



This book is published for your information, to bring you some of the historic background of this house or inn and also to bring to you some of the history of Ridgeville, Mineral County, West Virginia.

The information is true as far as the author can determine from recorded documents.

BY
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in the heart of the Alleghenies. transferred from Thomas, Lord Fairfax in 1766, shortly after the French and Indian War, it was improved to some extent at that time.

Within the short time between the end of the French and Indian War (1763) and the beginning of the American War of Independence (1776) settlers came in this Section of Virginia south of the Potomac River known as the Northern Neck. The renewed "opening" of the frontier. In the early nineteenth century roads through Allegany Mountain passes were becoming important to the Western development, and it was the moving of people and goods along what became the Northwestern Turnpike that really fostered the establishment of the Vandivere House, as a farm, Inn-room as Ridgeville, Mineral County, West Virginia. This old tavern hosted people and activities associated with the events of that division affair, called the Civil War. This Inn continued to host travelers well into the twentieth century. The Inn continued to prosper, in addition to the Blacksmith shop, important because of location along the road and the nearness to some iron ore developed by the Legacy Coal and Iron Manufacturing Company, an

years provided accommodations and meals for travelers and served the Ridgeville community as post office, tavern, polling, and land-mark. This L-shaped, five bay front building has a facade that belies its integrity, for a vertical seam in the weatherboarding to the left of center marks a change in size of siding and appears somewhat incongruous. But except for a small addition to the rear of the ell and a bay on the first floor of the southeastern elevation, the two-story frame house of gable roof was constructed as a single unit, probably sometime in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It has Federal and Greek features, yet overall character is formed by vernacular adaptations popular in the Allegany Mountains just west of the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River where fine plantation brick houses of high-style Federal and Greek Revival line are common.

This old House still stands out and is offering its hospitality to you as it is now part of our National History as it is listed on the National Register, as Historic place for your future generations. In the Civil War this house was the only place to go, and it is still the place to go to see how it was in the days of strife, in the forming of our Nation and State. It is registered The Vandivere-Hull-Trout-Clause House.

the Four Lords giving Lord Culpepper the complete title of the land involved.

Lord Culpepper not having an heir of his own, died, and Lord Fair Fax being an heir through perhaps Lord Fair Fax's mother, Lord Fair Fax inherited this land from Lord Culpepper.

A tract of 100 acres of a larger tract of land was conveyed by grant from Lord Fair Fax to Henry Batten, dated the 4th day of June in the year of Our Lord Seventeen Hundred Sixty-Six, Deed Book 4, Page 52, Hampshire County Court, Romney, West Virginia. Dated June 4, 1766. At an intersection of the Wagon Road and a run. The wagon road referred to

building was in use at this time as a bar, sleeping rooms, and dining room, and gathering place.

If you desired to travel toward Cumberland, Maryland, at that time, you would travel South on the said Wagon Road to Cabin Run, on to Alasks, now Fort Ashby, Mineral County, West Virginia.

The guests which they depended on largely were people driving cattle and sheep, known as drovers, and having whiskey to sell by the barrel.

The four beed rooms being large 18 ft. x 20 ft. would hold a number of people to sleep. There was not much privacy in those days.

The first record of the property refers to this

Vandivere was killed in action in Virginia.

Henry Trout received this property in the year 1869 from the Estate of John Vandivere by Deed dated the 13th day of July 1869, and recorded in Deed Book 282, Pages 488 and 489. Said deed refers to it being the same property known as the Vandivere House and the Hull House.

This House was known as the Hull House in the Civil War as referred in a diary of William S. Purgett, in the Library of Congress, said diary was donated by the Purgett relatives.

This House was attacked in Civil War and Henry Trout had to repair the house in 1869 and replaced the shingle roof with a tin roof. William

... county, west Virginia. He received 100 acres of land on Fort Hill, Keyser, West Virginia. James Trout was elected the First Sheriff of Mineral County, West Virginia, and he was, but not killed, at this place when he came to hang a woman conspirator, in the Lincoln assassination.

Henry Trout disbursed the passes in the Civil War to travel from one side to the other. This place housed Generals and other soldiers in the Civil War days, prisoners and troops passing over this place, going to Petersburg, Leesburg, and Cumberland and the Potomac River was visited each night. Many houses and the church was burned in the Civil War at this Ridgeville, Mineral County, West Virginia.

the front house. An orchard was also on this land. Fruits and Vegetables were sold here and feed and grain was kept and stored here for others to buy as they needed. The old Orchard is near the line on the far end, toward Antioch, now the Taylor line.

Wild Cherry Bitters were made and sold in Ridgeville, West Virginia, and liquor was sold here by the keg and a bar room was in the house off the dining room. There are hide away places in the floors where things like bottles, etc., were hidden during the days of prohibition.

This was the place to get your whiskey after you left Elkins on your way to Winchester. In those

... this property from L. O. Mott and being a christian, the Clause family did not sell whiskey, but continued the Hotel, Restaurant, grain and fruit business. The people say this property was one of the better farms in Mineral County, Olivia Clause was postmistress at times. She was Olivia Homan before she married Henry Clause,, she run the hotel and restaurant as you will see by her license herewith a part of this history.

Henry Clause was born in Germany and orphaned at a young age, he went to London at age 14 years, and then he came to this country. He took in orphaned children and left this property by will

doors, windows, shutters, floors and hand hued and laid upon huge logs of cucumber wood. Large winding stairs is hand hued and put together with wooden plns. The fire places are useable and there is one in each room downstairs and bedroom upstairs.

The kitchen floors have ditches along the side for the run off of lye water used in scrubbing the floor. The cucumber wood of which this house is made has withstood termites. Large parlor, large bar room, large dining room, large kitchen, large cubbards, four huge bed rooms, ice house, hand dug well with water still used.

were made here, when the colonies existed and John Vandivere and Alexander Hamilton had the Potomac and Allegany Coal and Iron Company, also wagon wheels were made and fixed here for settlers and travelers, before continuing their journey westward over the rugged Alleganies.

George Washington came to Mineral County, West Virginia, on horse back over the Wagon Road, and surveyed the land of Lord Fair Fax, some of which is the land this Inn or House is located on at Ridgerville, Mineral County, West Virginia. LOT NO 5.