West Virginia Is Host To National Editorial Ass'n

EDITORS ENTERTAINED AT BOYHOOD HOME OF "STONEWALL" JACKSON, NOW THE LARGEST STATE-OWNED 4-H CAMP IN AMERICA

Continuing the tour of West Virginia, made by members of the National Editorial association in June, 1938, the party left Wheeling on Saturday, June 25, bound for Morgantown, cutting through a corner of Pennsylvania. Luncheon was served by the Chamber of Commerce at the Morgantown Country Club, where a brief address was made by Chauncey S. Boucher, president of the West Virginia university. A drive was made over the city of Morgantown, giving the visisors an opportunity to view the campus of the university.

History of Morgantown

Morgantown, West Virginia, other than being the home of West Virginia University and the northern gateway to West Virginia, has a history which is, in brief, the story of exploration, settlement and development of the trans-Appalachian region. Its immediate background is fixed in an event of international importance, the French and Indian War of the middle of the eighteenth century. Early English frontiersmen from the borders of the coastal plain, advanced in their westward migrations to the summit of the eastern mountain divide to find further progress into the Monongahela valley region disputed by the French, allied with the Indians. In the decade that followed, when the fate of a continent hung in the balance came events which make Morgantown, in West Virginia, historically important.

Shown here is an air view of Morgantown, W. Va., seat of West Virginia University and center of the coal producing industry of Northern West Virginia. The Morgantown community, embracing five different municipalities which adjoin one another, has a population of approximately 25,000. It has a number of glass factories and one large shirt factory.

In September, 1784, George Wshington, while visiting at Pierponts, at the home near what is now Fairmont, in Marion County, sent for Colonel Zackquill Morgan, seventh son of the famous Indian fighter and pioneer, Colonel Morgan Morgan. Colonel Zackquill Morgan had, accompanied by John Evans of Loudin County, Virginia, visited the site of Morgantown a decade before the Revolutionary War, in which he served, under Washington. In 1767, in fact, Morgan built his cabin on the banks of the Monongahela river, on the site of the present city. Others joined him there and when George Washington called Col. Morgan to the conference on that September day in 1784, Morgan had already protected a town and had sold several lots. The following year the General Assembly granted a municipal charter to "Morgans Town."

In October, 1776, the Virginia Legislature divided the West Augusta District into three counties, Youghiogheny, Monongalia and Ohio. This division of territory was important. Monongalia County as then formed comprised a vast territory which has since been divided into four Pennsylvania and twenty West Virginia counties, in their present total or a portion of their present total areas. At the time the dispute over the boundary between Virginia and Pennsylvania was raging. When it was settled in 1780, by the General Assembly of Virginia accepting the "Mason-Dixon Line" survey, Colonel Zackwell Morgan's house became the county seat of Monongalia County and Virginians stopped holding court in Pennsylvania. When Morgans Town was chartered, later renamed Morgantown, in 1785, it became the County seat of Monongalia County and voting places were established here and at Bush's Fort, now Buckhannon.

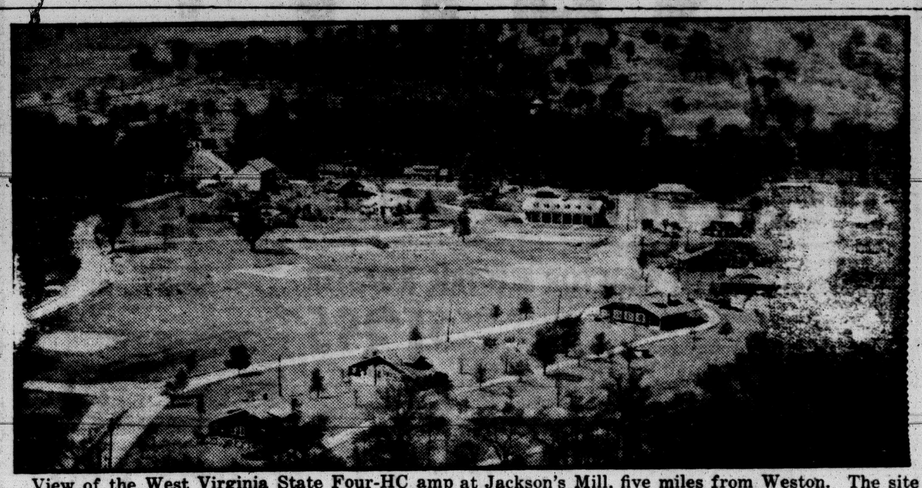
Early pioneers, westward bound, in crossing the mountains from the east found, at Morgantown, first Fort Morgan and protection, also navigable waters down the Monongahela to Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh, thence down the Ohio to the middle west.

Morgantown is situated at an elevation of 1,000 feet above sea level with excellent climate, amid environs revealing all the beauties of mountain, river and lake. Seven miles from Morgantown is thirteen-mile-long Cheat Lake, a paradise for vacationists, first dam and electric unit constructed in the Cheat river basin, assuring for all time an ample supply of electric energy.

After a brief stop at Riversville, where a demonstration was made by representatives of the Monongahela West Penn Corporation, the party proceeded to the city park of Fairmont, for another brief stop and light refreshments, leaving during mid-afternoon for Weston, the home town of Bob Prichard. A quick tour of the city and a drive through the grounds of the Weston State hospital, was followed to the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill, where a wonderful dinner was served, courtesy of the Weston Democrat and entertainment by the Weston Chamber of Commerce.

Jackson's Mill is the boyhood home of General Stonewall Jackson, located four miles north of Weston. Here is to be found the first and largest state-owned, state-maintained 4-H Camp in America, where thousands of boys and girls and hundreds of men and women are given helpful instruction each year. It was established by an act of the legislature in 1921 as part of the Agricultural Extension Service of the West Virginia university.

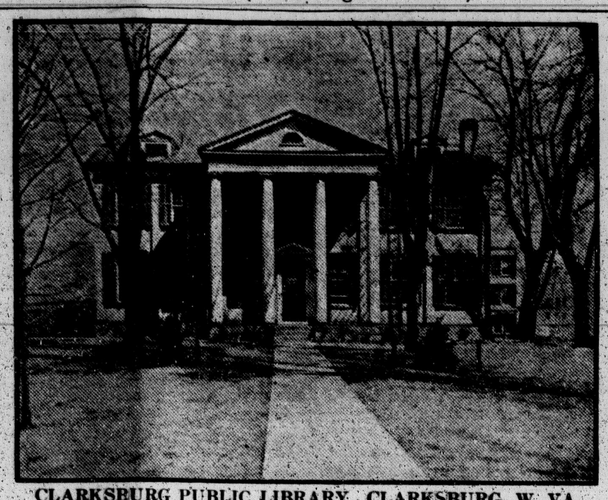
The following story of the life of Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson was writen by Roy Bird Cook, which he titled "Stonewall Jackson — a West Virginian," and will prove interesting to our readers:



View of the West Virginia State Four-HC amp at Jackson's Mill, five miles from Weston. The site of this camp is the boyhood home of General T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson, noted military genius of the Civil War. The camp is the first and largest state owned Four-H camp in the United States. On the lawn, between the swimming pool and Mount Vernon dining hall (center of picture) the members of the National Editorial Association were banqueted. At the camp thousands of West Virginia boys and girls are trained each year in the improvements of their Heads, Hands, Hearts, and Health.

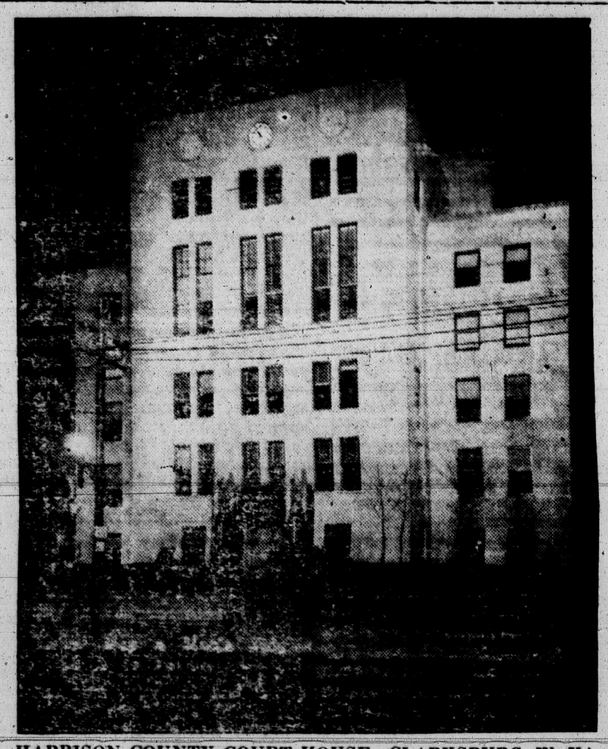
"Stonewall" Jackson

On June 27, 1862, about five in the evening, fresh from the dust and smoke of the famous "Valley Campaign," there appeared upon the field of "Cold Harbor," General Stonewall Jackson. Under his command came veteran battalions covered with the glory of victory in the highlands of Virginia to now enter upon the desperate conflicts of the lowlands. The activities of this army in the events of May and June had attracted all eyes to Jackson. War seemed under his direction to have become a pageant of triumph, and from the smoke of battle rose in the public mind a picture of some romantic soldier with fluttering banner, mounted on prancing steed, advancing in pride, pomp, and glory. But such was not actually the case. Everywhere was asked the question, "Who is Jackson?" A distinguished member of the staff of General Stuart wrote soon thereafter, "All we then knew was that he was a poor boy, born beyond the Alleghenies, who managed to get to West Point," and "later a professor at the Lexington Military School." It is to the answer of this question, even though often since answered, that this sketch is dedicated.



CLARKSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY, CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

Thomas Jackson was born in Clarksburg, (W.) Va., January 21, 1824, the third child of Jonathan and Julia Beckwith Neale Jackosn. By birth, he was a composite of the aggressive Scotch-Irish of Western Virginia, and the lowland planter of pure English strain of East Virginia. The Jacksons were descended from John Jackson, immigrant, born near Coleraine, Ulster, Ireland, in 1719, who came to America in 1748. This line produced soldiers that bore arms in every war waged by the Colonies and the United States to this day. The Neales, while in the direct line then residing at Parkersburg, (W.) Va., were derived from Lieutenant Daniel Neale of the English army, immigrant, who located in Northumberland County, Virginia, in 1649.



HARRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

The first few years of the life of Thomas Jackson were filled with adversity. On March 26, 1826, his father died, his oldest sister a few days before, and the young widow left with very meager means. In 1830 his mother married (2) Blake B. Woodson, of Cumberland County, Virgnia, and removed to Fayette County, where she died the following year. The children in the meantime, had been placed with relatives, Thomas going to the old home place at Jackson's Mills, just below Weston, in Lewis County, then occupied by his step-grandmother (Mrs. Edward Jackson) and several uncles and aunts.

The following twelve years were spent at the "Mills" during which time he made a few visits elsewhere. Once during the winter of '36-'37 he, with his brother, Warren, set out to seek adventure and fortune along the Ohio and Mississippi, with an almost disastrous ending. In the meantime he went to schools, such as they were; took part in all local activities of a religious and social nature; and was known throughout the community for his honesty and dependability. He was not quick to decide, but once his mind was made up, acted on quick time. One of his schoolmates recorded that, "Tom was always an uncommonly behaved lad, a gentleman from a boy up, just kind to everyone." Many anecdotes set forth his characteristics. His love for the farm life, his attempts to teach the slaves to read and write, the manufacture and sale of maple sugar, the catching and sale of fish to secure means to buy books, and his insatiable desire for knowledge, are outstanding features.

The summer of 1837 found Jackson working on the old Parkersburg and Staunton Pike, through the heart of Western Virginia. The winter of 1839 was spent in school under that noted depictor of affairs on the border—Alexander Scott Withers—who was much attached to his quiet student. Matthew Edmiston, a brilliant young lawyer, located in Weston, bringing with him a small library, which was soon absorbed. About this time the Christian character which has so set him apart began to crystallize. In December, 1841, he wrote his uncle, Alfred Neale, of Parkersburg, concerning the death of his brother Warren, setting for that "he died in the hope of a bright immortality at the right hand of his Redeemer." And this from the mind of a lad of seventeen.

The year 1840 found Colonel Withers a "gentleman justice of the peace," and with the spring of 1841 came a vacancy as constable in the Freeman's Creek section of Lewis county. Major Minter Bailey, of Weston, and Withers set out to get Jackson a "job," and June 11 found Thomas Jackson a full-fledged constable, a "sort of minor sheriff" in that day. Needless to say, the task was well performed, but did not last over a year, as a far greater opportunity arose.

Samuel L. Hays, of Lewis County, succeeded (Gov.) Joseph Johnson in the Congress, taking seat March 4, 1841. In the spring of 1842, it was anounced that an appointment was to be made of a cadet to West Point Military Academy. A preliminary examination—the details of which have never been quite clear—was held in the "old Bailey House" at Weston. Four applicants appeared, namely, Thomas Jackson, Joseph Lightburn (later brigadier-general in the Federal army), Johnson N. Camden, who received the next appointment (later U. S. Senator), and Gibson J. Butcher. Two were too young. Jackson was said to have been deficient in mathematics, and on April 19 Butcher was "conditionally appointed" a cadet to West Point.

In the latter part of May, Butcher left for West Point, but the outlook was not attractive, and he returned to Weston, having stopped at Jackson's Mills on his way home. Jackson again took hope. "I know I have the energy and I think I have the intellect. I am very ignorant, but can make it up in study," he told Jonathan M. Bennett, of Weston, who did much for his advancement in later years. On June 17, Hays was confronted in the Office in Washington with a determined young man, with his belongings in a pair of saddle bags, who had traveled many weary miles by coach and train in "search of knowledge." He presented a letter from the previous appointee, in which was set forth, "Mr. Jackson will deliver this letter to you, who is applicant for the appointment," together with a petition signed by several local citizens. The Secretary of War, John C. Spencer, made a new warrant on June 18, which bore the name of Thomas J. Jackson. Here for the first time appears the middle initial, the name Jonathan being added to the name borne since birth. Thus, by a single thread of fate, was the future career of the great American soldier directed.

Armed with a small sum of money advanced by Congressman Hays, Jackson appeared at West Point between the 20th and 30th of June, and after consideration of his case was admitted on July 1, 1842. The next four years were full of study, broken by a few visits home; and on June 30, 1846, he graduated with the brevet rank of second lieutenant of artillery. A short visit to Jackson's Mills, Weston, and Beverly, (W.) Va., and Aug. 19 found him on his way to Mexico. On March 3, 1847, he was advanced to rank of second lieutenant, and on the 9th landed with Scott's Army in Mexico. He was advanced to first lieutenant for gallant conduct in siege of Vera Cruz in March to brevet rank of captain for conduct in battle of Contreas in August; and to brevet rank of major for heroic conduct at Chapultepec in September. His record during this period is replete with praise from his superior officers.

In June, 1848, Jackson returned to the United States from Mexico with Scott's Army, and was stationed at Fort Hamilton, New York, until 1850, when he was transferred to Florida. During March, 1851, he resigned from the army to take effect in 1852, and was then appointed an instructor at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia. His interest in the Church continued unabated. In 1852 he wrote his aunt, Mrs. Alfred Neale of Parkersburg, "The subject of becoming a herald of the Cross has often seriously engaged my attention, and I regard it as the most noble of all professions. I should not be surprised were I to die upon a foreign field clad in ministerial armor. What could be more glorious?" Writing November 12, 1855, concerning his cousin, Hardin Neale, he says: "Yet if it were God's pleasure I feel that I would gladly exchange with him the apparent period of dissolution. I look upon death as being that moment which of all earthly ones is to be most to be desired by a child of God."

Jackson's ten years at Lexington are marked by several important events. The affiliation with the Presbyterian Church; his marriage on April 4, 1853, with Miss Eleanor Junkin, daughter of Dr. George Junkin, of Lexington, who died in the fall of 1854; a tour of Europe in 1856; his second marriage July 16, 1857, with Miss Mary Anna Morrison, of Lincoln County, North Carolina; and the trip to Charles Town during the John Brown trouble; are high points. Otherwise, there was little to interrupt his daily duties as instructor.

On April 21, 1861, Major Jackson left Lexington with the cadets in the opening of the Civil War. On April 27, he was appointed a colonel of Virginia Volunteers; assigned to command of First Brigade in June; and engaged in skirmish at Falling Waters July 2. On July 3, he was made a brigadier-general, and led First Brigade in first battle of Manasas. Here, Bee, in rallying his men, exclaimed, "See there stands Jackson like a stone wall!" thus applying the name known around the world better than the Christian name given at birth. Jackson, writing to Jonathan M. Bennett, July 28, says in part. "You will find—that the First Brigade was to our army what the Imperial Guard was to the First Napoleon—that through the blessing of God it met the thus far victorious enemy, and turned the fortunes of the day." On October 7, he was advanced to the rank of major-general, and assigned to command of Shenandoah Valley department on November 7.

On January 1, 1862, Jackson left Winchester, driving the Federals from Romney across the Potomac; engages in battle of Kernstown March 23, and enters upon the famous "Valley Campaign." During this period, the old "Stonewall Brigade" covered itself with glory, and the whole world turned its attention to the new commander this unfortunate fratricidal strife had brought forth. In thirty-two days Jackson and his "foot cavalry" marched four hundred miles, fought five battles, defeated three armies, captured twenty pieces of artillery, took four thousand prisoners, and large amounts of stores. This in turn cost him nine hundred men — killed, wounded and missing—and at no time did he have over fifteen thousand men to meet over sixty thousand Federals. The Seven Days Campaign, the second Manassas and Maryland Campaign, and the capture of Harper's Ferry in September, with eleven thousnd prisoners, all served to accentuate the history of his corps. On October 11, he was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-general, and placed in command of the Second Corps.

On May 1, 1863, Jackson led the Second Corps around Hooker's right flank at Chancellorsville, routing the right wing of the Federal army. During the action, he was wounded at the hands of a detachment of his own men, as a result of which he died May 10, at Guiney Station, near Fredricksburg, and was buried at Lexington.

Thus came to a close the earthly career of one of the most distinguished sons of the upper Monongahela valley of West Virginia. In his short life he became an international figure, proclaimed by the ablest of critics as one of the greatest captains of all time. His fame is not the property of the North, the South, the East, or the West, but of America. His record under the Stars and Stripes in Mexico, and his conscientious course under the Stars and Bars, can never be effaced from the annals of great American soldiers, and as the common heritage of our race, shall exist as long as time endures.

The party left Jackson's Mill late in the evening to spend the night in hotels of Clarksburg, the county-seat of Harrison county, the natural hub of an industrial and trading area. It is the center of a network of hard surfaced roads, bus lines, interurban and steam railways.

A program breakfast was served Sunday morning at the Masonic Temple under the auspices of the Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce, after which the guests left on a special B. & O. train, enroute to the Eastern panhandle, Arthurdale being the main stop of the day, at which time Mrs. Frankin D. Roosevelt was the speaker at that project.

(Continued next week)

This institution, the Weston State Hospital, is purported to be the largest hand-cut stone building in the world. The one-story wing at the left was started in 1859 by the state of Virginia and was the only public institution in West Augusta when West Virginia became a new state. Seventeen hundred mental patients are treated at the hospital. The medical center (four-story brick building at the left) is the finest in West Virginia and is approved by theAmerican Hospital Association.

MI PLACE RESTAURANT
Phone 377 —USTEN & FREUND, Props. Green St.
HALF SPRING FRIED CHICKEN — 60c
FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY — FRESH PERCH

Have YOU Tried Our
Meister Bräu
PILSNER?
Ask for it at your favorite tavern
Chas. Herdrich & Son, Dist.