 1793. During all the period of his residence west of the Alleghenies he was a prominent man both in civil and military life.

The Crow family were very early settlers of this section of country. Michael Crow was born in Maryland, near Williamsport, and was the first of the name to settle in Springhill. After a short residence in his new home he married Hannah Huhn. (The Huhns owned the property where Crow's mill now stands, but the number of acres is not known.) At the death of Huhn, the father of his wife, Michael Crow, inherited the farm. Here he continued to reside until his death in 1858, at the age of ninety-eight years. His descendants are perhaps more numerous than those of any of the first settlers of this region. Several of them have filled important county offices. Jacob Crow was at one time treasurer of Fayette

<sup>1</sup> Van Swearingen and four other persons were the builders of the old log fort built as a place of refuge during the Indian troubles of 1774, near Morris Cross-Roads, on lands now owned by Mr. Crow. The Indians captured a son of his named Duke, whom they never restored. Cato Hardin, a soldier of the war of 1812, after his return from service told several that he believed he saw Duke Swearingen among the Indians during his stay in Ohio, near Sandusky.

County. Hon. Alexander Crow, of New Geneva, was associate judge. The family is noted for its firm adherence to the principles of the Democratic party.

Mary Duvall's name should not be omitted from the list of early settlers of Springhill, though it does not appear that she ever reflected much credit on the township. Free from fear, she came from the East with the first settlers more than one hundred years ago, and located on a small stream, a tributary of Grassy Run, in an unbroken forest, inhabited only by Indians and wild animals. But the Indians had no terrors for her. "Logan was the friend of the white man," and it does not appear that he regarded this white woman as an enemy. When the Indians visited Springhill they always encamped at her spring and enjoyed her hospitality. If the community feared an Indian raid, and fled to the fort for protection, Mary Duvall remained at home in quiet and peace. Several years before her death she told many of her friends that the Indians knew of lead-mines not far away from her house, because they were never gone long when they needed a supply of lead, and that they always ran their bullets at her house. She was, it was said, a Roman Catholic, and hated most devoutly all Protestants, particularly the Methodists. For them, in particular, her hatred was sleepless and untiring. She left a family, mostly boys, who were said to have exhibited strong Indian peculiarities, both physical and mental. They were very quarrelsome, and exceedingly expert in the use of the rifle. Daniel married in Springhill, and emigrated to Kentucky, selling his land here to George Hardin. Lewis also emigrated with his brother Daniel. All traces of the other members of the family are lost.

Jacob Gans was an early settler of Springhill, emigrating hither from Virginia with a large number of other hardy adventurers more than a century ago. Little is to be said of him except that he lived and died in Springhill, and left an untarnished character, as well as a numerous progeny in this part of Fayette County. To sketch all of his descendants would be to write the biography of a large portion of the citizens of the township. Ann Gans, a granddaughter of his, married a Mr. Arnold, and lives or did live on Ten-Mile Creek, in Greene County. Susanna, another granddaughter, married Jeremiah Burchinal, one of the most respected citizens of Springhill, and is now living, at a very advanced age, on Grassy Run, west of the old Springhill Furnace property.

John McFarland was one of the early adventurers who dared the dangers of the Indian country west of the mountains. His settlement was made in Springhill, near Cheat River, where he had also a mill and still-house. He left several children, among the number being John McFarland, who married Nelly Morris, daughter of Absalom Morris, after whom Morris Cross-Roads was named. Morris was the tavern-keeper who resided between the cross-roads and Geneva. From the McFarland and Morris union

have sprung many prominent families of Springhill. The Weltners of Cheat Forks are also connections of the family.

Robert Jones and Benjamin Jones, brothers and natives of Wales, came to Fayette County in 1792, and located in Springhill township. In 1793, Robert Jones entered a large tract of land in this township, and on that tract he, with his brother Benjamin, erected in 1794 the Springhill Furnace,<sup>1</sup> and commenced the manufacture of iron, Robert being the principal man in the concern. After a few years the furnace was leased (and afterwards sold) to Jesse Evans (a son-in-law of Robert Jones), who carried it on with success. Benjamin Jones was little of a business man, but of fine scholarly attainments and an ardent promoter of education. While living with his brother Robert, and to some extent concerned with him in the furnace, Benjamin Jones opened a select school in Smithfield—sometimes called Brownfield—town. How long he taught this school is not known, but it is certain that by his example and efforts the people of the township became greatly favorable to select schools, and the establishment of the Springhill Academy was the result. Benjamin Jones was an ardent Baptist, and a substantial supporter of the worship of that denomination in his vicinity. From Springhill township he removed to Greene County, where he died, and was buried in the ground of the Baptist Church near Garrard's Fort, on Big Whitely Creek.

Robert Jones was born in Wales, March 20, 1743, and died April 16, 1809. His executors were his brother Benjamin and his only son, John, but before the estate was settled John died at his residence on Whitely Creek, Greene Co. The furnace and other property of Robert Jones passed to his daughter Mary, the wife of Jesse Evans, who had leased the old furnace in 1797. A son of Jesse and Mary Evans is Col. Samuel Evans, who is now living, at more than eighty years of age, in North Union township, about two miles from Uniontown. He has filled many offices of honor and trust, and has for more than half a century enjoyed the esteem and friendship of many of the most notable men of the State and nation. His sister Eliza—daughter of Jesse Evans—married Mr. Wilson, of Morgantown, Va., who lost his life by drowning in the Monongahela River below Brownsville. They were the parents of the Hon. Alpheus E. Willson, now president judge of the courts of Fayette and Greene Counties. His sister is the wife of the Hon. J. K. Ewing, of Uniontown. Rachel Jones married Lewis Evans. They resided and died in Greene County. Lieut. Lewis K. Evans, of Waynesburg, is their son.

John Jones left a large family of sons and daughters. The eldest, Robert, married Ann Eberhart and emigrated to Cincinnati, Ohio. His son, Adolph

<sup>1</sup> A full account of this old furnace is given in the general chapter devoted to iron-works in the county.

Jones, A.M., M.D., is a prominent politician as well as physician. A younger son, Frederick, was killed Dec. 31, 1862, at Stone River, Tenn. The celebrated Robert Jones Burdette is a son of Frederick Burdette and Sophia Jones. He was born in Greensboro', Greene Co., in 1838.

The brothers John and Andrew Oliphant were among the most enterprising men of South Fayette, living on or near Georges Creek. Andrew Oliphant was commissioned a justice of the peace for Springhill township Jan. 2, 1804. He married Mary Griffin, a daughter of Hon. Isaac Griffin; only two of their children lived to maturity, Mary Ann and James M. Mary A. Oliphant married Edgar C. Wilson, of Morgantown, Va., but died not long after her marriage. Mr. Wilson married as his second wife her cousin, a daughter of John Oliphant. She is still living at Morgantown, W. Va. James M. Oliphant, son of Andrew, was married three times, but left only two heirs. The property once owned by the Oliphants is now in the possession of Samuel H. Hunter, Esq. Just above the residence was "Sylvan Forge," established by John and Andrew Oliphant in 1808.

Hon. Joseph Eneix was born June 16, 1788. He married Hester Oliphant, Sept. 20, 1807. His education was much neglected, and he began life but half-armed, yet by industry and application he became a prominent man. By trade he was a blacksmith and scythe-maker. About 1823 he was elected to the State Legislature from his native county, Fayette. His course in the Legislature meeting the approbation of his constituents, he was returned, serving in all three terms down to 1835. During President Jackson's second term, in 1834, he received the appointment of receiver of public moneys at Mineral Point, Wis. In 1839 he resigned on account of ill health. He gradually failed in health, and died in 1858. He was a large land-owner at one time, but died comparatively poor. James Eneix is a son of Joseph. A daughter married Samuel Dilliner, Esq., of New Geneva.

Nicholas Blake, an Englishman, was once the owner of "Friendship Hill," which he sold to Albert Gallatin, and which became the statesman's residence. Blake, before his death, became almost penniless. He left a son, James, who followed butchering. In disposition he was very peaceable and of few words; he managed to make a living by hard work and rigid economy. Thus he passed his life until about thirty years of age. The surprise of the Springhill people was very great when, in 1808, an attorney from England arrived at New Geneva and made inquiry for Nicholas Blake or his heirs. James Blake was the heir he found. A large landed estate in England had fallen to him by the death of a relative. The law of England prohibits the sale of certain estates, and this entailed fortune of Blake must remain, and to enjoy his good luck he must become a British subject or lose it. Without money he was unable to

take possession. In this extremity he applied to Jas. W. Nicholson, Esq., who generously furnished the necessary amount of funds. His correspondence with Nicholson is lost, and with it all trace of the subsequent career of James Blake in his father's native land.

The celebrated estate called "Friendship Hill," once the home of Albert Gallatin, is situated southeast of New Geneva, in Springhill township. It consisted originally of three hundred and seventy acres and allowance, and belonged to Nicholas Blake, as already noticed. Gallatin, after purchasing Blake's warrant for the tract, had it patented in his own name Jan. 26, 1788. By later purchases the number of acres was raised to five hundred. In 1823 the main building of Gallatin's residence was built, during his absence in Europe. His son James had the management of affairs during this period, but spent most of his time in New Geneva at his uncle Nicholson's. He, however, found leisure to change his father's plan of the building, changing the front from east to south, and thereby greatly injuring it and necessitating the later addition of a wing and verandas to cover the defects. The elder Gallatin was greatly out of humor when he saw it on his return, and did not fail to express himself in forcible language to that effect.

It was in this house that the Marquis de Lafayette visited Gallatin when he passed through this section in 1825.

Gallatin sold the estate to Albin Mellier, May 26, 1832, nearly fifty years after having purchased it of Blake. Mellier was a kinsman of Gallatin, but lacked essential financial abilities. He had "too many irons in the fire," and so divided his forces that he became the prey of his creditors. To escape their importunities he built two steamboats, in one of which he went down the Mississippi, where he died between 1839 and 1843. The principal creditors were Charles and Frederick Tennig. Upon their claims Sheriff Morris sold the estate, the creditors becoming purchasers. For many years the property was without proper care. In 1858 it was sold to the Hon. John L. Dawson, who greatly improved it. For several years he resided here, enjoying the quiet of domestic life. Many visitors have expressed their surprise upon visiting this historic mansion, wondering how it ever came that Gallatin or Dawson should choose a place so isolated for a residence. Among these visitors was Mrs. Henry Adams, who accompanied her husband when visiting the place in 1879, just before completing his life of Gallatin. Of the historical interest which clings to this venerable mansion of "Friendship Hill," the greater part is due to the fact that it was for many years the estate and home of Albert Gallatin, the great financier and Secretary of the Treasury; but only second to this is the fact that in after-years it was the favorite seat of the Hon. John L. Dawson, who here ended his brilliant and useful life.

It has already been mentioned that Gallatin's son James superintended the erection of the "Friendship Hill" mansion, during his father's absence in Europe in 1822-23, and that the elder Gallatin, returning in 1823, was disappointed, if not disgusted, at the changes which had been made in the original plan of the building. On his return from Paris, in May of that year, he remained for some time in Washington, then went to New Geneva to inspect his new house, and (presumably) with every hope of finding a commodious mansion suited to his taste. Unquestionably he was disappointed. Meeting his son at New Geneva, they, in company with Ed Brawley, drove out to see the house. On coming within sight of it he turned to his son and made the inquiry, "Which is the front?" He was told it fronted south—nearly opposite the direction from which it was approached! Upon this (as is narrated) he used language as forcible and nearly as reprehensible as that which Washington used at the battle of Monmouth when he met Lee in full retreat over the causeway. But it was an accomplished fact, and vigorous language could not change it. He recovered his equanimity, made the best of what was then past help, inspected the mansion, liked it as well as he could, and two or three months later wrote to his daughter a letter somewhat humorous, giving his ideas with regard to the Monongahela country and the new mansion on "Friendship Hill," as follows: <sup>1</sup>

"NEW GENEVA, 17th September, 1823.

"Notwithstanding all my exertions you will find it hard enough when you come next spring to accommodate yourself to the privations and wildness of the country. Our house has been built by a new Irish carpenter, who was always head over heels, and added much to the disorder inseparable from building. Being unacquainted with the Grecian architecture, he adopted an Hiberno-Teutonic style, so that the outside of the house, with its port-hole-looking windows, has the appearance of Irish barracks, whilst the inside ornaments are similar to those of a Dutch tavern, and I must acknowledge that these form a singular contrast with the French marble chimney-pieces, paper, and mirrors. On one side of that mass of stones which Lucien calls 'Le Chateau,' and in full view as you approach it, is a wing, consisting of the gable end of a log house, with its chimney in front, and I could not pull it down, as it is the kitchen and dining-room, where are daily fed two masons and plasterers, two attendants, two stone quarriers, two painters, a carpenter, Lucien, Albert's black Peter, and Mr., Made, Mesdames, et les petits Buffle. The grounds are overgrown with elders, iron-weeds, stinking-weeds, laurel, several varieties of briars, impenetrable thickets of brush, vines, and underwood, amongst which are discovered vestiges of old asparagus-beds and new artichoke-beds, and now and then a spontaneous apple- or peach-tree. As to Albert, he has four guns, a pointer, three boats, two riding-horses, and a pet colt, smaller than a jackass, who feeds on the fragments of my old lilacs and *althæa frutex*. His own clothes adorn our parlor and only sitting-room in the old brick house, for the frame house is partly occupied by the Buffle family, and partly encumbered by various boxes and Albert's billiard-table, the pockets of which are made with his stockings."

<sup>1</sup> Adams' Life of Gallatin, page 589.

#### MEDICAL MEN.

The first physician in Springhill township was Dr. Jacob Green. Nothing, however, is known of him, except that his name appears on the assessment-roll of the township in the year 1786. Of those who followed him in practice in this township were Dr. Samuel Sacket, Dr. Seely, of Greene County, Dr. Todd, Dr. James C. Ramsey, and several others. But a great portion of Nicholson originally belonged to Springhill, including the town of New Geneva, where the greater number of physicians resided.

#### EARLY ROADS.

The first road laid out by the Fayette County Court to pass through this township was one petitioned for at the December session of 1783, viz.: "A public road from Uniontown to the southern boundary of this county, or Mason and Dixon's line, to meet a road that is laid out and cleared by order of the court of Monongalia County, Va., to the said line near John McFarland's ford on Cheat River." This road is the one now passing through Morris' Cross-Roads, and is the direct Uniontown and Morgantown road. Another road ordered by the court at the same session was "a road from Miller's ferry, on the Monongahela River, across the Laurel Hill, by the way of George Williams', Jr., thence to the Widow Moore's, on Sandy Creek, to join the Pennsylvania or Maryland road." This road connected with the Washington, Ten-Mile, and Muddy Creek road at the Monongahela River, or Miller's ferry, now the New Geneva and Greensboro' ferry. The map of Pennsylvania published in London August, 1792, has this road marked upon it. Starting at Washington, it has a course southeast, passing near or through Carmichael's, Greene Co.; from thence to Minor's Mill, now Mapletown, Greene Co.; thence east-southeast to Greensboro', same county; then by the route prayed for as above to the Widow Moore's, on Sandy Creek, and thence across Laurel Hill.

Many of the so-called roads were nothing more than paths through the woods, for at this period Western Pennsylvania was almost an unbroken forest, no fencing having as yet been introduced to bar the traveler's way, which was generally a direct course. A century has wrought many changes in Springhill in regard to highways. From one or two, aggregating some twenty miles in length, many cross her territory in all directions, affording easy access to and from every part of the township.

#### EARLY MANUFACTURES.

Quite a number of individuals had engaged in the manufacture of flour and whisky as early as 1786 in Springhill township. At that period John Hardin, Sr., had a grist-mill assessed at £100, located near Lewis Hunter's present residence; Richard Robins a grist-mill taxed at £120, and James Gray a grist-mill assessed at £150; one saw-mill on Georges Creek, owned by John Hune (or Hoon), valued at £50.

Three years later (1789) two saw-mills were returned by the assessor, owned by John Hune and George and John Wilson. The saw-mill belonging to Hune stood near the site of Crow's mill. George and John Wilson's was farther down Georges Creek. John Hardin's mill, in this assessment, passed to Henry Hardin. The Willson grist-mill was on Georges Creek, upon a tract of land called "Appendix," now the property of Robert H. Ross. The James Gray mill was the "River Mill," the remains of which may still be seen on the Monongahela River, in New Geneva. In 1786 eighteen stills were assessed, and three years afterwards twenty-two. The distillers were Joseph Caldwell, Nicholas Crowshore, Richard Evans, Hugh Evans, David Frame, Charles Griffin, Jacob Gaunts, Albert Gallatin, Ezekiel Moore, Hugh Marshal, John McFarland, Paul Larsh, John Linch, Philip Pierce, Theophilus Phillips, Nicholas Pock, James Robinson, Thomas Tobin, William Wells. These were all returned as distillers in 1789.

The distillers were divided into three classes, and each class taxed at a different rate per gallon made. The tax rate on first class was 5s. per gallon; second class, 3s. 9d. per gallon; third class, 2s. 6d. per gallon. Those rated as first class were Thomas Ramsey, 100 gallons; Jacob Ghance, 70 gallons; Robert Hardin, 66 gallons; John Linch, 70 gallons; Abraham Hardin, 74 gallons; Joseph Caldwell, 75 gallons; David Frame, 35 gallons; John McFarland, 66 gallons; Charles Griffin, 105 gallons; and his partner, James Neally, 49 gallons; Philip Pierce, 96 gallons; and his partner, John Wade, 49 gallons. Second class: Ezekiel Moore, 50 gallons; James Gray, 65 gallons; John Hoon, 32 gallons. Third class: Dennis Nevil, 80 gallons; Nicholas Pock, 40 gallons; William Wells, 80 gallons. Aggregating a daily yield of one thousand two hundred and two gallons. To transport this large amount of whisky to market induced several enterprising individuals to engage in boat-building at the mouth of Georges Creek, which had received the name of Wilson Port, in honor of Col. George Wilson, whose sons, William, George, and John, were citizens of Springfield for many years after his death. The Port, as it was called, soon became a noted shipping-point, not only of merchandise, but also of emigrants for Kentucky and Ohio. The boats were called keel-boats, flat-boats, and Kentucky boats. This industry flourished until the advent of steamboats, and for many years afterwards upon a smaller scale. In addition to flour and whisky, iron and glass were added in 1795 to the list. Hon. Andrew Stewart, in his early life, shipped from this port. The whisky business was the most general business until after 1800. The next class of boats built at Wilson Port were steamboats by Albin Mellier, in 1837. Of these there were two named "Albert Gallatin" and "Napoleon Bonaparte."

In 1794 glass and iron were manufactured, the first by Albert Gallatin & Co., the latter by Robert Jones.

The establishment of the glass-factory, near where New Geneva was soon after built, was due to Albert Gallatin. Two stories are related concerning its establishment, one by grandchildren of the founders, the other by neighbors. The first, being the most credible, is as follows: Christian Kramer, Adolph Eberhart, Lewis Reitz, John George Reppert, Baltzer Kramer, and John Christian Gabler, German glass-blowers from Frederick Town, Frederick Co., Md., had left their home for the purpose of establishing a glass-factory in Kentucky, near where Louisville now stands. Having reached the Ohio River, they embarked in a canoe, and had arrived near Wheeling, when, stopping for the night, they were joined by a stranger, who, speaking their language, was soon on the best of terms with them. The stranger was Albert Gallatin. Having been informed of their journey and its object, he succeeded in persuading them to return to his farm on Georges Creek, where the necessary facilities for manufacturing glassware were to be had almost for nothing. After some little talk he finally agreed to furnish everything and they do the blowing. The terms were accepted, and in 1794 the company began the manufacture of glass. The other account is that the same Germans were crossing the mountains in wagons, having their provisions with them, and that they would stop at some public-house and borrow cooking utensils to cook their food. Having reached Tomlinson's stand, they put up for the night. After supper they amused themselves with music, several being excellent performers. Being a great lover of music, Mr. Gallatin (who was there) inquired of the landlord who they were. Being informed, he introduced himself, and the whole company spent the evening in drink and music. Having discussed the glass question in all its phases, he gave them a letter to his manager at Friendship Hill, urging him to offer better terms than he himself had to induce them to stay. Three accepted at once, but the others continued their journey. Upon their arrival at Louisville they found the location unfit, and returned and joined their companions.

The building erected for the glass-works was a frame, forty by forty feet dimensions, three sides frame and one stone. This interesting establishment was situated a little over a mile above New Geneva, on the south bank of Georges Creek, on land purchased by Albert Gallatin of John Calhoun. It was an eight-pot factory, used wood for melting, and ashes instead of soda. The potash was manufactured by Patrick Brawley. The clerk of the works was Andrew Hoover; book-keeper, James W. Nicholson. There was a difference of opinion in regard to the price at which the glass was to be sold, Gallatin advocating a fair price, fearing that a high one would bring a great competition. The price agreed upon was fourteen dollars per box. The style of the company was Gallatin & Co. In a few years it was changed to "New Geneva Glass-Works." In 1807 the company erected

new and more commodious works in Greene County, where success continued to reward their efforts. They still retained the name "New Geneva Glass." In 1858, Christian Kramer died, at the age of eighty-five years. He was the last survivor of the original members of the glass-works company, and was the father of Allen Kramer, banker, of Pittsburgh.

The old glass-factory in Springhill has been demolished, but all the houses built by the company as dwellings are still standing.

Not long after having established the glass-factory, Albert Gallatin offered inducements to any one who would engage in carding, spinning, and weaving. The saw-mill he had built a short distance from the glass-factory was fitted up in a suitable manner for the intended industry, and the necessary machinery bought. When all was completed a Mr. Collins was employed, who for many years continued the business. Several years afterwards, Ellis Stephenson erected works higher up Georges Creek, and carried on the manufacture of wool in all its branches, but the business finally languished and was abandoned.

The old Springhill Furnace was built by Robert Jones, who became a settler in Springhill in 1792, as already mentioned. In 1794 he and his brother Benjamin commenced iron-making at this furnace. It was afterwards sold to Jesse Evans (father of Col. Samuel Evans, of North Union township), who ran it for more than thirty years. This old furnace has been mentioned at length in the article on iron-works in the general history of the county. The location is at the foot of the mountain, some four miles eastward from the cross-roads. Besides the furnace buildings, there is a Presbyterian Church, post-office, and store.

Northwest of the Springhill Furnace site, on Georges Creek, was the "Sylvan Forge," built in 1796<sup>1</sup> by John and Andrew Oliphant. In connection with their iron-works, they built a large stone grist-mill, now the property of Samuel Hunter, Esq.

The only manufacturing done in Springhill outside of the iron business is the making of stoneware. Mr. James Eneix has a small establishment south of Friendship Hill, where a good article is made, but little capital is invested. All the turning is done by himself. The number of kilns burnt is eight annually, yielding twelve thousand gallons of ware.

#### SPRINGHILL CIVIL LIST.

##### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1794. Isaac Griffin.   | 1807. Jesse Evans.            |
| 1802. James Robinson.  | Thomas Williams. <sup>2</sup> |
| 1804. Andrew Oliphant. | 1823. Peter Stentz.           |

<sup>1</sup> In the September term of court of Fayette County, 1797, a committee which had been appointed in June previous made this report, that "the committee met on Tuesday, the 12th inst., and having viewed the ground from Springhill Furnace, by way of Sylvan Forge, to the Frame meeting-house, are of opinion that a public road is necessary," etc., which shows that the Sylvan Forge was then in existence.

<sup>2</sup> It is stated that Thomas Williams, Esq., held the office of justice of the peace from 1797 to the time of his death in 1837, a period of forty years.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1825. Thomas Beatty.                     | 1859. Jonathan Monroe.  |
| 1837. James C. Ramsey.                   | James Mustard.          |
| Henry W. Core.                           | 1860. Lewis Hunter.     |
| Philip Reitz.                            | 1864. William McCleary. |
| 1840-41. <sup>3</sup> George Poundstone. | 1865. Thomas Morris.    |
| 1842. Meredith Mallory.                  | 1869. Jonathan Monroe.  |
| 1845. Thomas Morris.                     | 1874. Jonathan Monroe.  |
| James Mustard.                           | Lewis F. Stentz.        |
| 1850. James Mustard.                     | 1875. Lewis Hunter.     |
| John Holmes.                             | Samuel H. Hunter.       |
| 1854. Jonathan Monroe.                   | 1879. Jacob Conn.       |
| Lewis Hunter.                            | Andrew Hertzog.         |
| 1855. Jeremiah Burchinal.                | 1880. Jacob Conn.       |
| John Stentz.                             |                         |

##### AUDITORS.

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1841. William Newman.       | 1860. George G. Hertzog.  |
| 1842. John Holms.           | 1861. Jasper N. Gans.     |
| 1843. — — —.                | 1862. John S. Baker.      |
| 1844. Richard Poundstone.   | 1863. B. F. Morgan.       |
| William F. Nicholson.       | 1864. James Mustard.      |
| 1845. — — —.                | 1865. George Baker.       |
| 1846. Thomas Morris.        | 1866. C. S. Emery.        |
| John Keiser.                | 1867. Jacob Bowers.       |
| Jacob Gans.                 | 1868. James Brooks.       |
| 1847. Abraham B. Hall.      | George Baker.             |
| 1848. Thomas Morris.        | 1869. A. D. Frankinberry. |
| 1849. George W. Litman.     | 1870. Michael D. Baker.   |
| 1850. Abraham B. Hall.      | 1871. — — —.              |
| 1851. William Hardin.       | 1873. G. D. Bowers.       |
| 1852. George W. Litman.     | 1874. Joseph Burchinal.   |
| 1853. John L. Gans.         | 1875. John A. Clark.      |
| 1854. James Brooks.         | 1876. G. D. Bowers.       |
| 1855. David Evans.          | 1877. Sylvester Hertzog.  |
| 1856. James Mustard.        | 1878. John A. Clark.      |
| 1857. Thomas Morris.        | 1879. D. M. Baker.        |
| 1858. David Evans.          | 1880. A. J. Gans.         |
| 1859. Lawrence L. Crawford. | 1881. Joseph L. Baker.    |

##### ASSESSORS.

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1841. George Neal.         | 1861. John A. Lyons.        |
| 1842. Thomas Board.        | 1862. William Baker.        |
| 1843. John Keyser.         | 1863. James Mustard.        |
| 1844. Warwick Ross.        | 1864. James Brooks.         |
| 1845. Richard Poundstone.  | 1865. Daniel O. Mustard.    |
| 1846. James Brooks.        | 1866. David Bowers.         |
| 1847. John Sergeant.       | 1867. Thomas Batton.        |
| 1848. William Scott.       | 1868. David Morgan.         |
| 1849. John Keiser.         | 1869. David Rutrick.        |
| 1850. Lewis Hunter.        | 1870. Thomas C. Dunham.     |
| 1851. Samuel Frankinberry. | 1871. Constitution changed. |
| 1852. Conrad S. Emery.     | 1873. George Board.         |
| 1853. Samuel M. Cagey.     | 1874. John T. Stewart.      |
| 1854. Michael Crow, Jr.    | 1875. George J. Bowers.     |
| 1855. Allen Neal.          | 1876. A. J. Gans.           |
| 1856. Joseph Neal.         | 1877. A. J. Emery.          |
| 1857. Henry O'Neil.        | 1878. G. W. Ross.           |
| 1858. Samuel Frankinberry. | 1879. George Campbell.      |
| 1859. Conrad S. Emery.     | 1880. L. B. Clemmer.        |
| 1860. James McCloy.        | 1881. William P. Stewart.   |

Springhill has no towns or villages, Point Marion, Morris' Cross-Roads, and Springhill Furnace are the chief centres. Point Marion (named in honor of Gen.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to this date the office had been held by appointment; after 1840 the justices were elected by the people.



Francis Marion) is located in the "Forks of Cheat,"—that is, on the south side of that stream, at its junction with the Monongahela River. It dates back to February, 1843. It contains forty-three dwellings, a Methodist Episcopal Church (a branch of the Greensboro', Greene Co., Methodist Church), with a considerable membership; a town hall, school-house, two stores, shoe-shop, two blacksmith-shops, cabinet-shop, post-office, two planing-mills, two saw-mills, two sash and building-furnishing firms. The first manufacturing company, Frankinberry & Co., was organized in 1867. The most important now is Keiser, Frankinberry & Co., organized 1880; capital, twelve thousand dollars.

The other company is John A. Clark and Ira N. Burchinal, established July 31, 1875, planing- and saw-mill, and sash and door manufacturers.

Morris' Cross-Roads was named for Absalom Morris, who was an inn-keeper here for many years. It is located where the New Geneva and Springhill Furnace road intersects the Uniontown and Morgantown roads. It is the polling-place of the township, and has been since the year 1816. Prior to that time Springhill, Georges, and German voted at the house of Nicholas Riffle, but the inconvenience was so great that the polling-places were changed. The last joint election was at the time of the first election of James Monroe as President, in the year named. Morris' Cross-Roads contains a post-office, store, public-house, and blacksmith-shop.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first house built for school purposes in Springhill was the one near Morris' Cross-Roads, erected near the close of the eighteenth century. The Mount Moriah church building, built in 1773, was also used for school purposes. There were also school-houses at Bear Wallow and Forks of Cheat. Another, near the "old glass-works" on Georges Creek, was built at a very early day. To give the names of all the teachers who taught in these old houses is now impossible. Only a few have been ascertained, viz.: Alexander Clare, Thomas Clare, Jephtha Curtis, John Lynch, Samuel Kinkaid, — McCarty, Salva Crosby, Esther Gans, John Knox McGee, Thomas Couser, Henry O'Neal, — Coburn, and Singleton.

Since the introduction of the free school system the following school buildings have been erected, numbered and named in the following order: Ross', Fallen Timber, Forks of Cheat, Lutheran, Sheets', Morgan's, Bunker Hill, and Mountain. The school property (houses, furniture, and sites) is valued at eight thousand dollars. Following are the school statistics of Springhill for the school year ending June, 1881, viz.: Number of children on school-roll, 374; daily attendance, 237; tax levied in 1880, \$1198.06; State appropriation, \$369.60; balance from 1879, \$8.83.

On the 2d of January, 1835, the court of Fayette County appointed Robert Brown and James W.

Nicholson school directors. On the 7th of June, 1837, they reported to the county treasurer as being ready to comply with the requirements of the free school law of 1834. May 22, 1835, they received \$123.65, and from the county \$276.10, the first sum being the State appropriation. From this period the free school system has had but little opposition in Springhill. Following is a list of school directors elected in Springhill from the time when the school law went into full operation in the township until the present time, viz.:

- 1841.—Samuel Roderick, Jonathan Monroe, Adam Stum.
- 1842.—James Brooks, Jacob Gans, William P. Griffin.
- 1843.—James Thompson, George Beatty.
- 1844.—John Schnatterly, Vincent Gray.
- 1845.—Lewis Hunter, John D. Scott.
- 1846.—John Sergeant, Jasper Clemmer.
- 1847.—John Sowers, R. D. Merryman.
- 1848.—Samuel Hall, James Mustard, John Stentz.
- 1849.—John Stentz, John Morris, Thomas Morris, Allen Dunham, Luther Burchinal.
- 1850.—John Keiser, Jacob Gans.
- 1851.—Lewis Hunter, James Reynolds, John Lyons.
- 1852.—Adam Stum, John Morris, John Baker.
- 1853.—Lee Tate, John Baker, Adam Stumm, John Morgan, Washington Brown, Michael Crow, Meredith Mallory, Hiram Jones.
- 1854.—John A. Lyons, Henry Rutrick, J. M. Oliphant, Meredith Mallory.
- 1855.—David Morgan, Samuel Hall, David Bowan.
- 1856.—John Cagey, John Hertzog.
- 1857.—Henry Brownfield, Samuel Frankinberry.
- 1858.—John J. Morris, James M. Oliphant.
- 1859.—John Conn, Altha Gans.
- 1860.—C. S. Emery, S. W. Cagy, Jesse E. Stentz.
- 1861.—Alexander Ross, Conrad S. Emery.
- 1862.—Lewis Hunter, Joseph Bowers, Thomas W. Lyons.
- 1863.—Joseph Gans, Jr., M. D. Baker.
- 1864.—Lewis Hunter, Adolph Eberhart.
- 1865.—Alexander Ross, Jesse B. Dunham, William McCleary.
- 1866.—Joseph Gans, Joseph Bowers.
- 1867.—William L. Morgan, George Borer, Samuel Frankinberry, John A. Lyons.
- 1868.—David Bowers, Michael Conn.
- 1869.—John H. Gans, M. D. Baker.
- 1870.—Jonathan Monroe, W. B. Scott, George Baker.
- 1873.—John A. Lyons, Phineas West.
- 1874.—J. L. Baker, George Hertzog, Ira Keiser.
- 1875.—John L. Baker, Thomas J. Burchinal.
- 1876.—William L. Morris, William B. Scott.
- 1877.—Joseph Lyons, John Davis, Ira Keiser.
- 1878.—Michael D. Baker, A. G. Hall.
- 1879.—Joseph Bowers, Joseph Burchinal.
- 1880.—Calvin Hussart, Noah Darbey.
- 1881.—O. J. Stewart, Elmer Casey.

#### CHURCHES.

The Mount Moriah church edifice in Springhill belongs to the Presbyterians, who purchased four acres of ground upon which it stands of Joseph Caldwell. According to the court records it was in process of erection in July, 1793. The church was dedicated by Rev. James Power, of New Castle Presbytery, in 1774.





*Albert Gallatin*

In 1776 he brought his family and lived upon Georges Creek for two years. The elders were McLain, Pollock, Frame, Abrams, Hill, Crow, Dils, Phillips, and Ramsey. In 1778 James Dunlap preached for this church.

This continued to be the chief Presbyterian Church until the organization of the "Old Frame," as it is generally called, in 1788. Its history from that time is so completely blended with that of the younger church that the reader is referred to the history of the churches in Nicholson township.

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located near Morris' Cross-Roads, is a branch of the "Old Dutch Church" of German township, organized by the Rev. John Stough, a Reformed Lutheran, in the latter part of 1793. The mother-church made arrangements in 1854-55 to provide a house of worship nearer the residences of certain members in Springhill. The building was ready to be occupied Jan. 4, 1856, and was then dedicated. Rev. J. K. Melhorn was in charge of these congregations for several years (before and after the building of the new house), and to his efforts Springhill is largely indebted for the continuance and prosperity of this church. The elders are Conrad Emery and Michael Baker.

In the Forks of Cheat the Methodists have a neat frame church. The congregation is under the charge of Rev. McCurdy, of the Greensboro', Greene Co., Methodist Church, of which it is a branch.

The old "Free Church," near where the Church of the Disciples now stands, was built about the year 1825 by a union of professed Christians. Freeman Lewis, on his (1832) map of Fayette County, has it named the "New Lights' Church." The history of this church has been given by A. W. Scott, from which the following is taken. In 1820 a stranger registered himself at a tavern in Uniontown as Peter T. Lashley, Christian minister. As soon as it was discovered that he was a preacher he was invited to preach in the court-house, which he did to the great edification of the people. He next preached in Smithfield, where his sermons created considerable excitement. His doctrine took hold, and members from nearly all denominations professed it. The Ganses, who were Dunkards, with many others, joined and built the Free Church. The elders were William Gans, William Saddler, and Joseph Bowers. The house burnt down in 1853. Near it the Disciples have erected a frame house of worship. The only surviving elder is A. W. Gans. The church was erected in 1861.

#### SPRINGHILL SOLDIERS.

In the war of 1812-15, Springhill sent a considerable number of soldiers to the army. Among these

were men who enlisted in Capt. John Phillips' company, which numbered one hundred and twenty-five men when he marched them across the Monongahela River on their way to Pittsburgh. Capt. Peter Hertzog was from Springhill. His company was styled a "rifle company," and served in the Northwest under Gen. Harrison. The names of the men who went from Springhill in these companies have not been found.

In the war of the Rebellion a great number of men from Springhill entered the army of the United States, serving in various regiments of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Among them were those named below, viz.: Ashbel G. Duncan, in Capt. George W. Gilmore's company, mustered into the service of West Virginia; afterwards raised a company, and became its captain, in a cavalry regiment, Fourteenth Pennsylvania. In the Eighty-fifth Pennsylvania Regiment, Robert H. Ross, Martin Eberhart, William Eberhart, Charles B. Eneix, David R. Sturgis, Phineas Sturgis, George A. Burchinal, Thomas Moser, Jesse Jones. In the One Hundred and Sixty-first Pennsylvania Regiment, Richard Stephenson, Samuel Le Clare, Jackson Dougherty. In the One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, John Thompson. In regiments not known, Michael Clemmer, George Ganoe, John Ganoe, Alexander Dougherty, Ephraim Provance, Adolph Provance, Abner McLain, Alfred Swearingin, Charles O'Neil, Calvin Ruble, Willey Burchinal, James T. Dougherty, Allen Frankinberry.

Capt. George W. Gilmore's cavalry company was raised in Fayette County. The company was accepted in July, 1861. They were denominated the "Pennsylvania Dragoons," and attached to the First Virginia Cavalry. Capt. Gilmore is a son of Hon. David Gilmore, and well known in Fayette County. He was born June 7, 1832, near McClellandtown. He at present resides in Dade County, Mo.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

### HON. ALBERT GALLATIN.

Albert Gallatin, who was nominally a resident of Fayette County for fully forty years in the last part of the eighteenth and the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and who actually lived here during a considerable portion of that period, might, perhaps, in view of the high offices he held and the distinguished public services he performed, be regarded as the most illustrious citizen of Fayette during the almost century of its existence as a county. He was a native of Switzerland, born at Geneva, Jan. 29, 1761. His ancestor, John Gallatin, secretary to the Duke of Savoy, emigrated to Geneva early in the sixteenth century, and, having embraced the Reformation, was one of the city magistrates when Switzerland became

a republic. The family was one of no little note, embracing among those allied to it the celebrated Madame de Staël and her distinguished father, Necker, the famous French minister of finance.

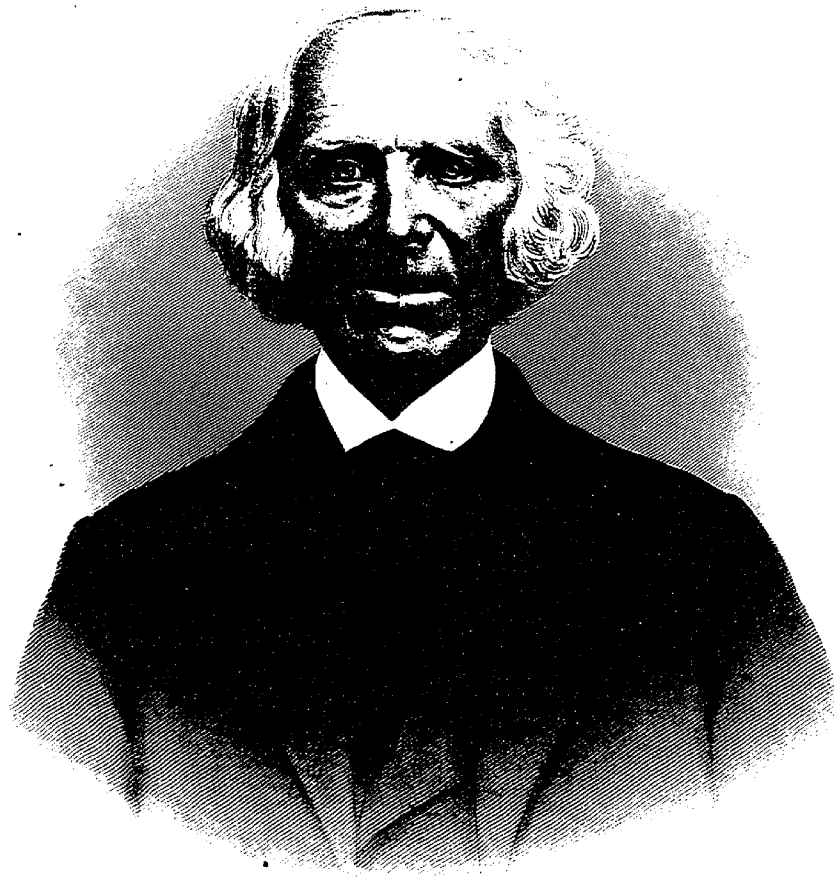
Albert Gallatin graduated at Geneva in 1779, and in 1780, when in his twentieth year, he emigrated to America, being attracted here by the great struggle for liberty that was then in progress. Landing at Boston, one of his first acts after his arrival was to offer his services to the American Congress, which were accepted, and he was assigned to duty in the defense of Passamaquoddy, where, as well as at Machias, he served under Col. John Allen. He did not, however, long remain in the military service. In 1782 he came into possession of a moderate patrimony in Switzerland, and immediately after the close of the Revolution he was located in Richmond, Va., as the agent of a European commercial house. While there he became acquainted with a number of prominent men, and among these was Patrick Henry, Governor of the State; and it was in accordance with the advice of Governor Henry that he purchased lands in the West, in the valleys of the Ohio and Monongahela, which resulted in his becoming a resident in the south part of Fayette County. While in Richmond he became acquainted with an Italian lady, Madame Allegre, and her daughter Sophia, who was the acknowledged belle of the city. The young people became mutually attached to each other, and this resulted (May 14, 1789) in the marriage of Gallatin to Sophia Allegre, though it was done against the violent and determined opposition of her mother. The young couple removed to the valley of the Monongahela, and occupied a log house in Springhill township. Three weeks later the bride died, and her remains were interred at "Friendship Hill," where they still repose, in a grave unmarked by any memorial stone (in accordance with her dying request to Gallatin), but which in later years was inclosed by a neat fence, by direction of the then proprietor of the estate, the Hon. John L. Dawson. On the 11th of November, 1793, Gallatin married Hannah Nicholson, daughter of Commodore James Nicholson, U.S.N.

Five years prior to his first marriage he had visited the West to purchase lands, and in 1787 his name appears for the first time on the assessment-rolls of Springhill township, he being assessed on the "Friendship Hill" lands, purchased from Nicholas Blake in the previous year. For a few years after his first coming here his residence was somewhat migratory, being a part of the time in Springhill, and sometimes at Morgantown, Va. Upon his marriage he made his home (intended to be permanent) at "Friendship Hill." In October, 1789, he was chosen a delegate, with John Smilie, of Fayette, to the convention which framed the constitution of 1790. It was in that body that he was first brought to public notice as a talented debater, though then but twenty-nine years of age. In 1790 he was elected, with Judge James

Finley, to the Pennsylvania Assembly, where he served in 1791, '92, and '93. The high qualities he there displayed caused his election by the Legislature, at the session of 1792-93, to the Senate of the United States, though a majority of the members were opposed to him in politics, he being a member of the Republican—soon afterwards known as the Democratic—party. He took his seat in the Senate in December, 1793, but a question was raised as to his eligibility to the office, as he had not been for a sufficient length of time a citizen of the United States. The question was referred to a committee, who reported adversely, and in February, 1794, he was unseated by a strict party vote of fourteen to twelve. It was during this visit to the East in his senatorial capacity that he was married to Hannah Nicholson, as before mentioned. In May, 1794, he returned to Springhill, and purchased from John and William George Wilson the site of the village of New Geneva, and started the enterprise of the old glass-works, as elsewhere noticed. It was also at this time that he became unfortunately identified with the insurgent party in the "Whiskey Insurrection," but he afterwards deeply regretted the course he had at first taken, and did all in his power to quench the flame he had to some extent been instrumental in kindling.

At the close of the Whiskey Insurrection (in October, 1794), Mr. Gallatin was again elected to the Assembly of Pennsylvania, and was also at the same time elected a member of Congress. The Congress to which he was thus elected did not meet till December, 1795, and he served through that session, and was re-elected in 1796, 1798, and 1800 from the same district, composed of the counties of Allegheny, Washington, and Greene, the latter county having been erected in 1796. His service in Congress embraced the last two years of Washington's administration and the whole of the administration of President John Adams. It was during this period that Mr. Gallatin, with others, established the old gun-factory near New Geneva.

When Thomas Jefferson became President, in March, 1801, he indicated to Mr. Gallatin his wish to appoint him Secretary of the Treasury. There existed, however, an obstacle in Mr. Gallatin's connection with the Fayette gun-factory, which held contracts to furnish arms to the government. Mr. Gallatin thereupon returned to New Geneva, sold out all his interest in the factory and the contracts to Mr. Baker, and was appointed to the Secretaryship May 14, 1801. He remained at the head of the Treasury Department through both of Mr. Jefferson's Presidential terms, through Mr. Madison's first, and in his second term until February, 1814, though in the mean time (April, 1813) the President had appointed him a plenipotentiary, jointly with John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, and James A. Bayard, of Delaware, to sign a treaty of peace with Great Britain, which it was then hoped would be effected through the



*John Morgan*



*L. B. Gump*

friendly mediation offered by the Emperor of Russia. On this mission the President had sent him to Europe, but without allowing him to relinquish the Secretaryship of the Treasury. The Senate refused to confirm his appointment, on the ground that the two offices of Secretary of the Treasury and peace commissioner or minister were incompatible. He was not, however, recalled. England rejected the czar's mediation, but offered to treat untrammelled. Thereupon Mr. Gallatin, having been relieved of the Secretaryship, was appointed, Feb. 9, 1814, one of the commissioners in the treaty negotiations, which resulted in the conclusion of a treaty of peace, signed at Ghent, in Belgium, Dec. 24, 1814. In 1815, Mr. Gallatin was appointed minister to France, where he remained from 1816 to 1823, during which time he was intrusted with special and important missions to England and to the Netherlands. On his return to the United States, in 1824, he declined a seat in the Cabinet, also the candidacy of his party for Vice-President. The new mansion at Friendship Hill had been provided for his reception, and there he took up his abode soon after his return from Europe, and there in 1825 he received the memorable visit of his illustrious friend, the Marquis de Lafayette, "the like of which old Springhill had never seen, may never see again."

In 1826, Mr. Gallatin was sent as minister plenipotentiary to the court of St. James, where he remained over a year, and successfully accomplished all the objects of his mission. He returned to the United States in December, 1827, but never again resided in Fayette County. He lived a short time in Baltimore (which was the place of residence of two of Mrs. Gallatin's sisters), but soon removed to the city of New York, where he spent the remainder of his long and brilliant life, devoting himself chiefly to literature, science, historical and ethnological researches.

He was mainly instrumental in founding and became the first president of the Ethnological Society, and he was from 1843 until his death president of the New York Historical Society. He was perhaps the best talker of the century, at home on all topics, with a wonderful memory for facts and dates. He died at the residence of his son-in-law, at Astoria, L. I., on Sunday, Aug. 12, 1849, in the eighty-ninth year of his age.

#### COL. JOHN MORGAN.

The late Col. John Morgan, of Springhill, was of Welsh parentage. His father and mother married in Wales, and had two or three children before they migrated to America, and here they had more, to the number of ten in all, of whom Col. John, born in Springhill township, Aug. 8, 1790, was the seventh. Col. Morgan's father, David Morgan, was one of the first settlers of the southwestern part of Fayette County. At the time of his arrival in the county it was inhabited by the Indians, with whom he had many

encounters. He was one of the founders of Mount Moriah Baptist Church at Smithfield, and was noted for his piety. He died in 1798, aged fifty-four years.

When a young man Col. Morgan learned blacksmithing, and was an apprentice in the same shop with the late Hon. Andrew Stewart. He worked at his trade for a few years, and then engaged in flat-boating down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, which he followed for three years or more, and then settled upon the old homestead, where he spent the remainder of his long life, except while occupied with public business. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, but obtained the title of colonel in the State militia, being commissioned as such by Governor Simon Snyder. He was a member of the State Legislature for Fayette County in 1843, and was re-elected in 1844 and 1845. Col. Morgan was an earnest advocate of the public school system of the State, and was one of the first school directors of his township, and held other township offices. He died Jan. 5, 1880.

March 12, 1817, Col. Morgan married Elizabeth Lyons, of Springhill township, and by her had seven children,—four sons and three daughters. The sons all became farmers, and the daughters married farmers. At the time of his death Col. Morgan's possessions consisted chiefly in lands. He was strong of body, possessing wonderful powers of endurance, and had an abundance of good hard sense. He was not a church-member. He was always a sound Democrat, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. In short, his was a rare character, and he filled up the measure of his years ably and honorably.

#### LEBBEUS BIGLOW GANS.

Lebbeus Biglow Gans was born in Springhill township, Fayette Co., Pa., March 31, 1825. He is the fifth son of William and Magdalene Gans, whose parents were among the early settlers of Southern Fayette County. William Gans' parents emigrated from Germany on account of religious persecution, and settled near Antietam, Md., and in the year 1785 came to Springhill township and pre-empted the beautiful tract of land near Morris' Cross-Roads on which they lived and died, and now owned by L. B. Gans. Magdalene, wife of William Gans, was the daughter of George Custer, who was a first cousin of Gen. George Washington, they being sisters' children. He was the fourth son of Paul Custer, and his mother was Sarah Ball, the daughter of Col. Ball, of Lancaster County, Pa. Her sister, Mary Ball, was married to Mr. Augustine Washington, by whom she had six children, the eldest being the renowned commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary army and the first President of the United States. George Custer was born in Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 3, 1774, and died on his farm in Georges township, Fayette Co., Pa., in 1829, aged eighty-five years and two days. He was a large, healthy man, with abundant means, and was the

father of fifteen children. L. B. Gans received a common-school education, and is a farmer by profession. He has been twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth J. Ramsay, was the daughter of James C. Ramsay, Esq., whom he married Jan. 6, 1848, and by whom he had three children,—one son, who died in infancy; and two daughters, both living. The elder, Dorcas Anna, is married to T. F. Protzman, a merchant at Morris' Cross-Roads, Pa. The younger, Elizabeth J., is married to W. Morgan Smith, of Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co., Pa. His first wife, Elizabeth J., died March 25, 1857. He married his second wife, Emily S. Goe, daughter of Henry B. Goe, of Allegheny City, Oct. 15, 1868, by whom he has three sons and one daughter. Mr. Gans is an active, thrifty business man. In addition to the homestead, which has always been considered the standard in making real estate assessments in the township, he owns one hundred and thirty-four acres immediately adjoining it on the east, making in all three hundred acres, which is the best farm in Southern Fayette County. The farm is well improved and in an excellent state of cultivation. This farm is noted for its extensive maple-sugar orchard, containing about two thousand trees, which yields an average annual income of eight hundred dollars. In late years Mr. Gans has not made a specialty of agriculture, but is engaged in grazing stock. Mr. Gans is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and is held in high esteem by his neighbors and fellow-citizens. In all his business relations he is remarkable for candor and integrity. His domestic and social relations are of the most pleasant and agreeable character. He lives in good style, enjoys life, the society of home and friends, and the fellowship of the community.

## ALPHEUS WILLSON SCOTT.

Alpheus W. Scott, of Springhill township, is of Scotch-Irish and Welsh descent, and was born at Morris' Cross-Roads, Sept. 30, 1822. Having received a good common-school education he commenced teaching in 1843, and continued in the profession the greater part of the time until 1867. On the 6th of March, 1846, he was married to Miss Martha E. Gans. In 1861 he entered the military service of the United States in the war of the Rebellion, and was commissioned captain of Company I, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, March 3, 1862, and stationed at Chambersburg, Pa., in the recruiting service. He resigned Oct. 1, 1862, but was afterwards in the service in the One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, where he held the rank of quartermaster-sergeant, but performed all the duties of quartermaster, on account of the sickness of that officer, during his nine months' term of service. On the 12th of March, 1864, he re-enlisted at Greensburg, Westmoreland Co., and was assigned to the One Hundred and Twenty-first Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, yet he never did any duty with the regiment. In the fall of 1864, at City Point, Va., he was, by special order from army headquarters, assigned to duty on the commission of exchange of prisoners under Gen. John E. Mulford. On the occupation of Richmond by the Union forces in April, 1865, he went to that city, and remained there in the office of Gen. Mulford until the following August, when he was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service. For the past fifteen years he has been chiefly employed as a newspaper correspondent, in which vocation he displays marked ability.