

Fayette County, West Virginia History;

Lookout:

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The first settlers were **Colonel George Alderson**, Col. Sam Lewis and Dr. John Cooper. These men maintained each a stage stand and stopping place (hotel or Inn) for the traveling public and as a market place where stores of all kinds of foods were kept and exchanged and where the early hunters sold their venison, bear meat, beef, pork, hides, pelts and ginseng; and where the early farmers traded their products for coffee, lead, powder, caps, tobacco, cotton cloth, jeans etc.. It was all a barter business principally, with but little money handled, but where the early settlers traded their spare products for such necessities as they could not produce themselves.

These three men cleared out large farms with slave labor. Each owned these colored people. "Old Uncle Lafe" and "Aunt Abbey" are still remembered as one of the first families of colored people and who lived with the Aldersons long after they were freed.

O.W. Blume now lives upon the cleared part of the Alderson farm as owner; the Col. Sam Lewis place is now owned by J.M. Flint and sons, and the Cooper place belongs to the Nuttall heirs and was called Locust Lane because for a mile on either side of the turnpike, there were great locust trees planted in rows a short distance apart.

Others who settled about the same time were Philip Blume who before the war came from Woodstock, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley and leased a part of the Col. Alderson lands. He was the father of Jacob L. Blume, Jason Blume, Joseph Blume and Morgan Blume, All prominent in the early history of Lookout and Fayette County.

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Col. George Alderson built a water power mill on Keeneys Creek where Lookout shipping point now is and the base logs may still be seen in the creek where the dam was opposite the old Blume Hotel.

Horse power mills operated by horses hitched to sweeps were operated on Cooper's place at Locust Lane. It was a crusher, the first ever built in this country. **Col. Alderson** had a sweep mill at his stage stand where O.W. Blume lives. Later J.W. Campbell and brother and H.T. Bays built the first planing mill and corn mill operated by steam power and who shipped the first western grains in by car lot and ground them into commercial feeds.

Post office and Post Masters: The people at first went to Mountain cove for their mail long before and up to the Civil War. Dekalb was the first post office with **Col. George Alderson** as post-master. The second post office was Pleasant Hill and Dr. John Cooper as post master. Locust Lane post office was established before the war, with Dr. John Cooper as post master. This office was supplanted by "Lookout".

Lookout Post Office was named by Rev. Charles Hughart; a preacher and teacher here after the war and was the first post master of Lookout.

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Free Schools; Established in West Virginia in 1865 and a Mrs. Pemberton taught the first school at Lookout in a part of the log kitchen of Landon Tulley. The first school building (and a framed one of sawed timber and board roof) was erected by A. Jack Withrow in 1873, located just opposite the C.H. Nickell store, near where Mrs. Joe Wilson now lives and was called the "Tulley School".

The early teachers in this building were Rev. Charles Hughart, William Renick, Bob Flanagan, Stewart Sydenstricker, Virginia Young, (after wife of Judge Jacob Koontz) (more mentioned but not recorded here)

Early Preachers: The early preachers were Rev. Charles Hughart, Sam Black, W.H. Adams, David, Coffman, Odell and others. The school buildings were first used as meeting places and at present there are two churches, the Baptist erected in 1895 principally by J.F. and L.F. Cavandish and the M.E. Church, South, in 1893 built under the direction of Geo.W. Bays, J.H. Sevy and others.

The first church was built by **Col. George Alderson, on the grounds of Jennette Cemetery before the war and named after Col. Alderson's first wife.** After the war it was torn down and a frame building was erected on the same site by A. Jack Withrow as builder. these were Baptist churches.

Col. George Alderson was the first Sheriff. (Apr 29 1831). Served 1831-1834

The first coal mine on Keeney Creek was opened by Col. Geo. Alderson on his land (now owned and operated by Mr. David W. Boone and his brothers. It was one of the earliest mines opened in Fayette county and the coal was used for fuel purposes and for shop work. It was the first coal used to supplant charcoal as a heat fuel for shop work by the early smiths.