

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

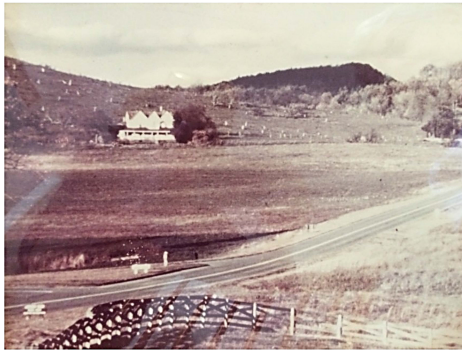


Figure 7 - Cassie Fralin Home (Note: Shaver Cemetery at Parkway at far right.)

Cassie Fralin home, daughter of Daniel Shaver: This is a photo of Pat Perdue's grandparents' home while it was there. Cassie Fralin Shaver and Daniel Shaver are buried in the cemetery at Adney Gap.

ED CONNER AND FAMILY



Figure 8 - Conners' Store, Known as Mae Conners' Store, First Operated by Clemens Morgan Conner (b. 1874 in Floyd County)

Clemens Morgan Conner worked on the farm and railroad, then returned to Floyd where he married Essie Gearhardt and had three children. The family had

CO68-1
cont'd

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

businesses in Copper Hill, Poages Mill and Airpoint. Clemens was also the Postmaster of Bent Mountain circa 1912.²²

Today the Conner name still graces the route from Floyd through Roanoke and all corners of this region--from Conner Road in Copper Hill, just south of Bent Mountain, through many parcels in the Bent Mountain area and County Line, and on to the Poages Mill area of Roanoke County. Today, Edward Conner lives at the top of Green Hollow Road, in the heart of the Mountain. Ed is a lifelong resident of Bent Mountain and has no intention of leaving. He works for Roanoke City Schools as a veteran Supervising Electrician. His relatives in the area include his uncle, Howard Thompson, who owns the Vester Grant Farm at the entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Adney Gap. Since he was a child, Ed has hunted here for deer, turkey and bear, in the breast of Poor Mountain off of Bottom Creek Road, and deep behind the property behind Green Hollow Rd. Ed knows the trails in the area so well, he “could traverse them blindfolded.” Ed is actively devoted to several charitable service activities. In the last year alone, the organization he leads raised over \$30,000 for children in need.

THE FRUIT GROWERS TELEPHONE CORPORATION

The confluence of Shaver, Price, Bowman and Willett orcharding businesses, together with that of the Reeds, Kings, Waldrons, Wimmers, Perdues and other tenant farmers and orcharders, gave rise to the need for better communications. Hence the advent of the *Fruit Growers Telephone Corporation* in 1910. John B. Willet, brother to Sam, also a Bottom Creek and Mill Creek orcharder, cultivated a prosperous apple orchard atop the Mountain which he sold to Jordan Woodrum. In 1906, he had formed a partnership in a farm and orchard on the face of the Mountain known as “the great bend”, boasting some 1,700 pippin apple trees. He formed a mercantile business with H. E. Bowman based on Jefferson Street in Roanoke, and eventually opened a branch store along the Bent Mountain Road in Poages Mill. He further became Vice President and Director of the Fruit Growers Telephone Corporation, its office located at the Poages Mill mercantile store. Bowman and Willett managed a “general jobbing business in apples... buying and selling in carload lots.”²³ J.T. Henry, Roscoe Conklin Wertz, James W. Turner, and

²² The History of Bent Mountain, pp 95-96. Powells, Holts, Bohons and Lancasters also had stores in the area of Conner’s store.

²³ See Jacks.

T. M. Bell, organized this corporation with the property owned by Luther Bell. It cost the company \$2,000 to build lines to the Virginia and Tennessee Telephone Company near the Roanoke City Almshouse—thus having direct communication with Roanoke, Salem and Vinton without extra cost. It also placed them in communication, through long distance exchange at Roanoke, with the outside world. Within a year of opening, they had 25 subscribers within two miles of their office; and as of George Jacks' writing, there was a promised extension "throughout the great pippin apple section of the county, and within a few months practically every apple grower will be in a position to phone from his own home to the best fruit markets of the United States."²⁴

CO68-1
cont'd

ORCHARDING HISTORY



Figure 9 - Lois organizes the King and Waldron reunions every summer.



Figure 10 - Lois King Waldron in her orchard

²⁴ See Jacks, p. 98.

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM



Figure 11 - artifacts collected by Lois King Waldron and her children



Figure 12 - Harry C. King's orchard hand-stamp used for apple crates



Figure 13 - aerial view of Lois King Waldron orchard and farm

Lois Waldron's grandfather, Will Wickham, was a salesman of apples and all manner of other fruit, and Lois and her husband took up this work as they continued their lives on the Waldron property along Bottom Creek Road. She grew up in the home she lives in now. Her dad was Harry C. King. She and her husband Lindbergh lived further down along Bottom Creek in their early married years, but later returned to the Waldron-King Farm to take up responsibility for the farm and orchard.

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

Lois' father, and then her husband, also kept work as school bus drivers to Bottom Creek; they drove children from Roanoke County in addition to the far reaches of Montgomery County, way back in Bottom Creek Gorge, when Montgomery closed the Funk School.

The Waldrons and Wickhams sold thirty different varieties of apples – Newton, Bent Mountain Pippins, and Lowry. In addition to selling on the Roanoke City Market and throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, they hosted school visits to their farm. Children would come with a picnic lunch and tour the farm and orchards, and they'd get to bring home a pumpkin.

The farm was more than income to Lois. She recalls a time when her son cleaned up a sapling that had been covered in oil and thrown out; he washed it off, and it's still producing Summer Rambo apples today. Lois is responsible for the gathering of two family reunions at the end of every summer--the King and the Waldron families.

Lois' daughter Inky describes the farm this way:

Speaking of the proposed route, it will run through the wooded section which is a very special part of the farm. It's like a world unto itself. When I was growing up, I remember tagging along with my Dad to get the family Christmas tree, and he would also collect running cedar to make a Christmas wreath and other decorations. Sometimes on Sunday afternoons, we would go for walks and he would teach me the names of the native plants we would find. I didn't know it at the time; however, when I took a VA wildflower course in college, I found I had a wonderful advance from my Dad's teaching me so long ago. He showed me how to find native teaberries to eat which I taught my cousin. One time on New Year's Day they came over and my cousin and I went on a walk. We were around 9 or 10 years old. We really weren't supposed to go far; however, we ended up in the woods because I had just learned about the teaberries. I still remember hearing my Mom ringing the dinner bell which could be heard all over the farm; however, we chose to ignore it so we could continue eating teaberries. Meanwhile, her family needed to go home. They had sat in the car for over 30 minutes waiting on us, and ice cream had melted over her grandmother's lap (they took the leftover ice cream from the meal home). She had to wash dishes for over a month but still tells me it was worth it because she had never eaten or seen a teaberry before then. My Dad also taught me how to spot a squirrel's nest high in the trees and now I'm following in his footsteps trying to teach my young sons the same things he taught me. We would also gather pine needles in the woods to mulch our strawberry patches, and my father would often cut wood from fall trees. One year, he had a corn patch that I helped him with when I got off from my job at Lewis Gale Clinic when I was a senior in high school just right next to the woods. He chose that spot because of the rich soil.

Lois Reed Overstreet's family has a long history of orcharding, and her brother and son and family still keep an orchard up behind the Jordan Woodrum House off of Poor Mountain Road and Tinsley Lanes. It is in the blast zone of the proposed pipeline. Now a resident of Bent Mountain Road, Lois explains that Lois Waldron of Bottom Creek is named after her. She and her sister used to hang about with

CO68-1
cont'd

COMPANIES AND NGOS

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

Mabel Wickham, Lois King Waldron’s mom, who said that “If I ever have a little girl, I’m going to name her Lois.” And she did. Overstreet graduated from Bent Mountain School, in years when they offered eleven—not twelve—years of schooling. Waldron entered school the following September, she says. Overstreet recalls Waldron’s birthday is Valentine’s Day.

Carson and Willie King’s present orchards and farms are in Floyd County; geographically the plateau spreads as far as “Daniels Run and Kings Store” Roads, where the upland plateau begins its descent toward the south; but their orchards and farms are accessible by way of Bottom Creek-King Bros. Rd or County Line / Sugar Run Rd. Their ancestor, Joseph King (1776-1838), was prominently known by his original estate at *White House in Shawsville*. Joseph King and his wife Catherine “Kitty” Lewis (daughter of Andrew Lewis, grew up at Longwood) had ten children. Among their children was Joseph Rayburn King (b. 1820) who served in the Confederacy for four years and returned home, serving continuously for thirty years as the justice of the peace on Bent Mountain.

Today, the King family tends widely to the community of Bent Mountain. Brothers Carson and Willie King, their wives *Sylvia and Nancy*, Cousin *Lois King Waldron* and their sister in law *Gladys Conner King*, their many children and grandchildren, all live and work on this upland plateau. The fabric of their lives is *here*. As to whether they could, in the event of pipeline disruption of any sort, go somewhere else, Sylvia retorted, “... we are *not* going anywhere else.”

On any given morning at the crack of dawn, the King brothers, their friends Frank and Sammy, and others may be found at the B & S Mart, a gas station and convenience store on Bent Mountain Road next to the post office, drinking coffee, propped on old apple crates turned upside down as stools. One is fortunate to catch bits and snippets of their wry observations, chatter and wisdom while grabbing coffee and paying for gas

During the 1960’s, many area farmers began to farm part-time, but the King family has continued their tradition full-time. Carson and Sylvia own Kings Fruit Stand at the face of the Mountain, in what’s known as the old “Airpoint”. Heading back through Bottom Creek Road, past cousin Lois’ farm and orchard, past cousin Mildred’s farm, and deep into the Bottom Creek section of the plateau and into Floyd county, lies the old homestead of King Brothers’ Farms and Orchard. The old homestead sits on 150 acres—they grow a variety of apples, such as red

CO68-1
cont'd

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

delicious, Rome, Golden and Stayman, along with several acres of peaches. In addition to orcharding and farming vegetables, they raise cattle. As well as the old homeplace, they own farms in Roanoke County on Bottom Creek and out closer to Adney Gap, a parcel that Gladys' family, the Connors, had also always farmed. Their everyday travel to and from each of these farms would be heavily impacted by any heavy machinery, truck or utility vehicles used in pipeline construction, along Bottom Creek, Rocky Road or County Line Road.²⁵

CO68-1
cont'd

One parcel owned and tended by the King family is that of *Mildred King Reed and Woodrow Reed*, each of whom lived well into their nineties and who maintained their orchards along Bottom Creek Road into the last decade. Like many others on the Mountain, they kept a large family garden and their home was served by a fresh running spring. During and after her brief illness and passing in 2015, Mildred had a following of fans and supporters, many of whom admired her ability to function in the modern world, taking the train to New York in the 70's and 80's as a buyer for Heironimus and to maintain her down-to-earth lifestyle. She lived independently in her own home until her passing. In her last few years, her cousin Willie King and wife Nancy, tended to her daily, traversing Bottom Creek Road on the way from their homes in the Airpoint neighborhood of Poor Mountain Road, back to Bottom Creek on the way to work their farms each day. Mildred rests beside her husband in the King cemetery on the hill above her home, and most would agree that her straightforward, hardworking, practical and plucky spirit, not to mention her good humor, abide in this place.

In a 2011 interview with reporter Coleen Redman, Gladys King noted the benefits of working hard, often seven days a week in peak vegetable season. Gladys and Nancy cover the crops, while Carson, Willie and their nephew Mark cover the cattle and related tasks. Recent challenges to successful crops include stinkbugs, gypsy moths and beetles. Gladys, like her farming ancestors before her, wears many hats: she also works as a tax assistant, and she leads the local Farm Bureau Women's Committee, educating children about the benefits of farming and bringing it into the classroom.

²⁵ Through much of the year, their everyday existence would be sliced in half by the radical blasting, trenching and other construction and the constant eventual presence of a proposed 42 inch natural gas pipeline. In addition, their relatives would be hard hit by the proposed MVP pipeline route: Lois Waldron's cousin Cletus Bohon lives just over the Mountain in the Cove Hollow area of Elliston, in Montgomery County, where there is strong evidence of MVP plans for a compressor station.

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

Gladys sums up their lives here on the Mountain: *“We’ve always farmed, she said... You have to love it... God’s been good to us. Not everyone’s lucky enough to have what we have.”*²⁶

The Poff and Wimmer families have a history from Adney Gap all the way over to Whitt’s Orchard, which stands today as a thriving example of the orcharding industry on Bent Mountain. The Wimmer family lives near the corner of Poor Mountain Road and Willet Lane in the thick of their orchards which have thrived for the better part of the last century. Several years ago, *Ed Whitt*, Rosie Wimmer’s dad, had some of his old pippin trees grafted in efforts to strengthen his harvest and rejuvenate the orchard—the farm stands today as a testament to the fortitude of family and community, and the determination to keep a culture and its traditions alive. The Wimmer family, led by Randy and Rosie, have been lifelong volunteers and staff at the Bent Mountain Fire and Rescue squad. Randy was Fire Chief for several years as he and his wife raised four children in the “fire and rescue family.” Randy recently passed away, but the family continues his tradition of service to the community.

CO68-1
cont’d

THE WILLETT FAMILY and VEST HOMESTEAD:

Fred Vest House, barn and outbuildings (circa 1929) sits at the very end of Mill Creek Road. Pat Perdue explains that Samuel Willett first lived in the home that is now the home of Mr. Fred Vest. Sam Willett sold to Jack Poff (Sylvia Poff King was Jack’s daughter) who sold to Fred Hale, who sold to Mr. Vest. Fred explains that Sam Willett built the house from parts of an old hotel in Salem. Two or three of his doors still have the room numbers imprinted on the doors.

Sam Willett was an older son of Francis Marion and Mary Ann Henry Willett. Having practiced as a Justice of the Peace for nine years, Frances served four years in the Civil War in the 32nd Virginia Regiment. He returned to the Mountain “to regain what he had lost by the ravages of war.” Described as “one of the best known citizens of Roanoke County,” he died in 1900.

Like Sam Willett, Fred Vest returned from war to this home off of Mill Creek. A Vietnam vet in 1971, Mr. Vest bought the home; the place sheltered the families of Dr. Alfonse Turner, Jack and Virginia Poff, and Mr. Fred Hale, who had grown up in a nearby area known at the time as “Hale Hollow” and known now as Green

²⁶ See Attachment 3, Community Newspapers of Southwest Virginia, “It’s All About HER,” Summer 2011, p.12.

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

Hollow Road. Today the Vest family may be found from Hillsville to the corners of Bottom Creek.

Upon Fred's return from Vietnam, he recalls keeping an eye out for a place on the Mountain. He and his wife came up to buy hay, and ended up making an offer on this place that's been home for 46 years. He says his in-laws were "sick about it"—that no one wanted to live on Bent Mountain in those days, as it was considered a harsh and isolated place.²⁷

CO68-1
cont'd

Fred has, much like Sam Willett in his time, "engaged in stock raising and agricultural pursuits."²⁸ He has kept hay, gardens, longhorn cattle and quarter horses in the years he's made this his home. His daughter and son in law have their own cabin on the property—they share the gravel dirt driveway. His three grandchildren ride horses in the ring he's built there, they help with all the farm chores, and he helps out in their upbringing. They are seen mowing hay, and engage with visitors from atop their barrel-racing horses. The riding ring and pond, sourced by underground springs, are centered in bucolic and open fields rising to woods and hills, the back edge of which has been known since the early 19th century as "Chestnut Ridge." The spread is reminiscent of panoramas from John Wayne westerns...indeed, the sign at the substantial and imposing front gate quotes Captain Woodrow Call of Lonesome Dove fame: "NO TRESPASSING—I hate rudeness and I will not tolerate it."

Fred Vest says of his home place: "*This place is my peace of mind. It's the best decision I ever made, and my peace of mind is not for sale.*"

²⁷ See Roanoke Times, October 12, 2016, [Pipeline Surveying Conflict Heats Up](http://www.roanoke.com/business/pipeline-surveying-conflict-heats-up-on-bent-mountain/article_caa98cf8-4403-5fe7-9058-6077027265fa.html): http://www.roanoke.com/business/pipeline-surveying-conflict-heats-up-on-bent-mountain/article_caa98cf8-4403-5fe7-9058-6077027265fa.html

Mr. Vest is among most other directly impacted residents of the Mountain who have strongly objected to pre-application and pre-certification survey activity, with MVP reporting that as of Sept. 2nd, they had only completed 47% of centerline surveying through Roanoke County.

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/franklin-county/mountain-valley-pipeline-acquires-easements-from-regional-residents-for-natural/article_f48ab77e-e954-5943-917f-d3f07f3c13f5.html

These numbers likely changed with considerably aggressive survey behavior following these reports. The state police have since stepped in to protect residents from aggressive and unpermitted surveying. Citizen resistance to surveying continues, and one significant case will be heard in the Virginia Supreme Court in February or March.

²⁸ [Hist. Of Roanoke Co., Bent Mountain](#), p.97.

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

SIM HALE CABIN / CHANDLER:

This cabin is owned by brothers Fred and Jack Hale, who grew up in Hale Hollow. Sim was the son of William M. Hale and Credly Manning of Galax, Virginia. There is a plethora of Depression era history in this hollow. Indeed, the Hales describe one of their uncles as a moonshiner whose nickname was “Shine.” The Hale brothers return every summer to visits friends and relatives, with a view towards resettling on the Mountain.

CO68-1
cont'd

The old Sim Hale property, Ruby’s Place and Hale Hollow are all set near part of a wetland tucked between Lois Waldron’s and Fred Vest’s places, the Old Tazewell Price home and farm (presently belonging to Rebecca Dameron) and the Chandlers’ place. The Chandlers tend to some 100 acres of wetlands, the wide ranging value of which they note in a Commentary piece to the Roanoke Times.²⁹ More dedicated conservators of our water and land resources this community could not ask for. The Chandlers have lived here for over twenty years, and are raising two children here. In Kathy’s words, she has a “nontraditional yard”. She and her husband keep chickens and a rooster, and two bird dogs that are kept up while the hens roam. They’ve been heavily invested in public school activities with the county. They bought these vast wetlands and forest with the clear appreciation of their moral obligation to protect resources for their immediate and distant communities; they have had this property assessed by the Corps of Engineers. Ms. Chandler spoke to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors regarding the surprise invasion of her property by surveyors on several occasions. She explained her family history in this area, that this was her *home*, a place where she expected privacy and that among her core values was the preservation of the land itself—this is at its core, *cultural attachment*.³⁰

MARIE HENRY, CHRISTINE AND HOWARD THOMPSON:

Marie Henry lives along Bottom Creek, and her home is likewise cut through by the proposed MVP pipeline route, along and below a ridge that is a cemetery to a

²⁹ See “Pipeline will endanger water supply,” June 22, 2016, *Roanoke Times*, by James Chandler: http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/chandler-pipeline-will-endanger-water-supply/article_22ba6b2b-7657-512e-b694-42d5d9b55a56.html. Likeminded conservators of wetland properties include Jackie Lucki, Rebecca Dameron (Les Landes), and Robert and Roberta Johnson, who worked a decade to secure Tier III protected status for Bottom Creek and its tributaries.

³⁰ See Roanoke County BOS website, October 18, 2016; see also footnote 29.