

**A history of the town of Dayton, Virginia. Edited and compiled by
Carrie B. Sites and Effie A. Hess.**

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[Dayton] Dayton Woman's Club [1962]

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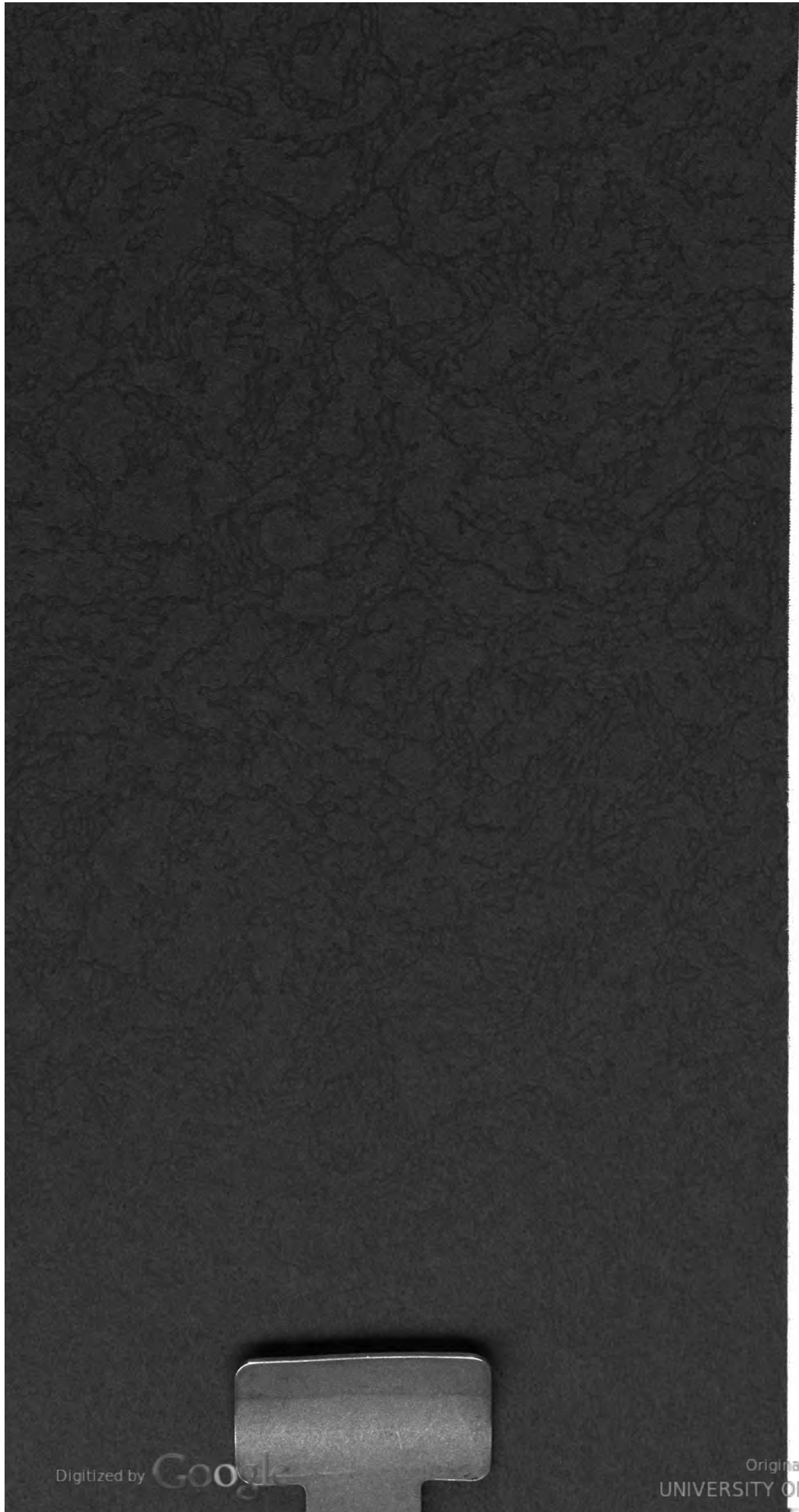
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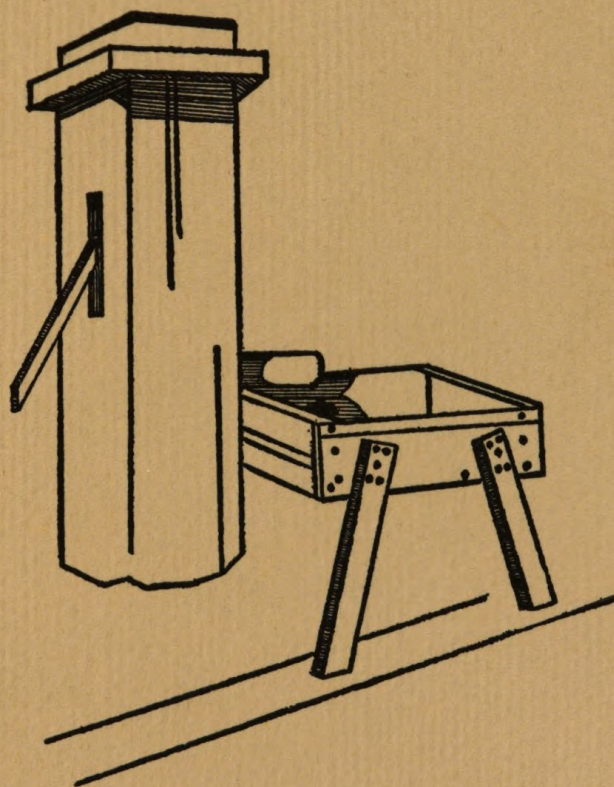


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A HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN OF DAYTON
VIRGINIA



Chesapeake
Book Co.
Berryville, Va.

A HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN OF DAYTON
VIRGINIA

Edited and Compiled by

CARRIE B. SITES
"

AND

EFFIE A. HESS

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE DAYTON WOMAN'S CLUB

COPYRIGHTED, SEPTEMBER, 1962

BY CARRLE B. SITES AND EFFIE A. HESS

LOAN STACK

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This book is dedicated to those who have passed on, to those living, and to future generations interested in making Dayton a pleasant place in which to live.

FOREWORD

The idea of writing a history of Dayton had been discussed frequently but no book had ever been published.

This subject was revived during a committee meeting of the Dayton Woman's Club and it was decided to make the writing of the history of Dayton a club project.

The president, Mrs. Frank Purdy, appointed a committee to investigate its possibilities. Mrs. Carrie Sites and Miss Effie Hess agreed to serve on this committee.

The search for material started in 1959 and continued slowly until the book was ready to be published in 1962.

We have searched diligently and we sincerely believe that all events recorded here are authentic.

Our thanks go to the following persons for their invaluable assistance: Miss Ruth Bowman for information on the early days of Dayton, Mr. J. K. Ruebush for pictures, maps, and records, Joe Carver for the use of an old council book which belonged to his great-grandfather, Mr. Sam Coffman, now deceased, for early events, and Dr. Wayland, deceased, for biographies and records.

INTRODUCTION

When Governor Spottswood of Virginia and his Knight of the Golden Horseshoe topped the Blue Ridge Mountain in 1719, they gazed with wonder at the wide expanse in the distance before them. They descended the mountain by way of Swift Run Gap and, after spending five days examining the area, returned home with glowing accounts of their exploration. Governor Spottswood, a resourceful man, immediately recognized the value of their discovery and encouraged settlers to move into the land of opportunity. They came from Eastern Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ireland, Scotland, and England. Some of those from England brought land grants from King George III.

According to Dr. John W. Wayland "The first white settlers found the Shenandoah Valley, a productive land of hills and dales, well watered and timbered, with extensive grassy plains, a few well tilled fields alive with animals and birds, rich in minerals, with trails laid out on the easiest grades, and friendly Indians. It was a land to encourage thrift and industry."

The settlers began cutting down trees, building homes, and clearing the land for agriculture; they turned the wilderness into a beautiful valley. After numerous homes had been built and the population had grown, the land was divided into counties with Augusta County comprising most of the area. Later, Augusta County was divided and, by a special act of the Virginia Legislature in 1777, Rockingham County was formed from part of Augusta. It was named in honor of Charles Wentworth Rockingham, a British peer who showed a friendly attitude toward the colonists in their struggle for independence.

At one time, Rockingham County included parts of what are now Page County, Virginia, and both Hardy and Pendleton Counties in West Virginia. Later, there was another division and the area dropped from 1352 to 876 square miles. However, it is now the third largest county in area in Virginia; only Augusta and Pittsylvania Counties exceed it in size.

Rockingham County has the most spectacular caverns to be found anywhere and is a rich agricultural section. Stock-raising is an important industry and Harrisonburg, the county seat, is sometimes referred to as the Turkey Capitol of the World.

DAYTON

Scale 20 Rods to an Inch



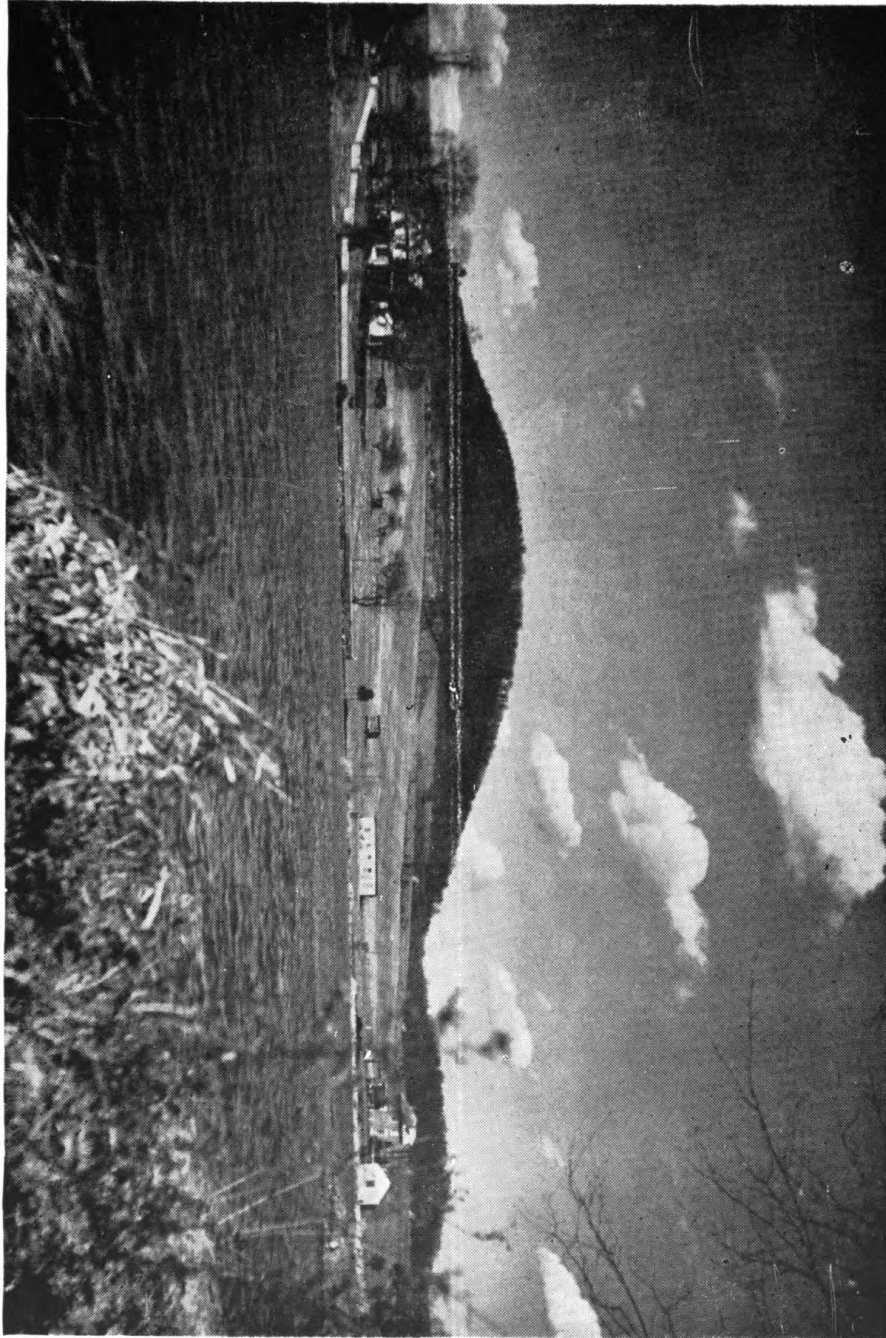
EARLY BEGINNINGS

In the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, midway between Harrisonburg and Bridgewater, lies the town of Dayton, nestled among the hills, rich in history and folklore. Located in a fertile agricultural section, it is surrounded by farms and well kept farm houses, and in summer the fields are filled with waving grain. Both dairy and beef cattle may be seen grazing on the hills and in the meadows surrounding the Town.

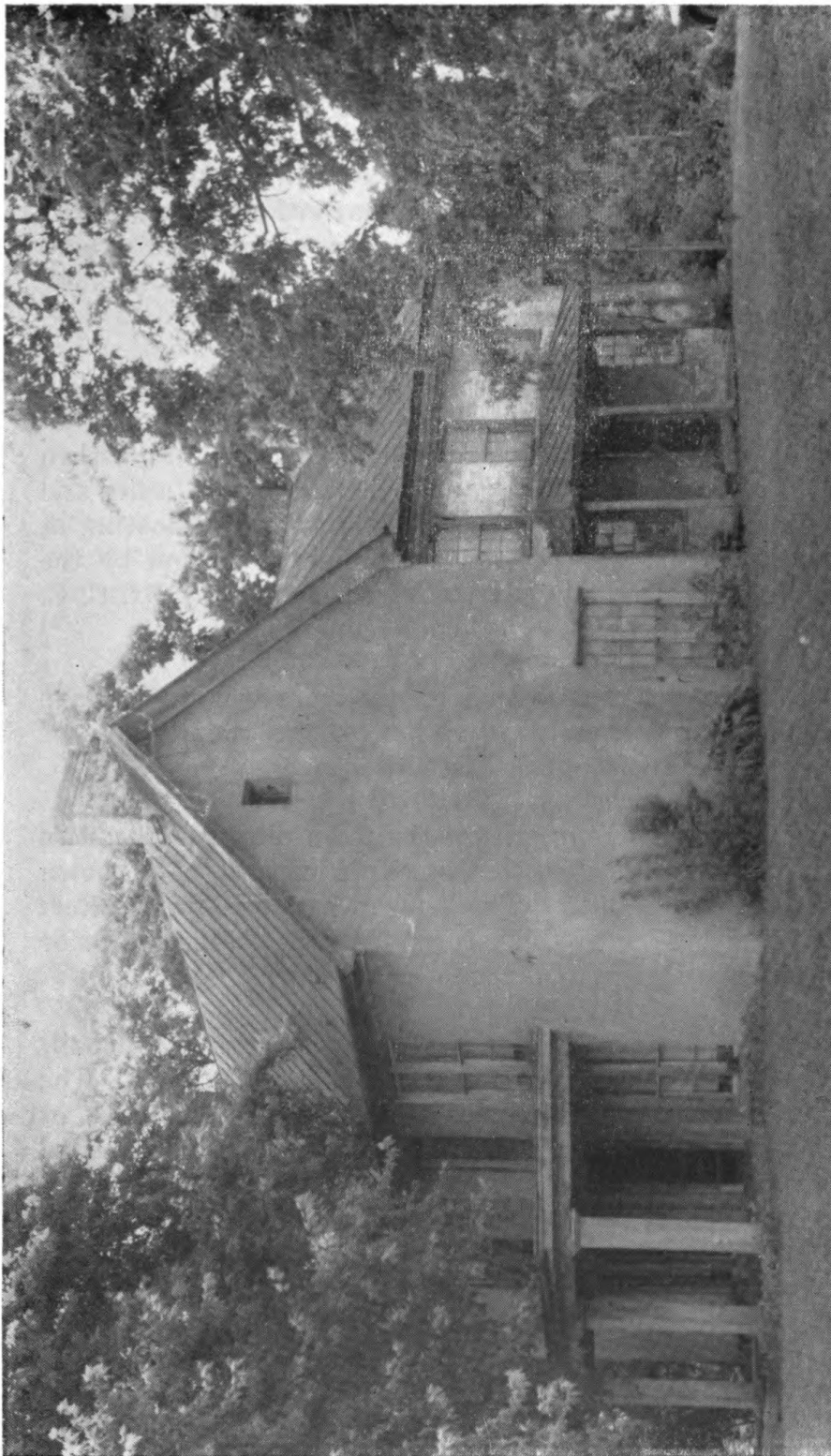
Just outside the corporation to the north is the famous Silver Lake, formed by a never-failing spring which supplies the water for the Town. The lake was formed by a dam built to turn the wheels of a large mill which ground wheat into flour for household use in days gone by.

Near the corporation line on the north, standing on a knoll between Highway 42 and Cook's Creek, is a house which was built by Daniel Harrison around 1748. It is an interesting old structure and is historical in its background. Although it has been remodeled, and plaster has been placed over the stone, there is still evidence of loopholes which prove that it was once used as a fort against the Indians. Dr. Wayland, a great historian, tells of a palisade around the house at the time of the French and Indian War.

During the Indian raids, the neighbors gathered at this house for protection and they took their livestock there to prevent them from being stolen or slaughtered by the Indians. The first severe attack by the Indians in Rockingham County occurred in 1754. In the palisade around the house was an underground passage which led to a spring nearby. No sign of the palisade can be seen to-



Silver Lake, formed by a never-failing spring which supplies water to the Town



Oldest house in or near Dayton. Built by Daniel Harrison in 1748 and is now owned by Daniel Koogler.

day, but there is evidence that there was once an underground passage from the house to the spring.

The grandfather of Dr. Charles C. Wright of Bridgewater told of the Indians who tomahawked a girl near Dayton. Dr. Wright, as a boy, remembers the field where there were brush-covered rock ledges, in the second field from the Lake on the road leading to the Town.

The girl was taking water and food out to the field where her father and brothers were cradling grain. The Indians threw a tomahawk at her, felled her, and then rushed forward to scalp her. By that time, the father and brothers came and scared the Indians away by shooting at them. The girl was revived and taken home and by the following day she had fully recovered. (Told by Dr. C. C. Wright of Bridgewater to Agnes Kline.)

The country was settled before there was any village at that site. The early population of the vicinity was of Scotch, Irish, and English descent.

The first dwelling within the town site was the Rife house, a rough building that stood on what is now known as the College Campus. This house was torn down by Rev. A. P. Funkhouser to make room for a new school. Prior to that time, the campus was a wagon yard.

Southeast of Dayton stands a large brick house built by Joseph Coffman for his bride, Abigail Lincoln. The house, built of bricks imported from England, was made of the finest materials, and it is reported to be the second brick house constructed in Rockingham County. Mr. Coffman was a very religious man of Baptist faith and since there was no church, services were conducted in his home for twenty years. When this duty became too burdensome, he was instrumental in getting a church built near his home. This brick house has changed occupants many times but we remember Mrs. Annie Long, mother of Harry Long who lived there with her family for many years. It is now own-

ed and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wenger and family.

To the south of Dayton is the Herring farm which originally contained many hundreds of acres of land. The Herrings who first settled in Delaware, came to Virginia after they had received a land grant from the King of England, and they were among the few settlers who owned slaves in this vicinity. Among other things they were interested in fine breeds of horses and its last owners, Mr. Charles and Mr. Tom Herring, bred race horses which they sold at northern markets.

The Warm Springs Turnpike, the forerunner of the present Main Street, was built in 1833, but the part which went through the Town was named Broad Street. There were twenty-six houses in the Town in that year.

The original name for Dayton was Rifetown, most likely in honor of Daniel Rife, who was a large land owner at the site of the village, and from the records it seems as if he was instrumental in establishing the Town. On March 6, 1833, the Virginia Legislature passed an act providing that a tract of land of not more than thirty-five acres, the property of Daniel Rife and others, be established as a town by the name of Dayton. The trustees designated were Samuel Coffman, Asher W. Tinder, Daniel Rife, Samuel Bachtel, Samuel Cline, and John Allebaugh. Some citizens say that it was incorporated in 1852; however, some historians disagree about this date.

Just why this town was renamed has never been fully determined, but after much searching we found this story in Everybody's Encyclopedia:

“A man named Jonathon Dayton, who ratified the constitution from the state of New Jersey in 1787, migrated west along with Generals St. Clair and Wilkerson, where they traded or bought land from the Indians along the Ohio River. They laid the plans for some towns, one of which was named Dayton in honor of Jonathon Dayton. It is not

news that this is one of our very largest cities. The name began to spread to other states, including Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, until now there are twenty-two cities or towns named Dayton in the United States."

Another story concerns Louis Dayton, presumably his nephew, who was a U.S. Senator from the State of New Jersey in 1842. Senator Dayton was a candidate for vice-president of the United States on the ticket with John C. Fremont, who opposed James Buchannon for the presidency in 1856.

The first record of municipal government in Dayton, Virginia was found in an old council book owned by Joe Carver. In this hand-written ledger the first mayor mentioned was Mr. B. F. Fishback, who was followed by Mr. Lowenback, Mr. Samuel Shrum, Mr. Samuel Byerly, and Dr. George McFarland.

The following excerpts were taken from an old council book:

"By-Laws

"Any one found guilty of galloping a horse through the town shall be fined one dollar.

"A fine of twenty-five cents per head shall be laid on hogs running loose, for the first offense, fifty cents for the second offense, and they shall be sold for the third offense. After expenses are paid one-half of the sale money shall be paid to the owner.

"A fine of twenty-five cents shall be laid on any one washing hands, face or feet near the public wells.

"All male citizens eighteen years old or older shall pay twenty-five cents for each hundred dollars they earn or possess. This shall be paid to the town treasury.

"Trustees shall be fined one dollar for not attending Council meetings without a valid excuse.

"Cows shall not roam the streets between 8 P.M. and sunrise.

“Horse racing through the town shall draw a fine of five dollars.

“Any person found guilty of shooting guns or pistols or arms of any kind for sport in the corporation or shooting ducks on the dam shall be fined fifty cents. Any person refusing to pay for violation may be sentenced to six months in jail.

“Be it ordered that any one found bathing in Mr. Benjamin F. Bare’s dam shall be fined one dollar for each offense.”

Mr. J. K. Ruebush, a former resident, told the following story. A man in Dayton who continually allowed his hogs to run loose was called by a distant neighbor to shoot some stray pigs. He willingly complied and after the animals were shot, he discovered to his dismay that he had killed his own livestock.

TAXES

Real estate taxes in Dayton were fifty cents on each hundred dollars and according to records there were no houses assessed at more than twelve hundred dollars. The lowest one was a hundred dollars. It is interesting to note that the council book shows that a negro slave was assessed at five hundred dollars.

CHURCHES

Near the spring that heads Silver Lake stood a Presbyterian Church which was probably built around 1745. One of the early ministers was Rev. Alexander Miller who settled near Cook's Creek. Rev. Thomas Jackson also preached at this church. Records show that they and their families were buried in the Old Cook's Creek Presbyterian Churchyard. This church, probably built of logs, was torn down around 1870. Prior to this time, a spring nearby substantially increased in size and the water backed up and spread out until the church and the churchyard about it were surrounded. The congregation then built a new church at New Erection. According to legends, the bodies of the ministers and their families were also moved to the new site.

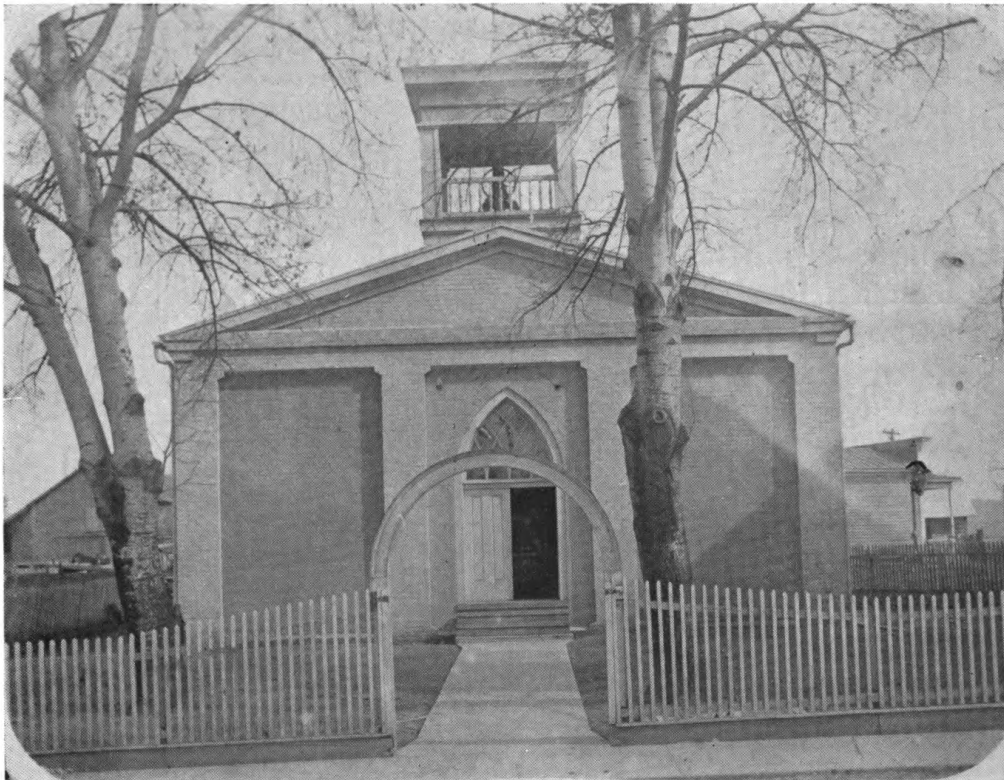
Around the year 1840 a Baptist Church was built south of Dayton near the home of Joseph Coffman who was instrumental in establishing it. Rev. John E. Massie was one of the early pastors. Its final disposition could not be learned, but in 1895 the Chesapeake and Western Railway cut into the slope on which the old church stood. A few of the tombstones that stood in the church lot can still be seen.

An Episcopal Church was located in what is now the northern end of the Dayton Cemetery around 1750. During the Revolutionary War Rev. Bellmain who preached in this chapel entered the army as a chaplain and never returned. Old-timers say that there were never any Episcopal services there after the minister left. This church was under the English rule and permission to worship at this church had to be granted by the representatives of the Crown of England.

DAYTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

(Written by Rev Replogle and Rev. Flora)

The church house known as the Dayton Church of the Brethren was built about 1856 and later passed into Brethren hands. The earliest recorded deed was made on July 20, 1855, from John and Leah Nicewander, John Allebaugh, Morris Swenback, B. F. Fishback and John Stinespring "for uses and benefit of religious congregation worshipping in the house standing on the lot, known as Wittenberg Chapel, connected with the Evangelical Church of the General Synod." If and when not occupied by Lutherans, any other denomination could have the privilege of using the church for religious purposes. The sum paid was \$75 per year.



Old Church in Dayton where all denominations worshipped. Built around 1856.

Then on March 10, 1879, Solomon Garber purchased the above tract for \$500. On June 8, 1880, the church was placed in the hands of trustees from the German Baptists (Brethren) and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The two groups used the same building. On August 20, 1883, J. S. McLeod and William Blake, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sold their rights to Joel Flory, J. M. Kagey, and J. M. Bowman, trustees of the German Baptist Church (Brethren), at Dayton, for the sum of \$250, thus giving the Brethren complete ownership of the church. The church then became a place of worship in turn with the other churches of the Cook's Creek Congregation. A Sunday School was organized in 1904.

The Dayton Church of the Brethren has been remodeled and added to three times since 1900. A front addition, with added Sunday School space and a vestibule, was built in 1929. In 1955 a \$76,000 addition was added (on an adjacent lot purchased by Mr. Charles Wampler, Sr.), including a large sanctuary, a fellowship room, a kitchen, and additional class rooms. In 1959 the old sanctuary was converted into Sunday School rooms, a small chapel and new rest rooms were added at a cost of \$14,000. Two later remodeling programs were under the direction of Dr. J. S. Huffman, building chairman. The trustees of the present building, 1959, are Walter E. Flory, Frank E. Miller, Daniel Myers, and Swope Showalter (inactive).

Outstanding leaders in the Dayton Church of the Brethren have been: Joseph Bowman, Peter Bowman, I. S. Bowman, Henry C. Early, F. F. Flory and many others. The four full-time pastors have been: Jacob Replogle (1942-1947); A. Ray Showalter (1947-1950); Kermit Flora (1950-1955); and James S. Flora (1956-1961).

In 1960, the Dayton Church of the Brethren, along with Garber Church and the Cedar Grove Church of the Cook's Creek Congregation, had a membership of 447 persons. The Dayton church has an average attendance of around 200. Both Sunday School and Worship services are held each

Sunday, with other activities taking place during the week. The present (1960) officers are: W. F. Flory, moderator; Raymond Flory, Clerk; William Layman, Treasurer; Hubert Showalter, Sunday School Superintendent, and James S. Flora, Pastor.

E. U. B. CHURCH

While the 49ers were seeking gold in California, the members of Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Brethren Churches were worshipping in the Union Church in Dayton on the site of the present Church of the Brethren.

There was a balcony at the rear of the church and the negro slaves of the community occupied seats in the balcony.

A Union Sunday School must have been organized because an elderly person who died recently, remembered having attended a Union Sunday School picnic in 1867.

It is difficult to point to a definite date as the beginning of the first United Brethren Church in Dayton, but according to Mr. J. K. Ruebush, some papers of the late Rev. A. P. Funkhouser state that Mr. Samuel Coffman sold a long shop building to the United Brethren Church for a place of worship around 1835.

The building had no bell, but they blew a horn to announce services at this old church. As an improvement, a Mr. Bachtel had a steel triangle made and placed upon the top of the church encased in a cupola. Men had to climb up to it and beat it with a hammer to call people to worship.

This building was located on Seminary Street and was used until a Union Church was obtained on what is now Main Street, and the denominations worshipped in this sanctuary.

The demand for a separate United Brethren Church Building grew out of the opening of Shenandoah Seminary,

which was founded by Rev. A. P. Funkhouser, a man of great vision. This church and school were closely affiliated for many years.

The new church, a brick structure with a fence around it, was described as having been very beautiful. Rev. Funkhouser, its first pastor, was instrumental in securing this church at a cost of approximately \$2,500.

The edifice was destroyed by fire along with some other buildings in 1903, and the brick church now standing on the triangle connecting Main and College Streets was built the same year. The cost of rebuilding was \$6,100. Rev. T. C. Harper, its first pastor, received an annual salary of \$400.

In 1908 a new pipe organ was purchased and installed at a cost of \$1,100. A Sunday School area was built in 1918 while Rev. D. D. Brandt was minister and in 1926 under the leadership of Rev. U. P. Hovermale, a three story building was added to the northeast corner and a four manual Mohler pipe organ was placed in its present position. In 1950 while Rev. J. A. Swain was pastor, excavation was made beneath the church and a modern social hall together with a fully equipped kitchen was added.

In the early days of the church, it was supplied by circuit riders. Some of the regular ministers were Rev. G. P. Hott, J. W. Howe, Rev. E. F. Gruver, and Rev. E. U. Hoenshel.

A Woman's Missionary Society was organized against the sanction of the men folk. Some of the early leaders were Miss Ida Funkhouser, Mrs. E. U. Hoenshel, Mrs. J. W. Keiter, Mrs. J. R. Rhodes, Mrs. J. H. Ruebush, and Mrs. Ephriam Ruebush. These ladies served in numerous capacities for many years. A Ladies Aid Society was organized later, and these two groups contributed much to the life of the church. After the United Brethren denomination joined with that of the Evangelical Church in 1946, the two societies were made into one large group called the Women's

Society of World Service and it has contributed many thousands of dollars to the missionary movement.

After the merger, the name was changed to Evangelical United Brethren.

The former United Brethren Church has the distinction of being the first organized church in Dayton.

METHODIST CHURCH OF DAYTON

The Dayton Methodist Church had its beginning on what is now the Church of the Brethren site. Dr. Wayland in his *History of Rockingham County*, states that this structure was built in 1851 by the Lutherans and was used by them, the Methodists, and the United Brethren prior to 1861. There was a balcony at the rear of the church where the negro slaves of the community occupied seats during services.

In 1879 the building was sold to Solomon Garber. The deed was made jointly to the German Baptist, now called the Church of the Brethren, and the Methodists. Trustees were named from each church, two of them being J. N. Kagey (German Baptist) and John S. McLeod (Methodist).

The Methodists worshipped in this church until 1888 when they purchased from the Rockingham County School Board an unused school building, which was located where the new Church of the Brethren now stands. This building was used as a place of worship until 1898 when it was sold to the Dayton Harness Company for the sum of \$350. The trustees named in the deed to the Harness Company were Alberta Coffman, Ezra Lowman, W. Job Cowger, J.Q.A. Bryan, and Joseph N. Shrum.

In 1898 the lot on which the present church is located was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Levi Rhodes for the sum of \$100. The church was built in 1898 and dedicated a few years later.

In 1924 the church was remodeled and an addition was built to the east side of the original building. The floor plan was changed with a new pulpit being placed on the east side; new pews and light fixtures were added and painted windows were replaced by art glass. The cost of improvements was \$7,000.

In 1941 a new aisle and outside entrance to the Sunday School room was completed. In 1948 a Hammond organ was purchased costing \$2,217 and this instrument was dedicated August 1, 1948, by Bishop W. W. Peale. A new Educational Building was erected in 1951 consisting of a children's chapel, five classrooms, a social hall, and a kitchen at the cost of \$14,000. It was dedicated June, 1953, by Bishop Paul N. Garber.

Between 1888 and 1960 there were fourteen Sunday School Superintendents, the first being Mr. Alberta Coffman and the present one Mr. Emory Thomas. During that period, records show thirty-five pastors. In 1880 Rev. Kinzer and Rev. Cunningham were the ministers; and in 1961, Rev. William Winfree became pastor.

The women's groups have been very active in helping to carry on the work of the church. On September 30, 1909, the Ladies' Aid Society was organized with Mrs. J. Luther Andes as president. In 1932 this group was absorbed by the Women's Missionary Society. In 1940, after the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches united, the name was changed to "Woman's Society of Christian Service." A younger group of women was organized as the Wesleyan Service Guild. These two groups with a combined membership of fifty-four are active in all phases of local work.

The Epworth League was organized in 1899 and continued until 1917. The present organization, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, was started in 1949 and is still very active.

At a church Quarterly Conference held on May 8, 1960,

a proposal and a decision concerning expansion of the church school facilities were received. A proposal to purchase the Sites property adjoining the church at the price of \$7,800 (\$8,000 less donation of \$200 by Mr. Sites) was voted on and accepted.

Present official plans are as follows: The Sites property was renovated by an additional hot air oil furnace, roof repairing, and painting. The dwelling is used by departments of the Church School, one room being used as a church office and pastor's study. This building will eventually be razed to make room for the erection of a new educational addition and in the years ahead, a new sanctuary.

Thus the work of the Dayton Methodist Church has continued for over a hundred years with its program of worship and activities for children, youth, and adults.

DAYTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(written by Mrs. P. A. Carver)

At a meeting of the Lexington Presbytery at Broadway, Virginia, on May 23, 1894, a petition was submitted by twenty Presbyterians, members of other Presbyterian Churches, to organize a church at Dayton.

The Presbytery replied by appointing a commission consisting of Rev. E. P. Palmer, G. L. Brown, W. C. Hogan, Elder D. M. Switzer, and Elder J. A. Herring to go to Dayton and organize a church. The commission met at Dayton on June 17, 1894. Dr. Palmer in the chair organized a church with eleven charter members. The church elected and installed L. S. Byrd, J. R. Price, and E. C. Ralston, as elders and W. H. Suter as deacon.

The first elder elected to a meeting of the Presbytery which was held at Cooks Creek Church in May 1895 was J. R. Price. E. C. Ralston was chosen to represent the Synod at Charleston, W. Va. in September 1895.

The first congregational meeting was held on April 19, 1896 for the purpose of obtaining a pastor; Rev. Carr Moore was called and offered a salary of \$100 a year. J. R. Price appointed a committee to sign the call and E. C. Ralston, commissioner, prosecuted the call. The Sessional records were examined and approved on May 7, 1896 by E. J. Palmer, moderator.

On June 6, 1897, a committee was appointed to solicit aid to build a church in Dayton. Members of this committee were: W. H. Shepp, E. C. Ralston, and Mrs. Lydia Suter. Members of the first building committee were W. H. Suter, R. D. Suter, and L. L. Kieffer.

Additions to the church building:

The folding doors connecting the old and new Sunday School rooms.

The Organ and chimes

The Communion Table and chairs

The Communion Service

The Offering plates

New pews in the Sanctuary

In February, 1957, the basement under the sanctuary was excavated, giving two more Sunday School classrooms, a dining room and a kitchen. A new oil burning furnace was installed at that time.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Christian Church, organized around 1871 by Rev. A. D. Long, started with sixteen members. A church was built later, but the exact date of its construction could not be learned. This church was thriving in the nineties, but in 1921 the congregation joined with that of the Harrison-burug Church. The building was sold, moved to a new location, and made into a residence on Main Street. It is now occupied by L. L. Kieffer and daughter, Mrs. Mildred Kerlin.

MENNONITE

Around 1780 Mennonite families began to settle in Rockingham County. They were frugal people with the ability to judge good land and they acquired many choice tracts of land in the county and have built many prosperous communities.

Members of one branch of the Mennonite Church own farms surrounding the Town. They are industrious farmers, good mechanics, make good neighbors, and they are always ready to help anyone in need.

They have two churches outside Dayton, Pleasant View on one side and Oak Grove on the other, and the Mennonites ride through the streets in buggies drawn by well-groomed horses. Although this is a familiar sight to residents, many a stranger on seeing the numerous horses and buggies feels that history has turned back a few years.

These thrifty Mennonites, who are somewhat akin to the Amish, are God fearing people and adhere closely to the rules of the church. Most of them are blessed with large families and their children attend the public elementary schools but they do not encourage higher education.

DAYTON INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

On March 21, 1944 a group of nine people representing the four churches of Dayton met in the social room of the United Brethren Church for the purpose of forming an organization to correlate the work of all the churches in Daily Bible School, Union Services for the summer months, and Union-Thanksgiving as well as Pre-Easter services, As a result of this meeting, a council was formed with the following officers: Chairman, Rev. J. A. Swain, Secretary, Mrs. P. A. Carver, and Treasurer, Mr. George Gilkerson. These officers were elected for a term of one year. The organization, known as the Dayton Inter-Church Council.

The original steering committee was composed of the minister and two members from each of the four churches, namely: Rev. J. A. Swain, Mr. C. L. Funkhouser, and Mrs. G. L. Shirley from the United Brethren Church, Rev. J. F. Replogle, Mr. Carlton Cupp, and Miss Etta Bowman from the Church of the Brethren, Rev. James Turner, Mr. George Gilkerson, and Miss Effie Hess representing the Methodist Church, and Rev. A. B. Link, Mr. Charles Suter, and Mrs. P. A. Carver from the Presbyterian Church.

This organization, known as the Dayton Inter-Church Council continues to coordinate various activities of the four churches.

SCHOOLS

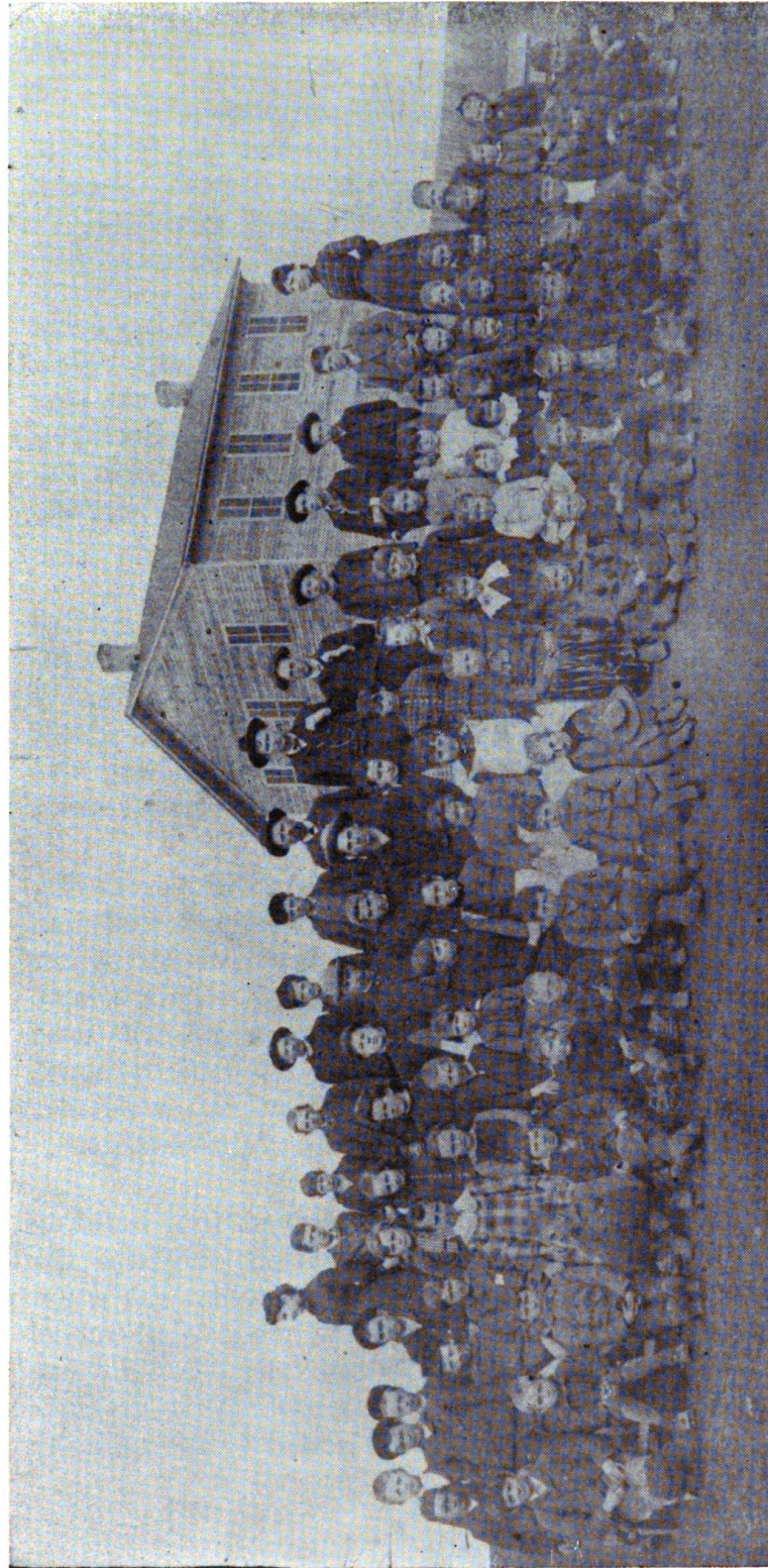
The citizens of Dayton have been interested in educational facilities for the youth of the Town for many years. In 1844 William W. Littel was operating a school which was located near the place where the Church of the Brethren church now stands. Probably a private school, it was the only one in Rockingham County that was open nine months in the year.

The first public school in the Town may have started on the same site as the one run by William Littel. Although the exact date is unknown, records indicate that it opened near the end of the Civil War in 1865. This school was discontinued in 1886 when a new school building was erected on the hill where the elementary school now stands.

The land for the new building was obtained from Mr. Hiram Coffman at a small cost. Mr. Samuel Coffman, now deceased, stated that he held the tape for his father when he measured the land he was selling. This school, with Mr. B. F. Kirkpatrick as its first principal, was used for twenty-eight years. In 1914 after much controversy, the building was replaced by a new structure, with Mr. Willie Lineweaver, its first principal, and six assistants.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed this building during the winter of 1920-21. Temporary facilities for elementary classrooms were set up in churches, the council room, and other available buildings while high school classes were held at Shenandoah College. By the following fall a new structure was ready for occupancy; four classrooms and a large gymnasium were added to the building in 1926.

First public school house in Dayton. Built in 1886



First Row, Left to right: Fred Carpenter, Lester Peterson, Charlie Ray, Howard Knicely, Charles Fauls, Lon Monger, Otis Gaither, Clyde Hoover, Charlie Dyke, Roy Hartman, Blair Kirkpatrick, Ben Hederick, Clayton Hederick, Lynn Arey, Charlie Arey Cam Thompson, Ray Thompson, Otis Kagey. Second Row: Charlie Thompson, Luther Kieffer, Orho Monger, Joe Ruebush, Jennie Ray, Viola Bryan, Kent Pollard, Lizie Devier, Myrtle Hoover, Annie Ruebush, Alice Kagey, Stella Burtner, Bruce Kirkpatrick, Lettie Peterson, Nettie Gibbs, Lucy Hedrick, Ona Peterson, Rebecca Devier, Lilly Linhoss, Mattie Hoover, Lida Hoover, Ethel Byrd, Annie Byrd, Esta Linhoss.

Third Row: Bruce McLead, Clarence Clinedinst, Ray Brown, Kittie Kirkpatrick, Bessie Byrd, Emly Devier, Maude McLead, George Shrum, Florence Roudabush, Bob Early, Nettie Byrd, Hattie Gaither, Erma Peterson, Gladda Dyché, Virginia Byrd, Gennie Dodston, Annie Hedrick, Mollie Linhoss, Beulah Clinedinst, Elnor Fauls, Kattie Hedrick. Fourth Row: Alice Funkhouser, John H. Hedrick, David Kagey, Frank Linhoss, Charlie Gaither, Harry Carpenter, Maj Thompson, B. F. Kirkpatrick, A college student (?), Peachy Shrum, John Arey, W. H. Ruebush, Sam Arey, Howard Hedrick, Julia Dowe.

Prof. J. S. H. Good was principal of Dayton High School when it was accredited in 1922 and he remained at its head until Mr. H. C. Shull became principal in 1932. Mr. Shull was succeeded by Mr. John Will, who at the present time is principal of Dayton Elementary School.

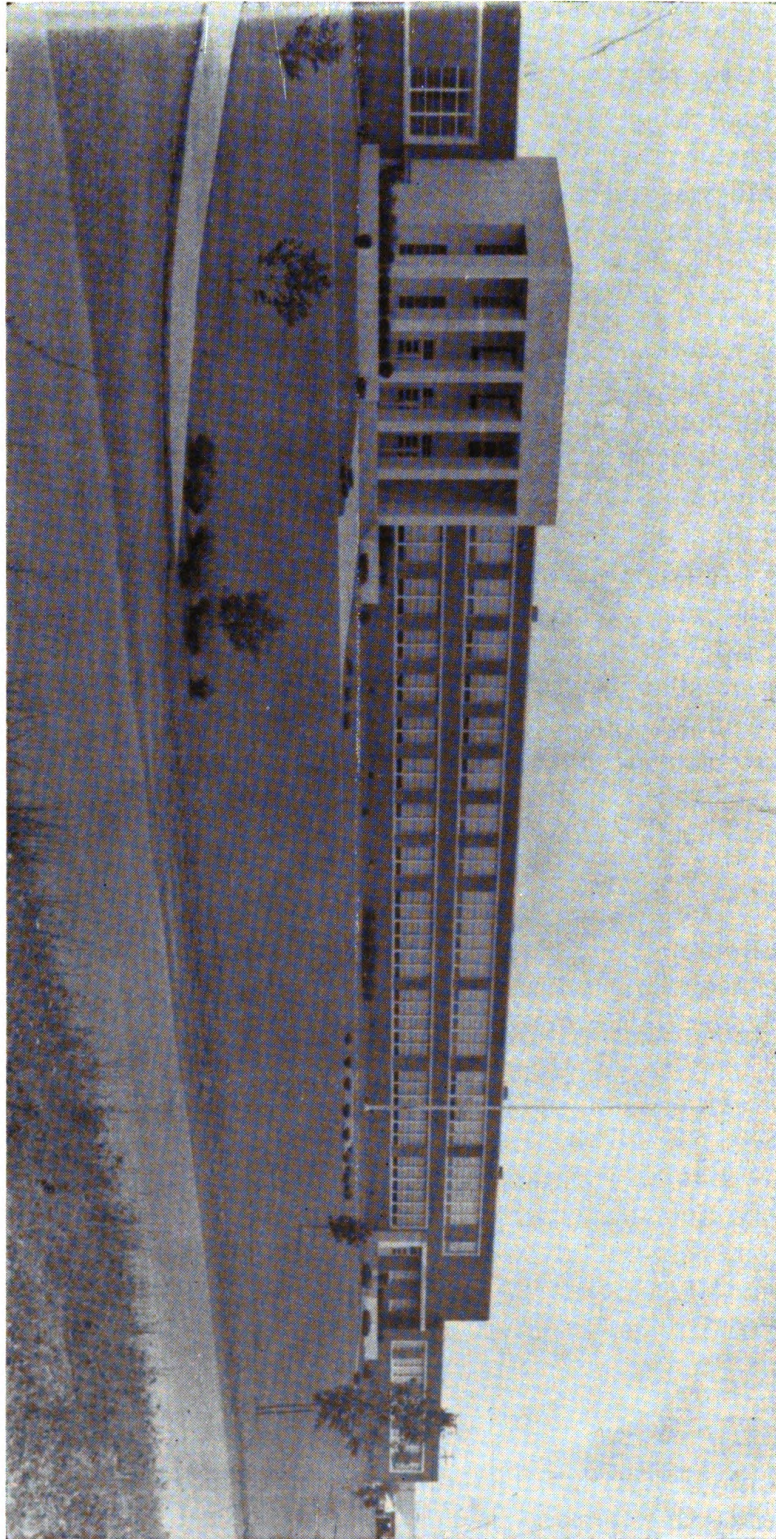
The Rockingham County School Board, in compliance with State regulations, built its first consolidated high school at Montevideo and a few years later ordered construction of a similar one at Broadway. After considerable study and numerous public meetings, the school Board authorized the erection of a large high school at Dayton

A tract of land consisting of twenty-one acres located near the edge of the Town limits was purchased from Jesse R. Rhodes. On this site the English Construction Company erected a large brick building which contains twenty-two class rooms, a library of eight thousand volumes, an agricultural shop, a home economics department, a music area, a gymnasium, and an auditorium. Recently eight more class rooms have been added to the structure.

The new school was named Turner Ashby High School in honor of the Confederate General who was killed in battle near Harrisonburg and for whom this Magisterial District of Rockingham County was named.

In the fall of 1956 this structure was ready for occupancy. Built to accommodate eight hundred students, it now has an enrollment of seven hundred and fifty boys and girls and employs forty-two teachers. These pupils come from the Bridgewater, Montezuma, Clover Hill, Mt. Clinton, Mt. Crawford, and the Pleasant Valley communities. Recently, more classrooms were added to the original building.

F. N. Postlethwaite was the first principal of Turner Ashby High School and at the present time W. E. Yowell heads the school. We have a record of the following



Turner Ashby High School. Built in 1956.

berlake, Good, Shull, Will, Postlethwaite, and Yowell. . . principals who have served in Dayton School, Messrs. McLeod, Kirkpatrick, Givens, Ashby, Early, Shuler, McMullen, Suter, Lineweaver, Leadbetter, Harris, Hyde, Flory, Tim-

Miss Effie Hess recently retired after teaching for forty-eight years in the Dayton Elementary School. She spent all but two of these years teaching in the same classroom. At the time of her retirement, Don Callison, president of the PTA, gave Miss Hess a certificate of Life Membership in the Virginia Chapter of the PTA. He also presented her with a Hamilton watch for her years of faithful service to the school and the community.

The residents of Dayton have been interested in higher education also. Shenandoah College was founded in 1875 by Abraham Paul Funkhouser, a leader in the United Brethren Church and a man interested in public affairs. For four years he conducted a high school in Dayton in which he served as president with Mr. Fries, a graduate of Otterbein College, as principal. The school began with twenty students and a small faculty. Mr. Fries was a co-founder of the college.

Shenandoah College, an outgrowth of Dr. Funkhouser's school, first held classes in a frame building on the east side of Main Street. This building was later converted into a dwelling and store occupied by J. M. Stinespring. Years later this entire structure was torn down to make room for an addition to the Dayton Church of the Brethren.

Shenandoah Seminary became known as Shenandoah Institute in 1879 and soon afterward moved to its location on what is now known as College Street. A brick building which had been used as a tavern and store became part of the Girls' Dormitory. In 1885 an addition was made to the original building and the present campus was purchased.

The structure known as the Howe Building was com-

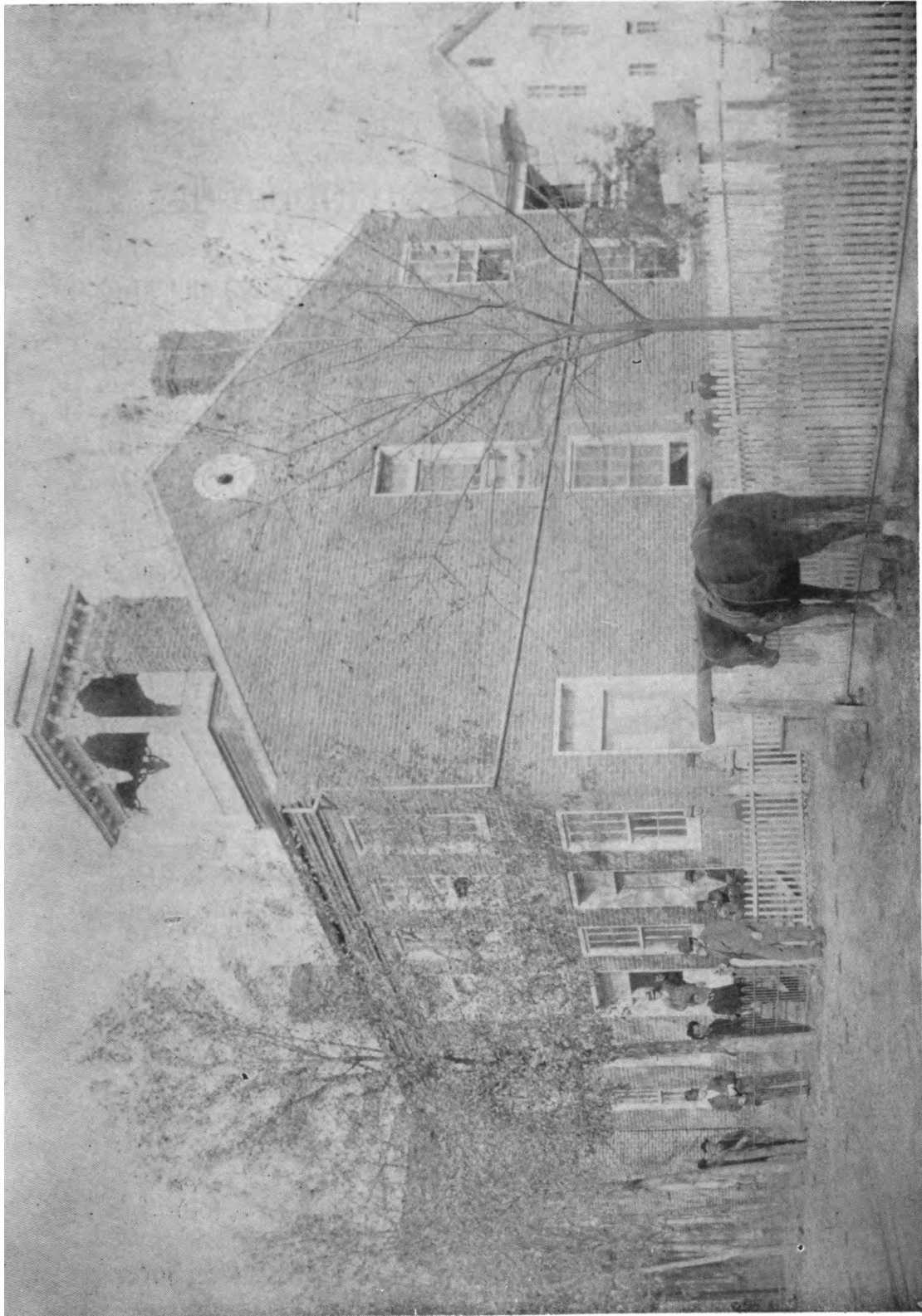
pleted in 1901 and was named for its benefactor, Rev. J. W. Howe, who is mentioned elsewhere in this history. The building housed the Bricker Chapel and also a number of rooms for both the teaching and practicing of music. The Administration building was completed in 1910 and the Kieffer Memorial gymnasium, which has a dining room on the ground floor, was completed in 1930 while Rev. A. L. Maiden was president. Other buildings and residences were acquired over the years.

Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music are separate institutions although they share the same buildings and faculty; they have had separate charters since 1937. The Conservatory is an accredited four-year college of music, the first in Virginia authorized to confer the Bachelor of Music degrees. Shenandoah College is a junior college accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The school has been operated by Rev. A. P. Funkhouser, Prof. J. N. Fries, Dr. E. U. Hoenshell, Rev. G. P. Hott, and Prof. J. H. Ruebush. After it became an accredited college its presidents were: Dr. D. T. Gregory, Dr. A. L. Maiden, Dr. Vernon L. Phillips, Dr. Wade S. Miller, E. N. Funkhouser, L. P. Hill, Rev. Troy S. Brady, and Rev. Forrest S. Racey.

This educational institution has enriched the cultural life of Dayton and it has provided an opportunity for local people as well as boarding students to receive degrees in music and junior college diplomas.

In 1960 Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music moved to Winchester, Virginia, and some of its buildings on College Street are now being offered for sale.



Peoples Music School, 1896. Forerunner of Shenandoah College.

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIES

The first manufacturing establishment of any kind were the flour mills, known as the Upper and the Lower mills. The Upper Mill, which was on Silver Lake just northwest of the Town, was built some time in the eighteen hundreds. This mill burned in 1855 but was rebuilt the following year. Many people believe that it was burned and rebuilt again during the Civil War.

According to legend Mr. John Leary came from Ireland around 1760 and settled in this vicinity. Probably it was he who built a grist mill located east of the present Highway 42, which is now the Main Street of Dayton. Mill Street, which runs perpendicular to Main, got its name from this mill. Mr. Silas Leary, a descendent of Mr. John Leary, married a Miss Miller whose parents lived where Mr. and Mrs. Dingleline now reside. The Millers evidently remodeled or rebuilt the mill and used it as a flour mill. They must have owned the mill for many years, since it was Miller & Kiser who were sued by the Upper Mill owners. More information about this mill is related in another chapter. Mrs. Nora Leary Holsinger claims to be a direct descendent of the Mr. Leary who came from Ireland.

In 1880, the owners of the Upper Mill, Daniel Bowman and a Mr. Long, brought suit against Miller & Kiser, owners of the Lower Mill, because of the construction of a dam. The plaintiff charged that the dam had been raised too high and had backed up water, thereby slowing down the water wheel of the Upper Mill. The Lower Mill owners settled the suit by lowering the dam. The Lower Mill burned to the ground in 1922 and it was never rebuilt.

In addition to the flour mills, other types of manufac-

turning took place in the Town. In 1840, Michael B. Cline-dinst was doing much wool carding, Blossers were operating a silk, cotton, and woolen dyeing establishment, and in 1854, Isaac Stone was making chairs, bedsteads, and other furniture.



Old Mill built by Miller and Kiser before the Civil War.

The first Post Office was located on the east side of Main Street where the Mid-Valley Hatchery now stands. Mr. John Pollard was Postmaster. Later, the Post Office, with Mr. J. N. Thompson as postmaster, moved to the building in the triange of Main and College (then Seminary) streets. When this structure burned, new quarters were secured on the property now owned and operated by Hunter McGlaughlin. In 1911, the Post Office was relocated in the newly constructed Bank Building where it remained until 1949 when it moved into its present quarters on the east side of Main Street.

There is a record of the following postmasters: J. W. Pollard, J. L. Thompson, C. A. Funkhouser, J. W. Keiter,

J. W. Thompson, W. H. Ruebush, Bernard Young, Walter Heatwole (acting postmaster), and the present postmaster, Donald Callison.

The first RFD in Rockingham County was sent from the Dayton Post Office when J. L. Thompson was postmaster and B. F. Kirkpatrick was the carrier. Robert Lowery took over this route and was a popular carrier for many years. There is some evidence that this mail service was among the first of its kind in the Nation.

“In 1884 Samuel Blosser of Dayton devised the first incubator used in Virginia. He placed eggs in a box with sawdust packed around them and kept them warm with water heated in a tea-kettle on the kitchen stove. In three weeks he was delighted and his friends were amazed when baby chicks came out of the eggs as a result of artificial chicken matching. He added other units to his hatchery until he had seventeen, and in 1911 installed the first large incubating machine in the country.”

Atlas of Rockingham County

Samuel Blosser was engaged in hatching chickens with incubators from 1912 until his death after which the hatchery was taken over by his sons.

Nearby are the farms of C. W. Wampler and Sons who were pioneers in the turkey industry. The former Miss Ruth Wampler, now Mrs. Harold Clark, has the distinction of setting the eggs and hatching the first turkeys by incubation in Rockingham County. The Wampler Farms are also famous for raising Black Angus Cattle and Cheviot Sheep.

“When the pioneers settlers came to Dayton to make their homes, one of the first machines they set up was the loom. It found its place in one of the rooms of the main house, or in a shed attached to the house, and often a house was built especially for the loom, called the “loom house” The operating of the loom, together with the spinning and carding, were duties which fell to the women of the house-

hold. The mother took the weaving side of the work, while the daughters did the spinning and spooling. During the spring months the loom was kept busy with making of rag carpet, while in the fall it was used for making clothing for the household.

“Often the loom would turn out a number of those rare products of the weaver’s art, the coverlets.

“The loom was made of heavy timber, and the ordinary carpenter in the community could make it. John G. Heatwole made many looms on the farm formerly owned by Abram Heatwole, a few miles north of Dayton. He would receive anywhere from eight to ten dollars for doing the carpenter work on one of the looms.”

Wayland’s History of Rockingham County

Joseph Funk was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania March 9, 1777, the eleventh child of Henry and Barbara Showalter Funk. The family moved to Virginia in 1786 and settled at the foot of Little North Mountain about 10 miles Northwest of Harrisonburg, County seat of Rockingham County.

On Christmas Day, 1804 Joseph Funk married Elizabeth Rhodes. She died February 7, 1813, leaving him five children. On the sixth of September 1814 he married Rachael Britton who bore him nine children. Virginia Britton Ruebush Bartley, his great, great granddaughter and second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Ruebush, owner of the Shenandoah Press carries the family name of Britton.

Joseph Funk was an educator, musician and publisher and was recognized as establishing the first Mennonite publishing house in Virginia.

In 1816 he published his first music book, “Choral Music.” By 1832 Funk had purchased his own printing press and type together with the necessary binding equip-

ment on which he published "Genuine Church Music," later known as Harmonica Sacra. There have been a million copies of this book printed and the 22nd edition was printed by his great grand son, James L. Ruebush in August, 1954.

Joseph Funk died on December 24, 1862. Soon after the close of the war between the States his sons re-opened the office and continued the work until 1876. In the meanwhile three young men, Ephriam Ruebush, John W. Howe, and C. B. Hammack journeyed to Singers Glen to study with Joseph Funk. Ephriam Ruebush met and married Lucilla Kieffer, a grand daughter of Joseph Funk.

Ephriam Ruebush, Aldine S. Kieffer, a brother of Lucilla Kieffer, Howe and Hammack formed a new printing company known as the Patent Note Company and continued the work Funk had started. They published the Christian Harp in 1867, a book of 112 pages and edited by Aldine S. Kieffer of which 100,000 copies were sold.

In the fall of 1878 the Patent Note Company moved their office and equipment to Dayton where the name was changed to Ruebush-Kieffer Company. This move gave the new company better mail distribution and shipping facilities, music teachers could be trained and sent forth. At the turn of the century the Ruebush-Kieffer Company was the largest book publishers in Virginia. Following Kieffer as editor and composer came J. H. Hall, S. W. Beazley, J. H. and W. H. Ruebush, the mantle of Funk and Kieffer fell upon W. H. Ruebush who made an enviable record in the field of music compositions, both band and vocal.

The Ruebush-Kieffer Company has issued more than fifty music books for Church, Sunday school, glee clubs, quartets and classes on harmony and theory. A few of the noteworthy have been The Temple Star, Star of Bethlehem, Crowning Day series, Music Reader Numbers One and Two, Choir Anthems, and Practical Harmony and Composition. Sales from these books and others have run well into the millions.

The Musical Million, a monthly musical magazine published by the Ruebush-Kieffer Company and edited by Aldine S. Kieffer and later by J. K. Ruebush had a wide and large circulation in Virginia and the South.

From this background of printers and publishers, James L. Ruebush served his apprenticeship in the plant of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company under the master printers Martin and Kieffer. After graduation from Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio in June, 1923 he took over the printing for the Ruebush-Kieffer Company continuing to publish music until about 1931, when the Company dissolved due to the fact that the original firm had passed on combined with the fact that patent notes were obsolete.

The Ruebush-Kieffer Company after moving to Dayton continued to publish music and theory books, also did a good volume of Job and Publication work.

In 1923 James L. Ruebush, a great grand son of Joseph Funk, operating under the firm name of The Shenandoah Press assumed the Job and Commercial business and has expanded this business where new and more modern equipment was needed to take care of the ever growing volume of business.

Today the Shenandoah Press is a well established and equipped plant which enables it to handle the ever increasing demand for good work and service which this plant offers to the public over a wide area.

Compiled by James L. Ruebush

The Virginia Organ Factory, operated by Aldine S. Kieffer, was started in 1882 in a two story building near the site where Suter's Cabinet Shop now stands. When this building burned in 1888, about seventy organs were destroyed; the factory was never rebuilt.

Joseph Shrum and his brothers, George and Charlie, were pioneers in brickmaking. Their first plant, located the east side of Main Street, was established in 1895; fourteen years later the brothers moved the industry to a farm

outside the Town. Until 1911 the bricks were made by hand, but during that year the owners installed a modern brick-making machine. The business was later taken over by Mr. George Shrum who was in charge of the brick-making until he retired in 1935 because of ill health.

In the gay nineties, buggies were very much in demand and Mr. George Hedrick started a carriage factory on the property now occupied by Ralph Moyers. This location soon proved to be too small and the business moved to a building on the west side of Main Street where it continued for many years. Buggies were sold locally and also in areas as far away as Charlottesville.

This carriage factory burned in 1911. This same fire of undetermined origin burned the store of Mr. Sam Cootes and also the home of Robert Coffman who was running the Belmont Inn. The store was rebuilt and Mr. Cootes continued in business there until his death; Mr. Clarence Garber now owns and operates this store. The Coffman home was also rebuilt, and it is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Holsinger. Because of ill health, Mr. Hedrick did not rebuild his factory. Instead, he moved to Florida where he spent the remainder of his life.

Although it is known that some taverns were in existence in the early days not much could be learned about them. Mr. and Mrs. A. Q. Bryan ran the Waverly Hotel which burned many years ago. It was located on College Street, where the Shenandoah Press now stands. Around 1900 Mrs. Sam Few and Mrs. Robert Coffman were operating boarding and rooming houses on main street.

Two tourists homes were opened on Main Street in the early twenties, Maple Shade Inn was operated by the Misses Hess and Maple Lodge by Miss Della Shrum.

The brick building on College Street, now owned by Mrs. George Bryan formerly housed a drug store and soda fountain run by Dr. Fuqua. Mr. and Mrs. George Bryan

operated a restaurant at this location in the thirties. They continued at this site until World War II when Mr. Bryan's health failed. This was a popular place for both Town people and College students. For a short period Mrs. Mary Swadley and Mrs. Minor Heatwole operated the Dutch Inn on the west side of High Street. This was patronized by college students.

Mr. George Bryan Sr. grandfather of George English Bryan lived on the corner of College and Mill Streets. Mr. Bryan operated a wood working shop which was located where the cannon now stands. A blacksmith shop where J. W. Garber shod horses and did general repair work stood on this lot. Another building near this site housed a bakery operated by Mr. George Bryan's son George Jr. until he entered World War I. This building was converted into a garage, later it was sold to Mrs. Hunter Begoon who moved it to another site and converted it into a dwelling.

In 1928 Mr. Bryan sold all this property to Shenandoah College. Before the house was moved to the north side of the Girl's Dormitory it was occupied by Rev. A. L. Maiden and family for a brief period.

This description would not be complete without mentioning a small jail located near the Bryan property. According to our informants the man who built the jail completed his work on Saturday, and while celebrating that same night he became intoxicated and was its first occupant.

Another story is told of a citizen who stated that he had paid fines enough to secure his release from jail to pave half the streets in Dayton. After he broke a window and escaped from his cell, the Town abandoned the jail.

Before the days of the automobile, livery stables were in demand and ladies hired hacks in order to go shopping in Harrisonburg. Dr. Williams, probably a veterinarian, owned a livery stable on the east side of main Street at the rear of the Fry residence. West Miller operated one on

the property now occupied by Mrs. George Bryan. Mr. Hedrick built a livery stable on Thompson Avenue and it was operated by Holler and Evers, M. A. Layman, "Daddy Dixon," and others. This building which has been remodelled twice is now owned by the Town of Dayton, and is used to store town equipment.

A large furniture factory was located on the corner of High Street and Bowman Road, then called Water Street. This building was owned and operated by a Mr. Miller, who made and sold fine furniture. After his death the building was used among other things as a carriage factory and was operated by Mr. M. A. Layman. This firm dissolved, and the building burned many years ago.

The J. M. Kagey Company, Mr. E. C. Ralston, and others organized the Dayton Harness Co. in 1898 for the manufacture of leather goods. Around 1912 Mr. William Campbell, the manager, resigned to accept a position in Hagerstown, Maryland, and Mr. Dill took over the management. This building which stood near the C. & W. Railroad station was destroyed by fire. Under Mr. Dill's management a new building was constructed on the west side of Main Street. Later, the Lerch Corporation of Baltimore bought and operated the harness business. The demand for harness began to diminish, and the company dissolved about 1926.

This building which was used as a grocery store and later as a plumbing shop was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reubush in 1947. They now occupy the apartment on the second floor, and the first floor is known as the Oxford Laboratories in which Mr. Reubush manufactures and distributes some of the new drugs.

Between 1890-1900 telephones were in general use in this area and a group of stockholders formed the Rockingham Mutual Telephone Company. According to Miss Blanche Hartman, who was an efficient telephone operator for forty years, the first switchboard in Dayton was oper-

ated by Mr. John Hartman. It was located on the east side of Main Street in the house now owned by Mrs. Alice Cootes. The switchboard was later taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Lon Showalter, and it remained at the same site until 1914 when it was moved to the Bank Building in the triangle. It continued to operate in the new location until the dial system was installed in 1950. Before the local use of the dial system, the telephone company gave employment to a number of people.

The Dayton Creamery was organized in 1910 and it was operated by E. W. Holsinger, Edgar Holsinger, Calvin Wheelbarger, and L. H. Matthews. A pioneer industry, the creamery remained in operation until it was absorbed by a larger corporation during the thirties.

The Chesapeake-Western Railway, affectionately called the Crooked and Weedy by the citizens, first steamed into Dayton in 1895. At that time it maintained both passenger and freight service. The line, built by Mr. E. D. Stokes, a multi-millionaire, was used mainly for carrying lumber and lumber products from Stokesville to Elkton where it connected with the main line of the Norfolk and Western Railway. After automobiles came into common use, the Railway discontinued its passenger service; today it still maintains its freight line.

Dayton got its first electricity in January, 1906. Prior to that time lamps on posts with coal oil for fuel provided lights for the streets. Some people recall having seen Mr. John Roudabush and also a man named Price climbing the posts to light the lamps. The children loved to watch the lamplighter make his round in the early evenings.

Cisterns and wells supplied water for home use until the early 1900's. The council book describes a community well which was located on the present property of Mr. G. L. Clemmer on College Street. Records show that a Mr. Bare lived on this corner when the well was in use. According to Mr. J. K. Ruebush there were six other public wells in

this municipality. In 1914 the Town laid a water line to the spring that bubbles up in Silver Lake and began pumping water into Dayton. New pipes were laid in 1930 and many residents remember the workers toiling all night trying to get the drain in the Lake open. Before the Lake filled up again, some men lowered a twenty foot pipe into the main channel but they could not touch the bottom.

The City of Harrisonburg bought Silver Lake from Mr. J. B. Grove in 1947 but Dayton retains water rights there.

CURRENT INDUSTRIES

Around 1940, housewives began demanding dressed chicken prepared for frying. Mr. J. W. Spencer, a dealer in poultry had the idea of building an eviscerating plant. After reaching an agreement with the Town Council about the water supply necessary for its operation, Mr. Spencer erected a building near the C. and W. Railroad. Known as the Spencer Produce Company, it operated under that name until the Marvel Poultry Company bought the business, and continue to operate the plant.

In May, 1951 Roland Weaver opened a plumbing establishment in Dayton. Prior to that time he had worked on power lines for the Rockingham Construction Company and had served as an apprentice to the master plumber. In 1953 he moved into his own newly constructed modern building where he carries all types of plumbing supplies and both installs and services heating systems.

Miss Mary Knicely owns and operates a flower shop on Main Street. This shop which carries all types of greeting cards as well as ladies' lingerie has been in operation for many years.

Near the flower shop, Mr. Wade Wenger maintains a clock and watch repair business which he took over after the death of his father, Mr. John Wenger. The Town is fortunate to have this service here.

Around 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Thomas purchased what was known as the Clinedinst property and started the Thomas Home Bakery. This proved to be a thriving business which provides bread, pies, and cakes for consumption locally and also in other communities. A few years

ago new equipment including an electric bakery was installed. In addition to the bakery, Mrs. Thomas operates a restaurant and also a boarding and rooming house.

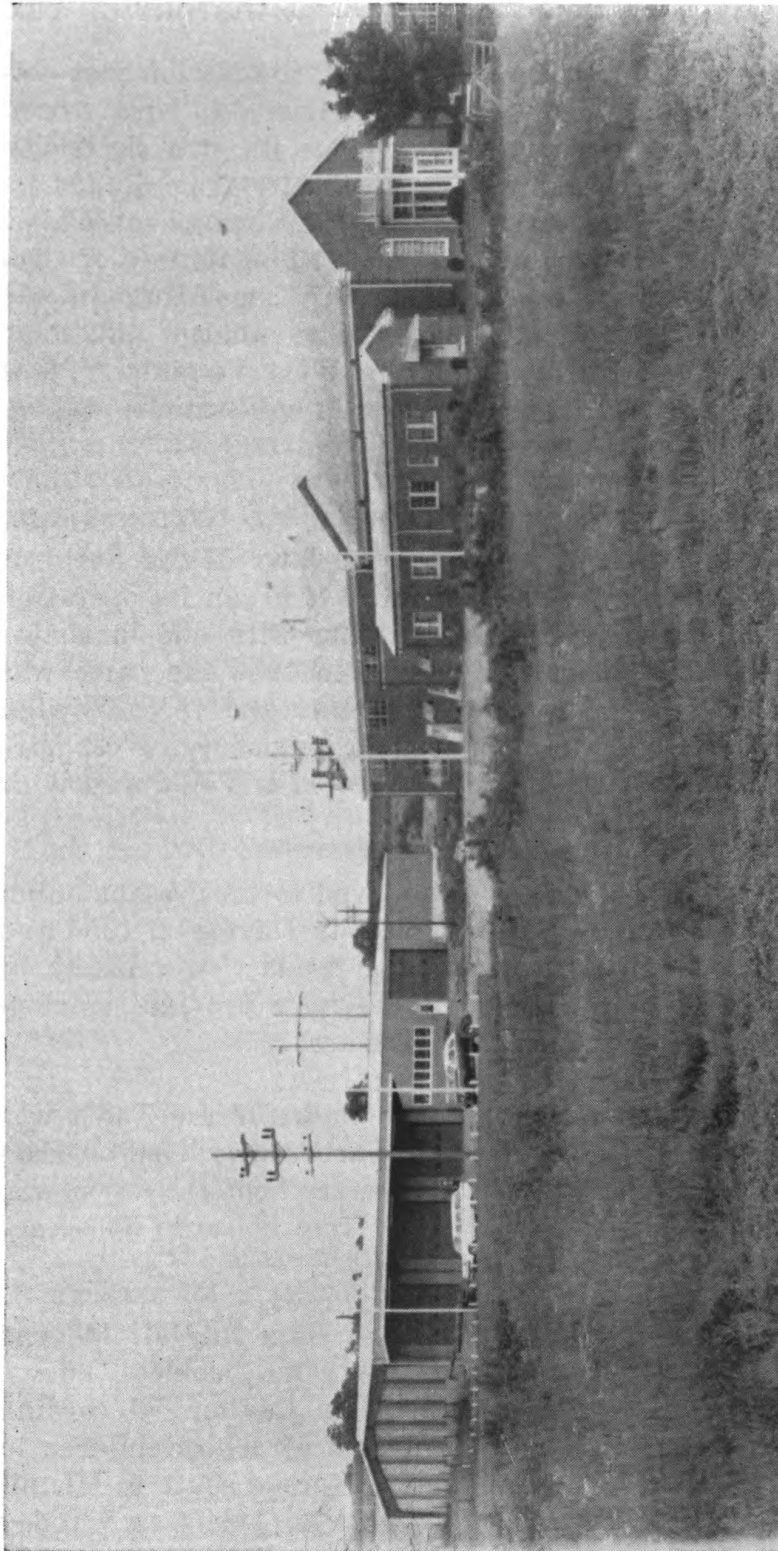
The Dayton Transport Corporation was started in 1945 by Mr. G. Lewis Clemmer who later became associated with Mr. Carr Coffman as partners in business. Beginning with only one truck for hauling petroleum products, this business which grew rapidly was incorporated in 1957. They now operate a fleet of trucks throughout Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina. Their business headquarters is outside the corporation, but they live in Dayton and are considered among its foremost citizens.

In 1946 Mrs. J. Mack Stover established the first beauty parlor in this municipality in the building where the Shenandoah Press is now located. This business was later taken over by Mrs. Kirby Smith, popularly known as Betsy, and is now called the Courtesy Beauty Shoppe. Betsy, who now has an assistant, moved to her present location in the McLaughlin building in 1957. Mrs. Margaret Greenwood operates a similar establishment in her home on Mason Street.

The first filling station in Dayton was built in 1926 by Mr. I. D. Sites and carried Texaco Products. Known as the Shenandoah Service Station, it had as its first operator Mr. R. C. Garber who was followed by Jesse Miller, Richard Collison, Stark Caricofe, Virgil Lambert, and Raymond Heatwole. In 1961 Mr. Cliff Custer purchased a tract of land on the southeast corner of the college campus and built a modern station. The Texaco Oil Company moved into the new building with Raymond Heatwole as manager.

A Shell Oil Station was located on Main Street and was managed by Mr. Edgar Holsinger for a number of years. This station is now being made into a dwelling.

In 1936 the Rural Electrification Administration estab-



Rural Electrification Administration Building now known as Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-operative. Built in 1936 it was among the first of its kind in the Nation.

lished one of the first branch plants in the Nation just outside of the corporation to extend electricity to rural areas. Equipped with diesel engines, it made its own electricity at first, but later began buying electricity from Buggs Island, Virginia. Presently known as the Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-op, it is among the largest distributors of electricity in Virginia. It serves 12,507 consumers in the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Shenandoah, and Page in Virginia, and Hardy County in West Virginia. Plans are being made for the construction of sub stations at Timberville, Bergton, Sherando, and Lynhurst.

The present Mid-Valley Hatchery, Inc. was organized in 1948 and incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia as Widehamps, Inc. It began its operation in Dayton in the post office building with one incubator hatching 14,000 chicks per week. In 1952 the name was changed to Mid-Valley Hatchery, Inc. and the following year its operation was expanded to Lewisburg, West Virginia where a new building was erected and equipped with three large incubators.

Mid-Valley Hatchery, Inc. moved to its present building on the east side of Main Street in Dayton in 1956 and it now has ten incubators with a production capacity of 130,000 chicks per week. The hatchery provides employment for a number of people in the area.

A local dairy which supplied milk for the Town was operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Garber who lived on East View Street. The sound of the horses hoofs at dawn was a familiar one as the driver went from house to house delivering milk.

For many years Mr. and Mrs. John Ray Hinkle and family have been publishing Bible verse booklets, known as Our Bible Series, at their home in Dayton. According to Mr. Hinkle, its distribution, began by school children in Virginia and West Virginia and has spread south to Miami, Florida and as far west as Hot Springs, Arkansas. Today

the work of publishing these booklets is being done in modern buildings with about 4000 square feet of floor space.

Mr. Charles Suter owns a cabinet shop on Mill Street where he makes furniture. Having learned the trade in his father's shop, he is capable of manufacturing the finest of furniture. Mr. Suter and his assistants make, finish and deliver furniture locally and also to distant points. Mr. Carter Shanholtzer has an up-to-date cabinet shop near Mason Street. He also does contracting work and has constructed many houses in the area. Mr. Luther Lough and Sons and Mr. Frank Heatwole are also among our popular contractors and builders.

Just off Mason Street Mr. James Metts, the current Mayor of Dayton, operates a general repair shop for automobiles and this garage provides a State Inspection station.

Mr. Raymond Miller has a plating and a band instrument repair service in his home on the corner of South High and Mill Streets and does excellent work. Mr. John Vinci, Jr. owns a business known as the Dayton Electric Service on the north corner of High and Mill Streets and is in constant demand. Messrs. Homer Detamore and Hugh Alexander are busy doing exterior and interior decorating.

On the road between Dayton and Silver Lake is Lahman's Radiator Shop. Mr. Lahman is well-known throughout the locality for his ability to do all types of welding.

All of the afore mentioned manufacturing concerns and businesses have contributed to the growth and welfare of Dayton and the surrounding community.

MERCHANTS AND STORES

In addition to the manufacturing plants and industries, Dayton has had a large number of merchants. According to Mr. W. H. Weller who received his information from Mr. William Fishback, the building which now houses Bernard's Grocery is among the oldest in the Town. The original owners are unknown, but the building was first used to accommodate the people who traveled by stagecoach. Mr. J. W. Hott had a store in this building around 1900 and since then Messrs. C. Hoover, George Shreve, Rhodes and Carver, William Fishback, J. L. Spencer, and J. Puffenbarger have managed stores in this building. Most likely there were others. Mr. Bernard Roth now operates a store there and is a popular groceryman.

Mr. W. H. Weller's store is also in an old building. It is said to have been built by a Mr. Carpenter. Mr. George Hess a clerk in the store, married Miss Betty Sillings, whose parents owned the Sillings farm near Dayton. Former owners of this store include, Messrs. George Sipe, John Rhodes, K. M. Boggs, George Gilkerson, and the present owner, Mr. Weller, who has operated a store in this building for about fifty years. He purchased the structure from Mr. Ike Ewing.

Mr. K. S. Coffman had a store and barber shop in several different locations. Mr. and Mrs. Coffman lived on High Street where they reared a family of six children.

On the west side of Main Street Mr. J. W. Hott erected a large brick building, containing a residence and store-room. Here he lived and had a general merchandising store as early as 1906. The Town Hall which was on the second floor was used by the high school for operettas and other programs before the erection of an auditorium at the high school.

Mr. Hott sold the building to J. W. Thompson, who continued the mercantile business and also operated a restaurant on the second floor until he moved to Washington, D. C. After changing hands several times, the building was sold to Mr. V. E. Lambert who converted it into an apartment house containing four units. Mr. Lambert died in 1960 and the property is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Lambert.

The Dayton Farm Supply is one of our oldest and most progressive industries. Organized by Swartz Bros. in 1898 in a building near the C. & W. Depot, it was later owned by P. X. Heatwole and son, W. D. Heatwole, who were business associates with Rev. J. M. Kagey. Mr. Heatwole sold to Rev. Kagey who operated the firm under the name of J. M. Kagey Co. After the death of Rev. Kagey, his son, Mr. Otis Kagey, became owner and manager. He was assisted by Mr. Amos Shomaker who was a familiar sight delivering coal around the town.

After the original building burned, the business moved to its present location on Main Street where it is owned and operated by Messrs. Burkholder, Rader, and others. This modern company sells machinery and other farm supplies.

In 1904, the Dayton Bank was organized and N. R. Crist was named cashier. It was first located in the Ruebush-Kieffer Company building, but in 1911, or 1912 it was moved into the newly completed Bank Building in the triangle on Main Street. The Bank of Dayton was in operation at this site until 1930.

This municipality was without a bank until 1957 when the Planters Bank of Bridgewater established a branch bank here with James Gangwer, cashier, and Mrs. Charles Suter, assistant.

For many years Mr. Hunter McGlaughlin has operated a barber shop on Main Street. During the thirties Mr. McGlaughlin and Sons established a restaurant beside the barber shop. Known for its good food and excellent service

it was a popular meeting place for college students.

Another barber shop is located on Main Street and it is owned and operated by Mr. Frank Cassim who lives in the house nearby.

Miss Margaret Hodson, now Mrs. Edward Goss of Winchester, Virginia, had an attractive millinery store in one room of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company building. She roomed and boarded at the Maple Shade Inn.

A building which stood near the house now occupied by Mrs. Virgil Lambert, at one time housed the Ruebush-Kieffer Company. This structure was moved to College Street, and was converted into a dwelling. For a period of about ten years, Misses Laura and Emma Winters lived there and kept a rooming house for college boys. When the Misses Winters decided to return to their native Pennsylvania, the trustees of Shenandoah College bought the house for use as a dormitory for boys. The students named the building the "Fuzzy Duck." For some years loud noises, peculiar to boys in their late teens or very early twenties, could be heard in the vicinity.

After the army barracks were erected on the campus following World War II, the College sold the "Fuzzy Duck" to Miss Sadie Craun. Immediately, the house acquired a more sedate atmosphere, Miss Craun converted it into a nursing home. This home has filled a great need, and has served not only the Town but also the surrounding community.

CITIZENS AND BIOGRAPHIES

We do not have a record of many families who lived in Dayton in its early days. Mrs. Emily Hamilton told us that her Grandfather Smith came to America from Germany many years ago. A Mr. Bernshire and Mr. Linhoss came with him on the voyage which lasted for five months. All three men settled in Dayton where they opened shoe shops. The brick building which is located on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Tumer was used by Mr. Smith for a shoe shop, and Mrs. Hamilton recalls that he made a pair of shoes for her when she was a child and that they were most uncomfortable.

No trace of the Bernshires can be found, but it is probable that Misses Ada and Vena Linhoss, Mr. Homer Linhoss, Mr. Vincent Linhoss, and Mrs. Lillie Linhoss are descendants of the Mr. Linhoss who came from Germany with Mr. Smith. Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Ida Caricofe, Miss Blanche Helms, and Mrs. Beulah Caricofe are among the grand children of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Hiram Coffman, one of the early settlers, owned a large tract of land around Dayton where he reared his family. One son, Mr. Alburta Coffman, a man interested in schools, church, and civic affairs of the Town, lived where Mr. and Mrs. Joe Meyerhoeffer now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Alburta Coffman, the parents of six children, later moved into the house presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Eberly. This house was built by a Mrs. Saufley. Mr. Sam Coffman, another son of Mr. Hiram Coffman, gave us some interesting information on the early history of Dayton. At the time of his recent death, he was eighty-eighty years of age.

Mr. S. L. Cootes was a merchant in Dayton and Mrs. Cootes had a private school which was located on the lawn

of their home on South High Street. This school was attended by the children of prosperous families. Mr. and Mrs. Cootes were the parents of five daughters who were among the belles of the gay nineties.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stinespring had a grocery store on Main Street. Their only child, William, graduated from the University of Virginia and is an author as well as the head of the Department of Religious Education at Duke University. A few years ago he engaged in research work in the Holy Land.

Mr. John Stinespring, the grandfather of Mr. Joe Stinespring, operated the Dayton Hotel, which was located on the east side of College Street. One informant said that the food was hidden under the hotel during the Civil War to keep it from the Federal soldiers.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shrum lived in the house now occupied by Mr. J. L. Spencer. The Shrums had four sons, one of whom died in his youth. Messrs. George, Joe and Charlie Shrum were pioneers in brick-making. Mrs. Raymond Carver is a daughter and Mr. J. L. Shrum is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shrum.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Thompson lived on Main Street but later built and occupied a large house on Summit Street. They were the parents of four sons who were all talented musicians and artists. Mr. Thompson, was postmaster around 1900 and later his son, "Maje," was also postmaster. A daughter, Miss Alice Thompson, married Mr. John Byrd.

At one time Mr. and Mrs. James Price occupied the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Suter. Mr. Price was associated with Mr. Levi Rhodes in operating a drug store on the triangle where the old Bank Building now stands. Fire of undetermined origin destroyed this building which also housed the Post Office. The United Brethren Church and Mrs. Byrd's house were also destroyed by this fire. Mr. and Mrs. Price were the parents of four boys and two girls. Mr. Grattan Price, a son and

the owner of the C. G. Price Insurance Agency in Harrisonburg, recalls many happy days of his youth which were spent in Dayton. He stated that it was his custom to ride Dr. Kibler's horse to the creek for water. One unlucky day, he encountered the mayor as the horse was galloping through Town. As a result of this misdemeanor, he was given the maximum fine of one dollar.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker Frankum lived in the brick building now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Derrer. The Frankums reared a family there; one son, who was a lawyer, later became an advisor to one of the presidents of the United States.

A house on the corner of King and High Streets was built and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Funkhouser. Mr. Funkhouser was associated with Professor J. H. Ruebush in the management of Shenandoah Collegiate Institute; he later was postmaster. Mr. and Mrs. Funkhouser reared four daughters and one son. The daughters are talented musicians and the son has become an educator.

Professor J. S. H. Good was principal of Dayton High School for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Good reared six children. One son was fatally injured when he fell from a bicycle on Herring's Hill while on his way to Bridgewater College. A daughter, Ruth, died in her youth. The remaining four are outstanding in the educational field. Dr. Carter Good is a college professor and a noted author, having written several books. His name is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

In John W. Wayland's book on Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, he says that Ephriam Ruebush was "born near Stover's Shop, Augusta County; student under the Funks at Mountain Valley (Now Singer's Glen); teacher of music in Virginia and West Virginia; publisher at Singer's Glen, with John W. Howe, Cornelius Hammack and Aldine S. Kieffer, of patent note music books; founder, with Aldine S. Kieffer, of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company in 1868, moved to Dayton in 1878; associate publisher of the Musical

Million, established in 1866; died in Dayton, November 18, 1924."

"His outstanding work was done at Dayton, to which place he and his brother-in-law, the talented Aldine S. Kieffer, in 1878 moved their printing and publishing house under the name of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company. As senior member of the firm, Mr. Ruebush lived at Dayton and was actively engaged in the publishing business until a short time before his death at the advanced age of 91."

He married Miss Lucilla Kieffer and they were the parents of six children, all of whom were printers, publishers, or musicians.

Rev. George P. Hott who came from a line of ministers was born in Frederick County, Virginia, March 13, 1854. After teaching three years in his native county, he attended Shenandoah Seminary at Dayton, Virginia, and graduated from Union Biblical Seminary at Dayton, Ohio, in 1882. He was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Arts by Lebanon Valley College. After serving as minister for twenty-seven years, he was presiding elder six years and secretary of the Virginia Conference for thirty years.

He contributed much to the success of Shenandoah Collegiate Institute during the eleven years he was principal and the twenty-five years he served as one of the trustees. Rev. Hott died in Dayton in 1914. His daughter, Mrs. Ernest Ralston, now lives in the Hott family home. For many years she taught piano and pipe organ at Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music.

Mr. John W. Howe, a benefactor of Shenandoah College, was born in Rappahannock County in 1829 and died in Dayton, Virginia in 1903. He became a licensed minister in the United Brethren Church in 1858.

He was associated with Messers Ephriam Ruebush and Aldine Kieffer in establishing the Ruebush-Kieffer Company at Singers Glen, Virginia. This famous company moved to Dayton in 1878 with Rev. Howe as one of the

managers.

Rev. Howe was always a friend of Shenandoah Collegiate Institute and he was one of the first to contribute \$500 toward the purchase of the school by the church. It was through his counsel and help that the Howe Memorial Building was erected. Rev. Howe was a leader, a fine organizer and a tireless worker.

He was instrumental in uniting the United Brethren Church after the War Between the States. "Forty years before the war the General Conference made slavery a test of membership. No man who owned slaves and would not free them could not remain a member of the church." This rule kept the church out of the South except where it had been carried by German settlers who did not own slaves. Rev. Howe worked diligently to aid unification.

Prof. J. S. McLeod was among the first principles of the school after it was located on the hill. He did not live in Dayton but he had two sisters who were residents of Dayton. Mrs. Byrd lived where Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hilbert now lives. She reared five daughters, four of these girls were school teachers in Rockingham County for some years. One daughter married Dr. Payne and they reared four sons and one daughter all of whom were educators. One son was an attache at a foreign Embassy.

Mrs. Cromer lived on Bowman Road, she reared two daughters who taught school and her only son was a lawyer.

The name McLeod is synonymous with education.

Miss Madge Keiter whose home is on College Street is a granddaughter of Rev. Howe. She was head of the dramatic department at Shenandoah College and is now teaching English and Dramatics in Shenandoah College at Winchester.

Professor J. H. Ruebush was born at Singers Glen, Virginia, October 19, 1865. When he was fourteen years of age, his family moved to Dayton where he attended Shenandoah Collegiate Institute for a period of five years. He

continued his studies in music at Otterbein University, the Conservatory of Music in New York, Lake Chatauqua, and other schools. For five years he taught at Key Mar College, Hagerstown, Maryland and then returned to Dayton to become Musical Director of the Institute. Mr. Ruebush served as head of Shenandoah Collegiate Institute from 1910 until 1922. He was the composer of numerous pieces of music and was editor of many well known music books. A man of great energy and activity, he gave of himself and his time generously. Professor Ruebush died in 1948.

Mrs. Jenny Lind Ruebush Shirley, the only daughter of Mr. Ruebush, is a popular teacher of music in Dayton and Harrisonburg. Her daughter, Mrs. C. H. Connor, a teacher at Turner Ashby High School, is also an accomplished musician.

Rev. A. S. Hammack was born in Augusta County, Virginia where he attended school. He later completed his education at Union Biblical Seminary and was ordained in the United Brethren Church in 1890. He was an itinerant minister for twenty years, Presiding Elder for four years, and Conference Superintendent for almost thirteen years. He married Miss Josie Huffman and they were the parents of six children. At the time of his death in 1930, he was Mayor of the Town of Dayton. A daughter, Mrs. Mike Landes, lives at the Hammack residence and cares for her mother who is in her ninety-fourth year.

Mr. Bernard A. Hess, whose maternal and paternal grandparents were natives of Dayton gave us the following story.

In 1843, William Henry Peterson moved to Dayton along with his parents. He grew to manhood in this Town and went with the first troops to leave Rockingham County during the War Between the States. In 1861 while stationed at Winchester, Virginia, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant and served under Stonewall Jackson in the Valley Campaign. His scrap book contains his original orders dating from January 11, 1862 to March 13, 1862.

After his unit was disbanded in 1862, he was ordered to report to General R. E. Lee's army and he served with Company C, 39th Battalion, Virginia Calvary, during the remainder of the War.

Upon his return to Dayton at the close of hostilities, he engaged in the contracting business. He married Amanda Nicewander, daughter of Daniel Nicewander, who came to Dayton from Pennsylvania, and they were the parents of ten children, who were reared in a house on the lot where the Mid-Valley Hatchery now stands. After the War between the States, Mr. Peterson took an active part in the community, church, and political life of Dayton. Mr. Peterson died in 1901 and is buried in the Dayton cemetery. His wife, Mary Amanda is also buried there.

Mr. Peterson's scrapbook contains the following:

Names of 40 signers of the petition to the House of Representatives for the incorporation of the town of Dayton.

Minutes of meetings of townspeople in 1875 detailing procedures when funds were being raised for a schoolhouse.

A ballot for corporation election on May 24, 1894. S. L. Cootes, Mayor, and council elected G. W. Hedrick, J. L. Thompson, E. Ruebush, George P. Hott, Joseph R. Price, W. J. Frankum and W. H. Peterson.

Contribution to Education Fund of United Brethren Church on June 15, 1884.

"First C. & W. Railroad engine and one car entered Dayton on July 20, 1895 at 4:30 p.m. First freight train of 13 cars; 11 cattle, 1 box and 1 flat, came into Dayton on July 23, 1895.

"A banquet and picnic was held at the Institute on July 31, 1895 to celebrate the opening of the railroad. The banquet was attended by 143 and 2300 picnicked on the grounds. Among the speakers were Judge John Paul, J. T. Harris, Major Switzer, A. P. Funkhouser and Professor Fries. Two bands, one from Dayton and the other from Augusta County, supplied the music.

"The cost of feeding the 143 at the Institute was \$33.00 and covered the purchases of:

50 pounds flour	10 dozen cucumbers
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30 pounds ham	8 heads cabbage
25 pounds beef	10 dozen ears corn
24 chickens	4 dozen eggs
30 pounds sugar	6 gallons ice cream
1/2 bushel potatoes	4 quarts peaches
1/2 bushel snaps	1 gallon milk
	1 gallon cream

tea, coffee, salt, pepper and soda."

William H. Ruebush, brother of J. H. Ruebush, was a teacher of music, a writer of popular selections for male and mixed voices, and a skilled director of choirs and orchestras. Both of these men were associated with the Ruebush-Kieffer Company. Their father, Ephriam Ruebush, was a member of the original firm which operated the printing business. Mr. Ruebush served the Town as both Mayor and postmaster and was director of the 116th Infantry Band during World War I.

Jacob H. Hall, born near Dayton, was a well known conductor of music institutes in the South, having conducted these music schools in twenty different states. This composer of many excellent works was an editor of a number of music books. For many years he lived in Dayton.

Joseph Kieffer Ruebush who was born in Dayton in 1878 attended Shenandoah Collegiate Institute and Ohio State University. He became business manager of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company and was the Rickingham County Chairman of the War History Commission of Virginia from 1920 to 1924. For many years he was literary editor of the *Musical Million*, a magazine founded by his father and uncle, Aldine Kieffer, in 1869.

Blessed with a strong literary heritage, Mr. Ruebush has always been interested in books. He has published many works including Morton's "History of Pendleton County," Harrison's "Settlers of the Grey Trail," Coffman's "The Conrad Clan," and White's "King's Mountain Men." This recognized authority on the value of old and rare books has issued more than seventy catalogues which are used as guides in many libraries.

In 1936 Mr. J. K. Ruebush moved to Harrisonburg where he now makes his home.

James Arthur Harman, born at Dry Fork, West Virginia in 1882, was educated in the neighborhood schools and in Dana's Musical Institute in Ohio. In 1906 he came to Shenandoah Collegiate Institute where for the next seventeen years he served as head of the violin staff. Mr. Harman was concert violinist in the Virginia Theatre in Harrisonburg for ten years and has taught and directed orchestras at both Bridgewater College and Harrisonburg State Teachers College. Since 1920 he has headed The Harman School of Music which has its main studio in Harrisonburg with smaller studios in Elkton, Luray and Shenandoah.

Professor Harman married Miss Della Margaret Emigh in 1905 and they reared six children who are talented musically. The family has given numerous concerts in churches and at social gatherings, in 1929, the eight of them were the Virginia winners in the nationwide Home Music Contest. Serving as Mr. Harman's main assistants in The Harman School of Music are his two daughters, Misses Priscilla and Mary Jane Harman.

J. Horace Hott, the son of Rev. and Mrs. G. P. Hott, was born in Dayton and attended the Dayton schools. A graduate of Shenandoah College he was awarded a Master's degree at Columbia University. Mr. Hott was affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce in Tampico, Mexico, and Ft. Worth, Texas and at the time of his death in 1938, was president of the National Association of Commercial Secretaries of the National Chamber of Commerce.

Walter A. Flick, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Flick attended Dayton schools, Shenandoah and Bridgewater Colleges, and earned both a Master's degree and a Ph. D. degree from Ohio State University. He taught summer school at Madison College, the University of Virginia, and in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Flick was an able public speaker and was in constant demand at banquets and other social

gatherings. The time of his death he was head of the Department of Education at Washington and Lee University.

Aldine S. Kieffer was born in Missouri but returned to Virginia at the age of seven with his widowed mother. He attended school for a brief period in a log school house near Mountain Valley, but he received most of his education in his Grandfather Joseph Funk's printing shop.

In 1859 he formed a partnership for the teaching of singing schools with his brother-in-law, Ephriam Ruebush. During the following years they taught music in Rockingham, Pittsylvania, Halifax and other counties.

He was both a musician and poet. His work was interrupted, however, in 1861 when the War Between the States broke out. He was among the first volunteers to serve with the Confederacy.

From the pen of this celebrated man came the popular songs, "My Mountain Home," "The Old School House," "Twilight is Stealing," and many others. He specialized in folk songs. A greater part of his life was spent in Dayton.

Mrs. J. R. Rhodes, a former resident of Dayton, was an unusually active church worker in the United Brethren Church for many years. She taught in both the Children's Department and in the Adult Division of the Sunday school, was president of the local W.S.W.S. for twenty-five years, and of the Virginia Conference Branch for seventeen years. She now makes her home with her son, Markwood Rhodes, of Burlington, N. C. She is physically active, mentally alert and does substitute teaching in the Sunday school. The W.S.W.S. was delighted to have her as a guest at the Mother and Daughter Banquet at the June meeting in 1962.

There is a record of two women who served as ministers in Dayton. Miss Laura Grossnickle, who married Mr. George Hedrick, was a lady minister in the Progressive Dunkard Church, which stood on top of the hill on Mill Street. This church building, abandoned many years

ago, was sold and moved elsewhere and the congregation moved their membership to Bethlehem at Pleasant Hill.

Miss Ida Judy, a minister of the United Brethren Church, taught Bible at Shenandoah College.

Dr. J. H. Jackson, mentioned elsewhere in this history, was interred in the Dayton Cemetery and was buried in an upright position. The marker on his grave reads, "Dr. J. H. Jackson was born in 1829," but the date of death is not legible. A new marker erected by the cemetery committee is made of brick, stands fourteen inches high, and is twenty-two inches square.

The oldest marker we found in the cemetery reads, "Here lies the body of Mary Harrison, who died December 30, 1792." However, there must be some unmarked graves since an Episcopal Church was located in the cemetery before the Revolutionary War. This congregation later moved their membership to Harrisonburg.

The first physician of whom we have a record is Dr. George McFarland, a popular surgeon during the Civil War. Mrs. Dora Spencer and Hubert Estes, Dayton residents, are great-grandchildren of Dr. McFarland. In 1880 Dr. Tatum was a practicing physician here. Dr. Alford both physician and minister, lived on Main Street. Dr. Kibler occupied the house on the corner of Main and Mill Streets where Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Sites formerly lived. Dr. Good, Dr. Hollar, Dr. Andrews, and Dr. Yancey lived in this property at various times. The brick building located near the house was used for an office.

In the early nineties, the people of the Town experienced an epidemic of fever which some authorities state came from unsanitary conditions along the mill race. Peachy Shrum was fatally stricken and his sister, Annie, died from the effects of the fever. According to our information, many people were critically ill but most of them recovered. Dr. Kibler became so exhausted from overwork that he called in Dr. Butts from West Virginia to assist him.

Dr. Painter resided where Mr. Arthur Trenary and sister, Miss Neurita Trenary, now live. On the east side of College Street where Mr. and Mrs. Beall reside, Dr. Payne had a combined office and residence. Dr. Marshall lived on Main Street and took his meals at Mapleshade Inn, the home of the Misses Hess. Dr. Foster resided on Main Street with an office in the Bank Building before moving to Bridgewater. In the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clemmer, Dr. Koontz lived, and practiced medicine in the building which has been made into a dwelling by Mrs. Harry Clemmer. Dr. Fisher lived on High Street with an office in the old Bank Building. Dr. J. H. Jackson was a practicing physician in Dayton in the nineteenth century. We are told that he received the only newspaper that came into town and it was his custom to read the week's news to all persons who gathered at the church on Sunday afternoon.

The only physician here today is Dr. J. S. Huffman who lives and practices medicine in his combined residence and office. He is a dependable doctor subject to call day and night. Dr. Huffman has on his porch a sign which reads, "The House by the Side of the Road" and to this we might add that he is a friend to man.

Dr. Ernest Garrison who practiced dentistry here for many years later moved to Harrisonburg and continued his work. Dr. Deputy was a popular dentist in Dayton recently before moving to the Blue Ridge Sanatorium near Charlottesville. Dr. Young started practicing dentistry here in the last few months and is building an office on the corner of Mill and College Streets.

The Town of Dayton has produced many professional men and women who have contributed to the growth of our Nation. Some have entered the field of medicine, surgery, dentistry, and nursing; while others have become teachers, ministers, musicians, engineers, and lawyers. Unfortunately, space here does not permit individual recognition of all of these fine people.

WARS

During the Civil War there was very little actual fighting in the vicinity of Dayton. However, the Northern Soldiers who camped around Dayton in 1864 made raids on the homes for food, burned houses, barns, and mills nearby. Some residents moved away in order to escape the inconveniences caused by the troops.

The Lower Mill, which has been discussed in another chapter was owned and operated by Miller and Kiser during the Civil War. Presumably, the mill was helping to supply the food for Confederate troops in the area. Sheridan gave orders for Mr. Kiser to close the mill and go West; if he failed to do so, the General threatened to attach a ball and chain to his foot and compel him to walk the entire distance to Ohio. According to Mrs. Ina Carver and Mrs. Trammel Fishback, who are granddaughters of Mr. Kiser, he took his family and went to Illinois.

Another story concerns the Confederate soldiers who had captured a large amount of coffee from the Federal troops. In their haste to get away they accidentally burst one bag of coffee and scattered it from Dayton to Bridgewater. When the people in Dayton heard of the incident they started walking and picking up the coffee. But the people in Bridgewater had also heard the news and they started walking toward Dayton picking up the coffee, too. The two groups met about midway between the two towns.

A house which is located on the corner of Mill and College Streets was owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Showalter during the Civil War. Miss Blanche Hartman, a granddaughter of the Showalters, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Roy Hartman, now live in this house. According to a story told by Miss Blanche Hartman, Mrs. Showalter was preparing the evening meal when Yankee soldiers came

looking for food. On seeing a pot of beans cooking on the fireplace, they took the food and made a hasty exit. Some time later the empty pot was found in a vacant field.

“Across the creek opposite Squire Herring’s farmhouse south of Dayton was a tenant house occupied by Mrs. Valentine Bolton whose husband was in the Confederate Army. Mrs. Bolton was told to move out because the house would be burned. Some of the Federal soldiers were helping to remove the household property when one of them picked up a Masonic Manual. Turning to Mrs. Bolton, he asked “Is your husband a Mason?” She, feeling somewhat bitter at having the house burned, answered in unpleasant tones. “Yes, he is.” Immediately the men were ordered out of the house and the property that had been removed was replaced and a guard was left on duty there. This house is standing today.

“At the home of Joel Flory, now Walter Flory’s home, east of Dayton, old Aunt Betsy Whitmore was lying bedfast at the time the Yankees came to burn the house. After learning the condition of Aunt Betsy, they left and did no burning.” (Dr. Waynand, *Valley of Virginia Records*, pp 194-195.)

“Federal General Meigs was killed near the farm where Amos Wenger now lives. Mr. Noah Wenger owned this farm in 1864. Mrs. Wenger was baking and getting ready to leave her home, Federal soldiers were camped around the house. Some of the soldiers would go in the house and carry off the pies and cakes. The Wengers made complaint to an officer and a guard was put in charge at the house. Mr. and Mrs. Wenger and family took what they could carry on one wagon and moved out.

When the party in charge of burning arrived at the Wenger farm, they found there Andrew Thompson, a boy thirteen years old, who made his home with the Wengers part of the time. His mother lived in Dayton, and Andy, (as his friends called him,) had not gone home. The Yankees went to the barn, took a bunch of hay, tore off

some weatherboarding and broke it into small pieces to kindle the fire which burned the barn. They mounted their horses and rode away.

Another squad of Yankees came up to the house. They took the straw that had been emptied from the chaff ticks, piled it against a wooden partition of the house and set fire to it. Andy Thompson than took a crock off of the paling fence, (the buckets had been moved with the wagon) carried water, and extinguished the fire. Andy was not harmed by the soldiers when he put the fire out. The house was standing when Mr. and Mrs. Wenger returned."

Records of John W. Wayland

According to Mr. J. K. Ruebush who heard it from Mr. Barnhart a resident on the site where Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rolston now reside, the Federal soldiers were so demanding of food that the families kept their supplies hidden. Some residents concealed their food in baby cribs to mislead the soldiers.

"At one time John Meigs, who belonged to Sheridan's staff, and two other Northern officers met three Confederate soldiers near Dayton. In the skirmish which ensued, Major Meigs was killed. Sheridan heard that Meigs had been killed by a bushwhacker and he became so angry that he gave orders to his soldiers to burn every house within a five mile radius of the spot where Meigs fell. Torches were set to a number of houses and barns near the Town. The people, warned of the impending action, took blankets and camped in the surrounding fields on a chilly October night. The next morning the citizens rejoiced to see their homes still standing. They were told that the orders had been rescinded five minutes before they were to have been carried out.

Joseph Carver recalls that his Grandfather Shrum told him that Federal soldiers tapped on the window that night and told them to leave their home because the Town would be burned. From other reports, the Northern troops went from house to house with their message. Some people re-

late that the Federal soldiers helped to carry household property to safety.

Another story credits Captain Wildes, a close friend of Sheridan, with being so impressed with the kindness of the people that he interceded for this peaceful little town. Captain William Bryan who lives in Dayton on Mason Street suggested that something should be done to honor Captain Wildes. The Town Council, American Legion, and other civic organizations decided to erect a plaque honoring Captain Wildes. This plaque was dedicated on May 12, 1962.

The Commemoration Ceremony was reviewed as follows in the Harrisonburg *Daily News-Record*:

“DAYTON UNVEILS MONUMENT . . .”

“Confederate flags dipped in tribute and men in gray fired saluting volleys as Dayton unveiled its monument to a Union soldier Saturday . . .

“The Federal officer, Lt. Col. Thomas Wildes, countermanded an order by his superior, Gen. Phillip Sheridan, and saved the town from being burned in 1864.

“‘Wildes, though an enemy, proved to be Dayton’s great benefactor,’ said Delegate Lawrence Hoover in his commemorative address.”

“Mr. Hoover also read a letter written by the Union soldier who actually was charged to apply the torch to Dayton. The man wrote in 1912 that when the order was rescinded five minutes before the burning was to begin, the Union troops ‘cheered louder than in any bayonet charge.’

“The cheers were re-echoed by the Dayton throng who turned out Saturday to pay tribute to Wildes.

“A parade preceded the unveiling of the bronze plaque on Main Street . . .

“A horse unit representing Gen. Turner Ashby’s Laurel Brigade also pranced along the parade route.

“Fittingly for the unveiling of the Union Monument, the parade also contained a marcher in Federal blue. Young Terry Bell of Harrisonburg came decked out in a Billy Yank uniform.”

“At the monument site Dayton Mayor James O. Metts welcomed the re-marchers and crowd. He also read a letter from the executive director of Virginia’s Civil War Centennial Commission, congratulating Dayton on the monument to Wildes. ‘This event is very much in keeping with the purposes of the Civil War Centennial in Virginia,’ telegraphed James J. Geary.”

WORLD WAR I

Dayton is justly proud of the record of the band, which served during World War I. Organized at the Shenandoah College under the direction of Prof. W. H. Ruebush, this band was composed of both Town and College boys and had thirty members. Prof. Fred Spiker was assistant director.

Copied from Booklet of Memorial Service Dedication and unveiling of War Trophy, August 30, 1928.

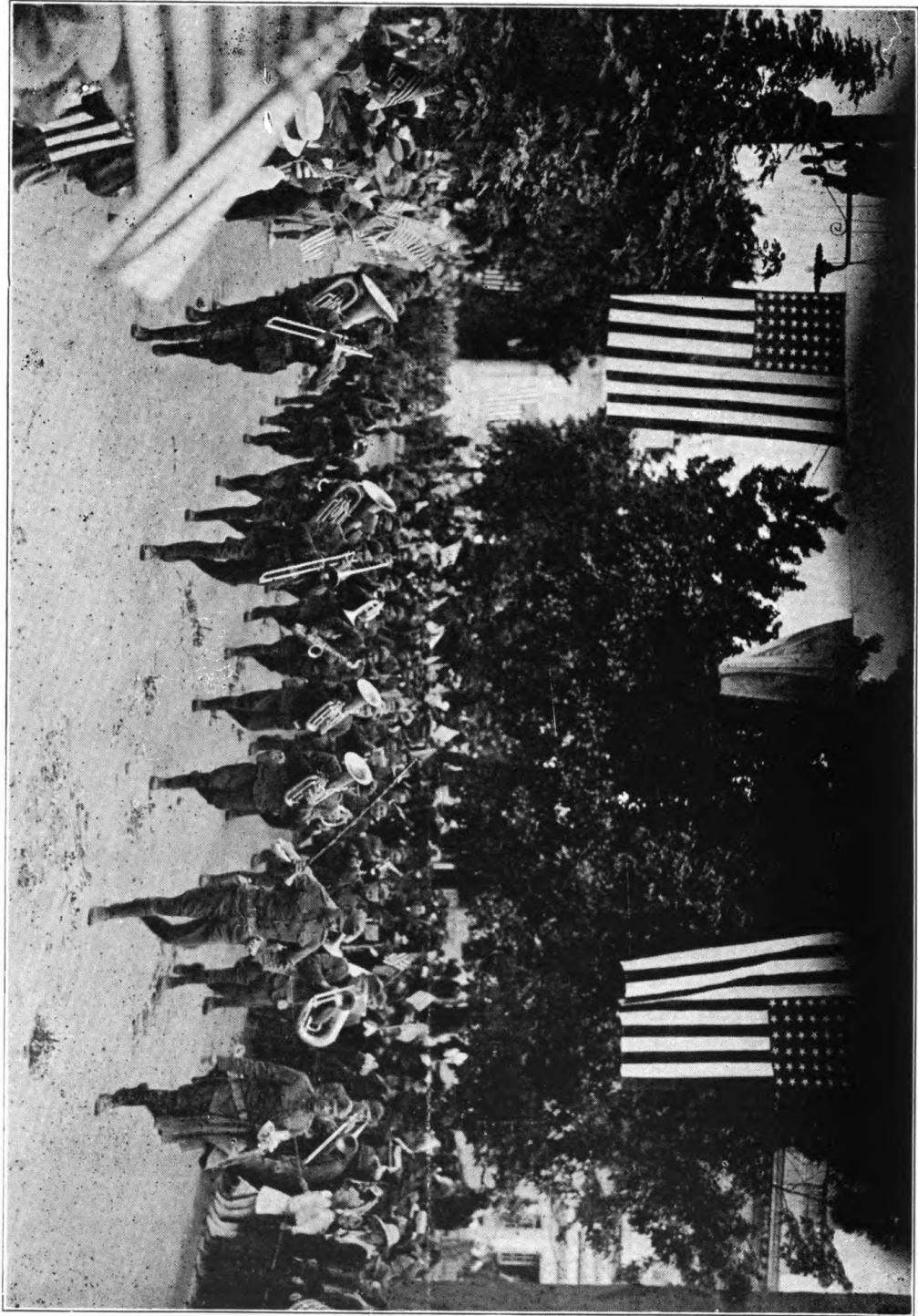
“In March of 1916, Captain C. G. Mason enlisted the band in the Second Infantry of Virginia as a regimental band thus completing the Regimental Band recruitment in the State of Virginia. This put Dayton on the map, since it was the smallest town the the United States to furnish a Regimental Band.

The famous band was called for service, along with the National Guard in 1916 because of an uprising along the Mexican border.

Excitement ran high for a brief period after orders were received and on May 29, a large crowd of wives, mothers, and sweethearts many of whom were in tears, were at the station to see the boys off. The men were sent to Brownsville, Texas, where they were stationed for eight months without incident. Members of the band who were excused from duty were Messrs. Statton Leary, Ira Hammack, and Garland Shirley.

After the uprising in Mexico was settled, the boys returned home to a gala welcome but remained on active duty pending developments of the conflict in Europe.

After the United States declared war on Germany, the



The 116th Infantry Band on parade in Newport News after returning from Europe

band went to Anniston, Alabama, for training, and nine months later these musicians were on their way to Europe as a unit of the 116th Infantry in the Twenty-ninth Division. They were again under the direction of Prof. W. H. Ruebush assisted by Prof. Fred Spiker.

The Division sailed for Europe in June, 1918, and after a perilous ocean journey because of submarine warfare, they arrived safely in France, where they served in several major engagements. While on duty at the front the members of the band served as first-aid men and stretcher bearers. One Dayton boy, George W. Webster, lost his life when a shell exploded and destroyed the rolling kitchen where he was preparing food.

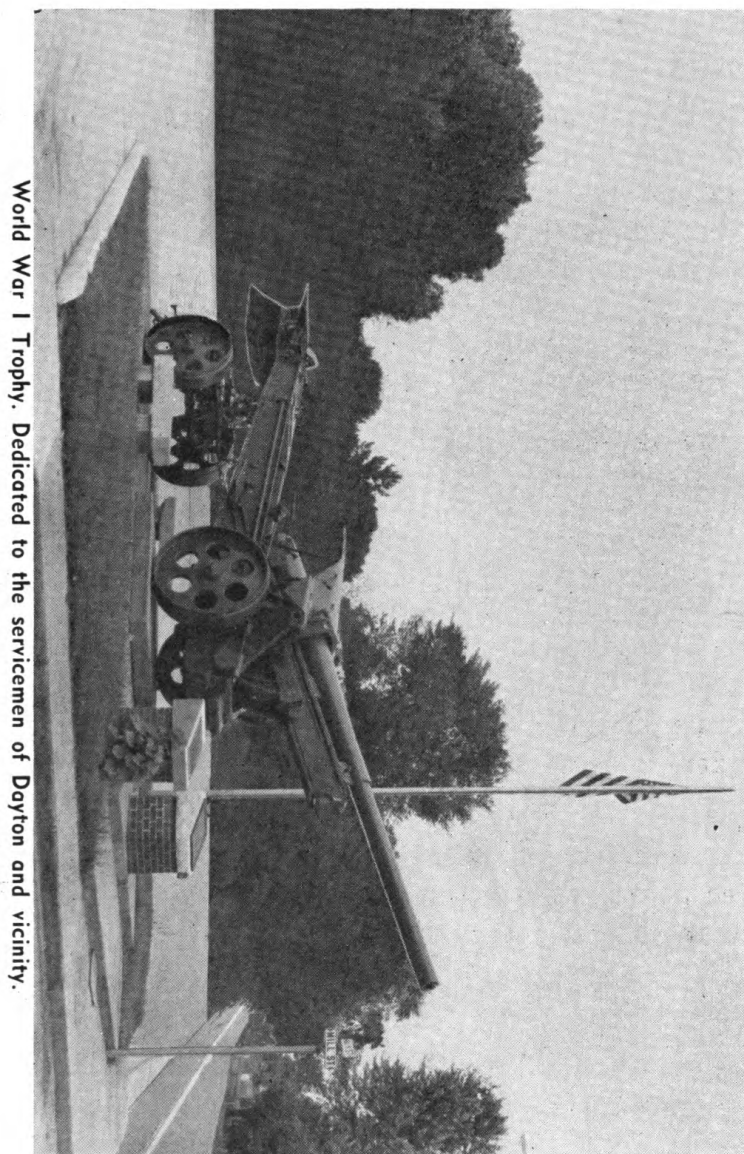
After the Armistice the band was assigned a tour of duty at Headquarters of the Fifth Army Corps.

An old newspaper reported that Thursday, May 29, 1919, in Dayton was a day long to be remembered because of the homecoming of the 116th Infantry Band. From early morning until far into the night, there was never a dull moment. Mothers and wives were overjoyed at the safe return of their loved ones. The church bells rang and the student body of S. C. I. marched through the streets and sang.

A parade which followed the noon meal was led by mounted guards followed by Rev. A. S. Hammack and Preston Miller on foot carrying a service flag."

Some years later the citizens of the Town insisted that something should be done to perpetuate the memory of those who offered so much in defense of liberty. Rev. A. L. Maiden, president of Shenandoah College, Mayor A. S. Hammack, John R. Crown, editor of the *Daily News-Record*, and I. D. Sites, who originated the idea, motored to Richmond to consult Governor Harry F. Byrd. The Governor gave them a requisition and sent them to New Jersey, where some war trophies were stored and they selected the large canon, which is now located on the corner of Main and Mill Streets. This cannon was shipped

to Dayton by freight and it was mounted in its present position and dedicated on August 30, 1928.



This was another milestone in Dayton's history and again we take the story from an old newspaper, "Sham Battle to be Fought at Dayton Cannon Celebration. Spottswood Guards will reproduce miniature warfare this evening."

"In the meantime Dayton is putting on its best bib and tucker for today's celebration. Flags and bunting have been stretched across the streets and around the cannon. The Dayton cannon is ready for dedication. Arrangements have been made to take care of the crowd. Exercises will begin at 2:00 p.m. with Attorney General Saunders giving the address. Mayor-elect John Morrison of Harrisonburg will unveil the monument."

"The stately cannon captured in Germany now stands as a monument to all men and boys of Dayton and vicinity, who offered their lives for their country."

Those who served with the 116th Infantry Band overseas were Prof. W. H. Ruebush, Fred Spiker, Messrs. Frank Snoddy, Basil Coffman, Carter Carver, Victor Heatwole, Markwood Rhodes, Howard Payne, Ephriam Ruebush, and Kirley Heatwole. S. C. I. boys were on active duty along with the Town boys. Harry Coffman was on the Mexican border with this band, but served with a band in another division in Europe. Hollis Keiter was excused from duty in Europe because of illness.

We recently found a book which was compiled by Mr. Wilmer Coffman and it contained the names of all the boys who served in World War I from Rockingham County. The following boys enlisted from the Town of Dayton: George E. Byrd, John R. Eye, Berlin Henry Eye, Alfred Few, Walter Flick, Virgil Haskel Fox, Jacob DeWitt Ruleman, Harry Skelton, Esca H. C. Good, Dwight Hammack, Statton Hinton Leary, Byrd Payne, Russel C. Rhodes, Glen Rhodes, George E. Bryan, O. L. Click, Paul W. Hammack, and David Clarence Hoover.

WORLD WAR II

When the Japanese made their sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and almost destroyed the United States fleet in the Pacific, we were again plunged into a world conflict. The people were thoroughly aroused over the prospect of sending troops to foreign soil again but in record time the registering of names started and soon the boys

were on their way to training camps.

The Dayton boys responded as before. Some of them enlisted, while others waited to be drafted. After a training period, they were sent over seas and served in every capacity and in all areas of the world.

It seemed a long time before the war ended as we listened to the news of bombings and read the casualty lists. Finally the boys came home one by one with no official welcome, but wives, mothers and sweethearts were overjoyed at their safe return. Many of the boys were wounded but they all returned except Robert Gangwer who was accidentally killed in Burma when struck by a truck. Prior to his service in Burma, he was stationed in the Pacific. Gangwer was a nephew of Mrs. Ada Cupp who was also his foster mother.

Many of the boys were reluctant to tell of their experiences but some told of flying planes on bombing missions over the mountains, a very dangerous assignment, others told of crossing the English Channel on D-Day, and some told of experiences in foxholes or helping to establish a beachhead.

Miss Thelma Sites was the only girl from Dayton who entered the service in World War II. After receiving a commission in the Navy at Northampton, Mass., Miss Sites was assigned to duty training Waves at Hunter College in New York City. Later she served at the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn, New York and at the Navy Annex in Washington, D. C. She married Major E. A. Williamson who was retired because of an injury received by enemy action in Germany.

The boys serving from the Town of Dayton were:

David Alexander	Bruce H. Caricofe
Marvin Baugher	Lynwood Caricofe
Everett Baugher	Willard Caricofe
Roy Blosser	Woodrow K. Clayton
Russell Blosser	Lawrence W. Clayton
George E. Bryan, Jr.	Donald R. Collison
William E. Bryan	Stanley H. Cox
Donald L. Carver	Carr P. Coffman
Julian S. Carver	Weldon Coakley

Roscoe J. Detamore
Homer E. Detamore
Wilber L. Detamore
Hubert Estes
James Gaither
Robert L. Gangwer
Hubert Harman
Carver G. Heatwole
Eugene Hildebrand
Wreford J. Judy
Howe Keiter
William R. Layman
Darrell Kiracofe
Kenneth B. Layman
Hubert E. Leary
Raymond S. Landes
Bruce R. Lambert
Randolph H. Lambert
Norwood A. McLaughlin
Ervine C. Miller
Lowell H. Miller
Trenton Ruebush
Harold E. Ryder

Neil Edward Ryder
Robert W. Ryder
Jacob Sharpes
Richard C. Shrum
Earl A. Shull
Harry L. Shull
W. Kilmer Sites
James D. Shifflette
Harold Smith
Emory Shoemaker
Lester W. Spencer
Stanley P. Spencer
James Edward Swain
Harry Lee Stover
Richard O. Stover
John N. Stover
Guy Thacker, Jr.
James R. Vigar
Claude Wine
Shirley D. Whetzel
David O. Whetzel, Jr.
John Frank Zirkle

ORGANIZATIONS

The Dayton Band was organized in May 1887, and has with one exception, held regularly rehearsals from that date to the present. The original band consisted of fourteen members, which number the band held for a good many years. Only two of the original are members of the present band, Mr. S. K. Kieffer and Mr. S. B. Thompson. The band has naturally, in passing years, changed its membership often, filling the ranks with new recruits when the older ones dropped out. It can be safely said that no organization has more nearly lived up to its motto: "Mutual benefit and pleasure and enjoyment to the citizens of Dayton". The present membership will of course change as the former has done, but memories of the pleasant hours spent in the band hall will linger as sweet mementoes to deck the coming years.

Copied from a Band Booklet published by S. B. Thompson and W. H. Ruebush in 1910.

LADIES CORNET BAND

Many of the ladies have pleasant memories of the hours that they spent with the Cornet Band. (An old program gave us the following information:)

"Under the leadership of Mr. S. B. Thompson, the Ladies' Band of Dayton, Virginia, was organized in September, 1908, with a charter membership of sixteen. Since then, the organization has grown and now has an enrollment of twenty-two members; eighteen of whom are active.

"It helps to advance the musical interests of Dayton and contributes much to the success of various enterprises. Since its organization, it has given two annual concerts in Dayton to large and appreciative audiences. By invitation of the Stonewall Band, the ladies participated in the Labor Day celebration held in Staunton, September 6, 1909, during which time they were royally entertained. The band

Ladies Cornet Band Organized in 1908.



First Row, Left to right—Leana Dixon Stittler, Georgie Ruebush Myers.
 Second row—Myrtle Hedrick Nipe, Irene Coffman Blevens, Bess Dixon
 Hivick, Lula Heatwole Luellan, Rella Hollar Kagey, Eva Hartman Rising,

Stella Hammack Brower, Wilda Fout Banister. Third row—Director "Sol"
 Thompson, Blanche Hartman, Nell Flemming Zirkle, Mary Ruebush Estes,
 Winnie Campbell, Clara Hott Ralston, Madge Keiter, Jessie Whitmore,
 Mary Warren Arey, Pearl Bryan Blackburn.

was also present at the Band Reunion held in Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 5, 1909, and joined in the concerts given."

The following ladies were enrolled in the band: Misses Blanche Hartman, Eva Hartman, Leslie Rhodes, Georgia Ruebush, Bessye Dixon, Lulu Heatwole, Rilla Hollar, Pearl Fugh, Bessie Flick, Wilda Fout, Irene Coffman, Myrtle Hedrick, Clara Hott, Madge Keiter, Nellie Flemming, Winnie Campbell, Mary Ruebush, Mary Warren Arey, Pearl Bryan, Ruth Ruleman, Effie Campbell, and Lena Dixon.

Mrs. P. A. Carver lent us a bulletin which included a program and a picture of the young ladies.

The following program was given in Dayton on April 24, 1909:

PART I

March of the Wolverine—C. M. White by Band
 Piano Solo Miss Irene Coffman
 Recitation Miss Ola Warren Chase
 Vocal Duet Misses Lena Dixon and Lulu Heatwole
 Waltz, "The Fairies' Ball"—W. S. Ripley by Band
 Piano Duet Misses Bessie Flick and Clara Hott

PART II

Song and Dance (Schottish)—S. W. Y. by Band
 Piano Solo Miss Ruth Ruleman
 Vocal Solo Miss Clara Hott
 Recitation Miss Ola Warren Chase
 March "Union Maid"—George M. White by Band

Some of the ads shown below were on the program.

"Ice cream and cake will be served after the Concert at
THE NOONTIDE"

"For especially Nice Laces, Hamburgs and Embroidery call
 on Your Friend, J. W. Hott."

"At K. S. Coffman's Store—To every one who buys 25c
 worth of Merchandise I will give one glass of orangeade
 Free. This offer is good only on Friday and Saturday, April
 23 and 24. Cash must be Paid for Goods."

"HELLO CENTRAL!

Please connect me with RHODES-WELLER & CO., at Day-

ton, Va., the up-to-date merchants who always carry the largest stock of Dry Goods and Notions, Flour and Groceries in town, at the very lowest price.”

“HALLEY’S COMET will not be here for awhile yet, so call on THOMPSON and have your papering and painting done while there is yet time. Shop on Main St., W. Ray Thompson, Dayton, Va.”

Band music has always been apart of the social life of Dayton.

The following taken from a Band program presented by W. H. Ruebush and Sol B. Thompson.

“In 1904 an organization was formed which included bands from Spring Creek, Mt. Vernon, West Central, Fairview, Dayton, Singers Glen, Mt. Clinton and Roman Bands with Prof. W. H. Ruebush president.

“The organization was quite successful and they held



Street scene in Dayton at a Band Reunion in 1906.

concerts at Assembly Park, Dayton, Bridgewater and Harrisonburg.

“The third annual reunion was held at Dayton, 1906, the fourth at Bridgewater, 1907, the fifth at Dayton 1908, the sixth at Harrisonburg, 1909.

“These meetings were without exception the most popular ever held in this section of the State and reflect credit on the organization, its originators and promoters.”

“We wish to extend to the various Band organizations of the valley and their friends a cordial and hearty welcome to be with us in Dayton on May 21, 1910 and enjoy the feast of Band music and many other pleasures of the occasion.

“It is our hope to increase public interest in the Valley Band Organization that each Reunion may bring us nearer the ideal and aim of the organization.

“We extend our warm thanks to the many friends who have so kindly aided us in our work.”

THE WOMAN'S CLUB

On August 23, 1932, a group of women met at the home of Mrs. J. H. Ruebush for the purpose of forming a woman's Club. The idea was to organize the women of all denominations into an organization for “the improvement of the town and community, morally, socially, religiously, and educationally.” Its aim was to serve as a public trust in the interest of all concerned and to perpetuate spirit of good will and fellowship among churches in order to make the town a better place in which to live.

With Mrs. H. C. Early as its first president, the membership increased and its popularity grew. During the second year a need was felt for a constitution and by-laws as a governing body and Mrs. J. K. Ruebush was ask to write and submit laws for the Club's approval. These laws were adopted, but from time to time they have been revised to meet various needs.

The Club was permanently named the Dayton Woman's Club, and had as its motto "The good, the true, and the beautiful".

The group has engaged in many activities. Through the untiring efforts of Mrs. H. C. Early, Dayton's quota of money for Religious Education in the public schools was raised. In the days before the school had a cafeteria, the Club bought supplies and served hot lunches to the students and faculty.

Since the Dayton Cemetery was badly in need of repairs, the Club raised funds to surface the driveway leading to the cemetery, lay a cement walk, pipe water to the curb, and erect piers and gates at the entrance. The cost of these improvements amounted to \$586.

Other activities of the Club include raising funds for drives and this work is being continued. Many phases of Red Cross work have been done. During World War II the Club members made and filled soldier's kit bags and rolled thousands of bandages for service men.

As a contribution to civic beauty the Woman's Club has co-operated with the Town Council in cleaning up alleys and streets, planted shrubbery and flowers at the school, and placed trash containers on the side walks.

In addition, it has encouraged Sunday School attendance for children and has sponsored Easter Sunrise Services. On several occasions the Club has had a community Christmas tree and has provided gifts for underprivileged children.

Social activities have played a major role in the Club and holidays have often been observed with a social, picnic, or program. The Club has sponsored four plays in which most of the actors were club members. A better understanding among the women of the Town and vicinity is a result of this organization in which fifteen women have served as president. Mrs. Harry Coffman is the current president of the organization which has twenty-five members.

RURITAN CLUB

The Dayton Ruritan Club was organized in 1941 with Mr. Joe Kagey its first president. At that time Ruritan Clubs were being organized in other communities, and this club was part of a progressive national movement.

By living up to their motto "Make our community a better place in which to live", the Ruritans have accomplished many worthwhile projects. Among them have been help given underprivileged citizens, aid in Polio Drives, and financial assistance to schools for libraries, lights, and other equipment. The Ruritan Club works for highway improvement, promotes highway safety, and encourages Club members and others to have blood typed for use in an emergency.

Safety in homes, on farms, and at school is emphasized. They sponsor Boy Scout Troops, a recreational program in summer for the youth of the community and co-operate with other clubs in sponsoring Little League Baseball. This is a progressive organization and its work has been outstanding in the Town and vicinity. The Ruritan Club, which meets the second Thursday of each month for a dinner meeting, has fifty members. Mr. Percy Shull is the current president.

The Dayton Junior Woman's Club was organized in 1958 with twenty charter members.

The original officers were: President, Mrs. William Wampler; Vice President, Mrs. Daniel Brubaker; Secretary, Mrs. Edward Byrd; and Treasurer, Mrs. Ray Hottel.

The object of the club is to unite the young women of the community interested in social activities, civic development, and community improvement. The club now has twenty-two members, all of whom are active in the various programs.

PROGRESS

The residents and property owners are very proud of the progress made in the town of Dayton during the past fifteen years.

After World War II there was a need for expansion and around 1949 the corporation limits were extended to take in the land lying west of Summit Street. This tract of approximately forty acres extended from Bowman Road to Mason Street. After Turner Ashby High School was built on the farm that had belonged to Jesse R. Rhodes, the remainder of the farm was divided and sold for building lots as were the farms of Messrs, Raymond and William Shank. Many new homes have been built in this area which is sometimes referred to as the New Dayton. Ashby, West View, and Sunset Drive are the names of the new streets that were laid out in this area.

During this period the town purchased the building formerly owned by Mr. Carl Parks on Main Street and converted it into a modern Municipal Building. In this structure there is a large community center with a fully equipped kitchen and a separate room for council meetings.

The former council building was made into a garage which houses the trucks, tractor, some fire equipment, and supplies for the street and water department. Three more rooms and a modern bath have been added to the apartment at the pumping station. A new 40 hp power motor and pump have replaced the old 25 hp unit at the pumping station. More than a mile and one half of new streets have been opened on the west side of the corporation, and practically all of these streets have been taken over and maintained by the State Highway Department. Water mains have been laid throughout this new addition. The town has constructed and has in operation the first unit of a sew-

age treatment plant at a cost of \$30,000; the final unit will be built at a later date.

A new high school and approximately forty residences and industrial buildings have been built in and near the town in the past few years at an estimated cost of one and one half million dollars.

The finances of the town are in excellent condition since the major part of the old bonds have been retired, and all new improvements have been financed and paid for out of current income.

There is a need for additional industries that would give employment to workers in and surrounding the town, and residents would like to see new business firms located here in the near future.

Among Dayton's many assets are an abundant water supply, a comparatively low tax rate, excellent schools, and various church denominations. Dayton has no slums, and relatively few of its citizens are on relief rolls. Madison, Bridgewater and Eastern Mennonite Colleges are near by. It has been said that this municipality is one of the smallest in the United States without any colored residents.

Figures for the population of the Town showed up for the first time in the census of 1900 and at that time 425 persons were listed as living here. According to the 1960 census, there were 930 residents of Dayton.

The following is a partial list of mayors. The first one was B. F. Fishback, who was followed by M. Lauderbach, Dr. McFarland, Dr. Fuqua, S. L. Cootes, William Campbell, J. W. Keiter, K. M. Boggs, A. S. Hammack, W. H. Ruebush, H. H. Keiter, J. A. Shifflett, I. D. Sites, and the present one is J. O. Metts.

History is a record of past events, but each day brings changes and, for that reason, no history is ever complete. To future historians, we leave the task of writing an account of the progress and improvements in the years ahead.

We would also like to give to them our motto, "It is better to try to do something and fail than to try to do nothing and succeed."

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever."

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