

Chapter 5. The Arrington Home Place



G. W. Bailey, photographer

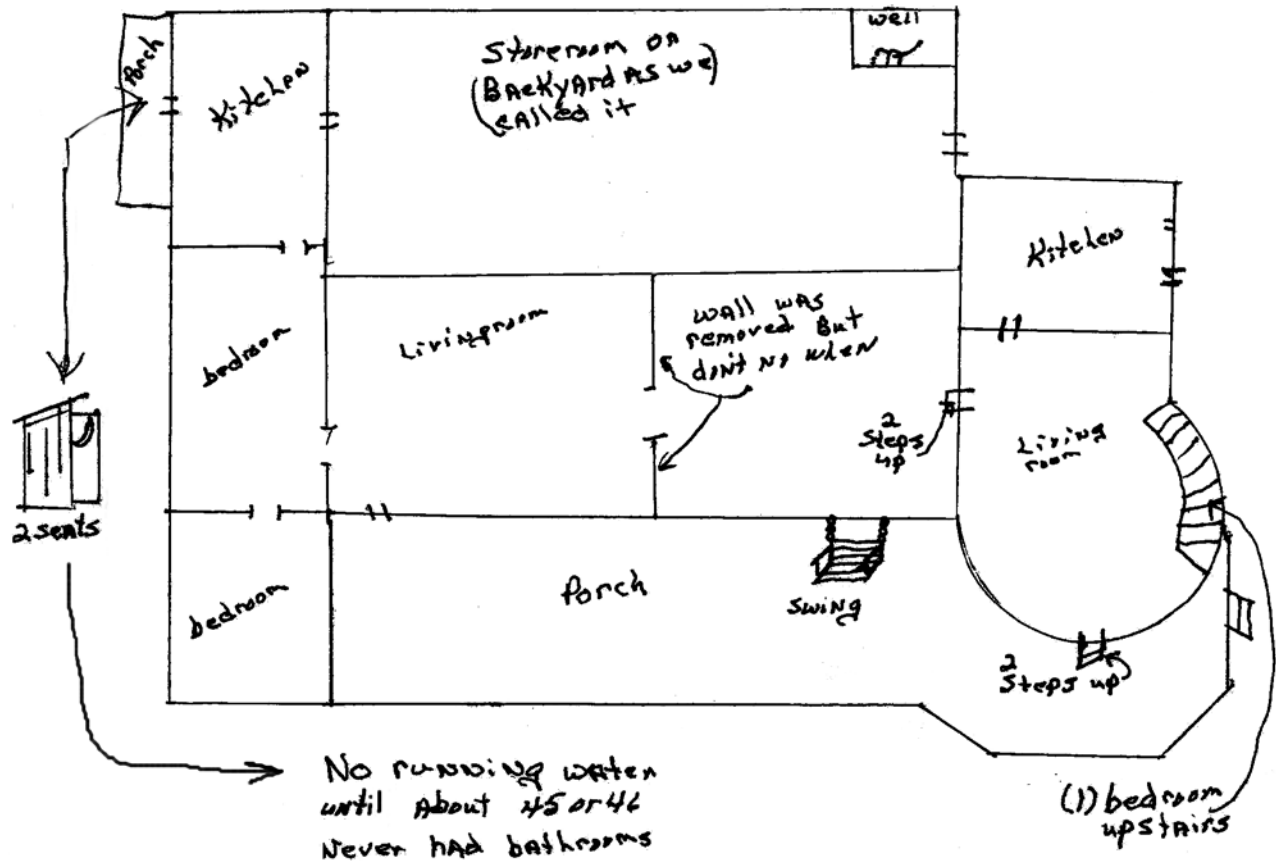
Sometime around 1919-20, Henry moved his family into a house at Duhring where their last two kids were born. The Victorian - Queen Anne style house is thought to have been built around 1917, by Henry and his nephews for a photographer by the name of G. W. Bailey, whose relative's owned the property surrounding the home.

Various stories have been told about how Henry got his house and property. Some say he bought it from one of the nephews, others say he bought it from "Black" Bailey. The Plat and Deed of the Duhring property says Pocahontas

Coal & Coke Company sold the property to Henry on February 24, 1924. It is probable that the house was purchased from Mr. Bailey, and the property later purchased from the coal company.

Henry's nephews, Robert L. and John W. Arrington, were establishing a presence in Duhring a little while before Henry and Alva got there. Being that Henry was from his father's younger second group of children, and the nephews were offspring from the first wife, they were all close to the same age. In 1900, Henry was 40, Robert 39, and John 33. The nephews raised cabbage and worked in timber. They later moved to the Princeton-Athens area of Mercer County where their families operated stores, service stations, barber shops, and other ventures. Their descendants still live and work in the area today.

It was a common practice for the coal companies to lease, or sell, property while retaining the mineral rights, creating a danger that the property could be mined right out from under the house. So sometimes leasing was a smarter option than buying.



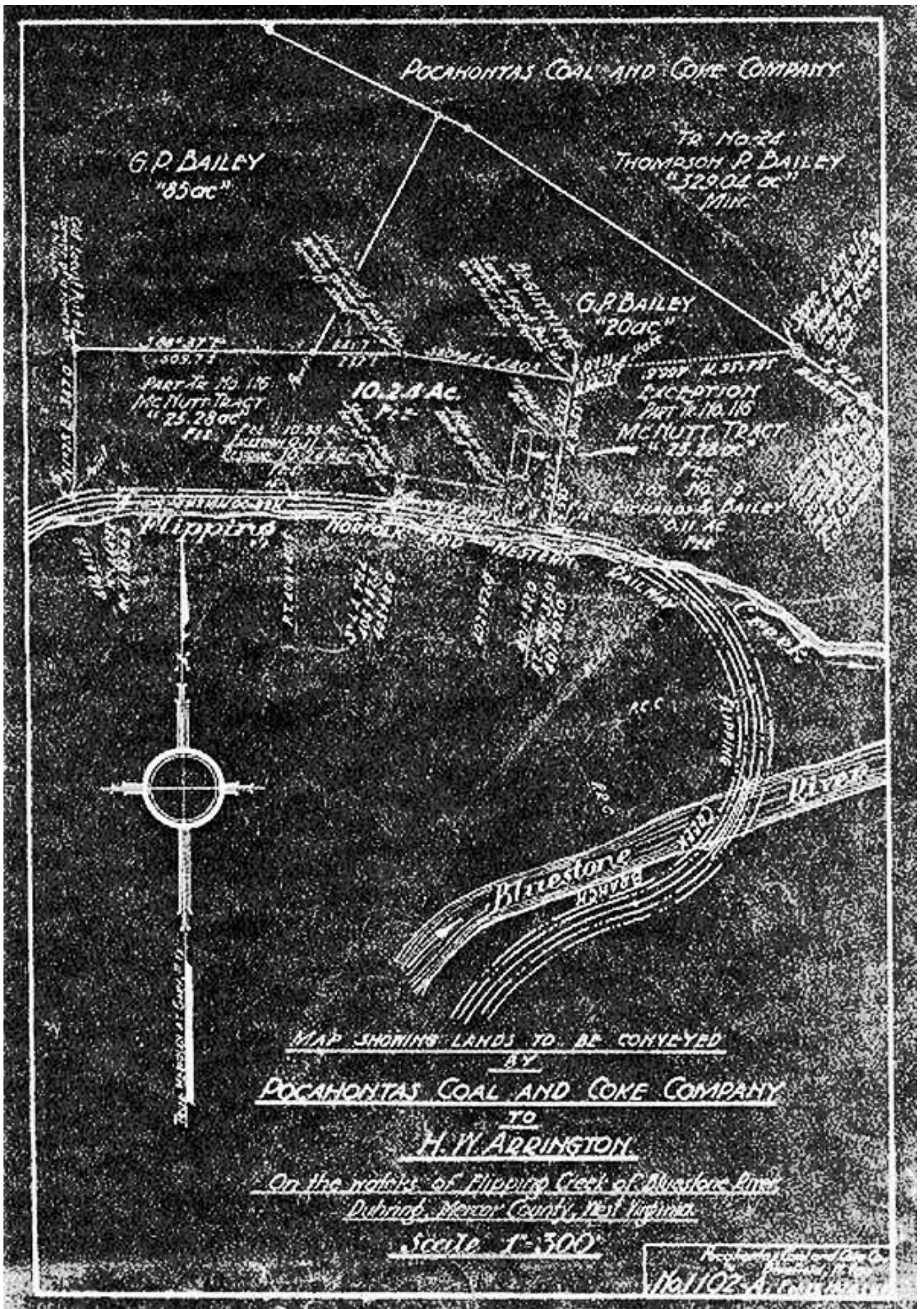
Sketch by Kent Arrington (Joe's son)

Some of Alva and Henry's children started their own families in rooms vacated by siblings that had left home. Several grandchildren were born and raised for a short while in the old home place. Many stories have been told of memories of time spent in the house. The house went through periods of various remodeling projects, but never received an indoor toilet. A double-holed outhouse on the left side of the yard was the privy of choice. The house was wired for electricity in the 1940s.

A few stories still being researched are about the numerous lightning rods atop the house. The photographs don't show them because the pictures were taken before the rods were attached, or they just don't show up very well on film.

Wise and Alva lived in Duhring until their deaths. The old home place sat abandoned for years and quickly became uninhabitable. After Alva's death the property was sold, the house torn down and another family started a life with a new house built in it's place.

The following pages include the Duhring home place Plat and Deed for reference.



POCAHONTAS
COAL &
COKE CO.
TO (DEED)
H. W.

ARRINGTON.
*Ex and
inside
H W
Arrington
Duhring
West Va
4-5-24*

THIS DEED, Made March 26th, 1924, between POCAHONTAS COAL AND COKE COMPANY, a corporation of New Jersey, authorized to hold property in West Virginia (hereinafter called Pocahontas Company); and H. W. ARRINGTON, of Duhring, Mercer County, West Virginia:

WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred Sixty-eight (\$768.00) dollars, Pocahontas Company does hereby grant and convey unto H. W. Arrington, his heirs and assigns, forever, with covenant of special warranty only, all that certain tract of land situated at Duhring, in the District of Cook, in the County of Mercer and State of West Virginia, on the waters of Flipping Creek of Bluestone River, being the residue of the McNutt "25.28 acre" Fee Tract No. 116 of Pocahontas Company, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

(Bearings in this description are referred to true meridian at Gary, West Virginia).

BEGINNING at the easternmost corner of the lands herewith described, said corner being marked by a large locust post at the corner of a fence on a hillside, said post being a corner also of the G. P. Bailey "20 Ac." Tract (a tie line to said beginning corner being as follows: Beginning at a stone under a fence, 4 feet northwest from a walnut bush, pointer, on top of a spur, said stone being in a line of the Southwesterly boundary of the Thompson P. Bailey "329.04 ac." Tract No. 24; thence S. 84° 56' W. 466.8 feet to a stake; thence E. 72° 29' W. 121.0 feet to said beginning corner); thence running along said "20 ac." Tract, S. 9° 16' W. 385.2 feet to a point in the easterly boundary of right of way of Flipping Creek Branch of Norfolk and Western Railway, and 15 feet from the center line thereof at Station 401+82.0 of same; thence leaving said "20 ac." Tract and running in a westerly direction along said right of way, by a line parallel to and 15 feet distant northwardly from said center line, running 110 feet to a point in a line perpendicular to said center line at Station 402+82.0 of same; thence in a northerly direction along said perpendicular line and away from said center line, running 75 feet to a point; thence in a westerly direction, by a line parallel to and 90 feet distant northwardly from said center line, running 290 feet to a point in a line perpendicular to said center line at station 406+82.0 of same; thence in a southerly direction, along said last mentioned perpendicular line and towards said center line, running 75 feet to a point; thence in a general westerly direction, by a line parallel to and 15 feet distant northwardly from said center line, running about 830 feet to a point in a line radial to said center line at Station 414+11.3 of same, said point being a corner also of the G. P. Bailey "85 ac." Tract; thence leaving said right of way and running along said "85 ac." Tract, N. 1° 23' E. 387.9 feet to an old locust post at the corner of a fence on a hillside; thence S. 88° 37' E. at about 609.7 feet leaving said "85 ac." Tract and again running along the beforementioned "20 ac." Tract, running 841.7 feet to a stake in an old post hold, where the corner post formerly stood; thence S. 80° 44' E. 440.3 feet to the beginning; containing by collation 10.35 acres, more or less, and being the residue of the McNutt "25.28 ac." Tract No. 116, owned by Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company in fee.

The lands herewith described are more fully shown on blueprint attached hereto and made part hereof, entitled: "Map showing lands to be conveyed by Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company to H. W. Arrington. On the waters of Flipping Creek of Bluestone River, Duhring, Mercer County, West Virginia, Scale 1"-300'," and marked in the lower right-

hand corner thereof; "Pocahontas Coal and Coke Co., Bluefield, W. Va. No. 1192-A, Feb. 25, 1924, L. H. R."

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING, HOWEVER, out of this conveyance Lot No. 8 in Block No. 12, in the Town of Duhring, which was excepted and reserved from the conveyance of said McNutt "25.28 acre" fee Tract No. 116 by Edward W. Clark, George C. Thomas and Sabin W. Colton, Jr., Trustees of the Flattop Coal Land Association, and the said Flattop Coal Land Association, to Pocahontas Company, by deed dated December 31, 1901, and recorded in Mercer County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 45, page 56, said Tract No. 116 being the Eighty-second tract described in said deed, and said lot being referred to as having been conveyed to Richards and Bailey; leaving a net area hereby conveyed of 10.24 acres, more or less.

THERE IS FURTHER EXCEPTED from the operation of this conveyance all claims, rights of action and damages which may accrue to the land hereby conveyed and to the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, on account of cinders, material and debris that may be deposited now or hereafter in or near Flipping Creek and its waters, by lessees of the Pocahontas Company, about their mining operations, and washed down the stream upon said land; and the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, shall have no right of action, present or future, on account thereof.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, subject to the exceptions and reservations aforesaid, unto said H. W. Arrington, his heirs and assigns, forever.

WITNESS the following signature and seal, the day and year first above written.

REV. STAMPS \$1.00
(SEAL)

POCAHONTAS COAL AND COKE COMPANY.
By N. D. Maher, President.

Attest, O. Lynn Bottomley, Secretary.

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
CITY OF ROANOKE, to-wit:

I, W. A. Carpenter, a Notary Public of the said City of Roanoke, in and for the State and City aforesaid, do certify that N. D. Maher and O. Lynn Bottomley this day personally appeared before me in my said City, and being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that the said N. D. Maher is the President and the said O. Lynn Bottomley is the Secretary of the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company, the corporation described in the writing above, bearing date the 25th day of March, A. D. Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-four (1924) authorized by said corporation to execute and acknowledge deeds and other writings of said corporation, and that the seal affixed to said writing, purporting to be the seal of the said Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company, is the corporate seal of that corporation, and that said writing was signed and sealed by them in behalf of said corporation by its authority duly given. And the said N. D. Maher and O. Lynn Bottomley this day acknowledged the said writing to be the act and deed of said corporation.