

**PIONEER SETTLERS
OF GRAYSON
COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

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Pioneer Settlers of Grayson County, Virginia by B. F. Nuckolls

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B. F. NUCKOLLS

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VIRGINIA

BY
B. F. NUCKOLLS
GALAX, VA.

1914
THE KING PRINTING COMPANY
LE ROI PRESS
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

Dedication



HIS book is dedicated to the memory of my father and mother, Clark Nuckolls and Rosa Bourne Hale Nuckolls; and also to other kindred and friends, many of whom have gone before, and many who are on their journey to the Mansions of Rest. ¶ We have lived and labored and loved together, and we hope to meet at last in the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who will finally gather all his faithful ones into their Heavenly Home.

INTRODUCTION

It is with unfeigned pleasure that I write these lines to introduce this modest volume to the reading public. I have known the author and the people of whom he writes for more than a half century. The author himself is of one of the old pioneer families who, by their courage and stalwart virtues, made Southwestern Virginia the garden spot of the world—"The land of the free, and the home of the brave." He was brought up among them, and is by blood akin to hundreds of them. He writes what he knows, and knows what he writes is true. The book is a recital of facts with but little embellishment—a garner for preserving for posterity, a history of the brave doings of the men and women of the generations gone by. This is clearly the author's purpose in writing it, and as such it is worthy of the hearty endorsement of the children of a noble ancestry. And it will be read by this and coming generations, not only in the happy homestead, the hills and valleys of Southwestern Virginia, but in many other states, for the sons of this hill country are spread far and wide over the South and West. Many men and women in the far off western plains will read with thrilling interest story after story of the early days of their fathers and grandfathers who felled the forests and drove the wolves and bears from their lurking dens, and built their log cabins by the spring. The springs of laughing waters are still there, but the log cabins of the pioneers are gone—and beautiful homesteads, waving harvests and lowing herds tell of the comfort and good cheer of the country. The ramshackle school house, in which the children learned their a b c's in the years long gone, are replaced with academies and high schools of architectural taste and

adapted to educational purposes. And instead of the log cabin or humble private home of the settlers in which the "circuit-rider" used to conduct divine services, now the "church-going-bell" in every neighborhood calls the people to worship in elegant houses of worship.

This book tells the how of all this change, and the worthy author merits the hearty thanks of all for putting the story in permanent form for preservation. I cordially commend it to book lovers of the day.

Knoxville, Tenn.
October, 1913.

D. SULLINS.

PREFACE

The times, opportunities, and surroundings have changed so much since the early settlement of this country that the people of the present generation do not realize what were the labors, privations, cares, and anxieties of their ancestors. They were such as try the nerve, strength, and fortitude of mankind.

History proves to us beyond a doubt that our noble ancestors, by strenuous labors and perseverance, changed the face of this country, which they found wild and uncultivated, and that we now enjoy the fruits of their labor, while they "Rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

They cut down the forests, built their log cabins and stables, cleared up the low-lands and swamps, cleaned up the hills and mountain sides. Their cattle, sheep, and hogs lived on the range, but had to be brought in at night near the cabin to protect them from the ravenous wolves and other wild animals that were plentiful then.

Bells were put on the cattle and sheep so that they could be found when they strayed away. The rich weeds and pea-vines and other vegetable growth afforded feed for the stock, and hogs fed on the mast, and foraged in the woodland. Pens were made, and the stock was driven into them at night, and often large log fires had to be built to keep the wolves away.

We are not attempting in this book to give sketches of all the families that have helped to make our section of the country what it now is, but will give some items of history and tradition that we think will be of interest to many and that have not hitherto been recorded.

We hope that those who scan these pages will not read with the eye of the critic but with appreciation of the facts and items that have been gathered together.

