

## LOCAL HISTORY TRIVIA

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Parkersburg & Wood County Public Library

*Connecting Community -- Broadening Horizons*

Dated Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Please read the following digitized document:

*Kinship Migration to Northwestern Virginia, 1785-1815: The Myth of the Southern Frontiersman* by Philip W. Sturm, Ph.D.

Located under [Genealogy Digital Collection/Recent Posts](#)

then have fun and learn from the following trivia questions.

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**Trivia 1:** In the 1700s, settlers who wished to secure their claim to the lands along the Ohio and Little Kanawha rivers, marked their rights to the land by performing the following.

- a. Placing a hugh boulder on all corners of their land and burning their initials and the date into the visible side of the boulder;
- b. Clearing a portion of the land and planting crops of corn or wheat;
- c. Using an axe to cut out markings on trees signifying their claim; or
- d. Inserting placards around their claim stating, "Private Property, No Trespassing."

**Trivia 2:** The first permanent settlers in Wood County typically were closely related through endogamous relationships. As such, family members were intricately involved in helping each other with daily tasks such as building houses and barns, tilling the land and harvesting the crops, child rearing and bringing their newborns into the world. One well-known settler of the region wrote of her awe and admiration of such practices amongst her hospitable neighbors. Which settler had a flare for such creative writings?

- a. Mary Phelps, wife of James Phelps;
- b. Margaret Blennerhassett; wife of Harman Blennerhassett;
- c. Johnny Appleseed, who planted apple trees on the Henderson Plantation; or
- d. Mary Kincheloe, wife of Robert W. Kincheloe.

**Trivia 3:** Prior to arriving in Wood County in 1785 from Pennsylvania, this rugged frontiersman married into the prominent Tomlinson family and whose continuing kinship/neighbor relationships went on to include the well-known Henderson, Kinnaird and Bukey clans. Although known for his skills developed earlier in his life as a young Indian fighter, scout and Army warrior, he became a well-respected farmer and leader of his community.

- a. Rev. Joseph Doddridge;
- b. Major John McCulloch;
- c. Francis Keller; or
- d. Isaac Williams.

**Trivia 4:** Kinship groups derived from the marriages of sisters into close-knit families proved to be troublesome for researchers attempting to decipher family ties based on surnames. One such kinship group out of Belleville consisted of three sisters, Mary, Esther and Hannah Richards. The three sisters bonded the Avery, Champlin, Prentiss, Allen and Henpstead families which migrated to Belleville from Connecticut with George D. Avery. Other notable sister kinship families in Wood County include:

- a. Neal-Phelps Kinship Group;
- b. Exeter-Backus Kinship Group;
- c. Creel-Leach-Dawkins Kinship Group or
- d. Beeson-Mayberry Kinship Group.

**Trivia 5:** Migration to the unknown wilderness that became Wood County, West Virginia, was one filled with great difficulties and sacrifices endured by the earliest of pioneers. Most did not leave behind a broken past, but, rather, the quest to build on what they believed to be better opportunities. Groups of friends and relatives teamed up with a variety of skills and excited energy to build their communities of opportunity based on their ancestral beliefs. A notable group of friends and relatives who came to Wood County were led by:

- a. Captain James Neal of Fayette County, Pennsylvania;
- b. Captain John Stokely of Sussex County, Delaware;
- c. John Wheeler Turner, part of the Northern Neck group; and
- d. George D. Avery of London County, Connecticut.

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Answers can be found on the next page

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**Answers:**

**Trivia 1: Both b. and c.**

**Trivia 2: b.**

**Trivia 3: d.**

**Trivia 4: Both a. and c.**

**Trivia 5: All of the above.**