VALLEY OF DREAMS AND MEMORIES

inexpensive gamble with dangerous current and an uncertain market.

I have lived in the forests, been owned and have seen his
descendants till the last in the valley that once added to his bank
account and it is little wonder that he has
to me a combination of
David Harum and Daniel Boone.

When told that Henry Ford said,
“history is the bank”, I become an
amazed doubter and take real pleasure
recording these facts as I see them,
hoping that they may cause the good
that my heroic pioneer ancestor did,
to live after him in the mind and
heart of descendants yet unborn.

Richard Biddle was born near
Penndale in the year 1819, the son
of Richard and Mary Flatt Biddle of
Dutch descent and Quaker religion.

His parents are buried in the Old
Friends Cemetery in Penndale.

His mother died and left several
children when Richard was six and as
seems to have been the custom in
those days the children were bound
out or morally adopted by families,
who needed their services, in
exchange for board, clothing
etc., the ad-o-l-o-gous representing
an uncertain quantity in the algebra
of life. Richard seems to have found
himself on the plus side of the equation
for there is no complaint
recorded of the foster parents, who
were the grandparents of Mrs. Sara
Cohen of Penndale and her present
home was the home of his parents.

The log house forewoman of the
present Bucknell home was on the site
now occupied by a large house.

At nineteen, he married Esther
Bird who was four years his junior
and they moved to the farm on War-
burnon Hill now owned by Dr. Silas
D. Pennington of Kingsington. Their
nine children were born here, five
died in infancy. The four survivors
all married and raised families. My
maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rachel
Norton is the only one who reached
the allocated three score and ten
years.

During the Civil War, he acquired
a large tract of land a part of the
Hill estate at Hillgrove and moved
there, occupying a log house on the
site of the Hillgrove hotel, the old
building served as a tavern for one
year and represented one of his many
interests.

He owned a saw mill that must
have stood near the home occupied
by grandmother Morlan and I have
been the site of one of his mills in
the small park near the Hillgrove
House.

His market was Harrahdurg and it
is doubtful if his life’s travels ever
took him farther from home than the
state capital.

With the coming of the turnpike to
Hillgrove, his farm became very
profitable. He built the hotel now
occupied by Geo. Walker and run it
for several years as a temperance
house. This building is a model of
excellence in material and workman-
ship, the interior is finished in expen-
sive black walnut.

The year 1881, he built the home
in which he and his good wife spent
their declining years, both dying in
the nineties.

Esther Biddle, his wife, grand-
mother Biddle to all Hillgrove, was
an angel of mercy to all who knew
her, a practical Christian, which
combined the friendship of Quakers
with the rude hospitality of her
environment. She lived to an old age
and buried all of her children except
my grandmother, yet never had a
railroad. Her name was a boon to the
friends, she was a friend and she reared three
orphans grandchildren. The Richard
and Esther Biddle family tree, so
far as my information reaches include
the first generation, all dead.

The second, third and fourth gen-
nerations widely scattered.

DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD
BIDDLE

Rachel—husband John W. Norton of
Elkhord. Children.

Anna—husband Ernest Vonzh.

Children seven.

Lyzan—wife Blanche Clark.

Children Gladys and Donald.

Fernella—husband Richard Sher-
man. Children three: Wilma,
Geraldine, Ortha.

Alice—husband Harold Miller.

Children two: Ralph.

Opal—husband Glen Hannah.

Ella—married—Children none.

David—married—Children one.

Esther.

Lynn—first wife, Hattie York.

Children two. Second wife.

Elnore—wife Anna Wurburman.

Children six.

Walker—wife Hazel Robbins.