ECHOES FROM HENDERSON HALL:  
THE HISTORY OF ONE PIONEER FAMILY 
SETTLING IN THE OHIO VALLEY

A Thesis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

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By

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ABSTRACT

Every family has a history. It may be filled with heroism, patriotism, and fame, or it may be filled with treachery, violence, and shame. Regardless of the content, it is the legacy and heritage of the family’s descendents. This researcher has attempted to convey the story of one family whose pioneer ancestry began in old Virginia and extended into the beautiful river bottoms of the Ohio Valley. Entwined in the legacy of the Henderson family is their friendship with George Washington, disclosure of the treasonous plans of Aaron Burr and Harman Blennerhassett, and a court case over a runaway slave. From the House of Burgesses to the modern renovation of the train depot of Williamstown, West Virginia in 1998, this pioneer family’s legacy covers over 250 years of written and oral history that deserves to be heard, for it is a heritage that exceeds the boundaries of family. It is the heritage of a people, a region, a country, and a nation.
DEDICATION

To the Henderson family for their story.

To my family for our story.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Michael Rolston for sharing his family, heritage, and legacy with me. Thank you for giving me your time, your stories, the “run of the house”, and access to your family’s files and journals.

I wish to thank my family for their patience, encouragement, and support of my endeavors. Your belief in me is humbling. Thank you for occasionally “fending for yourselves”. Your sacrifices helped to make this project a reality.

Thank you, Dr. Bauer, for always believing in me. Your encouragement and patience allowed me to see this project to fruition.

Thanks to my niece, Sara Beardsley, for all of the proofreading sessions.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Beloved titles such as *Little Women*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Spencer’s Mountain*, and *The Homecoming* seem to bring instantaneous warmth to our hearts. Although they are the family stories of their authors, we are drawn to them as if they are a part of our heritage and legacy as well. Their stories, not unlike our own, are filled with joys, sorrows, triumphs, and defeats that seem to envelope us with a sense of belonging and security.

The narrative presented here of the Henderson Family of West Virginia, encompasses several generations of a family whose story is intertwined with both the rich and famous as well as the common and unknown. Their story contains all of the elements necessary to create a novel: family, politics, war, treachery, treason, unrequited love, birth, death, joy, sorrow, and a skeleton or two for the closet. The attempt of this researcher is to simply tell the story of one family whose roots can be traced back to the early founding of America and whose records and journals are a detailed reflection of the time period in which they were composed. The researcher has attempted to allow the reader to experience life in America from its earliest beginnings to modern times, albeit through the eyes of one family.
CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Preparing to write an historical narrative requires a unique type of research. In preparation for this investigation, the researcher chose to read several historical narratives such as those mentioned in the introduction. Such authors as Louisa May Alcott, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Earl Hamner, Jr. were masters at allowing the public to view their lives in such a way as to entice the reader to be subtly drawn into a period of history without being aware of the transition. This evolution often holds a romantic allure for the reader as they envision what life was like during the Civil War, Victorian Era, or Great Depression.

The story of the Henderson Family is unique, as it will encompass all of the above eras and more. Many of the Henderson family members were diligent in their journaling, but all were assiduous in their record keeping and their methodic and fastidious keeping of minutiae that would be discarded by most families. The result of this obsessive hoarding of documents is a gold mine of virgin history that is likely to excite any serious historian as well as those who are simply searching for a once-upon-a-time story of long ago.
CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

This thesis is a narrative, qualitative study that is an account of the family of Alexander Henderson, Sr. whose story begins in Dumfries, Virginia. Three of his sons left their family home in eastern Virginia to settle on lands that were located in the wilderness of western Virginia. These pioneering sons became key players in the settling of the areas of what is now known as Harrison, Wood, Wirt, and Pleasants Counties in West Virginia. This is their story.

Research Site and Subject Population

The research for this study was done at Henderson Hall, Williamstown, West Virginia, which is the site of the family home of Alexander Henderson, Jr., one of the three pioneering brothers, and his descendents. In addition to Henderson’s immediate family members and descendents, the information gleaned from this site also included extended family members, acquaintances, community members, and such famous characters as George Washington, Aaron Burr, Johnny Appleseed, and others.

Data Analysis Procedures

The researcher spent numerous hours reading journals, legal documents, historical documents of the time period, and in oral conversations with a direct descendant of Alexander Henderson. All research proved invaluable to the recreation of the lives of the Henderson family and was recorded by the researcher in the form of a story.
Researcher’s Role and Potential Ethical Issues

By the permission of the owner of Henderson Hall and all that is contained therein, the researcher has attempted to record the facts as they have been passed down through generations of the Henderson descendants in the form of oral and written stories and traditions.

Timeline

April 2005 – Completion of Chapters One, Two, and Three

Spring and Summer 2005 – Historical research conducted at Henderson Hall

Spring and Summer 2005 – Periodic meetings with Dr. Bauer

August 2005 – Final meetings with Dr. Bauer

September 26, 2005 – Complete paper to Dr. Bauer
CHAPTER 4

THE HENDERSON FAMILY STORY

From the explorations of Christopher Columbus to the settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth, this new world was hailed as the land of opportunity, a virtual utopia flowing with milk and honey. Many who came to her shores sought religious freedom while others longed for adventure and new beginnings. What they often encountered were treacherous sea voyages, harsh winters ravaged with starvation, diseases, and native hostilities. But they were a determined lot and were not to be deterred.

One such adventurer was Alexander Henderson, son of the Reverend Richard Henderson. Hailing from the land of the Scots, the enterprising young man, enticed by the stories of the opportunities of land and wealth in the Americas, sought to make his way in the wilds of Virginia. Seventeen and thirty-seven was the year of his epic voyage as well as the beginning of his family’s legacy in America. Settling in Dumfries, Virginia, Henderson became a wealthy merchant, member of the House of Burgesses, and member of the Compact Committee. He was a friend, neighbor, and political supporter of George Washington. Both were members and vestrymen of the Pohick Church in Fairfax, Virginia, where they occupied adjacent pews. George Washington recorded in his diary his attendance at the marriage of his friend Alexander Henderson to Miss Sarah (Sally) Moore. The friends were to meet on numerous other social occasions.

Perhaps it was on one such occasion that the wealthy Henderson sought the advice of his surveying friend, Washington, as to the location of prime land in which he
could invest. Upon the advice of his friend, Henderson bought five tracts of land that Washington had surveyed in Western Virginia that exceeded 25,000 acres. These lands were located in what are now Harrison, Wood, Wirt, and Pleasants Counties. Three of Alexander Henderson’s sons, John Glassford, Alexander, Jr., and James, were destined to settled upon portions of these family lands and become locally important farmers who played roles in the formation of what would become West Virginia.

After laying claim to family lands in 1798, Alexander Henderson, Jr. returned to Virginia in 1800 where he wooed Jane Hutchinson Lithgow whom he married in 1801. Henderson and his bride returned to the Ohio Valley where their first son, George Washington Henderson, so named for the family’s friend, George Washington, was born in 1802. Two other children were born to the union, John Alexander and Mary Page, both of whom died in 1823. Their deaths occurred while their older brother, affectionately nicknamed G.W., was reading the law with his uncle back in eastern Virginia.

Not far from Henderson land was an island in the Ohio River owned by Harman Blennerhassett. Those who found themselves among the honored guests invited to visit the wealthy couple often referred to this island paradise as “Eden”. Harman Blennerhassett, like the original occupants of the Garden of Eden, was a man haunted by poor judgment and unfortunate decisions. The Blennerhassetts had journeyed to their island paradise to escape the criticisms surrounding their questionable marriage. This decision was simply the first in a series of ill-fated choices for this man who had married his niece and was forced to leave his homeland and journey to the wilds of America.

Perhaps the most serious miscalculation made by Blennerhassett was his association with
famed opportunist, Aaron Burr, who wished to use Blennerhassett, his island, and his money to further his plot against the American government. Blennerhassett, perhaps drawn to their money and the prestige, had forged a friendship with the Henderson family. Unaware of their close ties with George Washington and other prominent government officials, Blennerhassett revealed Burr’s conspiracy plan to Henderson desiring to enlist his help in the plot. Repulsed by the plan, John and Alexander Henderson were quick to report to officials of the conspiracy, thus leading to the arrest of Burr and Blennerhassett as traitors to the government of the United States of America. Documents indicate the brothers were ordered to report to Virginia to be ready to testify in the case. The brothers and their wives gave depositions but it is unclear whether or not they were required to testify at the actual trial or whether their depositions were enough evidence. The Blennerhassetts were forced to leave their beautiful island, ruined by greed and perhaps naivety.

After spending time reading the law under the tutelage of his uncle in Virginia, G.W. Henderson, the only surviving child of Alexander, Jr., returned to develop the family’s land holdings in what is now northern Wood County, West Virginia. His marriage to Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson in 1826 consolidated family lands, including portions of the original Tomlinson tomahawk claim that comprised areas of present day Williamstown, West Virginia. The Tomlinson tomahawk claim was comprised of 1,000 acres on the Virginia side of the Ohio River directly across from Marietta, Ohio. Joseph Tomlinson, Sr. and his son, Samuel, journeyed from Maryland to this beautiful land at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. Using a tomahawk, they staked their claim by placing their initials in a tree. Later, Sam and his brother, Joseph II, returned to
their claim to settle on land that was still primitive and overrun by Indians. The brothers built a cabin and were later joined by their widowed sister, Rebecca Martin. In the end, the brothers deeded their sister 1,000 acres. The widowed Rebecca soon married Isaac Williams and the area became known as Williamstown. The Williams’ had one daughter who married John Glassford Henderson. None of the Henderson children survived past infancy and both parents died young, thus allowing no immediate heirs for the Williams’ land. Preceding his wife in death, Isaac willed the 1,000 acres to his family. Not to be daunted by traditional female roles and laws, Rebecca Williams broke the will and gave to her nephew, Joseph III, the 1,000 acres that had been her family’s original claim. Joseph Tomlinson III, heir apparent, became the father of Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson who later married George Washington Henderson.

The union of G.W. Henderson and Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson consolidated family lands that became one of the earliest points of settlement in the Ohio Valley. Development of the Henderson land, now more than 2,000 acres near Williamstown, began in the quarter century before the Civil War. A large plantation, complete with slave labor, was developed along the banks of the Ohio River. In 1836, they built their first house, a modified “federal” made of locally handmade red brick. The Hendersons added on to their house in the years between 1856-1859. Architect J.M. Slocomb designed the Victorian “Italianata Villa” structure. Building materials used in the construction of the house, including brick, stone, and timber, were produced entirely on the Henderson farm. The original unit of the house was once called Pohick Hall for Pohick in Fairfax County, Virginia. When the dominant structure was built, the name was changed from Pohick Hall to Henderson Hall. The twenty-nine-room home was a
massive structure nestled in the rolling hills ready to greet those passing by on the Ohio River. The rich soil of the bottomlands and broad terraces proved fertile in the raising of cash crops as well as supporting livestock including prime horse and cattle breeding operations.

Crops were not all that were raised on the farm, as the Henderson union also produced twelve children. Sadly, only five of the twelve children survived to marry and have children of their own. Four of the twelve died in one winter, three died within their first year of life, and one died when he was twenty-one years old. Mourning was a way of life on the frontier, and each individual found his or her own way in which to grieve. In the form of a brooch, Elizabeth Ann found a way to remain close to those precious children she had lost. She took a lock of hair from each of them and had the hair woven and made into a brooch that she pinned close to her heart. Losing each child weighed heavy on their hearts, but the loss of George Washington Henderson, Jr. was particularly shattering to the family as they lost this young man in the prime of his life, age twenty-one, while preparing for the Christmas holidays. George Washington Henderson, Jr., a boarding student at Muskingum Academy, later known as Marietta College, had come home for the holidays. As was the family custom, he began to decorate the house for the holiday festivities. While decorating the upper floor, used as the ballroom, the young George fell ill and died of typhoid on January 5, 1863. The grief-stricken family chose to leave the ballroom decorations up in a tribute to the young man, but decided Henderson Hall would never again decorate for Christmas. The family would continue to exchange gifts but Christmas decorations were forbidden. That tradition remained in effect until 1984, when the beautiful home, once again, became a showplace at Christmas. Still
hanging in tribute are the two wreaths, now enclosed in glass, that were hung at each end of the ballroom in 1863 by the young George.

The Henderson family believed strongly in education. The first school of the area was located on the Henderson plantation and all three of their remaining sons went to college. Henry Clay (1845-1920), a graduate of Dartmouth College, was involved in business, Jock Bedell (1848-1942) was a graduate of VMI, Virginia Military Institute, and Arthur Taylor (1850-1926) was a graduate of Washington (later Washington-Lee). Both Jock and Arthur Taylor knew Robert E. Lee. It would be these three brothers who would continue the highly successful farming operation that had been built by their father. Following G.W.’s untimely death in 1866, Elizabeth Ann bequeathed these young men parcels of land as their inheritance.

Prior to his death and again demonstrating the value G.W. placed on education, he hired a tutor for his grandchildren who would ultimately play a key role as mistress of Henderson Hall. Her name was Anna Rosalie McIntosh and she hailed from South Carolina. Anna must have been an interesting addition to the Henderson home. She was well traveled, well educated, and apparently well suited to the family for she married G.W. and Elizabeth’s eleventh child, Jock. The young man was obviously smitten by this young woman who was intelligent, educated, talented, and a very progressive woman of her time. The marriage took place in 1870 and Anna Rosalie became a member of the strong, successful, and prestigious Hendersons of Wood County, West Virginia.

Anna Rosalie was born in Cheraw, South Carolina on July 1, 1853. Her father owned a general store and was quite prosperous until a Civil War embargo ruined his business venture. Mr. McIntosh took his family and moved to the safety of Brazil,
remaining there throughout the duration of the War. During the period of
Reconstruction, the McIntosh family returned to their home in South Carolina. Anna
attended a French school in Philadelphia where she was found to be a bright student with
exceptional writing skills. Needing to find a source of income, Anna’s father created a
traveling show that consisted of paintings of Brazil. Although it was a creative idea, the
show did not do well and folded in Marietta, Ohio. Needing to help supplement her
family’s income, Anna Rosalie accepted the job as a tutor for the Henderson
grandchildren.

Anna Rosalie’s life bears a strong resemblance to other farmwomen of her era but
with one striking difference; she was well educated and a published author. A few of her
works were published in some popular publications of the day and in 1900, Vanity
Publications published her book of poems entitled *Life and Song*. Her stories, poetry,
and extensive journaling were her retreat from the drudgeries and tasks she faced daily.
She was, after all, a farmer’s wife with daily tasks that, at times, seemed insurmountable.
Her journals reflect that she often felt weighted down both physically and emotionally.
Yet her journals also contained her joys and contentment. Never afraid to express the
gamut of her emotions, she gives the reader a window into life in the Victorian Era.

Anna Rosalie bore seven children of which only five survived to adulthood. Little
Hope died when she was only four months old and little Arthur Edgar was only seven
months old when he died from spinal meningitis. It is evident that the deaths of these two
little ones plagued Anna throughout her lifetime as her grief is often expressed in her
journals, particularly on the anniversaries of their deaths. Anna loved all of her children
deaftly and took great pride in their development. They were the bright spot in her life
and her journals are filled with their activities, antics, funny quips, and achievements. Her love of family, both immediate and extended, is apparent in her writings. Family is where she sought her comfort and stability.

George Travis Henderson was the eldest of Anna and Jock’s children. Born in 1880, George seemed to fit the stereotypical role of the oldest child. He was a hard worker, leader, industrious, serious, and responsible. After graduating from Marietta College, George married a local girl, Rachel Margaret Byer, on April 26, 1902. They set up housekeeping in a small house on the Henderson farm next to Henderson Hall. The house was originally occupied by Jock’s brother, Henry Clay (Hal), who had recently moved his family to Williamstown. George and Rachel had four children who were frequently mentioned with much affection in their grandmother’s journals. George worked for the railroad and was killed in a train wreck in 1928. Fortunately his death occurred a year after his mother’s passing as his demise would have been difficult for her to bear. Anna worried so much over her children in life that to have to witness one of their deaths in adulthood would have been a devastation for her.

The next child born to Jock and Anna was a beautiful little girl named Rosalie McMahon Henderson. From her birth in 1883 until her death in 1966, Rosalie brought joy to the Henderson family. She was kind, considerate, helpful, artistically talented, and always the good and dutiful daughter. She was Anna’s right hand and in later years the caretaker for her father, nephew, and unwed brother. Rosalie never married although she had several beaus. Family tradition contends her father discouraged all of her suitors because he wanted her to care for him until his death. Anna often mentioned Rosalie, or Wodie as she was lovingly nicknamed, in her journals. She stated that Wodie was
frequently ill, frail, and nervous. Anna mentioned these conditions in conjunction with herself and others in her journals which allow the reader to believe these conditions to be a preoccupation of the times. Anna often mentions what a joy and bright spot Rosalie was in her life. Wodie made many of their clothes, helped wallpaper, painted china and jewelry, painted pictures, designed and decorated with needlework, and helped with the interior design of the house. She was also musically talented and a pianist. Her mother often praised her bright mind while lamenting the fact that Rosalie could not continue her education to the same level as the boys. Ever constant, ever dutiful was Rosalie.

On March 16, 1885, Anna gave birth to another little girl, Hope. However, their joy was short lived as little Hope passed away on July 27, 1885. Anna mentioned Hope in her journals on the anniversaries of her death and at various other times. There is no doubt that her heart was broken by the death of her precious little girl. The pain was so apparent and descriptive that anyone reading the journals can feel the distress and suffering in their heart as well.

Jock Lee was born in 1886 and once again there was joy in Henderson Hall. Anna often wrote of Lee in her journals. She was intensely proud of his ability to learn, recite, and to create poems and stories. Anna would often mention her boys and their exploits but was also quick to share how good, obedient, and helpful they were. She often noted how willingly Lee would try to help ease his mother’s burdens. He continued his education at a business college, but Anna’s journals record of her deep concern for his health, often mentioning how thin and sickly he seemed. There is evidence that he was sick sometime in his twenties and was sent away to a hospital for a time. Family tradition says that he probably suffered from tuberculosis and was in a sanitarium for a time. It
seems as though he suffered from love sickness as well, and proposed to the one woman whom he deeply loved. Her father would not allow the romance to continue because of Lee’s illness. Lee recovered from his infirmity and remained healthy enough to live to be eighty-four years of age. However, he remained a bachelor, ever forlorn over his lost love. Excluding two brief times when he went away to work, Lee spent his entire life at Henderson Hall. In researching the Henderson family, it appears as though they would fall in love with one person who would be their love for life. If that love was unrequited, the Hendersons remained single. If they married, they were loyal and faithful to their partner “for better or for worse”. A fine lesson can be learned by their example.

In 1889 another son entered the Henderson family. Don Lithgow was the name of this talented child who would bring more joy into this already talented and gifted family. Anna records that Don was involved in many antics with his older brothers, but was also a good and dutiful son. His mother is quick to credit him with his acquiescent behavior particularly after Lorna, the youngest, was born. As Don matured he became very handsome, tall, popular, and slightly conceited. He had a wonderful baritone voice and was quick to volunteer a song whenever the occasion arose. He gave recitals and toured with the Guily Opera Company for approximately one year. He voice was also a popular addition at local gatherings. He married Genevieve Brake. The childless couple settled a few miles south of Henderson Hall in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

On November 23, 1891, rejoicing was again apparent at Henderson Hall in the form of another boy. They called him Piper and all loved, held, and doted on him incessantly, especially his mother, Anna. One must ask why she was so taken with this new addition to the family. Was it because at age thirty-eight she believed herself near
the end of her child bearing years or was it because he was, as she frequently wrote in her journal, colicky? During the last week of 1891 Anna tells of an epidemic of “the grippe” of which her husband had succumbed as well as other family members. She speaks of how worn out she was caring for family members as well as the colicky baby. When one considers the house has twenty-nine rooms and forty-two steps in a staircase that is thirty-five feet high, it is easy to understand the woman’s fatigue as she goes from room to room to care for the sick. Besides her husband’s illness, she records that little two-year-old Don had a cold and the baby had thrush. Anna feels a great weight on her shoulders and believes she is much too cross with her children and husband. That winter of 1891 is filled with so much sickness that she hardly left the house which simply added to her despondency.

Perhaps she doted over this new arrival because she had a premonition that something terrible was going to happen to Piper. Whatever the reason for her intense love and fondness for Piper, it did not prevent his death on June 1, 1892 at 8:00 a.m. after a long night of intense suffering from what the doctor diagnosed as spinal meningitis. At this point in Anna’s journals, even the toughest character would soften as she cries out in pain and grief. When Piper died he did not have a name. The Hendersons referred to their newborns as “Baby” even up to one year of age before they were given a name. In her journal, Anna says that Rosalie would not allow them to bury Piper until he was given a name. The family decided on Arthur Edgar. And so after only six and one-half months of life, little Arthur Edgar was laid to rest next to his baby sister, Hope, in the Henderson family cemetery.
At this point in her diaries Anna felt as if she could barely carry on. Her hired girl, Mary, had quit in the spring and Anna had even more tasks than before. She complained that she had enough trouble trying to keep up with the cooking, dishes, and other chores before, let alone all of the added household duties. She continued to have hired girls but was unhappy with most of them, finding them to be lazy and insolent, unacceptable traits on a busy farm.

Most of Anna’s diaries are filled with information of how tiring and tedious the day-to-day operation of a farm at the turn of the century could be. And yet her artistic and creative side could not overlook the beauty in nature that surrounded her every day. She describes the beauty of an ice storm, snow in winter, baby animals frolicking in spring, the colors of autumn, and soft gentle rains falling to quench the parched earth in summer. Her home had been filled with sorrow, but it was also filled with music, laughter, art, and creativity.

Three years after the death of little Piper, Anna Rosalie bore her final child, Lorna Thomlinson. Lorna was the child who challenged Anna’s patience the most. From birth, her personality differed greatly from all the rest. Anna described her daughter as an incessant romp who had a great deal of energy that needed to be worked off. Anna often praised her son, Don, for his patience and caring for this difficult to manage little girl. She was a bright child but her mother feared that her life would be filled with many storms and battles and Lorna would fight against rather them rather than ride them out.

Anna proved to be prophetic and insightful for Lorna was the Henderson’s prodigal child. She often skipped school so they sent her away to boarding school where she frequently ran away. In October of 1911, Lorna, age sixteen, ran away from home
and married. She believed this would certainly save her from her father’s out-stretched hand so as not to be forced to return home. Lorna bore one child from this short-lived matrimony whose name was Paul. She divorced her husband and with her small son in tow, returned to Henderson Hall for brief visits. Lorna promptly chose to pursue an acting career and sent her small son to Henderson Hall to be reared by his mother’s family. On occasion Paul would go west to stay, but these visits were infrequent and short. Most of his life was spent at Henderson Hall where his Aunt Rosalie and Uncle Lee became his surrogate parents. In her later years, Lorna returned to Henderson Hall to live. She was, after all, family and it was the family’s home. However, there were scars that never healed between family members, including the chasm that spanned the relationship with her son. She was brash, hurtful, and seemed to make it a goal to hurt all who surrounded her. The family tradition hints that it was believed she suffered from paranoia. Lorna paid the high price that often accompanies selfishness, that of loneliness and silent rejection. Lorna’s stubborn will caused her to battle against everyone and every thing in life and she died never knowing the peace and love that can be obtained from the surrendering of one’s self to others.

As the years progressed to the turn of the century, the reader can observe the different turn Anna’s journals begin to take. Society’s women, in general, were beginning to form clubs and societies with which they could improve and educate themselves. The call for woman’s suffrage was all around. Anna, whose children were now mostly grown, found herself in the prime of her life and ready to help better the station of women everywhere. She was ready to venture beyond the confines of the farm and become involved in political and community affairs.
In June 1902, Anna attended the commencement at Marietta College where she recorded it was only the sixth commencement since women were admitted to the college. The valedictorian was a young woman as were all of the others who carried off the highest honors. She expressed that women were finally coming into their place and they should all be proud and rejoice in their advancements. Anna also became an active member of her church’s Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society and the community’s Literary Club. She was often asked to recite her poetry for special occasions and attended lectures, concerts, revivals, suffrage meetings and various other assemblies. Her daughter, Rosalie, or one of her sisters often accompanied her to these gatherings. She relished this fellowship of women.

Anna Rosalie was often found expressing a yearning to break the traditional roles of women. Yet these were the same roles which often held her captive. She wrote of situations in which she believed her husband’s treatment of her to be unfair, but could not find the strength to fight it. That was not to say they were unhappy, because she equally praises Jock in his kindesses toward her. She was unable to vote yet she was quick to voice her strong opinions and side with her husband’s political party, the Democrats. She was downcast when the Republicans were so successful in their bid for the presidency for so many years and elated when the Democrats elected Woodrow Wilson in 1912. More politically involved than she might have realized, Anna attended a lecture in Parkersburg, West Virginia given by a lecturer from the Georgia Temperance Society. Anna was overjoyed when liquor was voted out of West Virginia. Politically she was vocal and opinionated and yet she could not envision the power of a woman’s vote.
Anna Rosalie died at Henderson Hall on April 25, 1927. Her cause of death was recorded as “natural causes”. In her journals she often referred to her many ailments including weaknesses, rheumatism, fatigue, and nervousness. Her granddaughter, Jean, believed her grandmother’s body simply wore out as a result of her hard work and the purgatives that she and the others of her generation believed were essential to good health. It is now known that too many purgatives are harmful to the body.

Anna Rosalie McIntosh Henderson was loved and appreciated by all her knew her. Through her extensive journals her beauty, love, and strength have crossed the barriers of time. She was loved and admired by her husband, children, and grandchildren and will always be remembered as a pillar of the Henderson family.

Jock Bedell Henderson lived to the ripe old age of ninety-four and was dutifully cared for by his daughter Rosalie. Although the Henderson farm ceased to be a valley-wide operation of importance after 1935, portions of the land remained in use in succeeding decades for grazing and corn production.

Still nestled in the rolling hills of the Ohio Valley, Henderson Hall stands as a stately reminder of the days of long ago. Her walls have entertained such important visitors as William Henry Harrison, Johnny Appleseed, the Blennerhassetts, and countless others, but the most cherished of all were the generations of the Henderson family members. Their story is filled with joys, sorrows, victories, and defeats, all of the characteristics that create a legacy and heritage. The Hendersons are among those to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the role they played in helping to create this beautiful valley that so many have called home.
CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following information is the researcher’s reflections and recommendations on this project.

Lessons Learned:

The first thing the researcher learned from this project is that a project of this magnitude requires countless hours of stamina and research. With every trip to Henderson Hall, the researcher found new and valuable information. The researcher discovered that without a timeline it would be impossible to see this project to fruition. However, the journey was enjoyable and worth all of the hours of painstaking research.

The researcher also discovered that recording information from a direct descendent of the Henderson family was a valuable tool in this research. The acquiring of his knowledge of the family’s history was extensive and invaluable. A researcher should never overlook such a goldmine as a living family member in this type of research.

It is also imperative for the researcher to take ample and precise notes and appropriately file all documents, journals, and pictures to ensure quick referencing when needed. This type of organization will only prove to enhance the process.

Finally, becoming immersed in the information led the researcher to a better understanding of the people, places, and events of the story and history in general. The researcher found the journey to be an enjoyable one.
Main Findings or Outcomes:

The researcher was quick to discover that the story of the Henderson family could and should be made into a book. At the very least, a book could be used in history classrooms in the Ohio Valley as well as for the local interest section of bookstores in the area. Some of the information could be used in Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and even American History text books.

The researcher also discovered the wealth of historical documents that need to be preserved for posterity. Certainly this will be left to the discretion of the owner, but the research of worthy foundation should be pursued.

Implications of the Study:

The researcher believes the process of this story could be replicated by others who would choose to share an historical story with posterity. The legacy and heritage of Americans who have made a difference in the settling of this great land deserve to be told. It is the hope of this researcher that others will take the time to undertake a project of this nature and share the story of the pioneers of this great land.