Memorandum—1790, July 15th. (By John Stewart.)

The inhabitants of every county and place are desirous to enquire after the first founders, and in order to gratify the curious or such who may hereafter incline to be informed of the origin of the settlements made in Greenbrier. I leave this memorandum for their satisfaction, being the only person at this time alive acquainted with the circumstances of its discovery & manner of settling. Born in Augusta County and the particular of this place often related to me from my childhood by the first adventurers I can relate with certainty that our river was first discovered about the year 1749 by the white people. Some say Jacob Moline was the first person who discovered it others that a man of an unsound mind who's name I do not now remember had wandered from Frederick County through the mountains and on his return reports he had seen a stream running westward supposed to be proceeding from a man of Jacob Moline and Stephen Sutcliff were the first settlers at the mouth of Knaps creek above what is now called the little levels on the land still bearing the name of Martins. These two men lived here in a kind of huts having no family but frequently differing in sentiment which ended in rage. Martin kept the top of the cabin whilst Sutcliff took up his abode in the trunk of a large tree some small distance, and thus living more independent their animosity would abate, love take its place, not long after they had a settlement on the river the county was explored by the late Genl. Andrew Lewis at half time a noted and famous woodsman on whom report an order of Council was soon obtained granting one hundred thousand acres of lands on Greenbrier to the Hon. John Pestow (Treasure Virginia) the road of which including old Col. John Lewis and his two sons William & Charles, with goods

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of settling the lands with inhabitants, and certain amounts of three pounds per hundred acres 6 by
selves. But the war breaking out between England & France in the year 1755 and the Indians being
excited by the French to make war on the back inhabitants of Virginia, all who were then settled in
greniers were obliged to retreat to the other settlements for safety, amongst whom was Jedl. Stinton but
happily he stood firm to the enemy. This was ended in 1763 and then some people returned settled in
greniers again, amongst whom was Archibald Clandinin whose residence was on the land now owned
by John Davy by virtue of an intermarriage with his daughter and lying two miles west of Louisburg.

The Indians breaking out again in 1763 came up the Kenauka in a large body to the number of
forty and coming to the house of Frederick Sea on muddy creek were kindly entertained by him and
Felly Gollhcon; not suspecting their hostile designs were suddenly killed their families with many
others made prisoners; then proceeding over the mountain they came to Archibald Clandinin, who
lived with him being all made prisoners or killed, not any one escaping except Const.
Gollhcon, who doubting the design of the Indians when they came to Clandinin took his horse out under the presence of holding him at some distance from the house. Soon after some gun was
fired at the house and alarm cry raised by the people, whereupon Gollhcon taking the alarm mounted
his horse and rode off as far as where the Court House now stands and there beginning to ruminate
whether he ought not to be mistaken in his apprehension concluded to return and know the truth
that just as he came to the corner of Clandinin's fence some Indians placed there presented their gun
and in the first shot he immediately
Just as he came to the corner of Childens Fence, some Indians placed there, presented and attempted to shoot him, but their guns all missing fire. He thinks at least ten, he immediately fled to Jacksons Tree, alarming the people as he went, but few were willing to believe him. The Indians pursued after him and that part in their way were slain until they went on Carrs Creek road in Rockbridge County, somuch were people in these days intimidated by an attack of the Indians that they were sufffered to retreat with all their BODY and more prisoners than there was Indians in their party. well the relative narrative of Apoll Bladons wife, being a prisoner with her young
Young child as they were passing over the river not from Middle creek, apart of the Indians being in front, with
the remainder behind & the prisoners in the center, Mr. Clandinnen handed her child to another woman to carry
and she clapped to one side and hid herself in a bush. But the Indians soon making her one of their observed
he would soon bring the child to her calf and taking the child caused it very very loud, but the mother not
seeing he took the infant and beat out its brains against a tree. Then throwing it down in the road all
the people & horses that were in the road passed over it. until it was trod to pieces. Many more cruelties was
committed too horrid to be related. Too many to be contained in this memorandum. Thus was Greensvi
once more depopulated for six years, but a peace being concluded with Indians in 1763 and the lands on the
western settlers with certain boundaries being purchased at a Treaty at Fort Stanwix by Capt. Lewis & Thomas
who gave themselves up in a settlement called the people again returned to settle in Greenswitterly and
myself amongst the first of those last adventurers being at that time about nineteen years of age with
Richard Tomachan, another very young man, our design was to secure lands & encourage a settlement
in the country, but the Indians breaking out again in 1774, Capt. Andrews Lewis was ordered by the Earl of-
Somer (then governor of Virginia) to march against them with fifteen hundred volunteers with a
march from Camp Union (now Steblesburg) the 11th day of Sept. 1774 two companies of the said
army being raised in Greensville & commanded by Capt. Rob. Tomachan & myself, we were met by the
Indians on the 10th day of October at the mouth of the Tenawaka. Having at once engaged me. Indeed
the Indians were defeated, the with the loss of seventy five officers & soldiers amongst the team & Col.
Charles Lewis, who commanded the Augusta Militia & my grand father Capt. Rob. Tomachan. Capt. Lewis
When we were at the base of Dunmore who commanded an army in person and had make his
road by the way of Fort Pitt. - The governor capitulating with the Indians lost Lewis was ordered to return
and the next year hostilities commenced between the British & Americans at Boston in New England
and I have since been informed by Col Lewis that the Earl of Dunmore (the King's governor) knew of the
attack to be made upon us by the Indians at the mouth of Kanawha, and hoped our destruction. This
event was communicated to him by indisputable authority.

Independence being declared by America the 4th July 1775 and the people beganning the rains of
Government a County was granted to the People of Greenbriar under the Commonwealth in May 1778.
and a Court was first held at my house on the 8th Tuesday in said month. Not long after which we
were invaded again by the Indians who had taken part with the British on the 28th day of the same month
Col. Andrews Donnelly's house was attacked about eight miles from Lewisburg by two hundred Indians.
These Indians were pursued from the mouth of the Kanawha by two scouts from that garrison town.

Phil. Haunumt John Prior. Opposing the Indians at the meadows gave intelligence to Col. Donnelly of
her approach who instantly collected about twenty men. The next morning sustained the attack of
the enemy until he was relieved about two o'clock by six men from Lewisburg. I was one of the number
and we got into the house unhurt, being favoured by a field of rye which grew close up to the house.
The Indians being off.
the harvest, being favoured by a field of rye which grew close to the house.

The Indians being all on the opposite side of the house. Four men were killed before we got in, and

about sixteen Indians lay dead in the yard before the door, some of these were taken off in the night

but we scalped nine the next morning; this was the last time the Indians paraded green men in

any large party.

Peace with the British followed in 1781, and then the people of this county began to make some

meager efforts to regulate their society, and to open roads and passes for wagons through the state.

which by many had been thought impracticable, no waggon at that time having ever appeared

near them. The Barmatwigs in our petition the assembly granted a law empowering the


To lay a certain annual sum in commutation from the inhabitants for the purpose of opening a road from the Court House to the Warm Springs—a concurrence so necessary for the importation of salt and other necessaries furnished as well as conveying our hemp & other heavy wares to market, would readily be expected to receive the approbation of every one, but such is the prudential disposition of some, more unwilling that any should share advantage under the pretense to themselves that this laudable measure was proposed by M. William Hutchinson who had first represented the County in general assembly—on this occasion without the concurrence of the people, went to his own house to Richmond & by his inducements to some of the members with unfair representations obtained a suspention of the law for two years, but the following year M. John Adams who visited this county satisfied with the inferiory of Hutchinson’s representation had the suspention repealed and full power was allowed to the Court to levy money for the purpose aforesaid, and by this means a wagon road was opened from the Court house to the Warm Springs which made way for the same to the warm springs. The paper money emitted in maintaining our war against the British became totally depreciated, there was not a sufficient quantity in circulation to enable the people to pay the revenue tax imposed upon the citizens of this county; therefore we set in arrest to the public for four years. But the Assembly again taking our remote situation under consideration, previously granted the sum of five thousand pounds of our currency to be applied to the purpose of the aforesaid road.
to be applied to the purpose of opening a road from Levisburg to the Kenowha river. The people hereby
for such indulgence willingly embraced the opportunity of such an offer and any person liable for
27 years of tax agreed to perform labour equivalent on the road, and the people being formed in
districts with each a superintendent. The road was completed in the space of two months in the year
1786, and that was a communication by wagons to the navigable waters of the Kenowha first effected,
and which will probably form one of the highest and best conveyance from the Western to the best
country that will ever be known may there be engaged a conjecture that has often occurred to me,
since I inhabited this place, that nature has designed this part of the world a placeable retreat
for some of her favorite children where pure morals will be preserved by separating them from a
society at a respectful distance by ridges of mountains; and I sincerely wish may prove my
conjecture rational and true; from the springs of salt water discoverable along our river, bountiful
mines fragrant with salt pitch, & forrests of sugar trees to supply provided the easily acquired. I have
no doubt but the future inhabitants of this county will surely avail themselves of such tangible
advantages greatly to their comfort and satisfaction and render them a greatful & happy people.

It will be remembered that Levisburg was first settled by Capt. Mathew Belkriere after the town
was laid off in the year 1780, and took the name in honor of the family of the deceased in consign
of their holding a large claim in the Green River grant. Capt. Belkriere was killed the following year in
a storm of wind by the falling of a tree on the branch leading from the towns of the waters of Anthony's creek
to Levisons river; he was distinguished for his bravery especially in the battle with the Indians at Pointe