

## **THE GENEALOGY OF THE CREEL AND RELATED FAMILIES with explanatory notes bearing on the same.**

This is preliminary to a sketch of my life, long contemplated for the information of my children, grandchildren and other relatives directly concerned.

The genealogical and explanatory notes were written by the Hon. Sydney C. Shaw, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, a careful writer, and one much interested in the pioneers of Wood County, West Virginia. These notes were kindly copied by Mrs. Henry A. Creel of Davisville, Wood County, West Virginia, who resides on the original tract of land developed by the Creels from the wilderness and adjacent to Bacon Hall plantation. *(Furthermore, these notes have been re-transcribed in electronic format, in 2008, by Charles Christopher Brandt, II; who resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. Son of Calista Elizabeth Creel (Brandt) who was the grand-daughter of Thomas Jefferson Creel. The original hardcopy documents were kindly provided by Jane Creel who is the grand-daughter of Lorenzo Dow Creel.)*

This genealogy begins with David Creel, Prince William County, Virginia. I am now tracing his ancestry which will be added as a note to the present work. In 1910, I met Enrique C. Creel, ambassador to the United States from Mexico in Washington, D.C. In discussing our family relations, he informed me that he had traced the family back to the little fishing village of Creel, Scotland.

### **Chapter I. – George Creel, Sr.**

From the best information in our reach, Mr. George Creel, Sr., who immigrated with his family to this county from Prince William County, Virginia in 1801, was a son of David Creel, born in Prince William County, Virginia 1745. It is reported of him that he inherited no patrimony from his father's estate; like others in those years he was raised to rely upon his own energies and force of character, to improve all available means for acquiring an education under the limited opportunities of those Colonial years. Promptness in the discharge of duty, firmness and reliability of purpose, and integrity of moral character was the foundation of his young manhood, and the strength and glory of his after years. When twenty-five years of age in 1770, he was happily married to Miss Mary Athey of Charles County in the province of Maryland. Of her parents we have no definite information. She was one of four sisters, who after their marriage settled in this county, viz: Mrs. Eleanor Dawkins, wife of J. M. Dawkins, Sr. who raised a large family and have numerous descendants in the county; Mrs. Margaret Leach, wife of the late Bartlett Leach, who left no children: Mrs. Leach, wife of Thomas Leach, who left a family in this county. We have given the names of these three families who settled in the valley of the little Kanawha River from the county of Prince William about the same time that George Creel, Sr., settled on his farm.

Lord Carter and other English nobility, after the colony of Virginia was established, obtained from King George III grants for large tracts of land in the valley of the Potomac River. These tracts of land were leased out on long terms to young married people who would settle on them and make certain improvements. A lease of this character was taken by

George Creel, Sr.; by his energy, enterprise and business capacity Mr. Creel won the confidence of his landlord and he was made a steward in the management of some of these estates.

This position which he ably filled enabled him to accumulate a handsome property. He invested his money in land in this county and slaves which he brought with him. He gave the name of "Bacon Hall: to his homestead residence in honor of the superior bacon cured by him and always found in abundance on his table for all who might visit the Hall. After his settlement upon the tract of land he soon had a large plantation opened and in a good state of cultivation and a suitable dwelling house for his family. Here he and his wife resided, respected by all until their death in 1824. In closing this account of Mr. George Creel the elder, we can say from what we have heard of him, that his whole life was characterized by unswerving integrity and uprightness of character. He was endowed with unusual prepossessing personal appearance, upwards of six feet in height, well formed and quick, possessing great activity and strength, with a fine open and robust countenance, a full clear black eye, a well shaped head crowned with a suit of soft, fine silky hair, whitened by age. In his old age he delighted in our door exercise upon horseback. He set upon his horse gracefully and his riding horse appeared proud of his burden, as he galloped over the road in the early morning.

We will now give the names and birth of their ten children, all of whom were born in Prince William County. First, Eleanor, born the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 1771. Died when sixteen years of age. Second, Mrs. Mary Kincheloe, wife of Major Robert Kincheloe, born the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 1773. Third, John, born the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 1776, died at the age of eighteen years. Fourth, George, named in honor of himself, born December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1778. (This was Henry's grandfather, who built the mill and was drowned by going over the dam). Fifth, Thomas, born May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1780 (my grandfather). Sixth, Mrs. Sarah Ann Saunders, (wife of Nimrod Saunders) born October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1783. Seventh, David, born June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1786. Eighth, Alexander H. Born October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1788. Ninth, James, born February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1791. Tenth, Mrs. Frances E. Riggs, wife of Dr. James Riggs, born 1793. As most of them became heads of families in Wood County, we give a brief account of them and their descendants. In making up a record of these children of George Creel, Sr., and their descendants we are compelled to be very brief for the want of more extensive information. About the year 1793, Miss Mary Creel was married to Major Robert Kincheloe of Prince William County, his brother, the late Daniel Kincheloe Sr., having purchased a large tract of land on the north side of the Kanawha River, about five miles from its mouth, in 1797, with his young wife and two children, Robert Kincheloe settles upon it. At that time it was an unbroken wilderness. Here he opened up his home, where he resided until his death in 1819. To them, nine children were born. First, Eleanor, who on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1811, was married to John Phelps, eldest son of Col. Hugh Phelps. To them six children were born, who married and had families. The oldest of these, Mr. Robert K. Phelps, raised a large family and had numerous grandchildren. Mr. John Phelps died before his wife. She died in 1875, at an advanced age. The second child was Elias Kincheloe, who on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1815, was married to Miss Joyce Vandiver. To them were born twelve children. In 1831, he, with his family, moved to the northern part of Missouri. The third child was Elizabeth, who on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1815, was married to Lewis Noale of Washington Bottom. To them, twelve children were born. In 1856, he moved with his family to Lafayette County, Missouri. Here he settled his children on farms and left them in good circumstances. He died in 1872. His widow lived to pass her four score years. The fourth child was John Kincheloe, born October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1799. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1826, he

was married to Miss Lucy Edelen, third daughter of Robert Edelon of Washington Bottom. To them, six children were born. In 1881, he settled at Belleville, where his wife died in 1840. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Stephenson, Dr. William Stephenson's widow. To them, three sons were born. In 1868, he moved to Texas. In 1874, he buried his second wife. His oldest child is the wife of John W. Mitchell. The fifth child, who in the winter of 1824 was married to Henderson H. Phelps, the youngest son of Col. Hugh Phelps. Nine children were born to them. Mr. Phelps died in Claysville in the winter of 1874. His widow died in 1876. The sixth child was Frances who died in 1824 in girlhood. The seventh child was George W. Kincheloe, born in 1806. His first wife was Lucy F. Mayberry, daughter of the Hon. J.P. Mayberry. She died the following year (1834). The 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 1837 he was married a second time to Miss Hannah Pennybaker, a granddaughter of Hohn Neal, one of the first settlers in this county. He died in 1840 leaving a widow and two daughters. His oldest daughter was the wife of James M. Jackson, circuit judge of this judicial district. His second daughter was the wife of P. L. Gambrell. At the time of his death, Mr. Kincheloe had accumulated a fine property. The eighth was Mrs. Almira, who, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1829 was married to Dr. Thomas M. Drake, at that time a professor in Athens College, Ohio. To them ten children were born. Dr. Drake was a man of fine culture, of great scholastic attainments. He came to his death at Zanesville, Ohio. The ninth child was Alcinda Creel, wife of Bushrod W. Creel. Of them a more complete account will be given in another chapter.

During the years Major Kincheloe resided in this county, he was an active, influential citizen, honored and respected for his uprightness and integrity of character and social and moral worth. His wife was a consistent and zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose daily piety and Christian example commanded her to the fellowship of the fine and good among those who sought for a higher and holier life. Her house was a home and resting place for the itinerant minister and from thence he went forth with renewed zeal in the discharge of his duty. She lived many years after the death of her husband and died at the residence of her daughter Alcinda's husband, Bushrod W. Creel, in the 87<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

## **Chapter II. – George Creel, Jr.**

Among the descendants of the early pioneers, there are few, if any, more numerous than the descendants of George Creel, Sr. Towards the close of the century, having purchased a large tract of land on the Little Kanawha River, in the spring of 1797, he fitted out his oldest son, then living, named in honor of himself, with a few slaves and sent him to this purchase. His object was to open up and make improvements for the future home of himself and his large family of children. This great undertaking was successfully accomplished by his son, George Creel, Jr., upon the land at a place afterwards known as "Bacon Hall".

In 1798 he returned to Prince William County and was married to Miss Clara Buckner, a daughter of Anthony Buckner, who with him and his family returned to Wood County and settled in this wilderness country. After his return, Mr. Creel continued the improvements he had commenced. Thus, George Jr. was a settler here before his father and other members of the Creel family. George Jr. was at this time in his young manhood, having acquired a good English, classical and mathematical education under the instruction of Professor Knox of Frederick City, Maryland. He possessed an enterprising mind and great force of

character, practical in all its operations. After the foundation of Wood County by the division of Harrison County in 1799 and the organization of Wood County Court, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1800, under the laws of the state he was elected the first Commissioner of the Revenue of the County and was re-elected to that office from year to year till his death, which occurred in the spring of 1807. In addition to this responsible position he was appointed deputy surveyor of the county, under Robert Triplett, the first surveyor. He also filled several other minor offices in the county in the early years of its organization, thereby becoming one of its leading citizens. We have already stated that he was a man of great enterprise. For the purpose of meeting and supplying a great and growing want felt by the first settlers of the county, in 1824 he built the first mill on the Little Kanawha by damming its waters at the place known as Claysville, seven miles from the river's mouth. At that time, this was a great undertaking and its completion, a great public good, which added much to the welfare of the county. It gave impetus to the settlement then, and afterward made in the valley and surrounding country. In the spring of 1807, during a rise in the Kanawha River, in assisting Mr. Joel Wolfe with a flat boat over the dam, he became disabled and was drowned. Several weeks after, his body was recovered from the Ohio River near Buffington's Island and interred in the family burial ground at the homestead place. His sudden death was a severe shock and deeply felt by the entire community as a great public loss. His integrity, honesty and manly bearing added to his social and domestic virtues. And had secured for him the friendship and esteem of his fellow citizens. His death left a wide vacancy in the county. He left a widow and three children, with many relatives and friends to mourn his loss.

His oldest child was Col. John Buckner Creel, born in 1799. As he grew up to manhood, he disclosed a character of great merit and wielded an influence for good among his fellow citizens. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1825, he was married to Ann W. Kincheloe, daughter of Daniel Kincheloe, Sr. This wife died at the birth of their first child, a son named George who died soon after reaching manhood, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1827. John B. Creel was married a second time to Miss Pamela Saunders, oldest daughter of Abner Saunders. By her, one daughter and three sons were born to him, who were married and settled in this and adjoining counties. (These three sons were "Bat", Buchner and Charlie Creel. The daughter was named Laura and married a man named Rockheld). In 1837, John Creel died in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of his age. His funeral obsequies were conducted by Rev. J. Newsome of the Ohio Conference before a large audience of friends and relatives whose grief was manifested on that occasion. The second child of Mr. George Creel, Jr. was his son, the late Bushrod Washington Creel. He was born in 1804. On the third of May 1832, he was united in marriage with Alcinda Kincheloe, daughter of Maj. Robert Kincheloe. (It was his wife, Mary Creel, to whom old Bill, the aged negro was given, and handed down by him to his daughter Alcinda, who was Henry's mother). To them six sons and six daughters were born. Two of them died in infancy. These children were settled in this and Kanawha County. After the death of his first wife, which occurred in 1857, he was married a second time to Mrs. Rebecca Ball of Kanawha County. To them, two sons were born. After the death of his second wife he made his home with his son-in-law, who occupied the Creel homestead, where he died very suddenly in January, 1876, in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of his age. During his life, he accumulated quite a large estate situated in the counties of Wood, Wirt, and Kanawha. The third child of George Creel, Jr. was his daughter Mary Ann, who was born soon after the death of her father. She was married May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1829 to Turner Boulware, who, when a youth had settled in this county from Caroline County, Virginia. He served in the army of the Northwestern territory in the war of 1812-15. TO them four sons and four daughters were born. These children were settled in

different parts of the country and of them our information is very limited. In the fall of 1872, Mr. Boulware returned to his native county to visit relations and with them celebrated his eightieth birthday. He arrived there in his usual health, but on the second day of October 1872 he died, two days before completing his eightieth birthday.

This closes our account of the descendants of George Creel, Jr. as far as we are able to give them.

### **Chapter III. – Thomas Creel**

In following, the history of the children and descendants of George Creel, Sr., we come to his fifth child, the late Thomas Creel of this county, his family and their descendants.

In his family Bible, he wrote his name Thomas Athey Creel, but during his lifetime in his business transactions, he signed his name Thomas Creel and by that name he was known as before stated. He was born in Prince William County, Virginia, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1780, and came to this county in 1801. During his youth, he received a common school education, and with William Michael, learned the saddle and harness trade, but in this county he followed the agricultural business as a vocation.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1804, he was united in marriage with Miss Priscilla Phelps, who was born in Pennsylvania on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1789. To them, thirteen children were born. Mrs. Creel died at their residence, "Bacon Hall," on November 28<sup>th</sup> in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of her age. He died May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1872, lacking ten days of being ninety-two years of age. He will long be remembered as a worthy citizen of this county, who, by industry, filled up the measure of his years. The following is an imperfect account of their descendants. Their first child was Lavina E. Creel, born September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1809. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1834, she was married to James Robinson, Jr., who with his father's family emigrated to this county in 1815. A large family of children were born to them, but of their history, we have no definite knowledge. The second child was George A. Creel, born January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1811. He completed his education at Athens College, Ohio. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 1831, he was married to Miss Prudence Cook, a sister of T.J. Cook of this county. Five children were born to them. His wife died in 1862. After her death, he was married to Mrs. Sara Banford Smith. To them were born five children.

The third child was Miss Drussilla Creel, born the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, 1812. On the first day of May, 1834, she was married to Jesse G. Pixley, who settled in this county in 1831. Three children were born to them.

The fourth child was Martha W. Creel, born October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1814, and died while young.

The fifth child was Thomas H. Creel, born February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1816. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1848 he was married to Miss Mary Phelps, second daughter of John Phelps. A large family of children were born to them, some of whom are still residing in this county.

The sixth child was Hannah P. Creel, born February 18<sup>th</sup>, (1818) and died while young.

The seventh child was Priscilla Creel, born December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1819. The 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1841, she was married to Hugh P. Foley, a son of the late Mason Foley. He died in 1862.

The eight child was David Monroe Creel, born Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1821 and died while a youth.

The ninth child was Hugh P. Creel, born May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1824. He married April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1849 to Delila Foley, a daughter of the late Mason Foley. He died about 1884 leaving two sons who have since died. His widow later married William O. Fought of Claysville.

The tenth child was John N. Creel of this county, born February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1826. He was married September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1850 to Miss Calista D. Parmenter of this county. To them were born six children at present living in this county.

The eleventh child was Jefferson Phelps Creel, born May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1828. He died at his father's residence in 1857.

The twelfth child was Mary Athey Creel, born November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1830. She was married to Barnet A. Foley on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1853. The them five children were born. They resided on the farm of his father, the late Mason Foley, near Parkersburg. In the fall of 1871, after a lingering illness from consumption, she passed from earth away leaving her five young children motherless. In February 1877, he followed her to that bourne from whence there is no return, leaving his children to the care of relatives.

The thirteenth child was Miss Sarah E. T. Creel, born December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1832. Se was married in 1853 to George Phelps, a son of the late John Phelps. To them, three children were born. Thus briefly and imperfectly we have made up a sketch of the family of Thomas Creel of this county, who for upwards of seventy years was a prominent citizen, known to all of its inhabitants.

#### **Chapter IV. – Sarah Ann Creel (Saunders)**

But he and many of his kindred have passed away and soon will be forgotten by the living of earth; thus it is today we are here in the active pursuits of life, tomorrow we are gone, no more to return. In these hastily prepared sketches of the children and their descendents of George Creel, Sr., we have the pleasure of introducing to the reader Mrs. Sarah Ann Creel Saunders, wife of Nimrod Saunders, who was the sixth child. She was born in Prince William County, Virginia, on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1785, and was married to Mr. Saunders on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1800. With him in company with her parents and the other members of their family, they emigrated to and settled in this county in 1801. To them were born seven children who lived to attain their majority. Se died at the age of eighty nine years, six months and three days. She united with the Methodist Episcopal Church under the ministry of Rev. Able Robinson of Kentucky in 1819. In the division of the church in 1845, she adhered to the M.E. South and in its

communion she remained a worthy and exemplary member until her death. She retained in a remarkable degree, the meridian of her years and the active exercise of all her faculties of both body and mind, regularly filling her place in the sanctuary of God, rejoicing in the praises of Zion. Long, by the congregation will her smiling, happy, cheerful countenance be remembered as she exchanged her cordial greetings and social salutations with her numerous friends. She died at the residence of her daughter in Parkersburg on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1875.

Her husband, Nimrod Saunders, was a native of Caroline County, Virginia. He was born in 1773 and died at Parkersburg on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1843. He was a Captain of a company and served in the war of 1812-1815. He was honored and respected as a citizen of this county in all the walks of life. He was a brother of the late Abner Saunders, who settled in this (Wood County) in 1818. We are able to give but a brief account of the seven children and their descendants of Mrs. Sarah Ann Saunders.

The first was George Washington Saunders, born in 1802 and was married to Ellen Barrett, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1831. Three children were born to them. He died about the year 1850 and not many years alter his widow followed him to the grave.

The second child , Cyrus Alexander Saunders was born in 1804. He married Caroline M. Vandiver and removed to northern Missouri in 1831. Eight children were there born to them. He died in 1871.

The third child was the late Alfred Leroy Saunders; born 1806, and died in 1831.

The fourth child was Mrs. Drusilla W. Kirby, born May, 1806. She married James Kirby in 1836 and removed to Kentucky.

The fifth child was Mrs. Ann Clementine Neale, born April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1810. She married Alfred Neale, son of Thomas Neale of this county in October, 1834 and lived on James Island for many years. He died the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 1868.

The sixth child was Mrs. May Jane Ryan, born July 2, 1814. She was married to James Ryan on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1838. The them six children were born.

The seventh and youngest child is our worthy citizen, Thomas Elliott Saunders, born November 1822. He was married to Miss Mary Smith, the second daughter of the late Robert S. Smith, Sr. on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1845. To them, six children have been born. For many years he has been engaged in merchandizing in this city (Parkersburg).

**Chapter V – Autobiographical Sketch of Lorenzo Dow Creel**  
**with extracts from personal letters, from Mrs. Henry A. Creel.**

I have copied the history just as written. Some of it sounds so quaint, don't you think so? You will see it was your great uncle George Sr. (Jr.) who was in politics. I can tell you about James Creel though I have not the printed history. He was married and lived where the old toll gate was in early times. He died from a prevailing epidemic during the year of 1837, better known as the "sickly" year. You will note Col. John B. Creel died the same year. My daughter Edith had an old newspaper clipping in which his (James) wife asks permission of the court to sell his estate so that she can remove her two children to the state of Missouri, which she did. None of the family seemed to keep in touch with her. George Creel of public censorship fame or infamy (depends on your politics) was a son of Henry Clay Creel and grandson of "Uncle Sandy" or Alexander Creel, your grandfather's brother. Henry Clay married his second wife in Kansas City, Missouri and they raised three sons, George, Harry, who is the doctor in Washington, and Willy who owns a large shoe store in St. Louis. Henry Clay was back here on a visit about 15 years ago. He hunted up Sister Pearle (whom perhaps you will recall as "Lady May," a little curly head of four or five years old when you left here). Pearle took him to see Aunt Bettie and Edith. He said Edith was an old time Creel, Tall, slender with dark hair and eyes. His wife had visited Pearle a number of times, and Pearle visited them in their home in Kansas City before Henry Clay's death. She had visited George and the doctor in their homes. There was an article in the *Cosmopolitan*, July 1924, written by George on being the husband of Blanch Bates. You know he married quite a prominent actress.

I had quite a number of clippings concerning Enrique Creel. He was in Los Angeles when I lived in California. He delivered a speech on irrigation. The Los Angeles Board of Commerce made quite a time over him. I saw in a paper recently where a large part of the Terrazas estate had been restored to them. Hope it is true. I will finish the next chapter which deals with your grandfather Thomas soon.

This winds up all the printed history I have. You will note it stops with George Creel's sixth child. You will note that David, Sandy, James and Frances were left off. I told you of James, David and Sandy. You, no doubt remember seeing them. I do. They called on Father Creel when I was a very small child. David was a doctor. Sandy wanted to be a Catholic priest and gave up his wife and family, but as he had been married, could not be a priest. He converted Father Creel's oldest daughter to Catholicism, as least she told me so after I was married. As I told you before, he was the founder of St. Mary's, West Virginia, and the father of Henry Clay Creel. David had a daughter whom your sister Hattie visited. She was married to a Dr. Stafford (I think was the name) and lived in Chillicothe. Hardin tells me he knows for a certainty that the family came over the trail to Pittsburg, then down the river. "Old Bill" the slave who died at Little Hocking, aged 121, has told me several times that he was old enough to ride behind his master and did so on the trip over. The last ten years of his life he came to see us once a year. George Sr. gave him to his oldest daughter when she married Major Kincheloe, then at their daughter's marriage to Henry's father, he was given to them, thus coming back to the Creels. My Edith has the chest which this grandmother of Henry's brought over the mountains with her. Aunt Bettie Bond gave it to her, and said she had heard her grandmother tell often of having the

till filled with silver dollars. In looking back over the papers you can see what a large party they must have been.

Now as to Aunt Nellie and Mary Phelps, they were sisters to Henry's mother. They were daughters of this same Mary Creel (known to her descendants as Grandma Polly) and her husband, Major Kincheloe. They married brothers, sons of Col. Hugh Phelps. Aunt Nellie (whose real name was Eleanor) was the mother of your Aunt Mary Tour (Harding's mother). Aunt Mary was the wife of Henderson Phelps. You see so many members of the fame families married two and three members of the same family. Thus, three of your grandfather Thomas's children married Foleys, all of the same family, and so many of them had "nicknames" it takes a Philadelphia lawyer to get it straight.

Now as to the Cooks, after George Creel, Jr. was drowned, his widow (Clara Buckner Creel) was married again to Jephtha Kincheloe (son of Major, before he married "Grandma Polly". By him, she raised one son and three daughters, who of course were half-brothers and half-sisters to Bushrod (Henry's father). Now one of these girls, Julia, by name, married Paul Cook, son of Bennett Cook, and her sister Sophia married Paul's brother Jim Cook. It was their daughter Bettie who was the wife of Judge McClure. His son is now city attorney, and a very brilliant speaker. Paul Cook had only one son, Henry, who was killed in the Civil War. He also had three daughters, two of whom married Van Winkle brothers. The other married Henry Amiss and has been a widow many years. She is 89 years of age and as bright mentally and as spry physically as a woman of fifty. She could tell you a lot of interesting things. After her marriage to Jephtha Kincheloe, Grandma Clara's home was the farm which you will remember as the Lamb place joining Bacon Hall on the east. Their other daughter married to Mayberry, their son Robert accumulated quite a lot of property down about Huntington. Left a daughter (married) to inherit all of it. Three of their daughters had nice homes and considerable money. Now I believe this clears up the Cook and Foley tangle.

All of the family says I always took more interest in the family history than they did. Any other questions I can answer, I will be glad to. There are a lot of Creels in North Carolina, and Edith wrote to one in Alabama for a year or so. I had a letter from one in New Philadelphia, Ohio, when old Bill died. Her people had come from Maryland. She had a lot about them, they spelled their name Creal, but no doubt they were related. When in Norfolk, Virginia, twenty years ago, I went out to see the famous old church with the cannon ball imbedded in its walls, from Lord Dunsmore's bombardment in sixteen hundred and something. In the old church yard, which covered a large space, was the grave of a Creel, a child, I think of John Creel. I copied it, but lost the paper. I was back there ten years ago, and went to see it again. I found that a new part had been built for Sunday School and Club rooms and many of the graves had been covered up. But a copy of the plot had been made and the names written down in a book. The name written in the place of my grave was Correll. The sexton said as so many of the stones were sandstone, a great many had worn off, until they were very hard to read. But when I first saw it, it was very plain.

I talked to Hardin by phone about the patent to Bacon Hall plantation. I had them down here several years ago, but did not copy them as the papers were made out to a man by the name of Wickliff. He had patented the land and then sold out to George Creel, Sr. I asked him

to let me send them to you, but he said he did not want to run the risk of losing the papers in the mail. But he promised to have a copy made, if you wanted it, so let me know. You guessed near my age. I was 61 last December. Henry will be 69 in March. We are both pretty well, only I have a lot of rheumatism and can't walk far. Eric, our son, who did not marry until he was 36, lives at home here with us. His wife is only 22. They have been married nearly two years and have a little son 7 months old, named Henry Lee. Our youngest daughter (we have three children) is named Eleanor Elizabeth, so you see I have done my part to keep the old manes alive. We all wish you would come for a long visit.

As this sketch is for the benefit of my children and grandchildren, I will confine my remarks more especially to our immediate family and state what may be gleaned from the above family history, that the original Creel family was remarkable for health, longevity, and great tenacity of purpose. In order to conquer the forest and make a home with such serious handicaps, they must have been unusually energetic.

Near this point, viz., what is now Parkersburg, W. Va., Marietta and Athens, Ohio, the civilizations of the Cavaliers and Puritans met. In 1798, General Rufus Putman of New England purchased a large tract of land near the mouth of the Muskingum River and settled it with New England colonists. With characteristic New England ideas of education, he and others established Marietta College from the name of the settlement, Marietta. Athens College was established later on. As Marietta was only nineteen miles distant from Bacon Hall, our people should have gone there for education, but did not do so. No college work was done until after Athens was founded, where the more enterprising of my uncles attended. The difference between the New England and Virginia colonists was very marked in their methods of settlement. In New England everything was subordinate to the town, which included the villages and the country for several miles round about.

On the contrary in Virginia, there were few towns and the settlements were made by the pioneers on individual basis. Each plantation was run as an independent unit. Almost everything, one might say, was manufactured at home, with the joint efforts of white and slave labor. Every plantation was, in fact, quite a village when all the various buildings were considered. The home house was the principal one; then all the industries had to have housing and the slaves also had to have comfortable homes or quarters. Great grandfather had just such a plan in mind when he designed the plantation of Bacon Hall, and was able through the efforts of his large family and slaves, to realize his ideal.

A part of the old hall is still occupied by Thomas Hardin Creel, son of Thomas Creel, my uncle. He is 76 years of age, and am sorry to say, when he dies, the male line will be extinct. In fact, the name is now entirely extinct except through the descendants of my father, John Neal Creel. Dr. Thomas Jefferson Creel, who recently died, left one son, Donald, to keep alive the family name. Donald has one daughter, named for my mother, Calista. As he and his wife are both young, it is hoped that male children will be born to keep alive the family name. It seems pitiful that such a virile family should die out after accomplishing so much.

However, this has been the fate of many Virginia families. So many of the men were killed in the Civil War that it had a marked effect on the future of the families.

It was always considered nothing less than a crime for Virginians to sell any land, except to a relative. It was a very serious matter to me when I was compelled to return to West Virginia and bring my father, who was paralyzed, with his second family, to Indiana, where they could have my care and the medical services of my brother, Dr. Thomas J. Creel.

About one hundred acres surrounding, Bacon Hall is held by Thomas Hardin Creel, but will descend to his daughters, which will extinguish the family name at that point. This will be kept alive through the son of Henry A. Creel, who is the fifth generation in the colonial home at Davisville, West Virginia. Thus this is practically the end of one of the very influential families of what is now Wood County, West Virginia, who helped to clear the forest and open up the western part of the state of West Virginia.

It is to be regretted that quite a number of my aunts and uncles intermarried with close relatives, first cousins, and this physiological error, coupled with the scourge of tuberculosis, played a prominent part in extinguishing the family.

My father's family had planned that he should marry a lady who was somewhat related to the family, but fortunately, by accident he met my mother, which was a case of love at first sight. Although threatened with disinheritance and facing opposition from Grandfather, they were married after a short courtship.

My mother was a woman of extraordinary character and remarkably fine personal appearance. She was born in Cattaraugus County, New York. She had the benefits of common school facilities at the North, and had taught school. This eminently fitted her for helping her children to acquire the rudiments of an English education. As soon as Grandfather had an opportunity to make her acquaintance, she quickly won her way into his affections. When he later divided his landed estate, he deeded her and her heirs the same amount of land that his own children secured. This made the home for us for many years, and enabled us to weather the storms of the Civil War and the aftermath of reconstruction days.

After living a short time at Bacon Hall, father and mother set up housekeeping in a small log house on a part of the plantation where I was born. Later on, they moved to the south side of the Kanawha River into the house Grandfather built when he was married and established a home for himself. All the land on the south side of the Kanawha River had been divided equally between Grandfather and Dr. David Creel, who also built a very fine home on his share, but later sold it and removed to Chilicothe, Ohio.

We lived in the original house built by Grandfather until I sold our share of the estate, about 1888. After living here a year or two, and becoming discouraged by reason of the financial depression under which the whole country suffered, my parents moved to Parkersburg, W. Va., and took a lease on a hotel. This would have been a remarkably good move, had father been qualified to carry his share of the work as efficiently as mother did hers. The temptation of hotel life in those days was too strong for father's temperament. This resulted in failure, through inefficient male help, who systematically robbed him when he should have been attending strictly to financial matters connected with the hotel.

Mother rebelled and decided that with Grandfather's permission, they would return to the old home, which they did. This was in 1860, when the country was seething with the bitterness of the preliminaries to the Civil War. At this time, our family consisted of my parents, myself (*Lorenzo Dow Creel*), and sisters Hattie Virginia and Kate. I was over three years older than sister Hattie, and mother relied upon me to help her in many ways. Up to this date, I had never done any work at all, but from now on, I began to play an important part in the functions of the family. At that time, there was always plenty for a boy to do on a farm. And I can say that I did my share. For some time I had no school privileges, while in Parkersburg, I had attended two primary schools taught by young women. I do not recall that I learned anything, but suppose that I did, for I now remember that when the neighbors got together and fixed up a room in an abandoned log house for use as a school room, that I found I was able to read McGuffey's Fourth Reader. I also recall that I kept up my place in the spelling class, which used Webster's Spelling Book. For a wonder we had a very efficient young man in the neighborhood who took great interest in us. I am sure we made very substantial progress. This was previous to any free school being established.

The Civil War had then broken out, and we were fortunate to have any one who was able to teach. Practically all the young men went into one army or the other at the opening of hostilities. My aunts, who had intermarried with the men of abolition sympathies, furnished quite a good many boys for the Yankee Army, while the majority of my relatives went into the Confederate service. Strange to say there was never any animosity aside from heated arguments over the question.

I recall very distinctly the return of my cousins after the surrender of Appomatox. A singular coincidence happened when those who were in the Union Army were mustered out at Wheeling, W. Va. Both parties met in the little town of Claysville on the same day. There was quite a contrast. The Union men were well clothed and had plenty of money, having just been paid off. The Southern boys were in rags. They were broken financially, having ridden their horses from Appomatox over the mountains to Claysville, near the Ohio River. This contrast did not last very long, for the Union cousins took them into the stores and supplied them with every want.

In those days ardent spirits flowed quite freely, and I recall visiting saloons with father, and notices a great deal of hilarity. All were glad that the struggle was over.

I recall one family, that of Uncle Henderson Phelps, who had five boys and two girls; all five boys were in the Confederate Army. The oldest girl had married a doctor who was also in the Confederate Army. The youngest girl had seen quite active service as a spy, though at that time only about eighteen years of age.

All through the Civil War, while we had plenty of vegetables, we lived entirely on corn bread in its various forms. Mother was an excellent cook, and now since I know so much and have heard so much about nutrition, I am sure that she fed us remarkably well balanced rations. I know we had plenty of green stuff, pork and its products; also milk. The only thing we had to sell was eggs, and these were kept very religiously.

Every cotton rag was kept very carefully and it was a part of my business to walk to the little store at Claysville to sell them with the eggs, to exchange for needles, thread and little necessary things for household use. We lived almost entirely within ourselves.

On account of our having moved about so, we had disposed of the home made conveniences, such as spinning wheel, looms, etc., and also nearly all of the necessary farming implements used in that day. Therefore we had very few conveniences. It was only through mother's ingenuity that we kept going. There is one thing that I remember very distinctly; that is my clothes were always patched with square patches, while my schoolmates all had round patches on their clothes.

My clothing was very simple. One pair of shoes or boots had to last twelve month. I had no underclothing; simply a hat, jacket, pants and shirt, socks and shoes or boots. The climate of West Virginia is very erratic and as I had no overcoat and had to be exposed quite a good deal to the elements, I often suffered intensely from the cold. With the advent of spring, just as soon as possible, for my shoes were practically worn out, I laid them aside and went barefooted till just as late in the fall as possible. This was in order that one pair of shoes would be able bridge the gap between seasons. This was all a matter of course, as my boy companions were not much better off.

One of the tragedies of my life occurred as follows: One of mother's and father's girl friend married a northern man. He was enlisted in the Union Army. She, with two or three children, lived within about a half a mile of our place. She came to mother to inquire if I would carry a sack of corn to the mill for her. My mother was glad to help her out and I made the trip. It was a long day's trip in the cold, but I thought nothing of it. A few days later, she brought me a pair of wool mittens, the first and only ones I ever had for many years. They were the pride of my heart. I got them wet in the snow in doing my outdoor work. I laid them down on the hearth in front of the fire to dry. When I put them on, the ends of both mittens had been charred by the intense heat. I had an awful shock when they all raveled out. This made a deep impression on my memory.

I remember distinctly the slow recovery after the Civil War, although I did not understand it. Father was rather peculiar in disposition, but had many good qualities. There was no market to amount to anything for produce. He spent a great deal of time as a boatman and pilot on the river. I became quite and expert as an oarsman and also a horseman. I felt that I often had to work beyond y strength on the farm, but at present I cannot see that it was serious enough to shorten my life very materially. With all our hard times, I remember that my sisters and I had a great many happy days. We were not seriously annoyed by the Union troops, but they were quite reckless in their target practice. More than once we were seriously menaced by their bullets.

After the Civil War closed, the state of West Virginia was in running order. We had a fairly good system of free schools inaugurated. Most of our teachers came from Ohio, as we had very few trained young men and women. We made fairly good progress in elementary school work, but our terms of school were short and we had long vacations. Much of our school

work was spent going over and over the same ground. This went on until I was nineteen years of age.

One day to my surprise, while in school, the teacher had a visitor in the person of James Cooper, an old resident in another neighborhood. Without my knowledge, my teacher, a nephew of his, had recommended me as one who could teach their school, which had been broken up by unruly boys, and the teacher got discouraged and left. I remember how inefficient I felt, but I was encouraged by both parties to make a trial. I was to receive \$30.00 per month, and my board with the director was to be \$8.00 per month.

I engaged to make the trial, and went to the county seat to pass my examinations. I did this with much fear and trembling, and feel sure today that I was passed, as I had a private examination, more from pity than from any fine work that I did. I have my first certificate, which was Number 4, yet in my papers, in which the county superintendent had to certify that I was not a dangerous enemy to the United States. And that I might be trusted to teach the young. I suppose that I must have run an awful bluff on the school officials, but I determined to succeed, although I have felt very sorry for the pupils since then.

I had one young man of twenty-five years of age, and eight or ten, twenty, twenty-one and down to my own age. I also had two or three large girls, one of which I considered very good looking. I had sense enough to know that on account of the chaotic state of the school, peculiar tactics must be pursued. Therefore I immediately adopted the policy of playing with the boys, and engaging in all their sports. By this means I won their confidence and esteem to such an extent that I taught this same school for five years. Later on some of the boys who had been started by me in their ABC's, afterwards became quite noted, although I take no credit for their final success.

I sometimes feel that my entire school teaching was very much of a bluff. I was only successful by my being able to put everything with the children and by being a pretty good fellow around the neighborhood. However, I must say that in justice to myself, I was way ahead of the other teachers in literary opportunities. I had been an earnest devotee of those art and literary treasures known as "Beadle's Dime Novels", which after many years have been finally given the recognition that they so richly deserved. It is only recently that some noted person has made a collection of fifteen hundred of these treasures in New York City. Also, I had access to Rollins Ancient History and some other historical work, which I do not now recall.

Whenever we had visitors at home, I was always sticking around listening to what the people were talking about. Although our home was rather isolated, yet many of our family connections enumerated above used to visit us. I got a great deal of information by listening in. My father, having only a grounding in the rudiments of a common school education, was a remarkable conversationalist, and had a good flow of language, some of which I recall to this day as being very uncomplimentary to myself when I failed to carry out some of his instructions. However, I have listened to his talk by the hour when entertaining strangers who often stopped with us. As according to the custom of the country, no one was ever allowed to leave our house without food and lodging.

Had I been more industrious, I might have learned faster and made better progress in educational matters. But being of happy disposition and fond of society, especially where girls were concerned, I wasted a good deal of time. And yet, I am often inclined to think it was not entirely wasted, as I acquired an easier manner that has undoubtedly helped me in later life.

I was never able to have as good of clothes as most of the boys I associated with, those whose parents were better able to supply them. But this did not deter me from taking part in the ordinary visits and parties indulged in by us.

We had very few buggies in those days, and the wealthy people only owned them. Each of the boys had a good saddle horse. When we wished to take a girl anywhere, we usually had a nice clean blanket and she rode behind us to and from the place where we visited. The temptation to use the spur very cautiously was often indulged in. This of course enabled the young lady to take a firmer grip on whatever was nearest at hand.

I went through the usual paroxysm of admiration for the girls that usually was indulged in, without any serious consequences either to them or me. On the whole we had pretty good times. My sisters were now growing up and I gave them a great deal of attention, which I never regretted, as they have been very loyal to me in later life.

I had sense enough to know that marriage was out of the question with me in my financial condition. I had no other outlet but teaching. As soon as I was through school, I returned to the farm and took up my duties, thus being constantly employed.

One day, mother and father had been to the village store and their attention was called to the fact that Marshall College in Huntington, W. Va., had been reopened and was bidding for pupils. I resolved that I would try to attend this college as soon as I finished my term of school. I started out early in April. Mother fixed up my clothes the best she could. I omitted to say that heretofore, I had devoted a great deal of my earnings to the family. The first money I earned in my schoolwork, I invested in a suit of clothes and an overcoat, which I had never owned until then. Also, I am glad to say that I discovered that two front teeth had begun to decay slightly and I had sense enough to go to a very good dentist. This cost me two dollars for each filling and I am proud to say that I still have that original investment.

In company with another teacher, we fixed the date for our going to Marshall College. I was so excited and worked up over the matter with the thoughtlessness of youth. When father took my little trunk down to the boat to carry me to Claysville, mother came as far as the river. In my haste I neglected to give her a goodbye kiss. Many times this has been a painful recollection for me. We had a pleasant trip on the steamer to Huntington, and we were well received by the principal. He was a returned Captain in the United States Army and a well-educated man. I went into the work without any special plan. Most of my time was spent in reviewing the common branches.



*Calista D. Parmenter (Creel)*  
*- Mother*

Within two weeks after I had begun work, I received a telegram notifying me of the sudden death of my mother. This caused me to return home at once. It was a terrible shock to me, and although the family was very much wrecked, I thought it best to return and finish up the term, which I did. Here I received the first financial help I ever received in any of my educational work. George Peabody, an eastern philanthropist, gave a great deal of his estate to educational work in the south. I drew \$18.00 of this fund after entering into a contract to teach at least four years in the state, which I did, and then some.



*John N. Creel*  
*- Father*

I returned home and found things in such a serious condition. My father was not a business man and not domestic in habits. He was poorly qualified to hold the family together and care for my sisters, though very loyal to them. I considered my first duty was to them and deliberately turned my back on my desire for education, and devoted myself to them. This was a very severe blow to me, for I had gotten a taste and Professor Morrow was very anxious that I should return.

I had also made some very pleasant acquaintances, even though I had very little money to spend. Among these was one Laura Jenkins, a niece of Confederate General Albert Jenkins. She was especially attractive. I will never forget the night of our breaking up at the close of school, which was one of the jolly occasions of my life. This was the end of a little budding romance. Less than a year afterwards, upon returning from a party, she expired in the arms of her mother from heart disease.

From then on, it was nothing but teach in the winters and work around in the summertime on the farm. I encouraged my sisters in their schoolwork and home life. They were obliged to wash and iron on Saturday in order to keep in school. My oldest sister had developed quite a taste for music and had a remarkably good voice. She had advanced in education enough to be able to teach school. So we, in partnership, bought a cabinet organ. She took lessons during the summertime during vacation at home. I have the notes, cancelled in my papers that we gave for that instrument. It enabled her to get a start on a musical education.

About this time, I began to feel that I should make some more money. I foolishly listened to the persuasions of a dealer in railroad cross ties. I bought a boat and fitted it out with a small stock of goods and started to buy railroad ties located about fifty miles up the river. This was a very ill advised move. I failed through losses of timber by water and other unavoidable circumstances. I abandoned this work and brought my boat down the river to Lachtown. This was where my father married. I was engaged to teach the school for six months at that place. I had gotten into debt and made arrangements with my creditors to carry me until I could pay up my obligations, which I did, in monthly payments.

At the close of my school, I was standing at the landing when the captain of the steamboat whom I knew, asked me what I was doing. I told him, "Nothing", as I had just closed my school. He said, "I think you're just the man I want. I need a cook badly. Can you cook?" I said, "I can try." So I left my sister in the home of a friend to look after my boat, stepped on board and began my career as a cook. I succeeded fairly well, until one day, when lying at the wharf at Parkersburg, a friend came aboard, saying that there was a surveying party he was engaged with that needed a boat to care for their party. I engaged to furnish the boat and care for the party. I engaged a young fellow as cook.

We fitted out the boat and went to the point of beginning. The second day after reaching our destination, I discovered the cook peeling and washing the potatoes in the Chief Engineer's footbath tub. I felt that we should part ways, so I paid his off and let him go. I assumed the duties of cook and provider for the crew of sixteen men. I cared for them the best I could, until we closed the job. Which was the same day that President Garfield was assassinated. I paid off my debts and sold my boat at a very serious loss.

My next employment was as a night watchman at a mill near my home. This was not a very pleasant occupation. However, I noticed that the proprietor of the mill had to carry his books to Parkersburg every week to get them posted, and wondered why I couldn't get away some place and get a business course. My sister, Hattie, urged me on in this matter. She had developed quite a strong personality with her advancing years. She felt that since I had devoted all the time that was necessary to caring for the family, it was high time that I was doing

something permanent for myself. I investigated the business colleges of Pittsburgh after talking with one or two of their graduates who lived in Parkersburg. I packed up my belongings, bade goodbye to home and went to that great city. I did not know a soul.

A few days after my entering Duff's Commercial College, there was a reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic. This was the biggest crowd that I had every seen at any time. I have never been more lonesome in my life that when I stood on the streets of Pittsburg, looking at that crowd. This turned out to be a critical turning point in my life.

One of the teachers of the college had contracted tuberculosis and was forced to leave. William H. Duff, the principal, was a very peculiar man. He knew that I had been a teacher, and he was not able to find such a one as he needed. Instead of coming to me direct, he opened negotiations by going to the principal teacher, who was a good friend of mine. The offer was \$12.00 per week, six days a week with two hours evening work. I was only too glad to grab it, as I had never received over \$35.00 per month for teaching. I attempted to economize by going to cheap restaurants, but got disgusted. Although my clothes were not very good, I tackled the best private boarding house in Allegheny City at \$5.00 per week. I found this paid off as I met some very good people, teachers and others. I had the little back bedroom at this time in one of the rooming houses in Allegheny City, for which I paid \$8.00 a month and shared it with an elderly gentleman. I must say that I made pretty good use of my time and made pretty rapid progress.

My personality began to show now. What I lacked in education, I made up for in this way. Before I got this offer, I began to feel pretty serious. I was about at the end of my resources, and it looked a mighty long way ahead to finishing. I secured a load of \$25.00 from a friend of mine down in West Virginia. I thought that, maybe, I could work out some plan. I got a retaining fee of \$5.00 one day for which I did not have to work. Then this offer came, which came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, and relieved my embarrassment. I finished my course and got my diploma. I began to feel pretty good. I bought a few better clothes.

Now came another turning point. A letter was received from a student at Angola, Indiana, that a school was to be established, and wanted the college to recommend a teacher. Had it not been for my friend, Louis Van Orden, the principal teacher, I would never have heard of this. William H. Duff, who was then absent, would never have suggested me. And his secretary would not have done so either. They did not wish to part with my valuable services. I opened up correspondence with the authorities at Angola, acting for the Tri-State Normal College, which was getting ready to open its doors. Letters were somewhat encouraging, and I was determined to make a trip to investigate. I was getting tired of Pittsburg and had developed a sore spot in a lung. I had a bad cough that was making me very uneasy.

I shall never forget the change in my impressions of Indiana. I had always considered it as a place of swamps. The country around Angola is very picturesque and very beautiful. I was met with such cordiality that the place appealed to me from the first. When I came to investigate, I found that there was no salary attached to the position, but there was a stated rate of tuition. I was to receive all of the tuition from those who came into my department. I had a guarantee of four pupils at \$8.00 for ten weeks. I hesitated to leave Pittsburgh under such

terms, but investigation showed that I could get a room for fifty cents per week, good and comfortable. And board was \$1.75 per week.

The anxiety to be my own boss in a way had its effect. I met the Board of Directors and asked for a six months trial. They would take nothing less than a year, so I signed up for a year. This was on the first of June. School was to open on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, I felt that I must return to Pittsburgh and make preparations. I bought a new suit of clothes, a trunk, an outfit of stationery and books. After my railroad ticket was paid for and allowing for enough spending money to carry me for three or four weeks after reaching Angola, I found that I was \$25.00 in debt.

I reached Angola on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June and we opened the school on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Everybody was interested in the success of the school, and I received a warm welcome for the outset. Angola was a prosperous farm town and very democratic. The amount of wealth one possessed at that time, 1884, made apparently very little difference. This was right at the beginning of the presidential campaign and the only handicap I had was that the entire faculty and my friends connected with the institution were ardent Republicans. I was the only Democrat. However, we made the best of it and I opened my department under very favorable circumstances.



*Tri-State College Teachers  
L. D. Creel – center standing  
Thomas Jefferson Creel - seated*

It was the best move of my life. I immediately jumped into the standing of a full-fledged professor and was received everywhere on that basis. My previous experience in teaching stood me in good stead; and I had my subjects well in hand. I became quite valuable to the institution by having considerable time outside my classes to devote to meeting the young people and interesting them in the college.

While I felt that I did not know as much as some of the faculty, I never allowed them to find it out. I must say that in justice to myself, I had a much better personal address than any of them, and rapidly made friends throughout the county as well as the town. This change enabled me to help my family.

I began to save a little money and sent for my sister Hattie, who had made considerable progress in music. On account of the low expense, I was able to carry her as well as myself, and pay her expenses. We had an efficient music teacher, and she was able to finish the course and become one of the first graduates of the institution.

She then had an opportunity to teach to gain a little money, and took a course in Public School Music work in Boston. This started her on an active life. She was soon picked up by the American Book Company to handle their entire introduction on music. She handled this position for sixteen years.

My next thought was that of my youngest brother (*Thomas Jefferson Creel*), who was growing up without any opportunities in West Virginia. I brought him out, and carried his expenses for a year or two in the school, till he got so he could teach. Through my influence, he succeeded in getting a position. He afterwards decided to study medicine and entered the work under my friend and physician Dr. H. D. Woods. I helped him to enter Rush Medical College, where he carried part of his expenses by waiting on tables and running a newspaper route beginning at four o'clock in the morning. He made good use of his opportunities. I got him a position as a nurse to an elderly man, which helped him financially.



*Thomas Jefferson Creel (standing)*  
*Lorenzo Dow Creel (seated)*

In the meantime, he had fallen in love with a niece of Dr. Woods'. After another year it was decided that they would marry. With help from home folks, he succeeded in finishing his course. Both my sister and he repaid me for what I had advanced financially. Although it may seem a little egotistical, without my influence, they might never have been able to get a favorable start for many years, if at all.

I was also very much interested in outdoor life. I spent many of my weekends fishing and hunting, etc. When I think of what I had at that day in comparison with conditions now, it is hard to realize. I was a member of a small boating club that had a good boat with a little house on the lake. They had a nice little cottage on another lake with a partner. I had two horses and a buggy, all on a salary of about \$60.00 per month.

About this time I realized that I should settle down. I met my future wife (*Estelle Willis*) at the home of Dr. Woods, where she attracted my attention by her deftness in serving the guests at a party. Her general manner made a very deep impression upon me. I did not meet her again for about a year, but we began to be better acquainted and resolved to marry. Therefore, I bought a small house and two lots, which was for sale very reasonably, and began to improve and plan for a home. We were married soon after this.

My wife had been obliged to leave her studies to take care of an invalid mother, but was quite ambitious, and entered the college to improve her education. At this time I was also carrying studies to make up for some deficiencies in my early education. This was not considered a detriment by any means.

The college was poor and needed a laboratory for chemistry. I went out among the citizens and raised sufficient money to start the laboratory and was one of the first pupils in that subject. In the meantime, while we had very little money, yet we had a great deal of enjoyment, as my wife was well received by everybody in the society of the town and the college circle.

I devoted much of my spare time to the cultivation of a good garden and the fruit trees that were growing on the lots. We lived well on a very limited amount of money. My wife was an excellent cook and housekeeper, as well as being very economical.

The arrival of Cecil was a wonderful event in our home. He was the source of many happy hours to both of us. In the mean time, my wife's folks had given her twenty-five acres of land in the extinguishment of a debt owed to her by the inheritance. I bought her sister's share for another twenty-five acres. I always had the agricultural bug, so I started the culture of fruit.

This was both fortunate and unfortunate, as it cost her and me a great deal of hard work. The farm under a tenant was not a paying proposition, but I got a good orchard started. After a severe attack of La Grippe, my health became very much impaired, and I was unable to carry the increased work. Also, a disagreement between the president of the college and myself led me to resign my position with the intention of going to Kansas to open up a business college. We, at that time, discovered that the birth of Cecil had left my wife in a very serious condition. My courage failed and I felt that it was a serious step to take in the dark. Therefore, we decided to build an addition to the house on the farm. We moved out there after my wife had had an operation to repair her health.

We had to abandon the idea of going to Kansas, and moved out to the fruit farm. My wife had never liked the farm on account of having to work so hard as a girl. At the age of 11 years, she was baking bread, washing, and doing such heavy work that it seriously affected her health and handicapped her in later life. She was a remarkable woman in many respects, easy and affable in manner. She was at home in any society or company. She was very ambitious and should have had a very liberal education, but this was denied her. She made up for this in various ways. For instance, she took the Chautauqua course, which had quite a good deal to do with broadening her mind in a literary way.

After she recovered from the temporary melancholy caused by the isolation of farm life and the radical change from town (we then had no telephones or any other transportation save the horse and carriage), she became more reconciled to the change. We lived within a quarter of a mile of her mother, to whom she was devoted. This helped soften the blow. About this time, June came into our home, which completed our little family. Had it not been for the serious economical disturbances in the '90's, we would have had a much happier life in the ten years we spent in developing the Highland Fruit Farm, which became a statewide institution.

Through this notoriety, I became known to the authorities at Purdue University, Indiana. The director made a visit to our place, and as the Farmers Institute was the leading agricultural activity, I was placed on the staff of field workers. The policy of the institution was to have a scientist and a practical agriculturalist working together in the various agricultural works in the counties. I was on the force for two years, and the President of our county Institute for five years, where Cecil got his first introduction into public life, through playing around my chair when I was presiding over sessions.

I had the rare good fortune to be assigned to work in connection with Dr. Harvey W. Wiley in some of the counties. He was a wonderful inspiration to me, as well as a remarkably companionable man. Through hard work, we made a fine success of the fruit farm, in production, but we were only able to break about even, as prices were so low that they afforded no profit.

The information I gained in practical operation was undoubtedly a great factor in my later life. I was able to build a small house for my father and his family at this place. Here, I could care for him in his last days, as well as his young children who were unable to help themselves at that time.

During this time, after a more profitable season and having the family on the farm, we decided to go to Washington to visit my wife's father. We spent a portion of the winter at the Capital. Through Dr. Wiley, I had been appointed a representative from Indiana to the first Pure Food Congress that assembled in Washington. I began to realize what great work was to be done in this line. At this time, I met with a Dr. Perky, the founder of the Oread Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts. He was advertising his institution by having one representative woman from each State appointed by the Governor to a free scholarship.

On account of our acquaintance with Governor Mount of Indiana, Mrs. Creel was appointed by making a simple application. Our idea was that through home economics, she and I would be able to travel together in Farmer's Institute work. She went from Washington to the Institute, while I returned to Indiana with the children. She had a wonderful experience and was enabled to add a great deal to her education by this means. However, she was unfortunate in being injured by an accident, which affected her nerves from which she never fully recovered. We did not realize all of our ambitions.

Because of the excessive hard work entailed in the care of the children and the fruit farm, I was very much run down physically and suffered from mental worry on her account.

On account of my political activities, I was selected by the Congressman of our district for a position in the census of 1900. We leased our fruit ranch and I began work on the first of June 1900. This gave the family an opportunity to enjoy Washington life and for Mrs. Creel to recover her health in quite good measure. Also, I feel that it was the salvation of me, for I did not fully recover my strength for a year. We were given to understand that the census work would last at least five years. As I had determined not to return to the farm, I took up the study of forestry with the intention of entering that line of work at the close of the census.

Contrary to our initial understanding, the director of the census attempted to make a record by rushing the work, putting on extra forces and offering bonuses. It was the understanding that as fast as the services of the members of the census were no longer needed, they would be distributed around the lines of other departmental work. Consequently, I was preparing for forestry work.

The death of McKinley and the accession of Roosevelt changed all this planning. He announced that no man over forty years old would be covered in the Civil Service. Therefore, I realized that it was just a matter of time for me. My next plan was to enter some branch of the service through examination and then get a transfer to the forestry department, which at that time was very easy. I took the examination for a farmer in the Indiana Services, as I knew that I would soon have to leave the census work.

My salary at the start of the census was \$900, but after the first month was raised to \$1000. This enabled us to live very nicely and save a little surplus. Mrs. Creel was very economical and watched the grocery sales very carefully. I always visited the Center Market on Saturday evening. Cecil would meet me with a market basket, and I would stock up enough at reduced rates to carry us for two or three days, while at the same time getting the best of everything. We improved the time by taking in all the free entertainments, such as the Marine Band, etc. On account of my knowledge of history, I improved every opportunity in taking the family to historical points of interest, realizing the fact that our stay was limited.

My work in the census office was very agreeable. After a month or two I was appointed Assistant Section Chief, where my general knowledge stood me in good hand. My Chief was not very well posted in the geography of the country. I attracted the attention of the Assistant Directors of the Census, and was selected to classify occupations classed as O.T. This meant other than the regular classifications. In this assignment I had no regular hours, but came and went as I saw fit, simply taking care of any notations placed upon my desk.

Having no access to anyone knowing the Hawaiian language, the office was handicapped. Since this was the first census of Hawaii, there was much confusion of occupations that existed on account of the enumerators not understanding the English name of the occupation. My Chief turned the whole census over to me, and I knew no other way than to go to the Congressional Library. Here I was assigned a desk and I called out all the books of Hawaii, including dictionaries and grammars. I mastered enough of the Hawaiian language to enable me to translate and correct the work of the enumerators. Therefore, I have the honor of

being the last word in the first census of the Hawaiian Islands, which was one of my most notable achievements in the census.

I was appointed to a position in North Dakota in January. I objected on account of the severity of the weather. The department kindly transferred me to Oklahoma within a few minutes after I had taken the oath of office, making for a quick change of plans. The Indiana Department allowed me a few weeks to prepare for entering on duty. Our Washington life had been very pleasant and agreeable. We had our little circle of friends, and lived a quiet and sane life. As a matter of contrast, I would say that we had a six-room house and paid sixteen dollars and twenty cents per month rent. This was on what was known as a named street.

It was a serious tear-up in our family relations for me to leave for Oklahoma, 1700 miles distant, on a salary of \$600 per annum, a reduction from \$1000. But I knew no other way to get into the Government service where I desired to be. I will never forget the effect upon the family. I had to leave at midnight. Cecil went to the streetcar barn with me. He kept a stiff upper lip, but it was still a very sad parting. June had gone to sleep, but later woke up and was sick all night over the fact that I had left home.

After an uneventful trip, I reached my station at the Sac and Fox Agency in Stroud, Oklahoma. I entered on duty on the fourteenth of February 1902, being a valentine for the superintendent. I knew nothing of the Indian Service, and my first experience was very discouraging. Then I found that I would have to make a showing with only a few Indian boys on a very large farm. I was utterly discouraged, did not unpack my trunk, and finally decided to return to Washington and take my chances. But after a talk with the Agent and the Superintendent of the school, they assured me that they were willing to accept the situation. I unpacked my trunk and went at the work in earnest.

My first experience was with the dairy. The Indiana boys were divided into details, five or six being on the milking detail. They could speak and understand considerable English. I explained what I expected about caring for the milk. It was being carelessly handled. While my attention was devoted to something else, I noticed one boy deliver a very well directed stream of milk into another boy's eye, who was milking another cow. I realized that now was the time to do something. I made one or two quick steps, caught the boy by the collar and turned him two or three summersaults down the alleyway. When he recovered, he was remarkably quiet. I had no more trouble in the dairy.

It was a discouraging proposition, as everything on the farm had been seriously neglected. However, the superintendent was very efficient and assisted me whenever he could be spared from the office. I only expected to stay six month, which was the limit of the time for transfer. The Lord was on my side. I was enabled to raise good crops of everything and put the livestock in good condition.

Along in May, President Roosevelt got busy and issued a circular stating that the matter of transfers from different departments had been so abused that thereafter they would allow no more transfers. My feelings may be better imagined that described. Fortunately, I had a good friend in Washington, to whom I confided my troubles. In the meantime, my wife and

children had disposed of our household stuff, and had gone back to Angola to live until matters were more definitely settled with me. I got a leave of absence and made a trip to Indiana to visit the family. I found that Cecil had grown considerably and was engaged in working as a water boy on a new brick block that was being erected.

About this same time, my friend Mr. A. H. Hiller, who was the Chief Examiner in the Civil Service Bureau, sent me papers to file for examination as a teacher of agriculture. I took the examinations at Oklahoma City. To my surprise I later found out that I had passed successfully with a fairly good record.

I then made this trip home, and upon my return, I visited the Indian School at Chilocco in order to broaden my knowledge of the Indian Service. Much to my surprise in November, my appointment to this school was announced in the Kansas City papers, even before I had received my papers. This meant an increase from \$620 per year to \$1000 per year. I naturally felt very timid about my new work, but had had enough experience with Indians to reassure me. Unfortunately, at this same time, I got into a mix-up with roping a cow and injured my left knee very seriously. I had to go to my new position under this handicap.

I assumed my duties, and although I did not like the superintendent, as soon as I had gotten fairly settle, the next summer I sent for the family. On account of not liking the superintendent, my friends had my interest at heart in Washington. Soon after, I was transferred as a teacher of agriculture to Genoa, Nebraska, at the same salary. My experience with Indians had strengthened my confidence in myself. I became quite attached to the work and interested in the real welfare of the Indians. We had congenial employees and church relationships, as the school was located on the edge of town. Also, Cecil was able to resume schoolwork and made rapid progress. He was able to finish his eighth grade work during the next year.

My friends in Washington had not been idle, and the Indian Office was kept reminded that I had been very successful in all of my assignments. Early in April 1904, I was transferred to the Superintendency of the Crow Boarding Schools, Crow Agency, Montana, with Mrs. Creel as head matron, at a salary of \$1200 for myself and \$600 for Mrs. Creel, including quarters and the usual prerequisites.

Cecil was left to finish the eight grade. During part of his vacation, he worked on one of the ranches in Oklahoma. Our work here was very hard and uninteresting. We got a great deal of the frontier life. We were forced to lose the companionship of Cecil, when he entered the Agricultural College at Bozeman, Montana. June attended the little reservation school for white employees' children, but got most of her education in the wild life of the reservation with the Indian girls and me.

She learned to swim from instruction by the Indian girls, and I taught her how to ride and shoot, which has been a great advantage to her. After serving until November, 1907, my work had attracted the attention of Francis E. Leupp, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He made a brief visit to our school. He selected me to take charge of the Indian side of the experiments in raising cotton on the Pima Reservation in Arizona; but later, on account of lack of funds, changed his mind. A few weeks later, I was offered the Superintendency of Pyramid Lake

Agency at \$1,300 and I accepted the position. I took charge of this work on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1907. At this time, my wife was recovering from a serious operation at the home of her mother in Indiana. She, later, rejoined me with the family at the Nevada Agency.

Cecil entered the Tri-State College after two years at Bozeman Agricultural College. I found the agency and boarding school at Pyramid Lake very much run down and neglected. The stockmen of Nevada and California had been using the reservation without any permission of any payment for the grazing. I succeeded in breaking this up, but nearly lost my life in doing so. I was nearly killed by an assassin shooting at me from ambush with a high-powered rifle. Later, on account of exposure, I was seriously ill from what I feel now was tick fever. I recovered from this in the course of two or three months. In the meantime, I had moved my family to Reno, where Cecil and June entered the university.

During the latter part of September, 1910, I was appointed Special Agent to the Seminole Indians in Florida at a salary of \$2000 per annum plus \$3.00 per diem. Just before this, my wife's health became so serious that we thought best to send her to her mother's home where she could retain the services of our family physician. June accompanied her. Cecil remained in the university. I entered my duties as Special Agent on October 1, 1910. I closed up my business and went to Washington, D.C. In the meantime, I placed my wife in a sanitarium in Washington, D.C.

I immediately began my work in Florida to investigate the condition of the Seminoles in the Everglades. It is needless to say that this involved a great deal of exposure and hardship, which is sufficient to make a book in itself of the experiences.

The Indiana Service is very destructive of home life. For example, in 1910 around Christmas time, Cecil was in the University of Nevada; June was in Angola, Indiana staying at the house of a friend, attending High School; Mrs. Creel was in the sanitarium; and I was cooking my breakfast on a small lot of an island in the Everglades. I will pass over my work in Florida, by saying that my reports have been the basis of all the work that has ever been done with the Indians in that section.

I contracted serious tropical malaria from exposure in the Everglades, and was appointed later to Special Agent to the scattered band of Indians in Utah at the same salary and per diem. During this assignment, Mrs. Creel passed away and left us. I established a home in Salt Lake City where June could attend the university. Cecil was in active work at this time in the Entomological Bureau. I built two Indian Schools and succeeded in establishing three small reservations plus two little irrigation systems in Utah. On account of serious overwork and exposure, I suffered a serious breakdown. This totally incapacitated me from work in 1916. Cecil was compelled to take me to Portland for treatment.

Just prior to this, I was engaged in a campaign in southern Utah, adjusting an Indian uprising that was of very serious character. I will pass briefly over my Utah experiences by stating that after I had recovered my health, I was appointed Special Supervisor of the Indian Service. I was assigned to Reno, Nevada on November 20, 1916 with orders to assist Col. Dorrington, Special Agent in the purchase of lands for the homeless Indians of Utah. I

succeeded in purchasing tracts and colonizing several bands of the homeless Indians. I continued in various lines of Indian work until I retired under the provisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act of 1920, on annuity that I hope to have increased. This brings my life up to date. Many incidents would have made quite good stories, if properly written up. But enough has been said to serve the purpose.

As fast as information is received from the different family connections, additions will be made to this sketch. It is somewhat embarrassing to dictate one's own autobiography, but I hope to do much work while information is being assembled, especially in regards to family connections. This is not only interesting, but valuable in stimulating a certain amount of pardonable pride in family history, which is far too much neglected in present day life. I think such things help to stimulate our ideals and enable us to live much better lives than seems to be the case in the hap-hazard methods of today.

Lorenzo Dow Creel