Elijah Arnold was born in 1771 Fauquier County, VA (d. 8 Dec 1849 Lewis Co., (W)V) and on March 31, 1814 married Prudence Jackson (b. 25 Jan 1789 Clarksburg, Harrison Co., (W)V, d. 21 Jun 1855 Weston, Lewis Co., (W)V). “Elijah Arnold and Prudence Jackson became the ancestors of most of the Arnolds in Lewis County, West Virginia.”[1] This article list their children and grandchildren, several who were prominent individuals of Lewis and the surrounding counties. A previous article by the author discussed the parentage of Elijah Arnold (Jackson Brigade Express Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 4, August 1999).

Prudence was the sixth child of George and Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson and was raised in Clarksburg, WV. In 1807 she moved to Zanesville, Ohio, with her father. The following is from an old record found in the Clerk’s office at Zanesville, Ohio:

“...It is hereby certified that on Thursday, the 31st of March, 1814, I joined in marriage relation Elijah Arnold of the County of Fauquier of Virginia, and Prudence Jackson, of the County of Muskingum, Zanesville, Ohio.”

Culbertson, V. D. M.

A year before in 1813, Elijah Arnold had made his deed of gift. It begins:

“Know all men by these presents that I, Elijah Arnold, of Forquor [Fauquier] County, and State of Virginia. For and in consideration of the mutual love and affection which I bear to Miss Prudence Jackson, a daughter of Col. George Jackson, of the State of Ohio. Have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Prudence Jackson, her heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, the following property: ...”[2]

In his gift, Elijah gave her one half interest in his merchant mill and land adjacent on the Fiery Run, the dwelling house and four acres, the Mill seat on the main branch of the Rappahannock River and adjoining land. He also gave Prudence a Mulatto woman named Judah, and her infant twins and her boy Washington.[2]

The following tribute to Prudence and Elijah was probably written by their great-granddaughter Mary Prudence (Mccellen) O’Hara, d/o John Harper McClellen and Floride Arnold [3].

“This marriage took place in 1814. Elijah Arnold was prepared to escort his bride, a tall stately brunette, to her new home in grand style. His handsome carriage, with its silver trappings and many outriders, had four magnificent blooded horses to draw it. On their way to Virginia they made a stop in Clarksburg and visited at the stately home of the bride’s brother, John G. Jackson. This visit was long remembered by the people.
of Clarksburg on account of the magnificent appearance of the groom and the splendor of his equipage. The like of which had never been seen in Clarksburg before.

“Elijah Arnold” was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1772. He was a planter and merchant. Having inherited a great fortune from both his father, Isaac Arnold, and his mother, who was Mary Porter, the eldest child of Samuel Porter.

“In [1824] Col. George Jackson gave his daughter Prudence one mile square, or 640 acres, of his wild land in Collins Settlement. A certain portion of which was “to be laid off in town lots and sold for the benefit of my daughter Prudence.” The town was to be called Jacksonville. December 1825, she sold [many] acres of this land to Henry Camden. Soon after this Elijah Arnold lost his large estate. He had been going security for relatives and friends, and was obliged to pay their debts. Everything was lost. Even the property of the deed of gift and although many years were lost in trying to regain her dower, Prudence Jackson was never able to recover anything.

“In 1827 they moved to Clarksburg. About 1830 they moved to “Collins settlement” where they built a two-story log house. A village soon sprung up and in [1858] the name was changed to Jacksonville. This log house, which is still standing, was white washed and called by the settlers for miles around the “Big White House.”

“Elijah Arnold” was tall, of fine carriage, was considered by many as one of the handsomest men of that day. He was very literary and spent the remaining years of his life among his books and papers.

“Prudence Jackson” seemed to have possessed a strong character, evidently she inherited much from her grandmother, Elizabeth Cummins. The following item is taken from her obituary, “She was a woman of strong intellect and possessed much useful and practical information.” At the time of their moving to Collins Settlement the county was but sparsely settled, and very little of the county had been cleared of woods. The Arnold boys were young and to encourage them their mother would take her knitting to the clearing and sit there, while they worked. She held high ambitions for her children, and did much towards helping them in their several achievements.

“In the fall of each year it was customary for Elijah Arnold to make an annual visit to Virginia, so that he might attend mass of the Roman Catholic Church at Winchester, of which he was a member. On his return from one of these visits he stopped in Weston to visit his son, William Edward Arnold, was taken ill and died [of “Gravel” states Lewis Co., (W)V Mortality Schedule, 1850] on December 8, 1849, and is buried in the old Arnold cemetery [Near end of Arnold Street, Weston, WV].

“Some time after his death Prudence (Jackson) Arnold moved to Weston and made her home with her unmarried son, George Jackson [Arnold]. Although at the time he invited her to come and live with him, she remarked that “yes” she would come to his house to live, but that hereafter it was to be her home and that he could live with her. There she died June 21, 1855, and was laid to rest at the side of her husband. The Collins Settlement land which she inherited from her father she gave to her sons.”[3]

The children and grandchildren of Elijah and Prudence (Jackson) Arnold are the following:[3, 4]

In 1830, when only 14 years old, George Jackson Arnold moved with his parents to Old Collins Settlement now Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV. In his youth, George Jackson Arnold was a famous hunter[5], a great mower and a champion cradler. He once cradled seven acres of oats for William Bennett in one day[6].

Later he taught school in a log house near Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV. In 1848, he was admitted to the bar and formed a large law practice in Weston. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Lewis Co. in 1852 and again in 1856. In 1861 he was elected to the Legislature of Virginia. The Civil War coming on George J. Arnold, being opposed to secession, went as a delegate to Wheeling in July, 1861, where the Legislature of the Restored Government of Virginia was in session. He was placed on the committee to prepare a bill for the formation of a new State and gave the movement his hearty support. He was the draughtsman of the bill that gave the country the new state of West Virginia.[7]

George J. Arnold retired to private life after West Virginia was made a State remaining in his law practice and farming and stock raising until 1878 when he was elected to the House of Delegates of West Virginia. Around 1880, he started a store and “The Indian Farm Hotel” at Arnold, Lewis Co., WV. The Hotel became a central freight station with stock pens for the B&O Rail Road and was known as Arnold Station. In his time, he was one of the largest landowners and cattle grazers in West Virginia[7].

Before George J. Arnold was married to Ann Swick, he fathered three children from three different women -- Susan Wheeler, Miss Allman and Miss Harris. All three mothers were given land by him[8]. The Harris boy died at the age of seventeen. Legend tells us that Susan Wheeler’s daughter Amanda Jane was raised by her grandmother Prudence and other members of the family. Amanda Jane Arnold (b. 15 Mar 1841 Lewis Co., WV; d. 16 Dec 1881 Lewis Co. WV, bur. Hall Cem., Abram’s Run, Lewis Co., WV) m. on 15 Mar 1861 Lewis Co., WV, John Strange Hall (b. 29 Jan 1826 Big Skin Creek, Lewis Co., WV; d. 30 Mar 1912 Abram’s Run, Lewis Co., W, bur. same Hall cem.). John was a brother of Joseph Hall who married George’s sister Mary Elizabeth Arnold. Amanda and John had nine children.

George J. Arnold and Ann Swick had the following children:


b). Ada Arnold (b. 2 Aug 1868; d. 2 Oct. 1871, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV)

c). Genevieve A. Arnold (b. 14 May 1869) m. aft. 1900 Mr. T. J. Brown, res. Washington, DC.

d). Mary D’Arcy Arnold (b. ca 1872; d. 31 Oct 1900 Denver, CO, age 29, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV) m. John W. Williams (d. 21 Jan 1901 Weston, age 34, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV). John was a telephone operator.
e). Maude A. Arnold (b. 16 Mar 1874) m. aft. 1900 Mr. Edward A. Gillan/Gillon, res. Washington, DC.

f). Col. Jackson Arnold (b. 16 Sep 1875; d. 6 Jun 1933 Weston, WV of pneumonia) m. 18 Apr 1908 Mary Mayme Cox, (b. 1884; d. 21 Mar 1928, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV), d/o James Cox of Ashland, KY. Jackson was a Captain in Spanish American War and a Lieutenant Colonel in WWI. He was an attorney and the first Superintendent of WV State Police.

g). George F. A. Arnold (b. 2 Nov 1877 Weston, Lewis Co., WV; d. 11 Jan 1919) m. 5 May 1905 Weston, WV, Bertie Rohrbough (b. 7 Aug 1879 Lewis Co., WV; d. 6 Oct 1958 Albuquerque, NM), d/o Nicholas Columbus and Sarah Catherine (West) Rohrbough.

h). Florence “Florrie” A. Arnold (b. 16 Apr 1870) m. #1 Lee Gorrell; m. #2 13 Aug 1928 Howard Elmer Williams.


William Edward Arnold studied under Professor Wheeler at Rector College. He studied law at Pruntytown, WV and Staunton, VA and moved to Weston where he obtained his license to practice law in 1845. He held a prominent position for many years at the bar. He was elected to represent Lewis Co. in the Virginia State Legislature in 1857 and reelected in 1859. He was active and zealous in procuring the passage of the act establishing the Lunatic Asylum in Weston, the first such institution west of the Alleghany Mountains. He was appointed one of the Asylum’s original Directors. He was elected in 1876 to represent Lewis Co. in the WV Legislature. He was also an extensive farmer and stock grazer.

William Edward Arnold and Susan Martin Wilson had eight children of which only three lived to maturity.

a). Mary Arnold (b. 8 Mar 1849 Weston, Lewis Co., WV; d. 21 Aug 1925, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV) m. 11 Apr 1871 Dr. Thomas Bland Edmiston (b. 1 Dec 1844 Weston, Lewis Co., WV; d. 26 Dec 1894 Baltimore, bur. Machpelah, Cem., Weston, WV), s/o Matthew and Minerva (Bland) Edmiston. Mary and Thomas lived in the “Big White House” built in 1830 by Prudence and Elijah Arnold. Thomas was Asst. Superintendent at the Weston WV Hospital for the Insane.

b). Allene Arnold (b. 2 Sep 1852; d. 5 Nov 1855 of scarlet fever, in Weston, Lewis Co., WV)

c). Floride “Flodie” Arnold (b. 2 Jul 1854 Weston, WV; d. 23 Jun 1919, bur. Arnold Hill Cem., Weston, Lewis Co., WV) m. 15 Apr 1885 Lewis Co., WV, John Harper
McClellen (b. 9 Dec 1847 Greene Co., PA; d. 6 Aug 1887 Louisville, KY, bur. Arnold Hill Cem., Weston, Lewis Co., WV). Flodie was a member of DAR (Vol. 67, p. 187). John was a civil engineer with the B&O RR and lived in Cincinnati, OH.

d). Douglas Arnold (b. 10 May 1856 Weston, WV; d. Dec 1856 of spinal infection in Weston, WV)

e). William Edward Arnold (b. 14 Apr 1859; d. young bef. 1870)

f). Susan Arnold (b. 22 Nov 1860; d. 22 Jul 1862)

g). Wilson A. Arnold (b. 19 Dec 1862 Lewis Co., WV; d. 27 Nov 1933 Jackson’s Mills, Lewis Co., WV, bur. Arnold Hill Cem., Weston, Lewis Co., WV) m. #1 Gertude Patricia Davisson (b. ca 1870 Lewis Co., WV; d. 10 Oct 1894 Lewis Co., WV of consumption), d/o George and Elizabeth Davisson. M. #2 Mrs. Rhoda Lee Garrett.

h). Arnold child d. young.

3. Mary Elizabeth Arnold (b. 6 Dec. 1819 Fauquier Co., VA; d. 1 Oct 1907 Roanoke, Lewis Co., WV, bur. Hall Family Cem., Roanoke, WV, later moved to Forest Lawn Cem., Weston, WV) m. 9 Dec 1844 Lewis Co., WV Joseph Hall (b. 18 Jan 1820 Skin Creek, Lewis Co., WV; d. 2 Feb 1885 at home in Roanoke, Lewis Co., WV, bur. Hall Family Cem., Roanoke, WV, later moved to Forest Lawn Cem., Weston, WV), s/o Jonathan Strange and Elizabeth (Reger) Hall.

Elizabeth (Arnold) Hall attended school in Clarksburg. Joseph Hall was a prominent farmer, ran a store and was Postmaster at Bushes Mills, Lewis Co., WV. Elizabeth laid off a town near her home and her brother William E. Arnold gave it the name “Roanoke” after Roanoke, VA.


b). Anzina “Anna” Hall (b. 18 May 1848 Lewis Co., WV; d. 2 Jun 1927 Manchester, OH) m. 27 Nov 1884 Robert Newton Ramsey, s/o William and Martha Ramsey.

c). George William Hall (b. 2 Aug 1853 Roanoke, WV; d. 4 Aug 1922 Roanoke, WV, bur. Hall Family Cem., Roanoke, WV, later moved to Forest Lawn Cem., Weston, WV) m. Mary Virginia Christian (b. 29 Sep 1860; d. 1 Mar 1955, bur. Hall Family Cem., Roanoke, WV, later moved to Forest Lawn Cem., Weston, WV), d/o Dr. Edmund O. Christian.

d). Helen Eliza Hall (b. 18 Mar 1857; d. bef. Aug 1900) m. 23 Sep 1884 George Clark, s/o G. B. and M. Clark; res. Dearborn, MO in 1914.

f). Charles C. Hall (b. 4 Jul 1860 Lewis Co., WV) single, went west and died bef. 1907.

4. Porter Mandeville Arnold (b. 4 Mar 1821/22 in Fauquier Co., VA; d. 22 Nov 1861 Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV from shot gun wounds after being bushwhacked by William G. Pierson during the Civil War [3], bur. Jacksonville Cem., Lewis Co., WV) m. #1 Susan Jane Asbury/Ashberry (b. 1829 Pruntytown, Taylor Co., WV; d. 3 Jul 1858, bur. Jacksonville Cem., Lewis Co., WV), d/o John and Leah Ashberry; m. #2 30 Jan 1859 Lewis Co., WV, Julia A. Stephenson (b. ca 1833) of Pendleton Co., VA.

Porter M. Arnold was educated at Pruntytown College where he met Susan his first wife. He ran a store in Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV and was the Postmaster in Jacksonville from 1858-1861. He was a Justice of the Peace and responsible for maintaining law and order during the Civil War when he was shot on 19 Oct 1861 by a lawless gang lead by William Pierson. He died later from these wounds.

a). Laura Ann Arnold (b. 1849 Taylor Co., WV; d. 1 Jul 1871 age 21 of consumption) m. 12 Mar 1867 John/James B. Watson.

b). Cora Ellen Arnold (b. May 1850) m. William Martin.

c). Leah Prudence Arnold (b. ca 1854) m. Mr. Bennett.

d). George Jackson Arnold (b. ca 1860)

5. Sarah Catherine “Kate” Arnold (b. 1 May 1824 in Fauquier Co., VA; d. 30 Jun 1911 Weston, Lewis Co., WV, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV) m. 24 May 1849 Charles Swearington Hall (b. 4/30 May 1822 Fairmont, WV; d. 7 Jun 1857, Philippi, WV).

Sarah Arnold educated at Clarksburg. Charles S. Hall was a prominent attorney in Philippi, Upshur Co., WV. Sarah lived with her brother, George J. Arnold, after Charles’ death.

a). Ella Hall (b. 6 Aug 1850 Philippi, WV; d. 25 Jul 1924 Lewis Co., WV) Single; adopted two of her brother’s children William and Catherine.


6. John George Arnold (b. 1 Feb 1826 in Fauquier Co., VA; d. 30 Oct 1907 at home Weston, Lewis Co., WV, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV) m. #1 22 May 1855 Lucy Ann Bailey (b. 1837 Harrison Co., WV; d. 18 Jan 1877 Lewis Co., WV) of Weston, d/o John and Catherine (Bastable) Bailey; m. #2 on 16 Apr 1879 Artemissa Butcher (b. 1839 Lewis Co., WV; d. 24 Oct 1914 at age 82, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV), d/o John Butcher.
John George Arnold was educated in Pruntytown, WV. He was a prominent farmer and ran a store in Jacksonville, Lewis Co., WV. He also was a Postmaster and Justice of Peace in Jacksonville.

a). Ada Arnold (b. 5 Nov 1856; d. 11 Dec 1861 Lewis Co., WV)

b). Charles B. Arnold (b. 12 Dec 1858; d. 13 Mar 1883 Lewis Co. WV at age 25 of suicide, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV)

c). Georgianna “Jean” Arnold (b. 9 Sep 1860) m. John Morrow.

d). Florence A. “Florena” Arnold (b. Dec 1862 (tombstone) calculated 8 Jan 1863; d. 20 Sep 1886 at residence of John S. Fisher, Buckhannon, Upshur Co., WV, age 23y8m12d, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV)


John S. Fisher was educated at Washington and Lee College, Lexington, VA. He was a teacher and admitted to the bar before 1858 when he moved to the western part of Virginia, first in Ritchie Co. then in Buckhannon, Upshur Co. He was a successful lawyer in Buckhannon. His oratory was of a style of Henry Clay. He served as Prosecuting Attorney of Upshur Co. for a term.

a). Fisher Infant (b. dead 2 Jun 1862)

b). Wade Hampton Fisher (b. May 1864 Upshur Co., WV) m. 24 Dec 1889 Ella Newlon (b. ca 1867; d. 10 Apr 1941, age 74), d/o G. A. and A. E. Newlon. Wade was an attorney in Buckhannon, Upshur Co., WV, admitted to the bar in 1888.


f). John Howard Fisher (b. 5 Oct 1870 Buckhannon, Upshur Co., WV; d. 16 Feb 1933) m. #1 23 May 1900 Berta L. Bond (b. ca 1883), d/o A. L. and Barbara E. Bond. M #2 bef. 1907 Lynn F. “Linnie” Reger (b. 1 Mar 1889; d. 5 Jun 1917), d/o Mary J. and J.
B. Reger. [Researchers disagree on his marriages.] John operated a jewelry store across from post office in Buckhannon.


Henry Brannon located in Weston in 1858; graduated from University of Virginia in 1859; admitted to bar in 1859 and was Prosecuting Attorney during Civil War 1860-1865. He served in the WV House of Delegates from 1870-1871. He was Judge of 11th Judicial District 1881-1889; Supreme Court of Appeals of WV 1889-1905. He was author of “Treaties on Rights and Privileges” under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

a). Ida Jackson Brannon (b. 1860; d. 1949, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV) m. Dr. John Irvin Warder (b. 1856; d. 9 Feb 1919 age 62y6m8d of heart disease, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV)

b). Mary Hortense “Mamie” Brannon (b. May 1864; d. Huntington, WV, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV) m. James Joseph Whelan (b. 1866; d. 5 May 1886 Thomasville, GA of consumption, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV)


d). Edward Arnold Brannon (b. 4 Apr 1870; d. 1942, bur. Machpelah Cem., Weston, WV) m. Irma K. Cowey.

e). Ella M. Brannon (b. 1862) m. in 1883 Dr. Frank J. Flannery (b. 1858) of Baltimore, MD. Their dau. Eleanor Brannon Flannery was member of DAR (Vol. 70, p. 318).


Elijah Arnold and Prudence (Jackson) Arnold are buried in Arnold Hill Cemetery, Weston, Lewis Co., WV.
Notes


4. Much of the information on children and grandchildren from extensive notes by Linda Brake Meyers who used cemetery readings, censuses, deeds, county records, obituaries and other sources. Ada Lea Fitz supplied valuable information on the line of Mary Elizabeth (Arnold) Hall.

5. George Jackson Arnold is the main character in a hunting story related in “The Pioneers” by John Strange Hall, originally appearing in a local Weston, WV newspaper and reprinted by HCPD, Horner, WV, 1996, pages 1-5.

