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ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOTEBOOK

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY DR. GEORGE W. DIEHL AS PUBLISHED
IN THE NEWS-GAZETTE, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA.
ADDITIONAL CHARTS AND NOTES HAVE BEEN
ADDED AS WELL AS SURNAME INDEX.

COMPILED BY
A. MAXIM COPPAGE, III

PREFACE

For a number of years, the late Dr. George W. Diehl contributed historical and genealogical articles to The News Gazette, Lexington, Virginia, published by M.W. Paxton, Jr. The clippings from the paper were sent to us by Mrs. William C. Trenary of Front Royal, Virginia for our "Virginia Collection".

As time went by, it became expedient to have the clippings in some practical order and we found by splicing and putting them in a three ringed binder, making charts of the families and indexing the collection by surnames, that we had a valuable tool for doing research in the Rockbridge-Augusta Counties of Virginia.

At the time we had only plans for ourselves, but realizing the importance of this series of articles, we wrote to Mr. Paxton, the editor of the News-Gazette, who graciously gave his permission for us to publish the collection in book form. As a result, this book is the result.

In many instances information may be found showing where families originated in Scotland or Ireland, the places they lived before settling in the Rockbridge County, Virginia area and relationships between the various clans or as Dr. Diehl so aptly named this phase of pioneering, "A ROCKBRIDGE SEED-BOX"

Lastly, we feel this book will memorialize all those people who once lived, now live or have had ties to this historic area of Virginia.

We are most sincerely, A. Maxim Coppage, III 1987

ROCKBRIDGE NOTEBOOK
BY: George West Diehl

By 1746, John Collier was seated on the North Branch of Buffalo Creek, the stream that was later to take his name--the Middle Fork of Buffalo was then to become the North Fork as it remains to this day.

When Augusta County was formed, James Trimble was appointed deputy county surveyor and he and his fellow surveyors, Thomas Lewis and John Poage, were kept busy. Trimble recorded his first surveys in 1747, when, on January 10th, he recorded ten tracts, nine of which being

in what is now Rockbridge County. These were all patented to James Patton in 1750, and consisted of the choice spots in the area.

Morton lists 185 patents to land on the upper James and between the Blue Ridge and North Mountain as granted between the years 1739 and 1769---all within the present county. Twenty-three of these were to James Patton, Borden had five of them, one being his grant of 92,110 acres. One is not to take every Borden transaction in real estate within the county as being land included in the big grant.

Finally, mention should be made of the tremendous “turn over” of the real estate. Some of the patents were granted individuals who placed the desired plots of land for sale to the migrating people, moving southwestward over the “Pennsylvania Road,” or the “Indian Road” as it was more often called. Often lands were vacated by the settlers and these lands became the property of others. When a family grew up in a frontier home, the eldest son, or a favored son, received the home-farm and the others had to seek out new places, often buying some desirable land in the general area, but more often moving on down the “Pennsylvania Road” to the “Wilderness Road,” which took them into Kentucky, or continuing on, they reached Tennessee.