

HIGGINS - DONEGAN FAMILY HISTORY

Including the memories of
Dale B. Sipes
Franklin E. & Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns
Thomas & Evelyn Higgins
William E. Wright

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November 2010

This Higgins Family History starts with Ransom Higgins and Elizabeth Higgins, his wife. A table of vital statistics is provided at the end of this history to help the reader keep track of the family. On April 11, 1844 Ransom Higgins made an oath that he had removed from the State of Virginia with the intent to become a citizen of Maryland.¹ Presumably he brought his wife and their first two children, Henry A. and James R.; he did bring one negro girl named Harriet, aged ten years, a slave of life.² The records do not indicate where the family settled in Allegany County. By April 25, 1844 Ransom Higgins, Jacob Reel and William Athey guaranteed two notes (one for \$400 payable in five months and the other for \$412 payable in twelve months) made by Jacob H. Bevans payable to James McAdams.³ As collateral, Mr. Bevans put up his entire stock of goods, wares, merchandise and effects then in his store and warehouse, or that he might purchase for resale within the following two years. To the collateral was added some livestock, kitchen furniture and household implements. We have not confirmed that the two notes were paid on time and thus the mortgage released.

This Donegan Family History starts with Thomas Francis Dunnaghen, age 12, immigrating to the United States, arriving on board the ship *Fidelia* in New York City on Jan. 8, 1851.⁴ His whereabouts between arrival in New York City and subsequent residency in Allegany County, District 8 (Sideling Hill/Pearre area) is uncertain.

Ransom Higgins must have had some financial difficulties of his own, because on December 28, 1844 for \$200 consideration from Henry Bevans, he sold all his goods, chattels, household stuff, farming utensils, furniture and the negro girl Harriet.⁵ But by 1859 when he amassed \$2,500 or a line of credit. Mr. Henry Bevans died, circa 1858, and the heirs could not settle his estate out of court. The case became Equity Cases No. 818 and No. 1239; John T. Edwards was appointed Trustee to sell the real estate. On July 3, 1859 for \$2,500 the three tracts of land known as "Hermit's Abode" containing 311 acres,⁶ "River Hill" containing 175 $\frac{7}{8}$ acres,⁷ and "Sisterhood" containing 52 $\frac{7}{8}$ acres,⁸ were conveyed to Ransom Higgins, excepting 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, which were condemned for the use of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.⁹ Just after "Hermit's Abode" was surveyed, James Tidball had a tract of land known as "Clermont" containing 454 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres surveyed.¹⁰ Those four tracts of land are shown following, superimposed on a U.S.G.S. topological map surveyed in 1888. The blue edge of the property boundary indicates where the Potomac River was at the date of the survey. The river moved a bit between 1811/16 and 1888.

¹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book DD, p. 760, recorded 4/15/1844.

² *Ibid.*

³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book EE, p. 149, recorded 4/26/1844.

⁴ Irish Immigrants List: New York Port Arrival Records 1846-1851.

⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book EE, p. 586, recorded 12/28/1844.

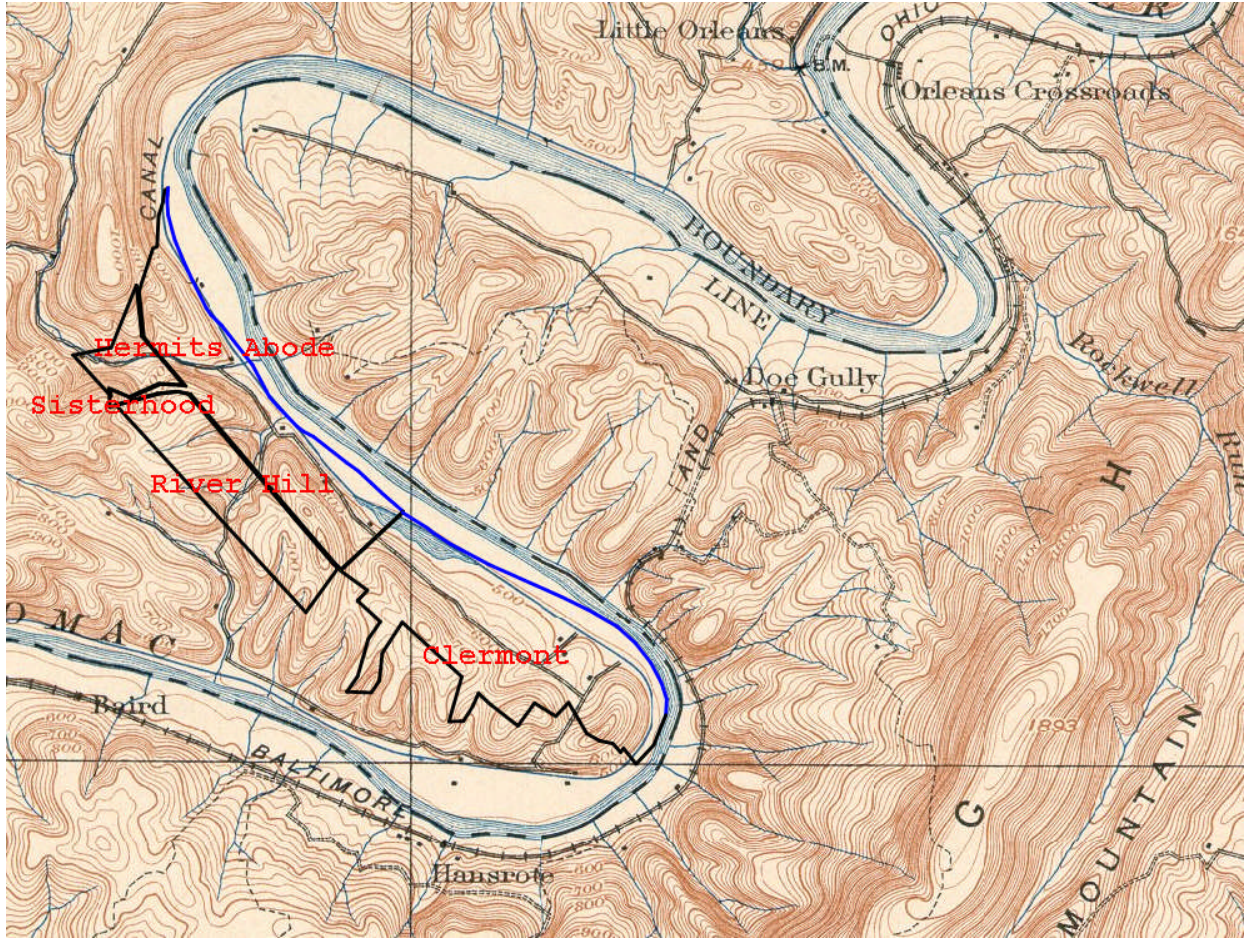
⁶ Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD, Deed Patent 1072, granted 10/8/1811.

⁷ Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD, Deed Patent 2337, granted 3/3/1840.

⁸ Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD, Deed Patent 2500, granted 3/2/1840.

⁹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 18, p. 363, recorded 10/19/1859.

¹⁰ Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD, Deed Patent 492, granted 1/18/1816.



Ovid McCracken owned *Hermits Abode* prior to Henry Bevans; the construction of the brick home (shown below) in Devils Alley was attributed to Ovid McCracken.¹¹ The brick house was a reference point for voter registration records and income tax records, to locate another residence. Ransom and Elizabeth Higgins moved into the brick house with their three children, circa 1859. The 1860 census reported Ransom Higgins was a farmer with real estate valued at \$7,000, a personal estate of \$4,000 and six slaves.¹² His wife, Eliza; two sons, Henry and James; plus one daughter, Ellen, were also listed. His 1865 reported income was \$275



¹¹ From the Edward Cooper Collection, Cumberland, MD.

¹² 1860 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Free Inhabitants, District No. 8, enumerated on 9/6/1860, p. 347 and Slave Inhabitants in 8th District, enumerated in 8/1860, p. 7.

which was taxed at 5% or \$13.80.¹³ In the next census dwelling was Madglan Higgins, a 33 year old female Lock Keeper [Lock 59], and the son, Marshall Higgins, a 16 year old Lock Keeper; apparently unrelated to Ransom.

Feb. 4, 1864, Thomas Francis Dunnigan and Susan Clay get married. It would appear that Thomas Donegan moved his family onto the canal boat "Fanny Ottman" and while freighting coal their first-born son, Jacob E.

Dunnigan, fell overboard and drowned on July 9, 1865. We need to find the obituary.

Elizabeth Higgins died on Mar. 20, 1865 followed by her husband, Ransom Higgins, on Nov. 6, 1865 and they were buried adjacent to the Catholic Church there in Little Orleans, MD.



Ransom Higgins died without a will. His son, Henry A. Higgins was appointed Administrator of the Estate; a transcript of the First and Final Account of the Estate is provided in Appendix A. Henry A. Higgins inherited the three parcels of land. On Jan. 3, 1867 James R. Higgins married Elizabeth E. A few days later, on Jan. 8, 1867, Henry and Elizabeth Higgins, for \$1,700, sold the three tracts of land to James R. Higgins.¹⁴

Thomas Dunnigan becomes a naturalized citizen on Apr. 8, 1867. On May 9, 1867 Joseph Magruder bought the canal boat called "Fanny Ottman" from Thomas Dunnigan.¹⁵ We suspect that was the time they moved ashore and he became Lock Tender at Lock 59.

In the census of 1870, J. R. Higgins, a 32 year old farmer, Elizabeth, his 22 year old wife, with Joseph, their 3 year old son and Mary, their 9 month old daughter, were reported in census dwelling 24.¹⁶ In the same census, Thomas Denegan (Donegan), a 30 year old Locktender, Susan, his 25 year old wife, with John, their 4 year old son, M. E. (Mary Ellen), their 1 year old daughter and K. W. Scott a 23 year old black male [assistant lock tender] Laborer were living in census dwelling 34, which places them at Lock 59, in Allegany County. Lock 56 was/is in Washington County.

Thomas Dunigan was sufficiently well off that on April 1, 1872 he loaned Charles Murphy and Conrad Clay \$675 with their four mules put up as collateral.¹⁷ All three men were of Allegany County.

¹³ U.S. IRS Tax Assessment List, Collection District No. 4, Division No. 12, for the month of may 1865, demand dated June 8, 1865 based on Income.

¹⁴ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 25, p. 394, recorded 1/8/1867.

¹⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 26, p. 61, recorded 9/10/1867.

¹⁶ 1870 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 8, enumerated on 7/11/1870, p. 3.

¹⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 37, p. 4, recorded 4/1/1872.

From the March 1873 Canal Payroll records¹⁸ we determine that James Higgins was the Boss of a gang of six laborers made up in part of his neighbors (e.g. Edward Northcraft, age 43, lived in census dwelling #25; Robert Hudson, age 43, lived in census dwelling 26; and Thorton Twigg, age 17, lived in census dwelling #29). The neighbors were farmers who were probably glad to have some extra income. James R. Higgins also provided a horse for his work crew for which he was reimbursed \$25/month. John W. Gross had taken over as Lock 59 Lock Tender, but Thomas Dunnigan had not left the area because he was reimbursed \$11.60 for a bill. We find that on March 1, 1873 Thomas Dunnigan registered the canal boats "Johnny & Tommy" and "R. M. Sprigg" with his residence listed as Cumberland.¹⁹ Johnny and Tommy were the names of his sons.

Apparently Henry A. Higgins still had financial problems. On June 26, 1875 he borrowed \$357.95 from John B. Fay, Administrator of the late William Devecmon estate, with the loan plus interest due on Nov. 26, 1875.²⁰ He was the tenant on a farm owned by Mrs. Althea M. Devecmon. As collateral he put up all of his livestock, farming utensils, thirty acres of wheat, all his kitchen and household furniture, and all the corn, grass, orchard, &c. then growing on the farm. He was not able to pay off the loan; instead on Sept. 1, 1876 the loan/mortgage was assigned to James R. Higgins.

After Henry and Elizabeth Higgins sold the farm to James and Elizabeth Higgins, did Henry and Elizabeth remain living in the brick house? From the Allegany County Tax Books for 1876 we find Henry Higgins had: household furnishings valued at \$80.00; 2 old horses valued at \$50.00; 1 cow valued at \$25.00 and property of other description valued at \$95.00 for a net worth of \$250.00.²¹ That listing would match well with the property he had used as collateral the previous year, allowing that the calf had been sold and the field crops were not valued.

On the same page we found James Higgins owned "Sisterhood" 64 acres of bottom land valued at \$15/acre for a total of \$960.00; 410 acres of mountain land valued at \$2/acre for a total of \$820.00; improvements thereon totaling \$700.00; Store stock in trade totaling \$600.00; Household furnishings valued at \$100.00; 7 horses, old and young, valued at \$280.00; 12 cattle, old and young, valued at \$156.00; 15 hogs, old and young, valued at \$60.00; and property of other description valued at \$75.00 for a net worth of \$3,751.00.²²

Henry A. Higgins still was not out of debt; on May 2, 1876 he was indebted in the sum of \$230 to John B. Fay, Administrator of the William Devecmon estate. James R. Higgins gave a promissory note for \$100 due in six months and another note for \$130 due in eight months, with interest, to John B. Fay to cover his brother's debt. Henry put up the same two old horses (one ten and the other twelve years old), the red cow, his farm implements and his share of all the crops then growing on the farm he occupied as a tenant. We suspect that Henry still was not able to pay his debt.

On March 18, 1878 Henry Higgins' account was released as insolvent there being no property (real estate).²³

¹⁸ *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company Payroll*, A. P. Gorman, Paymaster, Cumberland Division, March 1873.
¹⁹ *REGISTERS ISSUED TO BOATS TO NAVIGATE THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL*, 1873, 1874 & 1875. Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Feed Book 45, p. 324, recorded 7/26/1875.
²⁰ Maryland, Allegany County, Tax Book, Election District (ED) #01, Vol. 617, 1876, Orleans, p. H.
²¹ *Ibid.*
²² *Ibid.*
²³ Maryland, Allegany County, Tax Book, Election District (ED) #01, Vol. 618, 1876, Orleans, pp. 86-87.

Earlier we mentioned that Thomas Dunnigan had registered the two canal boats "R. M. Sprigg" and "Johnny & Tommy" on March 1, 1873. We have found canal boat departure data from a newspaper for 1877; the following 1877 tabulation applies:²⁴

In 1878 he retained the canal boat "R. M. Sprigg" and either bought the canal boat "Perry Callan" or just served as its captain; the following 1878 tabulation applies:²⁵

R. M. Sprigg		Perry Callan	
5/3	Capt. McDonald	5/1	Capt. Hovermale
5/31	Capt. McDonald	5/15	Capt. Dunnigan
6/5	Capt. Thomas	5/31	Capt. Dunnigan
8/2	Capt. Dunnigan	6/26	Capt. Hovermale
9/4	Capt. Crampton	7/11	Capt. Dunnigan
9/20	Capt. Dunnigan	8/2	Capt. Dunnigan
10/22	Capt. Dunnigan	9/19	Capt. Dunnigan
11/7	Capt. Dunnigan	10/12	Capt. Hovermale
11/22	Capt. Dunnigan	10/28	Capt. Hovermale
		11/27	Capt. Hovermale

R. M. Sprigg		Johnny & Tommy	
4/2	Capt. Donnegan	4/9	Capt. Bell
4/18	Capt. Donnegan	4/27	Capt. Dixon
6/9	Capt. Shields	5/29	Capt. Dixon
6/18	Capt. Shields	6/12	Capt. Dixon
9/6	Capt. Donnegan	8/22	Capt. Dixon
9/18	Capt. Donnegan	9/14	Capt. Dixon
9/29	Capt. Shields	9/27	Capt. Dixon
10/8	Capt. Shields	10/3	Capt. Dixon
10/17	Capt. Donnegan	10/8	Capt. Dixon
10/27	Capt. Shields	10/18	Capt. Dixon
11/20	Capt. Donnegan	11/12	Capt. Dixon

It was on July 5, 1878 that Capt. Thomas and the canal boat R. M. Sprigg left Cumberland; Johnny Dunnigan had stayed to work on his father's boat. On July 11, 1878, Capt. Dunnigan and the canal boat Perry Callan departed Cumberland with a load of coal when the following tragedy occurred as reported in the newspaper:

"Sad Case of Drowning

"Johnny, a thirteen year old son of Mr. Thomas Dunnigan, whose residence is on Sideling Hill, two miles this side of Dam No. 6, on the canal, was drowned off the boat R. M. Sprigg, on Thursday morning about 5 o'clock. The Sprigg was laden and on her trip from Cumberland to Georgetown, but had tied up over night at or near Shepherdstown. At the time of the sad occurrence the captain was on the berm side of the canal feeding his team, and another hand was in the bow cabin looking for a feed trough. The lad had started aft to get breakfast, and the man in the forward cabin said that about that time he heard a splash in the water. He did not know what had caused it and heard no outcry, but on reaching the deck, he asked the captain if he had not heard something fall into the water, and receiving a negative reply a thorough search was made in the cabin for little John, but without finding him.

"Efforts were then made without effect to recover his body by the use of a grab-hook. A brother of the captain, a lad of about fifteen years of age, stripped off his clothing and gallantly plunged into the canal. After being under the water some time, he arose without the body; a second dive was more successful, the little fellow bringing the dead body of his late companion to the shore. The steamer, Star No. 2, of the Sheridan line, passing up at the time, the remains were placed aboard and brought to his mother at Sideling Hill, the father being absent in this city at the time. One of the crew of the Star No. 2, to whom we are indebted for our information, assures us that the distress of the poor mother was beyond description. The father, Mr. Thomas Dunnigan, was at once telegraphed for, and he took the earliest train for his grief stricken home. Johnny Dunnigan was spoken of as a good and sprightly boy by those who knew him, and the boatsmen express their sympathy for the bereaved family in terms of earnest sorrow."²⁶

²⁴ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, 4/2 - 11/20/1877.

²⁵ *Daily Alleganian & Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, 5/3-11/27/1878

²⁶ *Daily Alleganian & Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Saturday, 7/13/1878, p. 3.

The *Daily Alleganian & Times* reported the canal boat "Johnny & Tommy" departing Cumberland on May 14, 1878 with Capt. Dixon and then no more departures. John and Thomas were two of Captain Thomas Francis Dunnigan's sons; the grief may have caused him to sell the boat which would have then been renamed. Certainly Capt. Dunnigan was absent from the canal until August 2 when he departed Cumberland with both the "R. M. Sprigg" and the "Perry Callan." If the boats were tied together by a line; four mules would be used to pull the two boats each shift; the reduced size of the crew was the economic advantage.

Notice in the obituary that the Dunnigan residence was Sideling Hill, later known as Pearre. Sometime after leaving Lockhouse 59, after the 1870 census, the family settled in Sideling Hill/Pearre. They may have lived on a canal boat for a year or two, with Cumberland being their place of residence, until suitable accommodations could be built. Further research will be necessary.

On July 11, 1879, William M. Price purchased "Clermont" for \$3,000 from the estate of Frederick Kasekamp; the parcel was also known as the "Kasekamp Farm." William Price and Columbia Price, his wife, were developers living in Cumberland, MD and subsequently sold "Clermont" in pieces.

In the census of 1880, Henry Higgins, a 43 year old farmer, Elizabeth A. Higgins, his 35 year old wife, with their four children, were reported in census dwelling 136.²⁷ In the same census John W. Gross, a 41 year old Lock Tender [Lock 59], with his wife and their three children, a servant and two visitors were living in census dwelling 141.²⁸ Following along, James Higgins, a 42 year old farmer, Elizabeth Higgins, his 30 year old wife, with Joseph, their 13 year old son, Mary E., their 11 year old daughter, Eveline, their 9 year old daughter, Elizabeth, their 7 year old daughter, and Rose, their 5 year old daughter, were reported in census dwelling 142, which would have been the Brick House.²⁹ We do know James Higgins was alive on June 1, 1880 when the census data was collected but his tombstone gave 1880 as the year he died; we cannot give a more definite death date until an obituary is found. Elizabeth lived on until 1916. They too were buried adjacent to the Catholic Church there in Little Orleans, very near his parents.

The U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps³⁰ for Hancock, District No. 5, dated 1877 shows the location of Lock 56, T. Dunnigan and Mrs. Clay's dwellings. On June 11, 1881 Susan Dunigan, in her own name, buys 100 acres, more or less, from the



²⁷ 1880 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 8, enumerated on 6/16/1880,

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Available at: <http://www.whilbr.org/CandOCanal/canalmaps>.

MacTavish heirs.³¹ The property bordered the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and used the southwest corner of the Dunigan's dwelling house and the southeast corner of Ellen Clay's house as reference points for the plat. We haven't found the previous deed for the T. Dunigan house and property but after 1881 the farm location was known.

Staying with the above mentioned Hancock map, the 1880 census taker coming down the road from Hancock he stopped at the T. H. Keysucker home, census dwelling 171; then across the road at the George Hook home, census dwelling 172; back to the J. Clay home, census dwelling 173 and then the George W. Apple home, census dwelling 174, where George was the Lock Keeper for Lock 56 (note that all the Apple children were minors and so having James Session, age 28, as his assistant was typical). Walking down the road, Albert Acken, census dwelling 175, was the merchant at the berm side store, and then Thomas Dunegan, census dwelling 176, age 40, was a laborer, probably for the Canal Company and on his 100 acre farm; note that he had been out of work 3 months which would have been consistent with working for the Canal Company except in the winter when it closed. The names and ages of Thomas Dunegan's wife and children match those of Thomas Francis Donegan.

The Allegany County tax records indicate that by April 17, 1885 the James Higgins Estate was credited with 5 horses sold for \$200; 8 cattle sold for \$100 and the store house on land of the Canal Co. was reduced \$300 by commissioners for a net reduction of \$600.

On August 11, 1887 Susan Dunnigan and Thomas Dunnigan for a consideration of \$50 sell 4 acres of land to Edward Whorton, all were of Washington County.

Joseph L. Higgins applied to vote on Sept. 12, 1888, stating that he was born at 7 Mile Bottom; his residence was at Brick House at 7 Mile Bottom.

Returning to the tax books for 1896 we found that Mrs. E. E. Higgins, as of Dec. 10th, owned 476 acres of land assessed at \$4/acres situated on North Branch of C & O Canal and known as Brick House Farm for a total value of \$1,094; Improvements were worth \$600; she owned 5 horses valued at \$175, 3 mules valued at \$105, 13 cattle valued at \$130, 9 hogs valued at \$15, 1 buggy valued at \$40, and 1 sleigh valued at \$15; her household furniture was valued at \$200 and the stock merchandise was valued at \$350 for a net worth of \$3,546.00. On Aug. 4, 1904 she was credited with 7 acres of land, part of the 476 acres on Northerly bank of C & O Canal to Wabash Rail Road Co. for \$28; thereby reducing her net worth to \$3,518.00.³²

From "Clermont," on July 10, 1879, William & Columbia Price sold 109 acres, excepting 20 + acres condemned for the use of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, to Isabella Leary for \$893.³³ On Sept. 13, 1879, Mr. & Mrs. Price sold a 40 acre tract of land in the northwest corner of "Clermont" to Ashford Trail, for \$160.³⁴ "Clermont" continued to be sold off in pieces, all of which have not been found. However the last, unsold tract of land contained 35 acres and lay between the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Potomac River.³⁵ It was this 35 acre tract of land that Joseph L. Higgins purchased

³¹ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 81, p. 419, recorded 10/25/1881.

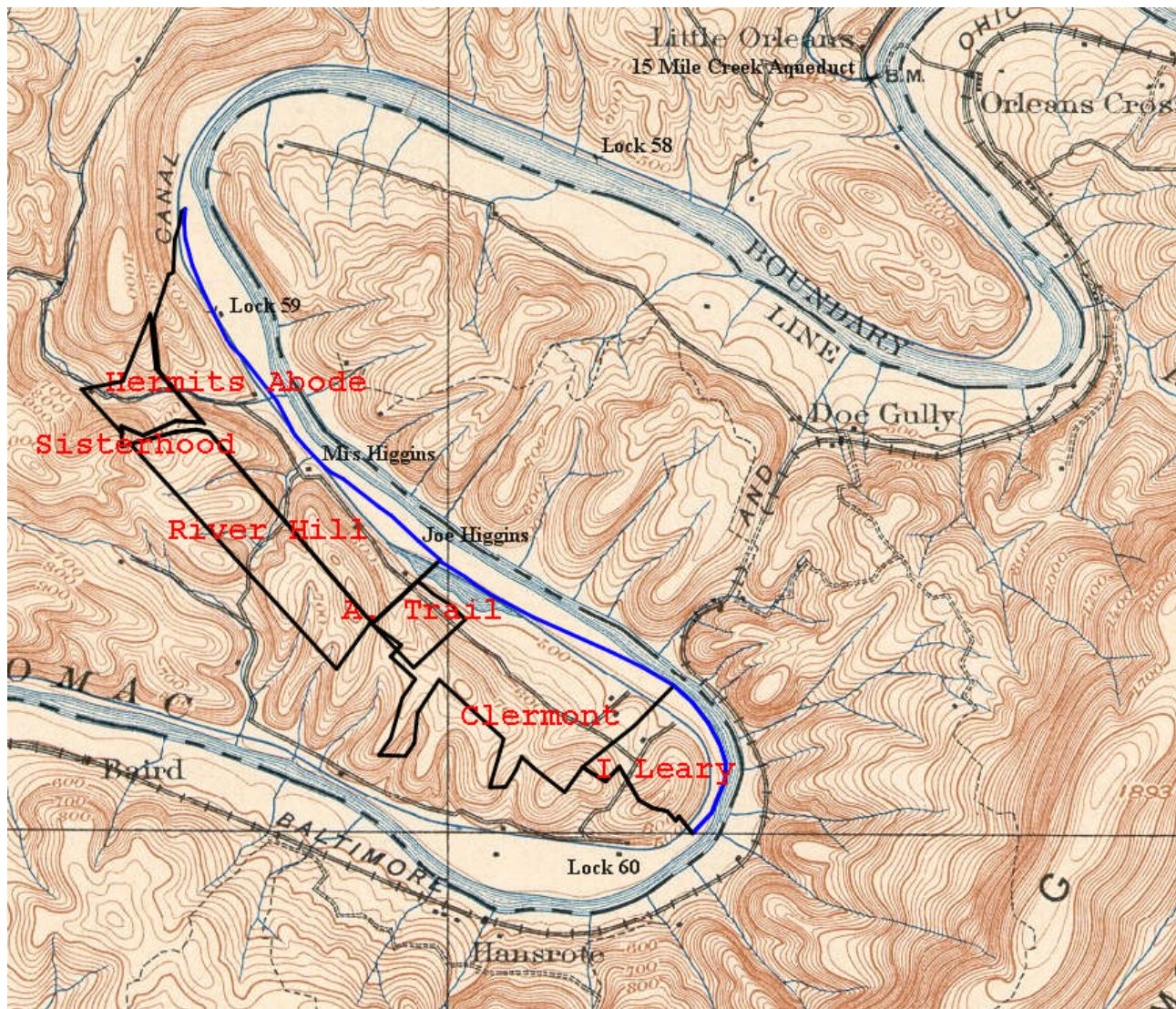
³² Maryland, Allegany County, Tax Book, ED #01, Vol. 619, 1896-1909, Orleans, pp. 48-49.

³³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 54, p. 87, recorded 7/17/1879

³⁴ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 53, p. 246, recorded 9/13/1879.

³⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 63, p. 630, recorded 5/3/1887.

on May 10, 1897 for \$300;³⁶ it is not marked on the topological map below because it was conveyed as the remaining, or unsold property. Some additional research will be necessary.



We have payroll records for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company for April 1873 and April 1874, for the Cumberland Division, which was from Lock 56 through Guard Lock 8. From those records we initiated: Table of Locktenders, Lock 56 to 66, Little Orleans Area, as provided at the end of this family history. On the basis that locktenders did not change locks very often, when we look at the 1870 and 1880 census and find the locktenders' names, we can bracket the payroll data. Then we do it again for the 1860 and 1900 census; the 1890 census data was lost in a fire. By extension, we can add the locktenders' names from the 1850, 1910 and 1920 census too.

Also identified are Locks 58, 59 and 60. Notice also, there was a wide-water in the canal right in front of the Joseph Higgins Farm; the wide water area can still be discerned today. The presence of

³⁶ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 81, p. 234, recorded 5/14/1897.

a wide water right in front of his home provided ample parking for canal boats who wanted to shop in Joseph Higgins' store. They would have been out of the flow of traffic. Also, there was ample bottom land to the southeast of the home site for Joseph to fence off for his mule breeding business. The B & O Railroad was already in place following the West Virginia shoreline of the Potomac River.

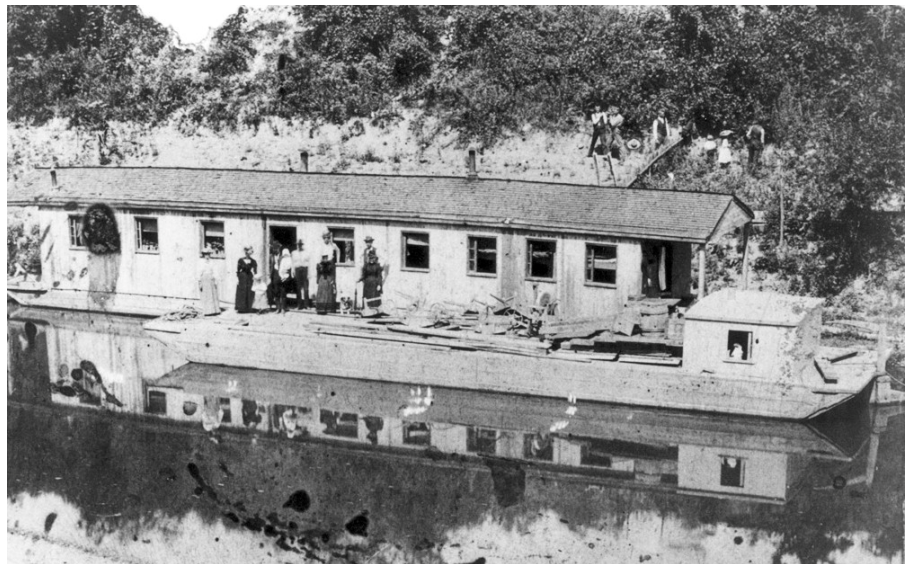
On April 28, 1882, the widow Elizabeth E. Higgins files the first and final account of the James R. Higgins Estate, see Appendix B. Note that there was no money left for their children; in fact the estate owed more than what was available. Because their last child, Annie R. Higgins, was born in Dec. 1880, the same year James R. Higgins died, the family was probably in financial difficulty.

On January 1884 Susan Dunnigan and Thomas F. Dunnigan her husband for a consideration of \$170 sell a 26 acre parcel of ground to Annie M. Clay, all were of Washington County.³⁷ On July 24, 1889 Edward and Elizabeth Whorton, who owned the store at Lock 56, borrowed \$200 from J. B. Stottlemeyer and Thomas Dunegan using the store and goods as collateral.³⁸

Then in 1900, Elizabeth L. Higgins, widow, was reported in dwelling 18 [the Brick House], occupation Farmer.³⁹ Living with the Widow Higgins were her children: Joseph (age 32), Eliza M. (age 25), Rose B. (age 24), Annie R (age 19) and Ramon L. Sheppard (age 17), her nephew. Joseph's occupation was reported as "Manager"; of the farm or on the canal? In the same census it was reported that Lewis L. Hall, a 48 year old lock tender, lived in census dwelling 19 [Lockhouse 59] with his family, housekeeper, servant and a boarder.

Joseph Higgins was active in politics and ran for County Commissioner on the Democratic Ticket in the Nov. 1889 election.⁴⁰ We have not found the results of that election but we suspect that he did not win because his life went in a different direction, as we will see in a moment.

Joseph Leo Higgins married Flora Agnes Donegan on Aug. 12, 1900 in St. Peter's Catholic Church, Hancock, Md. It has been reported that after they got married, Joseph and Flora Higgins set up housekeeping on a houseboat and their first two sons, Paul and Joseph, were born on the boat.⁴¹ The adjacent NPS photograph shows a typical houseboat of the period and a work scow tied up alongside.



³⁷ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 85, p. 76, recorded 1/18/1884.

³⁸ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 93, p. 611, recorded 7/26/1889.

³⁹ 1900 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 6/2/1900.

⁴⁰ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, 11/4/1899, p. 1 and 11/6/1899.

⁴¹ Mash, John, *The Land of the Living*, Living History Foundation of Allegany County, MD. © 1996, p. 662.

The Higgins houseboat was usually tied up at Little Orleans during the boating season; the scow was taken to the work site until repairs were completed and then returned to the houseboat in the evening. The houseboat provided meals and beds for the work crew. Flora had been a cook on a similar houseboat for her father's crew prior to marrying Joseph Higgins.

Sometime between 1904 and 1905, Joseph Higgins had a house, shown in the adjacent photograph, built and he moved his family ashore; he is on the left holding Joseph, Jr. in his lap, then Paul Thomas, and Flora Higgins. The Joseph L. Higgins family lived in the portion to the left, painted white, and their store/saloon was in the portion to the right, unpainted.



From the tax books for 1905 we found that on Dec 29, 1905 in addition to the above land valued at \$325, Joseph L. Higgins owned 44 acres of land on the C & O Canal from Magdalena Trail valued at \$935; Improvements were valued at \$232; he had 5 cattle valued at \$45, 5 hogs valued at \$8 and household furniture valued at \$40. Then on Dec. 31, 1905 he acquired 215 acres of land valued at \$1/acre from Marshall Wise totaling \$215; and another 90 acres of land valued at \$8/acre also from Marshall Wise totaling \$720; putting his net worth at \$2,523.⁴²

The first mention of Joseph L. Higgins, that we have found in a newspaper, was in 1905 when he applied for a license to sell spirituous and fermented liquors at his place of business.⁴³ The Public Notice stated that he was "Residing and doing business near Little Orleans - HIGGINS, JOSEPH L., about six miles west of Little Orleans between the C&O Canal and county road ½ mile from the Brick House." The public had until May 1, 1905 to object to issuance of licenses to any of the applicants. In the absence of any further stories, we may assume that the license was issued.

Then in the same year, in the **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL** section we found that "Squire Joseph Higgins, of Little Orleans, was here yesterday."⁴⁴

Only two years later the newspaper reported:

"Succeeds the late Peter Kelly

⁴² Maryland, Allegany County, Tax Book, ED #01, Vol. 619, 1896-1909, Orleans, p. 48.

⁴³ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Friday, April 14, 1905.

⁴⁴ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, May 16, 1905.

"Mr. Joseph L. Higgins, of Little Orleans district, has been appointed supervisor of the Chesapeake & Ohio canal between Cumberland and dam No. 6, to succeed the late Peter Kelly. Mr. Higgins will locate in Cumberland about the first of April next."⁴⁵

Additional research will be necessary to confirm that he did move to Cumberland. We doubt it. We suspect that he never moved because the 1910 U. S. Census reported Joseph L. Higgins, (age 43) a Farmer, married one time for 8 years, living in census dwelling 116, with his wife, Flora A. Higgins (age 33) married one time for 8 years with 4 children all of whom were living, and their children: Paul L. (age 8), Joseph L. (age 6) Bernard M. (age 4) and Raymond (age 1-7/12) plus Annie B. Haywood (age 60) their hired woman.⁴⁶

In the same census it was reported that Elizabeth E. Higgins (age 63) widowed, was living in census dwelling 118 with her married daughter, Anna R. Narr (age 29) married 6 years with 2 children both of whom were still living, and her grandson James Narr (age 5), granddaughter Elizabeth (age 11/12), nephew Raymond Sheppard (age 27) and nephew Roy D. Sheppard (age 23).⁴⁷ The occupation for both nephews was Laborer on Home farm. The son-in-law was not listed with Elizabeth E. Higgins. Another source has it that Annie R. Higgins married Jimmy Van (vice Narr) and continued to live in the Brick House, which became known as the Van House.⁴⁸

Further down the same page it was reported that William Nuse (age 69) married the second time for 21 years, occupation Locktender C&O Canal [Lock 59], was living in census dwelling 119 with his wife Leatte (age 63) also married for the second time for 21 years and one son, a grandson and a granddaughter. Further, it was reported that Randolph Twigg (age 32) married one time for 11 years, occupation Locktender C&O Canal [Lock 58], was living in census dwelling 120 with his wife Margaret (age 29) and their three children. That sequence is consistent with a census-taker walking down the towpath collecting the information.

1911 was busy, socially. "J. L. Higgins and Charles Twigg took a buggy ride down the canal Sunday." "Mrs. Wm. Nuse called on Mrs. E. E. Higgins Sunday." "Misses Carrie and Burnie Kasecamp and brother James, called on Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Higgins Sunday." "Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Callan of Little Orleans, spent Sunday with Mrs. E. E. Higgins."⁴⁹

The winter visits continued. "Mrs. Wm. Nuse called on Mrs. E. E. Higgins, Saturday." " Wm. Nuse is on the sick list." "Clayton Campbell of Cumberland, called on Wm. Nuse Sunday evening." "Mrs. E. E. Higgins spent Sunday evening with her son, J. L. Higgins."⁵⁰

The canal had not opened in March and so the visiting continued. "J. L. Higgins was in Cumberland Tuesday." "Mrs. C. T. Callan, of Little Orleans, spent Monday evening with her mother, Mrs. E. E. Higgins." "William Sigler of Hancock, called on J. L. Higgins, Saturday."⁵¹

⁴⁵ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Monday, Oct. 28, 1907, p. 1.

⁴⁶ 1910 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Orleans District No. 1, enumerated on 5/2 and 3/1910, p. 7B

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Mash, John, *The Land of the Living*, Living History Foundation of Allegany County, MD. © 1996, p. 664.

⁴⁹ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 2/23/1911, p. 8, 4 times.

⁵⁰ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/2/1911, p. 4, 4 times.

⁵¹ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/23/1911, p. 2, 3 times.

The visits continued in April. "Mrs. Thomas Doyle, of Cumberland, spent a few days last week with her mother, Mrs. E. E. Higgins." "Misses Theodasia and Viola Barnes called on Mrs. J. L. Higgins Monday." "George McDaniel called on Wm. Nuse Tuesday." "Mrs. M. A. Brinkman, of Town Hill, called on Mrs. Wm. Nuse Wednesday." "Wesley Ryan, of Town Hill, called at Wm. Nuse's Wednesday."⁵²

Apparently the group of houses along the canal from Lock 59 to Lock 60 were known as "Higgins" and W. T. Nuse (A.K.A. "A Lone Tramp"), the lock tender's son. sent in these items to the newspaper. Because they provide some insight into the social activities along this portion of the canal they are included here. We sometimes think lock tenders were socially cut off from neighbors or that the neighbors "looked down" on lock tenders. These vignettes suggest that was not the case along this part of the canal.

"Mrs. E. E. Higgins called on Mrs. Nuse Friday." "Mrs. Wm Nuse spent Thursday with Mrs. M. A. Brinkman on Town Hill." "William Milburn, of Town Hill, called on Wm. Nuse Saturday." "Those that called at Wm. Nuse's Sunday were Misses Maggie Donnelly and Carrie Kasecamp."⁵³

"Charles Twigg called at Wm. Nuse's Thursday." "Wm. Nuse was a visitor at Little Orleans Saturday." "Edward and James Larkin, of Cumberland, spent Easter with their grandmother, Mrs. E. E. Higgins." "Mrs. John Sheridan and Mrs. Harry Hinenbaugh called on Mrs. Wm. Nuse Wednesday." "J. L. Higgins spent Saturday in Cumberland." "Those who called at Wm. Nuse's on Sunday were John McLaughlin, J. L. Higgins and E. R. Galliher."⁵⁴

"J. L. Higgins spent Saturday in Cumberland." "Mrs. Wm. Nuse called on Mrs. E. E. Higgins Sunday." "C. T. Callan, of Little Orleans, was in Cumberland Tuesday."⁵⁵

It was during this time (1910 - 1920) that Fred Mertens was buying land for his orchard business. Apparently Fred Mertens persuaded Joseph L. Higgins to sell on or about Feb 25, 1913 because we found in the tax books that previously Joseph L. Higgins had: 218 acres of land as part of Clermont Tract valued at \$4/acre for a total of \$872; 36 acres of land "I Want It" tract valued at \$2/acre for a total of \$72; 16 acres of land leased from the C & O Canal Co. valued at \$10/acre for a total of \$160; 4 acres of land from the James Higgins estate valued at \$10/acre for a total of \$40; Improvements thereon valued at \$800; Household furniture valued at \$200; Vehicles valued at \$100; Live stock valued at \$1,845; Goods and merchandise valued at \$500; and 12 mules valued at \$1,200 for a net worth of \$5,789. Then on Feb. 25, 1913 he sold the 218 acres of land, the 36 acres of land, the 16 acres of leased land, and the 4 acres from the James Higgins Estate with the improvements; followed on March 7, 1914 with the sale of his vehicles and livestock totaling \$1,945 to Fred Mertens.⁵⁶ Joseph L. Higgins may have downsized in part because he had taken a job as Supervisor on the C & O Canal in Oct. 1907.

⁵² *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 4/6/1911, p. 4, 5 times.

⁵³ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 4/20/1911, p. 4, 5 times.

⁵⁴ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 5/4/1911, p. 2, 6 times.

⁵⁵ *The Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 5/18/1911, p. 2, 3 times.

⁵⁶ Maryland, Allegany County, Tax Book, ED #01, Vol. 620, 1910-1917, Orleans, p. 146.

At the same time, 1913, in the tax records we found that his mother, Mrs. E. E. Higgins had: 311 acres of land from the "Hermit's Abode" tract valued at \$2/acre for a total of \$622; 168 acres of land from the "River Hill" tract valued at \$1.50/acre for a total of \$262; 52 acres of land from the "Sisterhood" tract valued at \$2/acre for a total of \$105; Improvements thereon valued at \$800; Household furniture valued at \$75; Vehicles valued at \$50; and livestock valued at \$500 for a net worth of \$2,414.⁵⁷

We found in a C & O Canal Payroll Book that Joe Higgins was Supervisor from Dam No. 6 to Cumberland.⁵⁸ We know that he had started work as Supervisor on or about Oct. 28, 1907. Then on Oct. 12, 1918 he died; his obituary is yet to be found. Mr. Dan Sterling, formerly Guard Lock 5 Keeper, then took over as Superintendent from Dam No. 6 to Cumberland.

1918 also brought the requirement for World War I Draft Registration. Five of Flora A. Donegan Higgins' brothers registered. Each of their registration cards provides historical information about the person:

Michael Lambertis Donegan resided at 708 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md. He was 39 years old, birth date November 2, 1878. His occupation was a Conductor on the Western Maryland Railroad. His nearest relative was Mrs. Mary Blanche Donegan, Hagerstown, Md. He was of medium height, medium build, had blue eyes and dark colored hair. Signed on Sept. 10, 1918.

Leo Patrick Donegan resided at 60 Winter St., Hagerstown, Md. He was 33 years old, birth date September 16, 1884. His occupation was a Conductor on the Western Maryland Railroad. His nearest relative was Mrs. Etta May Donegan, Hagerstown, Md. He was of medium height, medium build, had brown eyes and brown colored hair. Signed on Sept. 11, 1918.

Vincent Donegan resided at 1 Hancock, Wash. Md. He was 35 years old, birth date November 11, 1882. His occupation was Agent for Western Maryland Railroad. His nearest relative was Mrs. Francis C. Donegan, Hancock, Wash. Md. He was of short height, medium build, light gray eyes, and had light brown colored hair. Signed on Sept. 12, 1918.

James Conrad Donegan resided at 619 N. Luzerne St., Baltimore, Md. He was 41 years old, birth date June 16, 1877. His occupation was Conductor on the Western Maryland Railroad. His nearest relative was Mrs. Clara Agnes Donegan, wife, 619 N. Luzerne St., Baltimore, Md. He was of medium height, medium build, had blue eyes, and brown colored hair. Signed on Sept. 12, 1918.

Harry Aloysius Donegan resided at 407 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md. He was 30 years old, birth date July 18, 1886. His occupation was a Railroad Brakeman on the Western Maryland Railroad. He was of short height, medium build, blue eyes, light hair, and not bald. Signature date not found, nor was next of kin.

On March 7, 1919, Flora A. Higgins and Morris Baron, Administrators of Joseph L. Higgins, deceased, made their first account of his estate, see Appendix C. Note that the oldest son was listed as Thomas P. Higgins vice Paul T. Higgins; which is how St. Peter's Catholic Church records have his name.

The 1920 U.S. Census reported that Flora Higgins (age 45) widowed, a Farmer was living in census dwelling 46, which she owned free and clear.⁵⁹ With her were her sons: Paul T. (age 18);

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ C & O Canal Payroll Book, 1913 - 1938, Record Group 79, National Archives, College Park, MF.

⁵⁹ 1920 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 1/10 & 12/1920, p. 3A.

Joseph L. (age 16); Bernard M. (age 14); Raymond J. (age 11) and daughters Helen M. (age 9) and Gertrude H. (age 7). Paul's occupation was reported as Farm Hand - At Home.

Further up the same page it was reported that James B. Galliher (age 52), occupation Lock Tender C & O Canal [Lock 59], was living in census dwelling 43 with his wife Mary E (age 50) and their 6 sons.⁶⁰ The next above entry, Robert R. Twigg (age 42), occupation Lock Tender C & O Canal [Lock 58], was living in census dwelling 42 with his wife Margaret (age 40), their two daughters, two sons and George H. Davis (age 52) a boarder who helped out with the lock tending.⁶¹ A notation in the left margin indicates that these residents lived "Near Chesapeake and Ohio Canal."

Violet Hofe Grove grew up in Pearre; her family moved there in 1922 when her father, Charles Hofe, became the section foreman for the Western Maryland Railroad at Pearre. The nine-room section house was the Hofe family home until 1933 when Mr. Hofe was transferred to Big Pool. In 2007 Mrs. Grove remembered Pearre in the 1920's: "Traveling eastward from the west end of Pearre, there was the hotel owned by the McCullough family. The John McKnight family lived close by. Coming down the road a short distance, turn right across the railroad tracks. The first house on the right was the Niles Booth family. Next to that was the Perry Stottlemeyer family and their grocery store.

"The [C&O] canal was close by, and the locks were there where the canal boats came through. The Keys family lived in the lock house. Back on the main road going east was the Vincent Donegan family home. A short distance down the road the Cubbage family lived; beyond that was the Western Maryland Railway Station; Vincent Donegan was the agent.

"My father was the section foreman. We lived in the section house. Down over the hill behind our house was a small cottage, the Glenn Twigg family. He worked on the railroad with my father. Going down the road the Cross family lived. The Doyle family lived next door. The Frank Clay family lived a short distance from there. The last house was Mrs. Spicer."⁶²

Mrs. Grove's great uncle was Perry Stottlemeyer who owned the one store in Pearre, which had a little bit of everything including a pot-bellied stove, a checkerboard and an upright piano. The Hofe family had railroad passes; they could ride the passenger train to Little Orleans where there was another grocery store.

The newspaper reported under **MARRIAGE LICENSES**: "Paul Higgins, 27, Little Orleans, Md., and Ruth Kirby, 24."⁶³ Presumably they were married shortly thereafter although the newspaper report has not been found.

Moving on, 1930 U.S. Census reported Flora Higgins (age 55) widowed, a Farmer was living in dwelling 63.⁶⁴ With her were her sons Joseph (age 27) and Raymond (age 21) and her daughter Gertrude (age 16). Both Joseph and Raymond reported their occupation as Laborer, General Farmer.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, Boonsboro, MD, magazine, Oct./Nov. 2007, p. 28.

⁶³ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1929, p. 11.

⁶⁴ 1930 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 4/4/1930, p. 4A

Later that fall, we read from the minutes of the Board of Road Directors that the Maryland Railroad Company was dumping earth on the road from Green Ridge Station to Little Orleans near the store of Mrs. Higgins.⁶⁵ At the same meeting Mr. Courtney Fletcher was authorized to cut out brush along the side of the Higgins Road.

Flora, Paul, Joseph, Jr. and Raymond registered Democrat and voted regularly from 1930 until 1950.⁶⁶

Apparently trustees were appointed for each of the schools throughout the county. For Woodmont School in 1933 the appointees were: John McKnight, Vincent Donegan and Mrs. Bridget [Martina Donegan] Booth.⁶⁷ Vincent Donegan was Flora Higgins' younger brother. John Patrick McKnight was Susan G. Donegan's husband. The Donegan side of the family got involved in the Woodmont School administration.

In 1939 Jesse and Margaret Reed moved their family from the section house at Parkhead to the section house at Pearre, where they lived until 1952 when they moved to Hancock. Jesse Reed went to work on the Western Maryland Railroad in 1910; at various times he was a trackman, a pilot, a hostler, a foreman and he retired in 1953 as the cook on the work train. His son, Dee Reed, remembers growing up in Pearre, friends with Mike Cabbage and listening to Vincent Donegan, the station agent, play the guitar at lunch time. Jesse Reed got paid every two weeks and then Margaret Reed and only one of their children would ride the passenger train into Hancock to get their groceries for the next two weeks. Riding the train was a real treat for the Reed children.⁶⁸

Henry Donegan died in 1941 as reported:

"Henry Donegan

"Henry [sic. Harry] Donegan, Madison Avenue, Hagerstown, died on Monday afternoon of pneumonia. He is survived by his wife, Anna; brothers, James, of Baltimore; Leo and Michael, Hagerstown; sisters, Mrs. Flora Higgins, Green Ridge; Mrs. Bridget Booth and Mrs. Susan McKnight, Hancock. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Holy Name Society, Hagerstown.

"The body was removed to the Jenkins Funeral Home at Hancock. Funeral services were conducted at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Hancock, this morning by Rev. J. Ambrose Quinn. Interment was in cemetery adjoining."⁶⁹

Then World War II came along and Raymond J. Higgins (b. 1908) enlisted as a Private on Sep. 1, 1942 in Baltimore for the duration of the War plus six months. At the time he was single, without dependents, 68" in height and 170 pounds in weight. The next year bus loads of Washington County youths were shipped off to Baltimore where they were given their final physical examinations preparatory to induction into the armed forces. Among the names was: Vincent Joseph Donegan, Hancock, Route 1.⁷⁰ The Vincent Donegan of WW I registration would have been 60 years old, so this was his son. Raymond J. Higgins was Honorably Discharged on Oct. 5, 1945 as a Private First Class.

⁶⁵ Minutes of Board of Road Directors for Allegany County regular meeting of 10/1/1930, complaint voiced by J. M. Kasekamp.

⁶⁶ Allegany County Voter Registration Books, ED #01, Vol. #006, #007, #008, #009 and #012, Little Orleans, MD.

⁶⁷ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, June 17, 1926, p. 16.

⁶⁸ *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, Boonsboro, MD, magazine, Dec./Jan. 2003, p. 4.

⁶⁹ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, Oct. 9, 1941, p. 13.

⁷⁰ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1943.

In the photograph to the right, circa 1945/46, shows all of Joseph and Flora Higgins children, from L to R: Bernard M.; Raymond J.; Gertrude H.; Paul T.; Helen M.; and Joseph L. Higgins, Jr. while they were visiting the home place.⁷¹



In 1945 Flora Higgins' sister, Bridget M. Booth, bought a double brick dwelling at 933-935 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD for \$4,800.⁷² Apparently she bought it in her own name as an investment as we see in later newspaper accounts her residence was cited as Hancock. For example on June 20, 1953 Mrs. Bridget M. Booth, Hancock, was released from the Washington County Hospital.⁷³



The family continued to expand and visit Grandma Flora. On Aug. 18, 1948 Paul T. Higgins came to visit; he is shown kneeling in the photograph to the left with his beagle dog, his daughter Alberta Higgins with her hand on Paul's head, and his wife Ruth Kirby Higgins to the right.⁷⁴

The next newspaper account was of Flora's sister's death, as reported:

"Susan Gertrude McKnight

"Susan Gertrude (Donegan) McKnight, a lifelong resident of Pearre, died at her home Sunday evening after a long illness, aged 82.

"She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Susan (Clay) Donegan and the widow of John Patrick McKnight. She was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Hancock.

"Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Agnes Imes,

Little Orleans; Mrs. Helen Mason, Hancock; Mrs. Zita Norris, Frederick; John A. McKnight, Turtle Creek, Pa.; Thomas J. McKnight, Washington D.C.; sisters, Mrs. Flora Higgins, Little Orleans; Mrs. Bridget Booth, Hancock; brother, James, Baltimore, and Leo, Hagerstown; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Services will be held at 10 a.m. today at St. Peter's Catholic Church, with Father Daniel McGrath officiating. Internment will be in St. Patrick's cemetery, Little Orleans."⁷⁵

Flora Higgins did, occasionally, leave the home place to visit her family. In the next undated photograph, she was sitting on the front porch of one of her children's home.⁷⁶

⁷¹ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.

⁷² *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Monday, Nov. 12, 1945, p. 5.

⁷³ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Monday, June 22, 1953, p. 7.

⁷⁴ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.

⁷⁵ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Monday, Mar. 7, 1955, p. 18. Also see *The Frederick Post*, Frederick MD, Newspaper, Wednesday, Mar. 9, 1955, p. 5, *Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Mar. 8, 1955, p. 20.

⁷⁶ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.



And that same year, Flora's brother died, as reported in the newspaper:

"Leo Patrick Donegan

"Leo Patrick Donegan, husband of the late Etta Mae Browning Donegan, died at 12:15 Monday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alvey L. Shrader, 717 Washington Avenue, aged 70 years.

"Mr. Donegan was born at Pearre, Md., a son of Thomas and Susan Clay Donegan and was employed at the Prior Publishing Co.

"His daughter, Mrs. Margaret E. Shrader; son, Donald B., this city; brother, James B., Baltimore; sisters, Mrs. Florie Higgins, Green Ridge, Md., and Mrs. Bridgett Booth, Pearre, survive. Also five grandchildren.

"The body was removed to the Norment Funeral Home where friends may call. The Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church, of which he was a member, will meet at the funeral home Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock to offer prayers. Requiem Mass will be sung at St. Mary's Catholic Church Wednesday at 10 a.m. with Rev. Robert Passerelli the celebrant. Burial will be in Rest Haven Cemetery."⁷⁷

A few years pass and the Washington County Hospital announced the release from hospital treatment since July 20: Bridget M. Booth, Hancock; and others.⁷⁸

Apparently she was not cured for the next month her obituary read:

"Bridget (Donegan) Booth

"Bridget Martina (Donegan) Booth, widow of Reed Booth, Pearre, Md., died at the War Memorial Hospital, Berkeley Springs, W. Va., Sunday at 8:40 p.m., aged 78 years.

"Born at Pearre, Md., where she lived her entire life, she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Susan (Clay) Donegan. She was a life long member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Hancock.

Surviving are: daughters, Susan B. Anthony, Hagerstown; sisters, Mrs. Flora Higgins, Green Ridge, Md.; brother, James Donegan, Baltimore, and a number of nieces and nephews.

"Friends may call at the home of the deceased in Pearre after 7 p.m. today. The rosary will be said at the home on Tuesday at 8 p.m. Prayers will be said at the home Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. with services at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Hancock, at 10 a.m., the Rev. Fr. John Kerr officiating. Interment in the church cemetery."⁷⁹

The children did visit their mother in Little Orleans. Oldest son Paul T. Higgins visited on Sunday, May 24, 1959 as shown in the following photograph to the left.⁸⁰ The family got together every so often and kept up a friendship with Mrs. Sterling, remember he had taken over as Supervisor on the Canal upon the death of Joseph L. Higgins in 1918. In the following photograph, circa 1960, shown from L to R, front row: Betty Jeannine Higgins in the lap of Joseph L. Higgins; and Paul T. Higgins. In the back row, Grandma Flora Higgins and Mr. Sterling.

⁷⁷ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Sep. 13, 1955, p. 18.

⁷⁸ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, July 23, 1958, p. 14.

⁷⁹ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Monday, August 11, 1958, p. 28.

⁸⁰ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.



As a bit of good news the newspaper reported on the wedding:

"Miss Higgins is Bride of Mr. Wright

"Miss Ruth Alberta Higgins, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Higgins, Little Orleans, and William E. Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wright, 201 Mealey Parkway, were united in marriage on Saturday, the twenty-fifth of June, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

"The ceremony was performed at the rectory of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Halfway, with the Rev. Fr. Charles W. Daush officiating.

"Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman of St. James served as attendants for the couple.

"The bride was attired in a street length frock of white chiffon over taffeta trimmed with pink satin. She carried a nosegay of white carnations and pink rosebuds.

"A Luncheon for the wedding party was held following the ceremony at the home of the bridegroom.

"The couple then departed on their wedding trip to Bermuda. After August 1, they will reside at 1310 Potomac Avenue.

"Mrs. Wright was graduated from Oldtown High School with the class of 1852.

"Mr. Wright was graduated from Hagerstown High School with the class of 1949 and attended John Hopkins University.

"Both the bride and the groom are employed in the engineering department at Fairchild Aircraft-Missile Division."⁸¹

Then Flora's son died as reported in the newspaper:

"BERNARD M. HIGGINS

"Bernard M. Higgins, 60, died yesterday in Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh after an illness of a week.

"A native of Little Orleans, he was employed by the Dick Construction Company of Pittsburgh. He was a son of Mrs. Flora (Donegan) Higgins and the late Joseph L. Higgins.

"Other survivors are his widow, Mrs. Betty (Schultis) Higgins; two daughters, Mrs. Joan Dyer, Pittsburgh and Mrs. Dorothy Kelly, Windsor, Conn; six grandchildren; two brothers, Joseph L. Higgins and Raymond J. Higgins, both of Little Orleans and two sisters, Mrs. Helen Rohman, city, and Mrs. Gertrude Twigg, Bowling Green.

"A requiem mass will be celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Wendelin Catholic Church in Pittsburgh and interment will also be in Pittsburgh."⁸²

⁸¹ *Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, 7/28/1960.

⁸² *The Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Sat. Dec. 31, 1966, p. 2. Also see *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1967, p. 4.

At the regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Allegany County the motion by Commissioner Ebert, seconded by Commissioner Smith, applications for tax exemptions were approved for the following: Election District #1 Flora A. Higgins, Little Orleans, Md. and others.⁸³

In October 1972 the Higgins family gathered at the home place to celebrate Flora Higgins' birthday. She is shown with her surviving children, L to R: Raymond J. Higgins; Helen Higgins Rohman; Flora A. Higgins (Grandma); Gertrude Higgins Twigg; and Joseph L. Higgins.⁸⁴



The next year, Flora A. Higgins died as reported by the newspapers:

"MRS. HIGGINS SERVICE

"Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Little Orleans, for Mrs. Flora A. Higgins, 98, who died Sunday.

"Pallbearers will be Lawrence Sweitzer, Robert Sweitzer, John Ratke, James Van, Cullen Donegan and Frank Burns.

"Interment will be in the parish cemetery."⁸⁵

Flora A. Higgins did leave a will, her Estate No. 11319, was administrated by her daughters, Helen M. Rohman and Gertrude H. Twigg.⁸⁶

Later that same year her son, Joseph, died as reported in the newspaper:

"JOSEPH L. HIGGINS, JR.

"Joseph L. Higgins, Jr., 71, Little Orleans, was dead on arrival yesterday at Memorial Hospital.

"A native of Little Orleans, he was a son of the late Joseph L. and Flora (Donegan) Higgins.

"He was a retired B&O Railroad employee, a member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Little Orleans.

"Surviving are a brother, Raymond J. Higgins, Little Orleans; two sisters, Mrs. Ellen Robinson [sic. Helen Rohman], city, and Mrs. Gertrude Twigg, Bowling Green.

"The body is at the Scarpelli Funeral Home, where friends will be received from 7 until 9 p.m. today and from 2 until 4 and 7 until 9 p.m. tomorrow."⁸⁷

Joseph L. Higgins, Jr. did leave a will, his Estate No. 11667, was administered by his sister, Gertrude Higgins Twigg.⁸⁸

⁸³ County Commissioners of Allegany County, regular meeting of Feb. 21, 1967 minutes, p. 4.

⁸⁴ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.

⁸⁵ *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 1973, p. 8.

⁸⁶ *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Jan. 23, 1974, p. 15. Also see *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1974, p. 13.

⁸⁷ *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1974, p. 8. Also see *Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, Oct. 24, 1974, p. 30.

⁸⁸ *The Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Saturday, Nov. 23, 1974, p. 13.



The above photograph shows the Joseph Higgins home, where the oral history was taken. Raymond Higgins' home was located 100 yards or so to the right and up the hill toward the county road. After Mrs. Higgins died, the heirs attempted to sell the real estate as evidenced in this and the following photographs, 274 acres. Unfortunately, the house sits on National Park Service land. The Park Service would be glad to see the building sold and removed. Resolution of the estate has not been found.





As shown above, as of May 28, 1994, the home place was being maintained, the lawn mowed and flowers planted.⁸⁹



By 2009, the front porch floor and roof had fallen down as shown above. Rotating our view to the right, the Raymond Higgins house comes into view as shown:

⁸⁹ From the Betty Jeannine Higgins Burns Collection, 12/6/2011.



Walking up past the equipment draped in a blue tarpaulin, and then looking a bit to the left, the Raymond Higgins home is as shown below.



Note that the exterior architecture is identical, even to the obvious addition on the right hand side. If the two homes were not so close together, one would think the photographs were of the same house taken years apart. This house is not on National Park Service land and remains in use by the Thomas Higgins family.

In order to better understand the family relationships, let us build a table of vital statistics for the Higgins Family and then the Donegan Family:

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Place of Birth
Ransom Higgins ⁹⁰	hus	5/16/1801	1836?	11/6/1865	Maryland
Elizabeth	wife	2/15/1812		3/20/1865	Maryland
Henry A. Higgins	son	1837			Maryland
James R. Higgins	son	1838	1/3/1867	1880	Maryland
Ellen Higgins (Hartman)	dau	1845			Maryland
Henry A. Higgins	hus	1837	1865?		Maryland
Elizabeth A.	wife	1845			Maryland
Henry A. Higgins, Jr	son	1867			Maryland
Mary E. Higgins	dau	1869			Maryland
Nelly G. Higgins	dau	1877			Maryland
Faney L. Higgins	dau	7/1879			Maryland
James R. Higgins ⁹¹	hus	1838	1/3/1867	1880	Maryland
Elizabeth E. Reel ⁹²	wife	7/1847		1916	Maryland
Joseph Leo Higgins	son	10/1867	1901?	1918	Maryland
Mary E. Higgins (Kessler)	dau	1869			Maryland
Nora Eveline Higgins (Larkins)	dau.	1871			Maryland
Elizabeth E. Higgins (Doyle)	dau.	10/1874			Maryland
Rose B. Higgins (Callan)	dau.	5/1876	1907		Maryland
Annie R. Higgins (Van)	dau	12/1880	1905		Maryland
Hartman	hus				
Ellen Higgins	wife	1845			Maryland
End of First Generation					

⁹⁰ 1860 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, 8th District, enumerated on 9/6/1860. Also Personal communication between Dale B. Sipes, Chief of Maintenance, C&O Canal NHP, 1956 - 1985 (Ret.) and William Bauman, C & O Canal Association, Volunteer on 6/8/2009; Mr. Sipes had visited the Catholic cemetery there in Little Orleans and read the data shaded in blue, unless otherwise footnoted. Ransom Higgins was age 64 years, 6 mo. and 21 days old when he died; his birth date was back calculated. Elizabeth Higgins was 53 years, 1 month and 5 days old when she died; her birth date was back calculated.

⁹¹ 1870 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 8, enumerated on 7/11/1870, p. 3.

⁹² 1900 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 6/2/1900, p. 1B. Also see Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Marriage License Index 1861-1886 at date, license 341, marriage performed by Rev. Dosh. A fire in 1881 at the courthouse destroyed many actual licenses, including 341.

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Place of Birth
Joseph Leo Higgins ⁹³	hus.	10/28/1867	8/12/1900	10/12/1918	Maryland
Flora A. Donegan	wife	10/18/1875		11/25/1973 ⁹⁴	Maryland
<i>Paul Thomas Higgins</i>	son	11/22/1901	2/1929	1965	Maryland
<i>Joseph Leo Higgins, Jr.</i>	son	11/18/1903		10/22/1974 ⁹⁵	Maryland
<i>Bernard M. Higgins</i>	son	10/11/1905	6/13/1931	12/30/1966 ⁹⁶	Maryland
<i>Raymond J. Higgins</i>	son	9/16/1908		3/31/1990	Maryland
<i>Helen Maria Higgins</i> (Rohman)	dau	11/10/1910	10/24/1936		Maryland
<i>Gertrude H. Higgins</i> (Twigg)	dau	4/5/1913			Maryland
Paul Thomas Higgins	hus	11/22/1901	2/1929	9/1974	Maryland
Emma Ruth Kirby	wife	10/28/1904		2/26/1990	Maryland
Thomas Higgins	son	5/14/1931	1/1/1954		Maryland
<i>John R. "Jack" Higgins</i>	son	1933			Maryland
<i>Ruth Alberta Higgins</i> (Wright)	dau	5/28/1935	6/25/1960	11/16/1979	Maryland
<i>William J. Higgins</i>	son	9/1942			Maryland
Betty Jeannine Higgins (Burns)	dau	6/24/1929	3/21/1952		Maryland
Thomas Francis Donegan	hus	3/1839	2/4/1864	11/5/1922	Ireland
Susanna "Susan" Clay	wife	7/28/1846		2/24/1927	Maryland
<i>Jacob E. Donegan</i>	son	8/23/1864	Infant	7/9/1865	Maryland
<i>John W. Donegan</i>	son	9/3/1865		7/10/1878	Maryland
<i>Maria Eleanora Donegan</i> (Switzer)	dau	11/8/1868	1894?	1925	Maryland
<i>Thomas Francis Donegan, Jr</i>	son	9/24/1870		10/14/1872	Maryland
<i>Susanna Gertrude Donegan</i> (McKnight)	dau	4/27/1872	7/8/1894	3/6/1955	Maryland
<i>Frances Elizabeth Donegan</i>	dau	1/29/1874		11/4/1921	Maryland
<i>Flora Agnes Donegan</i> (Higgins)	dau	10/18/1875	8/12/1900	11/25/1973	Maryland
<i>Jacob "James" Conrad Donegan</i> ⁹⁷	son	6/16/1877	4/24/1902	1959	Maryland
<i>Michael Lambertus Donegan</i>	son	11/2/1878		3/21/1942	Maryland
<i>Bridget Martina Donegan</i> (Booth)	dau	4/18/1880	6/17/1919	8/10/1958	Maryland
<i>Vincent DePaul Donegan</i>	son	11/4/1882		8/14/1934	Maryland
<i>Leo Patrick Donegan</i>	son	9/16/1884	4/18/1911	9/12/1955	Maryland
<i>Harry Aloysius Donegan</i>	son	7/18/1886		10/6/1941	Maryland

⁹³ 1910 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 5/2-3/1910, p. 7B, and 1920 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District No. 1 (Orleans), enumerated on 1/10-13/1920, p. 3A & 3B. Supplementary data provided by Dennis Lee Donegan from St. Peter's Catholic Church 3"x5" index cards.

⁹⁴ *Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Obituaries, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 1973. See also *Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Feb. 6, 1974, p. 13 for estate settlement notice.

⁹⁵ *Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1974, p. 8. Also see *Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Saturday, Nov. 23, 1974, p. 13, for estate settlement notice.

⁹⁶ *Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Saturday, Dec. 31, 1966, p. 2. Also see *Cumberland News*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1967, p.4.

⁹⁷ The full name and birth dates for the five Donegan sons highlighted in plum were taken from their World War I Draft Registration cards.

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Place of Birth
John Patrick McKnight	hus	1871	7/8/1894	5/18/1931	Maryland
Susan Gertrude Donegan	wife	1872		3/6/1955	Maryland
<i>Leo Francis McKnight</i>	son	5/23/1895			Maryland
<i>Sophia Martina McKnight</i>	dau	7/12/1897			Maryland
Romulus Theodore McKnight	son	2/16/1900	Infant	9/16/1901	Maryland
John Aloysius McKnight	son	5/14/1905	7/19/1941		Maryland
Susan Agnes McKnight (Appel)	dau	3/13/1909	7/26/1926	7/7/2003	Maryland
Thomas James McKnight	son	8/4/1910	6/25/1955	2001	Maryland
Helen Regina McKnight	dau	11/29/1912	5/1/1948	1998	Maryland
James Conrad Donegan	hus	6/16/1877	4/24/1902	1959	Maryland
Clara McCuster	wife	10/28/1880			Maryland
Jeanine Donegan	dau				Maryland
Clara Donegan	dau				Maryland
Andrew Donegan	son				Maryland
James Donegan	son				Maryland
Michael Lambuertus Donegan	hus	11/2/1878		3/21/1942	Maryland
Mary Widmyer	wife	9/28/1891		10/30/1987	Maryland
Mary Donegan (Howe)	dau	2/7/1911	8/12/1939	2/2004	Maryland
Thomas Edward Donegan	son	9/28/1912	3/2/1935	3/6/1973	Maryland
Jane Elizabeth Donegan	dau	7/20/1915		11/30/1984	Maryland
Lucille Donegan (Livingood)	dau	10/1917			Maryland
Martha Ardelia Donegan (Ahern)	dau	2/17/1920			Maryland
Michael Eugene Donegan	son	6/25/1921	1951	11/30/2004	Maryland
Margaruite Donegan (Plume)	dau	7/23/1924			Maryland
Charles Patrick Donegan	son	12/17/1926	11/27/1971	10/21/2006	Maryland
Reid Booth	hus	10/19/1888	6/17/1919	1/3/1948	Maryland
Bridgette Martina Donegan	wife	4/18/1880		8/10/1958	Maryland
Susan Josephine Booth (Anthony)	dau	4/7/1920	12/31/1945	5/17/1985	Maryland
Vincent DePaul Donegan	hus	11/4/1882	1906	8/14/1934	Maryland
Frances Yarnall	wife	1886		1956	Maryland
Katherine E. Donegan (Anderson)	dau	6/19/1908		8/1981	Maryland
Mary M. Donegan	dau	8/5/1910	Never	9/9/1988	Maryland
Clare C. Donegan	dau	4/25/1913	Never	3/11/1997	Maryland
Helen Donegan (Fost)	dau	4/25/1913	1935?	1989	Maryland
Ursula M. Donegan	dau.	9/19/1914	Never	4/19/2009 ⁹⁸	Maryland
Tommy Donegan	son	1915		1915	Maryland
Patricia Gabriella Donegan (Hess)	dau	12/28/1917	1945?		Maryland

⁹⁸ *Times News, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Ursula M. Donegan Obituary,*

<i>Thomas Francis Donegan</i>	son	12/15/1918	Never	11/15/2002	Maryland
<i>Leonelda Donegan</i> (Millner)	dau	5/20/1920	2/25/1941		Maryland
<i>Eugenia "Jean" Donegan</i> (McGarry)	dau	7/23/1921		8/2/2001	Maryland
<i>Vincent Joseph Donegan</i>	son	10/22/1922	1/29/1949	12/24/1992	Maryland
<i>Charles Callan Donegan</i>	son	12/11/1923	5/5/1951	11/27/2001 ⁹⁹	Maryland
<i>Janice Anne Donegan</i> (McCarty)	dau	3/21/1930	11/17/1947	6/17/2008	Maryland
<i>Leo Patrick Donegan</i>	hus	9/16/1884		9/12/1955	Maryland
<i>Etta Browning</i>	wife	10/2/1889	4/18/1911	4/17/1943	Maryland
<i>Margret Elizabeth Donegan</i> (Shrader)	dau	10/22/1911	10/21/1933	1/24/2001	Maryland
<i>Donald Browning Donegan</i>	son	2/5/1913	2/6/1940	12/15/1987	Maryland
<i>Harry Aloysius Donegan</i>	hus	7/18/1886		10/7/1941	Maryland
<i>Anna Nee</i>	wife				

⁹⁹ *The Hancock News*, Hancock, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 11/30/2011, p. 7.

TABLE OF LOCKTENDERS, LOCK 56 to 66, LITTLE ORLEANS AREA

	1850 Report ¹⁰⁰	1860 U.S. Census ¹⁰¹		1870 U.S. Census ¹⁰²		4/1873 Payroll	4/1874 Payroll	1880 U.S. Census ¹⁰³	
Lock #	Names	D#	Names	D#	Names	Names	Names	D#	Names
56	Overton G. Lowe					George Apple	George Apple	174	George W. Apple
57	F. McAnary	2530	Francis McAneny ¹⁰⁴			Mary McAneny ¹⁰⁵	James Ashkettle	68	James Ashkettle
58	John Beard	2483	Henry Apple	55	William Beall	William Beall	William Beall		
59	Henry Gray	2481	Madglan Higgins	34	Thomas Donagan	John W. Gross	John W. Gross	141	John W. Gross
60	William Crawford	2475	William Beall	29	Harrison Twigg	Harrison Twigg	Harrison Twigg	126	Harrison Twigg
61	John Doyle	2469	William Young	21	Peter Stoneburg	Peter Stinebough	Peter	119	Peter Stinebough

¹⁰⁰ *Report to the Stockholders on the Completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal* (1851), pp. 139 to 140. The 1850 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, 8th District, was enumerated on Nov. 11, 1850. The canal had already opened on Oct. 10, 1850, with a gala celebration. So it is a mystery why these lock tenders do not show up as such on the census, taken a month later. Henry Apple, his wife and four children were listed in dwelling # 2502; he was a 50 year old stone cutter born in Germany.

¹⁰¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, 8th District, enumerated on 9/6-9/1860. D# = dwelling number recorded as the census data collector made his rounds, house-to-house. Thomas Callan was also listed as a 24 year old Retail Merchant, living at home (dwelling 2437) with his parents, Thomas & Margaret Callan (77 & 75 years of age respectively), sister Ellen Callan (35 years of age), brother David Callan (34 years of age and a Clerk; probably in Thomas' store?), and Thomas Smith (28 years of age and a Clerk, probably in Thomas' store?). A. N. Danforth was reported as a 37 year old Physician (dwelling 2529) and John Everet was reported as a 47 year old Physician (dwelling 2533), just as Julius Apple reported.

¹⁰² 1870 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, 8th District, enumerated on 7/7-23/1870. Thomas Callan was listed as a 37 year old Retail Merchant (dwelling 74) with a wife and two children. Sister Ellen Callan, now 48 years old, is living with him plus a 19 year old female domestic and a 23 year old male laborer. Note the ages don't quite match the decade difference in census taking.

¹⁰³ 1880 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, 8th District, enumerated on 6/11-16/1880. The 1870 census reported James Ashkettle as a 29 year old Laborer, with a wife and 4 children, living in the Lock No. 53 area near Hancock, MD with his Post Office being in Sir John's Run, West Virginia. In 1860, Francis McAneny, was a 76 year old lockkeeper living with his wife Mary, who was 60 years old, and their 3 children. Then Francis died, on 11/1/1863. The lockkeeper at Lock 57 in 1870 has not been found; but by 4/1873 the widow, Mary McAneny, was given the job, until she died on 11/11/1873. Then James Ashkettle was hired. The 1880 census reported James Ashkettle as a 39 year old locktender, with the same wife, Elizabeth, and 6 children of their own and 2 older stepchildren. The 1880 data for George W. Apple was collected in 1880 U.S. Census, Maryland, Washington County, 5th District, enumerated on 6/14/1880; his son, Julius C. Apple had not been born. James Gisson, a 28 year old male, is living with them and helping tend the lock.

¹⁰⁴ Francis McAneny died 11/1/1863, aged 78 years, 11 months and 10 days; Mr. Sipes and Mr. Bauman visited the Catholic cemetery in Little Orleans and read the data.

¹⁰⁵ Mary McAneny, Wife of Francis, died 11/11/1873, aged 63 years. Mr. Sipes and Mr. Bauman visited the Catholic cemetery in Little Orleans and read the data

							Stinebough		
62	H. Kasekamp	2466	Wesley Grase	19	George Keefer	George Keefer	George Keefer	118	George Keefer
63 $\frac{1}{3}$	H. Hunsicker	2465	Bridget Agon	18	Joseph Depew	Joseph Depew	Joseph Depew	117	William Lamar
64 $\frac{2}{3}$	H. Hunsicker			16	George Weston	George Weston	George Weston	116	John Lyons
66	H. Hunsicker					Daniel Gross	Daniel Gross	115	Daniel Gross

TABLE OF LOCKTENDERS, LOCK 56 to 66, LITTLE ORLEANS AREA

Lock #	1900 Census ¹⁰⁶		1910 Census ¹⁰⁷		1920 Census ¹⁰⁸		1930 Census	
	D#	Names	D#	Names	D#	Names	D#	Names
56	342	James H. Doyle						
57								
58	67	Danforth Linaburg	120	Randolph Twigg	42	Robert Twigg		
59	61	Edward Shields	119	William Nuse	43	Samuel B. Galliher		
60	23	Albert Twigg	113	Albert Twigg	34	Charles D. Twigg		
61	19	Lewis L Hall	104	Henry Kasecamp				
62	7	George Keefer	103	John Byron	170	James Manning		
63 $\frac{1}{3}$	9	John Gershaw	102	James Manning	171	John Gross		
64 $\frac{2}{3}$	10	Parrie Gross	101	Alfred Keefer	172	Robert Brown		
66	13	John Bryan	100	John T. Furlow	173	Harry Brown		

¹⁰⁶ 1900 U.S. Census, Maryland, Washington County, Election District #5, enumerated on 6/20/1900 (Lock 56) and 1900 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District #1, Town of Orleans, enumerated on 6/1/1900, (Locks 58-66).

¹⁰⁷ 1910 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District #1, enumerated on 4/28&29/1910.

¹⁰⁸ 1920 U.S. Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Election District #1, Town of Orleans, enumerated on 1/10&12/1920.

First and Final Account of Henry A. Higgins, Administrator of Ransom Higgins, late of Allegany County, deceased.

This Accountant charges himself with the following amounts, to wit:

With amount of inventory of personal property as per return made December 8th 1865, to the Orphan's Court of said County.	\$1,478.60
With cash on hand at death of deceased	115.00
And with the following amounts which, although [not] yet collected, he is willing to charge himself with in order to make final settlement.	
With amount of account against John McLoughlin	4.82
" " " " " Eveline L. Bevans	26.00
" " " " " George Price	1.21
" " " due bill " Martin L. Cresap	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>\$1,725.63</u>

And paid out as follows:

1. Paid Geo. R. Hoover for stamps	\$2.00	
2. " I. Jenkins & Bro.	35.00	
3. " Ashford Trail	5.00	
4. " James D. Hudson	8.00	
5. " Marshall Wise	4.10	
6. " Wm. E. Weber	3.00	
" Geo. R. Hoover, Reg.	14.56	
Administrator @ 8 percent Commission on \$1,725.63	<u>138.05</u>	\$209.71
		1,515.92
7. Paid 1 percent U. S. Revenue tax on \$1,515.92		<u>15.16</u>
		<u>\$1,500.76</u>

Distribution

1. To Henry A. Higgins	\$500.25 $\frac{1}{3}$	
2. " James R. Higgins	500.25 $\frac{1}{3}$	
3. " Ellen Hartman	<u>500.25$\frac{1}{3}$</u>	<u>\$1,500.76</u>

Maryland, Allegany County, Sct.

On this thirteenth day 13th day of January 1865, before me, the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of said State, in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared H. A. Higgins, Adm. of Ransom Higgins, deceased, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Acct. is just and true and that he has paid or secured to be paid the several sums for which he therein craves allowance.

Jonathan Stott, J. P.

Appendix B. Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Orphan's Court Book, _____, p. 7.

First and Final Account of Elizabeth E. Higgins, Administratrix of James R. Higgins late of Allegany County in the State of Maryland, deceased.

This Accountant charges herself with the following amounts, to wit:

With amount of sale of personal property sold at public sale per list filed in the	\$455.73
Orphan's Court of said County April 15th 1882	
With personal property taken by Elizabeth E. Higgins, widow of deceased, per list	359.02
Filed April 15th 1882	
With amount of additional inventory, per list returned to the Orphan's Court, Aug. 15th 1881	60.00
With cash received from John McCune, a/c in full	.41
" " " " Walter McDonald, a/c in full	8.80
" " " " S. D. Young a/c in full	.90
" " " " J. T. McKnight, a/c in full	8.74
" " " " Jesse Weaver, a/c in full	1.00
" " " " M. Northcraft, a/c in full	.25
" " " " R. Hudson, a/c in full	3.11
" " " " N. Northcraft, a/c in full	2.40
	\$900.36

And paid out as follows:

1. Paid Chas. Young and Son, coffin	\$35.00
2. " H. Sleircliff, appraiser &c.	3.74
3. " Ashford Trail, " "	2.00
4. " A. H. Amick, tombstone	35.00
5. " State and County taxes, 1881	31.29
6. " " " " " 1880	32.94
7. " <i>Cumberland Times</i> Printing	13.50
8. " John Rhind, Register	6.00
9. " Chesapeake and Ohio Canal	15.00
10. " John McLaughlin, a/c	11.75
11. " W. B. Beach, a/c	19.10
12. " Henry Winkleman, a/c	143.33
13. " Largent Williamson, a/c	40.82
14. " James Clark and Co., a/c	3.10
15. " Ashford Trail, a/c	30.95
16. " C. C. Hedges, a/c	2.20
17. " John McDaniels, a/c	9.87
18. " A. Zeillen, a/c	51.20
19. " T. Eliason, a/c	9.60
20. " Leonard Smith, a/c	3.80
21. " J. B. Stattlemyer, a/c	4.20
22. " Wm. H. Haughton, a/c	7.15
23. " H. A. Higgins, a/c	23.10
24. " Peter Kirk and Co., a/c	4.33
25. " M. L. Callan, a/c	12.52
26. " " " " , a/c	20.91

27.	" Bridges and Henderson, a/c	2.05	
28.	" Elizabeth E. Higgins, a/c	9.46	
29.	" " " " , Judt. and Int.	542.50	
	" John Rhind, Register	13.94	
	Admxs 5 percent Commission on \$900.36	45.01	1,185.36
		Amount overpaid by Admx.	<u>\$285.00</u>

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit:

On this 28th day of April 1882, came Elizabeth E. Higgins Administratrix of James R. Higgins, late of Allegany County, Maryland, deceased, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing account is just and true as stated and that she has paid or secured to be paid the several sums for which she therein craves allowance.

Teste: John Rhind, Register.

Appendix C. Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Orphan's Court Book R, p. 61.

First Account of Flora A. Higgins and Morris Baron, Administrators of Joseph L. Higgins late of Allegany County, Maryland, deceased.

These Administrators charge themselves with the following amounts returned per List of Sales of Personal Property filed in the Orphan's Court on the 7th day of March, 1919, of record in Inventories Liber No. 8, Folio 449. ---viz:

Household Goods, Farming Implements, Flour, Feed, &c. Four Mules &c.	\$1,319.00	
20 Mules and 24 Sets of Harness	2,600.00	
50 Shares of Stock of the J. C. Orrick and Son Co., of Cumberland, Md. (preferred)	4,500.00	\$8,419.00
With the following amounts returned per List of Debts filed in the Orphan's Court on the 7th day of March, 1919, of record in Inventories Liber No. 8, Folio 449, &c. --- viz:		
Cash in the Second National Bank of Cumberland, Md., at time of death	\$462.52	
Cash received from the C and O Canal Co., being Wages due at time of death	210.00	
Cash received from the C and O Canal Co., being Towage due at time of death	427.50	
Cash received from J. F. Campbell, being note and interest	118.00	
Cash received from Mutual Life Insurance Co., being Dividend	9.96	1,227.90
	Carried forward	\$9,646.90

AND CRAVES ALLOWANCE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Paid T. P. Jenkins	Casket &c.	\$152.43	
2. " Dr. P. Stigers	Services	160.00	
3. " Dr. J. A. Watson	"	20.00	
4. " Cyril B. Geare	Bond	36.00	
5. " William C. Devecmon, Atty.	Services	53.00	
6. " J. C. Orrick and Sons Co.	Account	76.97	
7. " W. T. Coulehan and Bro.	"	31.52	
8. " W. T. Hoblitzell and Co.	"	111.40	
9. " D. P. Miller and Co.	"	16.50	
10. " The Cumberland Brewing Co.	"	2.10	
11. " William L. Richards	"	23.00	
12. " The James Clark Distilling Co.	"	38.00	
13. " <i>The Daily News</i>	Notice to Creditors	4.00	
14. " R. C. Dawson	Account	22.00	
Paid Harvey W. Shuck	Register	22.50	
Administrators' Commissions of 10% on \$9,646.98 - \$964.69, Less State Tax on 1% on \$9,646.98 - \$96.46		868.23	
State Tax of 1% on \$9,646.98, noted above due to the State, to be paid to the Register of Wills		96.46	
By allowance to Widow Under Laws of Maryland, 1884, Chapter 107, Section 291.		150.00	1,884.11
			\$7,762.87

DISTRIBUTION TO HEIRS

1. To Flora A. Higgins	Widow, $\frac{1}{3}$	\$2,587.62	
2. " Thomas P. Higgins	Son	862.55	
3. " Joseph L. Higgins	"	862.54	
4. " Bernard M. Higgins	"	862.54	
5. " Raymond J. Higgins	"	862.54	
6. " Helen M. Higgins	Daughter	862.54	
7. " Gertrude E. Higgins	Daughter	862.54	\$7,762.87

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: On this 7th day of March, 1919, came Flora A. Higgins and Morris Baron, Administrators of Joseph L. Higgins, late of Allegany County, Maryland, deceased, and made oath in due form of law, that the foregoing account is just and

true as stated and they have paid, or secured to be paid, the several sums for which they herein
crave allowance.

Teste: Harvey W. Shuck, Register of Wills.

Appendix D. "**Window to Yesterday**, Growing up in Pearre Recalled as 'A Lot of Fun,' by Frank Woodring.

"As 87 year old **Violet Hofe Grove** reflects on her life, especially growing up in Pearre west of Hancock, she concluded, 'We had a lot of fun. I had a happy life!'

"The daughter of Charles and Ada Louise Hofe was born in 1919 near Great Cacapon, WV, but the family moved to Pearre three years later when her father became the section foreman for the Western Maryland Railway at Pearre.

"The nine-room section house was home for the Hofe family until Mr. Hofe was transferred to Big Pool when Violet was 14. She laughed as she shared an incident that may be responsible for her life-long love of music. 'When we moved from Great Cacapon to Pearre, Dad had a piano. He bought the (player) piano when they were married. So when we moved to Pearre, they put two boats together and they put the piano on two boats and brought it down (the Potomac River) from up at Great Cacapon. Everybody said it would sink, but it didn't.'

"As she pictured Pearre in the 1920's, she related, 'Traveling eastward from the west end of Pearre, there was the hotel owned by the McCullough family. The John McKnight family lived close by. Coming down the road a short distance, turn tight across the railroad tracks. The first house on the right was the Niles Booth family. Next to that was the Perry Stottlemeyer family and their grocery store.

"The (C&O) Canal was close by, and the locks were there where the canal boats came through. The Keys family lived in the lock house. Back on the main road going east was the Vincent Donegan family home. A short distance down the road the Cabbage family lived; beyond that was the Western Maryland Railway Station; Vincent Donegan was the agent.

"My father was the section foreman. We lived in the section house. Down over the hill behind our house was a small cottage, the Glenn Twigg family. He worked on the railroad with my father. Going down the road the Cross family lived. The Doyle family lived next door. The Frank Clay family lived a short distance from there. The last house was Mrs. Spicer.

"It was Mrs. Grove's great uncle (Perry Stottlemeyer) who operated the lone store in Pearre. 'He had a little bit of everything.' One item she vividly recalls in the store were 'the big candy cases. We bought some things from him, but we had free passes on the Western Maryland, so we got on the passenger train, and we'd go up to Little Orleans, and they had a grocery store. there.'

"She remembers that the Stottlemeyer store had its 'potbellied stove. They had a checkerboard - they used to loaf in there. They had an old upright piano back in there, and I used to go in there and mess around with it. I started playing the piano when I was five years old.'

"That's where I got my first potato chips. He (Mr. Stottlemeyer) used to stop by our house and give us little things. He was good to the kids around there.'

"We used to go down and talk with Mr. Donegan (at the railroad station). When the freight trains would stop there and drop off cars for the orchards. I used to climb up the side of the box cars. Everybody else was afraid to. I'd say "Anybody want some ice?" I could get it, but I didn't take any ice. I was just kidding.'

"The 1935 graduate of Clear Spring High School started her formal education at the one-room Woodmont School, which housed eight grades. 'I mean we really had some food teachers. My first teacher was Miss Ditmer, and the one was Genevieve Krontz.'

"We walked about two miles to school. We had a right good walk. In the wintertime it would be so cold, you know. Well, the teacher would be there early and fire up the potbellied stove, and boy, when it was cold out, we didn't tarry along that road. I mean, we'd go! I'm telling you, we had some good times.'

"One of the incidents she remembers taking place at Woodmont School was when 'one of the kids put chewing gum on the teacher's seat. That was terrible! I can remember that; I don't know who did it.'

"One morning when we went to school there was a train wreck right below Woodmont. We were talking and trying to look at the train, and one man said, "Oh, get away from here, you kids." I said, "We're going down to school." I was right up there telling him!' she laughed.

"When I was nine years old my mother taught me how to bake a cake, and I could bake a good cake too. She was Pennsylvania Dutch. Oh, her food was good! Boy, she could cook, and she taught us when we were young.'

"We did a lot of visiting between the families. The Donegan's had a big family. They had a woman do the cooking. She never baked cakes for the kids, but my mother would say, "I'll take care of that." She'd bake two big cakes, Mom would, layer cakes, and she'd take one up to the Donegan family, or she would bake cakes and have the Donegan kids come down - Patsy, Helen and Ursula. I'm still friends with her (Ursula) and I go to Cumberland to visit with her.'

"W had picnics and all kinds of stuff out in the fields where there was shade. We played softball; we always found things to do. People were friendlier then. People aren't friendly any more like they used to be.'

"Ice used to freeze up there really solid (on the Potomac). We had a Chrysler car. One day Dad said, "We're all going for a ride; we all got in the car, and he went over and pulled that car onto the ice, and we went up to see Grandma and Grandpap Hofe near Great Cacapon. There were trains going by, and the guys were waving and carrying on because of that car going up the river!'

"We went to church in Hancock - the Hancock United Methodist Church. I joined there when I was 14. Dad had that car, and they would take us.' Before going to church, however, there was a visit to the Conn & Fine department store in Hancock. 'I'll never forget that. That's where they bought our clothes to make sure we had nice clothes to go to church. People used to dress up to go to church. Mom and Dad taught us right!'

"As Mrs. grove showed a picture of her brother Clyde, she laughed and said, 'Dad had to sign for him (to get a job on the Western Maryland) because he was only 16.' Born in Pearre, her brother worked for the WM for 44 years before retiring as a conductor.'

"Her constant smile validates Mrs. Grove's statement that 'I had a happy life. I know a lot of people think if you live in the country, you don't, but I think we were happier kids than the ones

that were in the city. I enjoyed everything I did. It didn't matter what it was, I was happy with it."¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, Boonsboro, MD, newsmagazine, October/November 2007, pp. 28, 30, 32.

Appendix E. "**Forgotten village steeped in canal history.** by Geminisse McCarty.

"Just a short drive west of Hancock and over the hill from Woodmont Lodge is a strip of land that once bustled and boomed as a thru way for canal boats and trains, a parcel of nostalgia tucked away and long forgotten.

"The historical gem is known as the village of Pearre (pronounced Pa ree), a settlement started in the late 1800s that can credit much of its popularity to its proximity to the C&O Canal and Western Maryland Railroad.

"The area, which was then known as Sideling Hill, was originally settled by the Clay family, but it was Irish immigrant Thomas Francis Donegan who in a sense helped 'market' the territory by building its first general store, opening the first post office and becoming lockkeeper for the village, which was located at Lock 56.

"The lift lock was completed and in operation by 1848.

"After coming to the United States in 1862, Donegan worked a few odd and end jobs before securing a position with the canal as a boat captain.

"It was during these ventures from Cumberland to Georgetown, Donegan eventually met and married Susan Clay from the Pearre village.

"**Farming Pearre.** Sometime in the late 1860s the Donegan's bought a farm in Pearre.

"Donegan took advantage of the canal's closeness to his farm by renting mules, which he rented out to the Canal Towage Company.

"Just north of the lock, Donegan operated a general store, made of natural wood, which serviced the canal boat families. The village's first post office was also located inside the general store and remained there until the flood of 1924 when it was moved to the Hibernia House, a three story hotel located in Pearre.

"Eventually, all mail came through Hancock.

"**Farm had it all.** The Donegan's home was self-sufficient in its own right; the farm consisted of its own chapel, a boat house, spring house, chicken shed and a smoke house.

"Cows, chickens, horses and mules populated the farm and the original log home was later covered over with siding and received additions, but is still standing today.

"**Railroad brings new life.** Before the high-traffic village was known as Pearre, it was first named Sideling Hill.

"It wasn't until the Western Maryland Railroad extended into Hancock in 1905 that the community was renamed Pearre, after Western Maryland employee George Pearre.

"According to Hancock's Historical Society records, a total of four passenger trains a day stopped at the Pearre Station.

"With the induction of the railroad, Pearre's only hotel, known as the Hibernia House, became a private residence.

"In an article from the *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, the Donegan's granddaughter Mary Donegan Howe recalls the John Pangborn family from Hagerstown visiting the area for several weeks each summer.

"The Hancock Historical Society believes they would have stayed at the hotel, but said eventually the family bought a log home in the area, that still stands today.

"The flood of 1924 led to the inevitable cease of canal operations and Pearre lost a vital business to its community, leaving it solely dependent on the railroad.

"**Woodmont Club.** Many teenagers, including the Donegan's grandson Tom, worked at the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, which was located on a hill above Pearre.

"The Club was organized in 1870, about the time Donegan settled in Pearre.

"The club had a trout and bass lake that the teenagers would take visitors out to fish.

"Woodmont ordered deer and turkeys that were shipped in by train, some deer were actually ordered from Cuba, due to the fact that the Michigan deer that were brought didn't like the area.

"**School house.** With clusters of houses dotting the countryside surrounding Pearre, the area boasted a great population of children.

"Children were schooled in a one-room building known as Sideling Hill School, which was eventually moved when the railroad came through.

"After the move, the school was named Woodmont School, a structure that was originally built in 1875 and was located about a quarter of a mile from the Woodmont Club.

"The school was closed in 1934 and students were bussed into Hancock.

"The foundation is the only thing left of the school today."¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ *The Hancock News*, Hancock, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 1/28/2009, p. 12.

Appendix F. "**Memories growing up in Pearre.** by Geminisse McCarty.

"John Cabbage was ten years old when his family moved to the small village of Pearre in 1939.

"At one time, the settlement just west of Hancock stood independent from surrounding towns by boating its own general store, post office and hotel.

"A hub of trade and commerce of canal boaters and railroaders, the village prospered from both.

"It was after the close of the C&O Canal and the start of the Western Maryland Railroad, that the Cabbage family came to Pearre.

"The family rented a lock house located in the village for a mere two dollars a month from the C&O Canal Parks Service.

"The building had no electric or running water.

"There were two springs that we used for our drinking water and we'd fill our buckets up and head back home.' said Cabbage.

"Bathing and washing clothes was done with canal or water from the Potomac.

"The Parks Service allowed the Cabbages to cut any wood from the property to heat their home and also gave permission for the family to farm the land.

"That was a big help because my father was half blind and only had one leg so times were tough and we didn't have a lot of money.' said Cabbage.

"**Summers in Pearre.** Nature itself provided a good portion of the summer time antics that Cabbage and his younger brother were prone to get into.

"Our favorite game was to wait until the river got high and then we would swim out and catch a log. We'd ride that log like a horse.' laughed Cabbage.

"The brothers would ride the logs downstream, jump off and do it again after they walked upstream a ways.

"We didn't dare tell our mother what we were doing.' Cabbage chuckled.

"Fishing was also a popular sport and with money being tight and lacking a boat, the Cabbage brothers improvised by turning a pig butchering trough into their fishing boat.

"Regardless of the temperatures, everyone would travel down to Dam Six and jump in with sometimes chilly results.

"Didn't matter if it was cold or hot, everyone was expected to jump. It's just sometimes you came out a lot faster than what you went in.' said Cabbage.

"**Hopping the train to town.** With the Cabbage family being without a car, trips into Hancock could sometimes be few and far between.

"The saving factor was a daily passenger train that came through the village every day.

"We'd hop the train at Pearre Station; it came through every day at 2. It was a quarter for a ticket.' said Cabbage.

"Cabbage, now 79, fondly recalls making the trip into Greenspoon's Market, which had its first store along the canal.

"Greenspoon would deliver me and the groceries back home.' said Cabbage.

"A convenient means of travel wasn't the only use for the trains.

"It was a well known, if not overlooked, fact that several Pearre families would 'scoop' their share of coal off the trains when it would stop over in the village to disconnect its hotboxes.

"We needed it for heat. Big families lived out there and money was tight back then.' said Cabbage.

"Once when filling a wheelbarrow with coal, Cabbage was caught by a railroad official by the name of Raymond Purnell.

"He just said take what you need.' said Cabbage.

"May families trapped muskrats and coons in order to make a living.

"We trapped just to have money to buy clothes and food.' said Cabbage.

"A village resident by the name of Mack McCullough raised turkeys for the state.

"**Permanent Roots.** In 1954, Cabbage's Pearre roots ground even further when he married into one of the area's original families, the Clays.

"I married Patricia Clay and in 1965 I bought the Clay house.' said Cabbage.

"The house eventually burned down, but still remains in the family to this day.

"With the closure of the school in the mid-1930's and the store and post office torn down in 1942, much of the village's residents found it necessary to travel for their needs.

"As more and more families completed the trek into Hancock, it seemed as if just as many began to move into the town.

"Eventually everyone either went into Hancock or Little Orleans for their supplies and it just got real quiet in Pearre.' said Cabbage."¹¹¹

¹¹¹ *The Hancock News*, Hancock, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 2/11/2009, p. 12.

Appendix G. Nostalgic Moments

Christmas In Pearre Brings Twinkle To Eyes Of Lockkeeper's Granddaughter

By Frank Woodring

In the far reaches of Washington County between Sidling Hill and Tonoloway Ridge lies the small town of Pearre, at one time a key site along the C&O Canal. It was here that the last lock in the county was located. It was here that Thomas F. Donegan operated Lift Lock 56 along the Potomac River.

It was here that Donegan's granddaughter Eugenia Donegan McGarry reveled in Christmases past, Christmases that still put a sparkle in her eyes as she reminisces about them. For the 73-year-old Hancock resident, those were Christmases that she knows she'll never experience again.

"I just regret that my kids never had any Christmases like that! It's sad, but we don't because everything is so commercial, but it wasn't then, believe me! No Comparison! I liked it better."

One of 12 children born to Vincent and Frances Donegan, she recalled, "We never had a great deal, but we always had plenty. In many ways I think we were richer then than we are now because I think our blessings were appreciated more than what we have now. I think we were happier then. We didn't have all the stuff that we have now to make us happy.

"A nice snowfall would make us kids happy! We knew those sleds would come out, and we did it . . . don't think we didn't. We had tracks that kids of today wouldn't imagine . . . we had one hill out there we called Murphy's Hill. We would start on that one, and we could make one trail; it would take us almost one-half mile. Oh, we had good times! We really did!"

For Mrs. McGarry Christmas actually began in the summertime. While her father was busy as agent for the Western Maryland Railroad in Pearre, she along with some of her nine sisters would begin to get ready for the cherished holiday.

"Well, we had, I think, we had the nicest Christmases. Our Christmases really started in the summer because we'd go out in the woods and gather moss. We gathered bushels of moss because we had double living rooms. Now we had one room that we devoted to our tree.

"It was a big event to go into the woods and get that tree. We searched the woods for the perfect tree. It was a big one! We devoted a lot of time to our Christmas yard. I mean, a lot of time! (The Donegan sisters built what they called a yard around their tree.)

"We would build hills out of cardboard boxes and cover that with flour and water paste and then put artificial snow on it to glisten. We had a seven-gable house, and we'd put a little light bulb in that house and light it to reflect the snow as we had little kids sleigh riding on our hills, and at the bottom of our hill we had this moss all around, and then we had this artificial snow all over it.

"Then we'd take a large mirror and place it at the bottom, and we had little skaters - little people skating - and we'd put them on the mirror and have them skating.

"Oh, we had - we really went all out - we spent a lot of time in our Christmas tree yard and decorating our tree, and that really was a big thing as far as the girls were concerned. Now, I don't think the boys got into the tree bit! And then we had a picket fence we put all around this.

"Our tree was something we all looked forward to doing - the older girls . . . Our Christmas tree was something I'll never forget - the Christmases - of going and getting that tree and gathering the moss. It was just a big thing from summer all the way through. We took it down right after New Year's. That was the tradition. That tree came down right after New Year's.

"Then our family - we were all Catholic - the older ones went to midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Religion was a very important thing in our lives - the birth of Christ. (Mrs. McGarry still attends Mass at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Hancock every morning. Despite the severity of last winter, she never missed a Mass.)

"We had a stairway in our home, and it had all these banisters. Well, at Christmas Eve before we went to bed, we all had white stockings. We all hung our stockings from the oldest member down to the youngest member. Well, those stockings were filled while we were sleeping - supposedly - with candy, nuts and an orange. That was kind of a tradition.

"If we got a sled - whatever we got, we shared. We all had our sleds because we had nice snows out there; we all did love sled riding.

"We used to do a lot of skating on the Potomac. In the winter I skated; in the summer I was in there with my bathing suit. I loved living in Pearre. I loved growing up out there. That river used to freeze and on went the skates, and away we went. We'd build big bonfires on that ice. We'd go up there and skate at nighttime or up at Sidling Hill Creek. I can remember bobcats and things coming down - we weren't afraid of the devil!

"We lived in the woods! I loved it! I loved every bit of it!

"But our Christmases were big! Well, in that whole area; of course, about all of us were related - my cousins up the road here and my cousins there - but it seems that on Christmas day all of us went to visit each other's tree. That was a big thing - seeing everyone's tree. A lot of ourselves was put into these Christmas trees. But I guess at that time that was a big thing for our lives!

"The little creatures we had and the little people were made out of cotton with little faces, and they had the old time sleighs, not the sleds like we would. You couldn't go to the store and buy what we had then.

"That was the big thing (getting the tree) for most of us girls. We could chop the tree down just as good as the boys. We always had beautiful trees because we had a good selection! We did have nice Christmases! We were all together as a family."

Today the Donegan sisters and brothers still relish those strong family ties. "We are still a very closely knit family." states Mrs. McGarry. Surviving in addition to Mrs. McGarry are Tom (Hancock), Charles (LaVale), Janice McCarty (Hancock), Patricia Hess (LaVale), Ursula Donegan (Cumberland), Clare Donegan (Cumberland) and Nelda Milliner (Atlanta, GA).

As one talks to Mrs. McGarry, there is no doubt whatsoever that she cherishes those early days, days that she knows will never be re-lived except in her memories.¹¹²

¹¹² *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, Boonsboro, MD, newsmagazine, December/January 1994, pp. 4&5.