JACOB D. MATHIOT AND FAMILY
MYRON B. SHARP

ONE of the most remarkable men it has been my privilege to know died one hundred and two years ago at the age of seventy-seven. His name was Jacob Davies Mathiot. I became acquainted with him through the Mathiot Papers while doing research on the history of the California Furnace in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

The story starts over two hundred years ago when Jean Jacques Mathiot and his bride, Catherine Margaret Bernard, of Lorraine, France, landed in Philadelphia, September 4, 1754. They settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where their six children were born.

George Mathiot, their second son and father of Jacob, served in the American military forces during the Revolutionary War. In 1786, while still in military service, he rode through the village of Ellicott's Mills, near Baltimore, Maryland. There he saw a pretty girl, learned her name, Ruth, daughter of Joshua and Jane Underwood Davies, Quakers, and proceeded to woo her. He renounced his profession of arms, accepted the Quaker faith and dress; and in October 1787, George, twenty-eight, and Ruth, sixteen, were married "according to the order established among Friends.”

They moved westward to Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and raised a family of eleven children. The oldest, Jacob Davies, was born in 1788. The parents evidently were advocates of higher education. So, the children were given all the schooling available in those times to people of modest means. The Mathiot Papers do not contain many letters from Jacob during his early years but the hundreds of letters from his brothers and sisters show that they all had
better than average educations and it is safe to assume that Jacob's education was as good.

Jacob D. Mathiot was an inveterate reader, a student, a clear, logical thinker, possessed of excellent judgment. He was hospitable, well-mannered and well-dressed — always a gentleman. In later life his religious views were not in keeping with those of the Quakers and he became a Methodist. While working in Washington, D.C., 1861 through 1865, he wrote many letters to his children. These letters are preserved among the many hundreds of personal and business letters, agreements, indentures, wills, ledger sheets, expense records, diaries, summonses, and one book titled "Waste Book, Ross Iron Works." These are all in the possession of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in the collection known as the Mathiot Papers.

The earliest records we have of Jacob D. Mathiot show him to be, in 1811, at twenty-three, a clerk at Isaac Meason's Mt. Vernon Furnace. Meason soon transferred him to the Union Forge (March 1812) where he worked as manager. Mathiot must have shown exceptional qualifications as a leader because on the 1st of September 1813, he was back at Mt. Vernon Furnace as manager. Prior to this, in 1807, he received a commission as ensign in the Fayette-Westmoreland Counties militia. By 1816 he had attained the rank of colonel and was addressed as Colonel Mathiot for the remainder of his life. It was a title of which he justifiably was proud.

In January 1818, Isaac Meason, Sr., died and Isaac, Jr., took over the Meason enterprises. Shortly thereafter Mathiot was offered "the one equal undivided fourth part of Ross Iron Works, situate in Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—." Shortly after the partnership of Meason, Mathiot and Paull was formed, Mathiot took over as manager of Ross Iron Works (1818), a position he held for more than thirty years. Isaac Meason, Jr., died in 1836, and the firm became Mathiot and Paull.

In 1831 Mathiot was elected to the State Legislature. He also served on the Board of Managers of the Johnstown and Ligonier

---

8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
10 M.P., 16-12-3.
11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
14 M.P., 5-2-5.
16 M.P., 16-12-8.
17 M.P., 15-2-12.
Turnpike and on the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Canal, Westmoreland County Division.

About 1837, Jacob Mathiot bought an interest in a new furnace, Madison, being built in Armstrong (now Clarion) County. Shortly after it was blown in, Isaac Lightner, one of the partners in the new company, visited the furnace and was much dissatisfied with the way it was being conducted: "Everything but the original construction of the buildings and dam in bad shape." This resulted in Mathiot becoming manager with a foreman to supervise. The arrangement continued until 1844 when the operation was sold to Lyon, Shorb and Co. of Pittsburgh.

A letter to Mathiot dated July 27, 1844, reads, "The Conference of the Nineteenth Congressional District comprising Bedford, Westmoreland and Cambria Counties, at this meeting in Johnstown on Thursday last unanimously conferred upon you the nomination as the Democratic-Whig candidate for this Congressional District for the next Congress." Whether he accepted the nomination and was defeated or refused the nomination, we do not know.

In 1849 Mathiot took as partner in another business venture, his son-in-law, Dr. Samuel P. Cummins. They were not only business partners but very close friends for the rest of Mathiot's life. This partnership, Mathiot, Cummins and Co., built the California Furnace on McGinnis Run, a branch of Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County. The furnace was blown in during May or June 1850. The California Furnace was rebuilt in the summer of 1966 by General Richard K. Mellon, owner of Rolling Rock Farms, on which it is situated.

About this time Mathiot's children started a campaign to get him to retire from the iron business. He was sixty-two years old and had spent his entire working life around furnaces and forges. They wanted him to get into some other business that was less trying and more

19 M.P., 16-6-8.
20 M.P., 16-6-15.
21 M.P., 16-6-41.
22 M.P., 16-1-1, Item No. 1.
23 1938 map entitled "Hunting Country of Rolling Rock Hunt," by Ezra C. Stiles; the above named run has known many names. Its first name, Furnace Run, so called because of the Westmoreland Furnace, later became California Furnace Run or simply California Run because of the California Furnace. An 1867 map shows it again as Furnace Run. In the early 1900's it was called McGinnis Run because of the McGinnis Gun Club. It is presently known as Rolling Rock Run for the Rolling Rock Farms which now own the property.
24 M.P., 16-1-1.
remunerative. In 1852 the firm of Mathiot and Paull was dissolved\textsuperscript{25} and in 1856 Mathiot sold his interests in the California Furnace to Dr. Cummins.\textsuperscript{26} Thus, at last, for the first time in over forty-five years Jacob D. Mathiot had no furnace to tend, no iron to sell, no bills to pay and no lawsuits to plague him.

In 1861 he received an appointment as a clerk in the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C.\textsuperscript{27} He maintained his home in Laughlinstown for his children, Catherine, John and George Davies, and his grandson, "little John" McCreery, but he worked in Washington until shortly before his death in December 1865.

The family of Jacob D. Mathiot was a very close one. All through his life he exchanged letters with his brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, children and grandchildren from the time they were just learning to write, and from his sisters, Eliza and Ann, his daughters, Sarah Ann and Catherine, and his sons, John and George, up to the time of his death. His grandsons, John Mathiot Cummins and George R. McCreery, one a doctor and the other a medical student, continued to correspond with him throughout his lifetime.\textsuperscript{28} Even the brother of a deceased son-in-law wrote to him at frequent intervals.\textsuperscript{29} William McCreery, brother of Dr. John McCreery, deceased husband of Sarah Ann Mathiot, was a well-educated man, as is shown by his letters. During the Civil War he wrote regularly to Mathiot. He held the Colonel in high esteem. Early in the war he asked for a "likeness" (no "picture" or "photograph" in those days) of Jacob, so he could show his army friends what his special friend, the Colonel, looked like. He wrote long, interesting letters to Mathiot about the conduct of the war, the battles he was in, his life in a hospital in St. Louis, the death of Lincoln, and other subjects.\textsuperscript{30} He was much interested in politics and especially politics in St. Clair and Ligonier Townships where he was acquainted. He asked for and accepted advice from Mathiot, whose judgment he greatly respected.

Eliza Mathiot, Jacob's sister, married Colonel Robert Davidson, who refused to surrender his troops to the British at Detroit in the War of 1812, and went to New Ark, Ohio, to live. A short time later, Joshua, their younger brother, went to New Ark to live and work.\textsuperscript{31} Robert Davidson was in the tannery business, and Joshua started to

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item[26] M.P., 16-1-6.
\item[27] M.P., 3-1-32.
\item[28] M.P., 2-15 through 3-5, many letters.
\item[29] M.P., 3-2 through 3-5, many letters.
\item[30] \textit{Ibid}.
\item[31] M.P., 1-1-1.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
Articles of agreement entered into the between J. D. Mathiot, James Paul and Kingdom Lightburn, in the township of New Human, made 21st day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four.

That the parties have agreed that the said J. D. Mathiot shall manage and superintend generally the business and concerns of said farms, which business is to be carried on in the name of J. D. Mathiot and company, and that he shall receive as compensation for his services the annual salary of five hundred dollars, out of the funds of the company, exclusive of fuel and the use of his dwelling house and garden, which are to be allowed him by the company free of charge. And whereas it is not subject of him that he shall perform all the duties and labor connected with the management of the business of the company, it is agreed that the said J. D. Mathiot shall be entitled to do his own work as assistant manager, at a salary of not exceeding five hundred dollars per annum, exclusive of dwelling house and fuel.

This article to be and remain valid and in force until J. D. Mathiot shall voluntarily decline the management of the business of the company, or until the other parties named herein shall declare it (this article) null or void.

In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands and seal the day and year above written.

Witnesses:

J. D. Mathiot

James Paul

Kingdom Lightburn

[Handwritten signatures]
The Jacob D. Mathiot grave in the "old burying ground" on North Market Street, Ligonier, Pennsylvania.
learn the trade, but he soon decided against it and began to study law. In those days the study of law consisted of going into a lawyer's office, reading his law books, and acting as a clerk and handyman. Further study at law school and passing the bar examination made one a lawyer. This Joshua did. During those years, with no income, he was supported by Jacob and boarded by Eliza and Robert Davidson. Joshua served a term as District Attorney, and a term as Representative in Congress for his district. His early death from cholera put an end to a brilliant career.

Early in this period, when Joshua was studying law, he wrote a letter to Jacob which did not meet with Jacob's approval. Part of this letter follows:

Dear Brother

I received yours of the 9th instant with the inclosed Fifty Dollars. Your generosity has indeed surpassed my most sanguine expectations. I was convinced that you felt an anxiety for my welfare and that if in your power you would render me some assistance, but I never anticipated that your liberality would extend so far or even that your circumstances would admit of these assurances which you have given me. I feel my dear brother as though I should never be able to repay you for this your more than generous conduct toward me. My aim, however, shall be to conduct myself in such a manner that you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your money had not been expended uselessly, and should I ever be placed in circumstances which will enable me to refund your money it shall be done, but should I even be so fortunate as to be able to repay you the Am't, I shall consider myself under obligation to you. for some months my relations have occupied a considerable share of my thoughts which has prevented me from making that progress in my studies which I should otherwise have done. I am convinced that a visit to Connellsville and Ross Furnace would be of considerable advantage to me. Yes Jacob you have no conception how anxious I am to see you and Polly with your sweet pratling children, two of whom I have never seen. Mrs. Davidson is quite anxious to have Cassandra

32 M.P., 1-4-1.
33 Ibid.
34 History of Licking County, Ohio (Centennial), by Isaac Smucker, 1876.
35 M.P., 2-2-2.
36 M.P., 2-10-3.
37 M.P., 1-4-2.
here. I presume it would be an advantage to her to visit Newark if she could content herself. I shall write to her on the subject and should she consent to come I presume I will see you before a great while though I will not promise to stay any longer than the Col. and his wife of whom you so loudly complain, as I shall be very anxious to return to my studies.

J. Mathiot

Jacob answered it with a letter which must have been a "scorcher." This letter is no longer in existence, or, if it is, it is not with the Mathiot Papers, so we have to assume its contents and meaning. It was so bad that Eliza took it upon herself to answer it, her first letter to her brother, Jacob. Parts of it follow:

Dear Brother:

I believe for the first time in my life, and unsolicited, I have taken up my pen to intrude a few moments on your time. Much of your last letter to Joshua was couched in language well-calculated to wound feelings much less acute than mine. If I have given you pain or uneasiness by expressing a wish to have one of my sisters visit me if agreeable to my Parents I am sorry for it. It was not intended, and be assured you have had ample revenge. After reading your letter I went to bed with an aching head and heart, to bedew my pillow with my tears and wake in the Morning again to renew it. I know not, my Brother the extent of what thee has done for our parents within the last six years. I hope and believe it was and will continue to be much. You have the means, what a luxury, but while I lived with my parents thee never struggled harder to promote the ease and comfort of our excellent Mother than I have done. Thee never shared with her as many toilsome, painful months and years as I have. It has always been my misfortune to feel too sensibly. From the time I was eleven years of age until I was twenty three, a period in which it is generally thought there is but little of care or anxiety to corrode the mind, yet during that period I may truly say that my life was almost one uninterrupted scene of sorrow. Yes, Jacob, I have witnessed and shared privations and sorrows which thee nor any person living, my Mother excepted, have any idea of. It is truly said there is nothing cements affection like suffering together. The two last years I spent at home were somewhat checkered. Before I expressed a wish to have one of the girls with

38 M.P., 1-4-3.
me I had revolved the subject in my mind again and again, and yet I am not willing to think I have acted either cruel or unfeelingly. My own convenience was by far the least consideration. It would be very sweet to me sometimes to have the presence and assistance of one of my sisters. I seldom, I might say never know what it is to enjoy one hours health but be assured, my Brother, were I certain my life depended on one of my sisters spending a month with me, after what thee has written I would not wish it. When I saw my Mother last fall she often spoke of the inconveniences and disadvantages that the girls labored under and expressed a wish that an opportunity would offer for them to visit us. A better than the approaching one appeared to me not likely to offer. I knew by experience how hard it was at their time of life. There was no necessity for thy talking of never forgiving and so on, if we persisted in the determination to bring Cassandra. Filial gratitude I honor as one of the noblest virtues. I hope thee will be liberal enough to allow others a claim to it as well as thyself. and believe me thy affectionate sister,

E. Davidson

Jacob's anger apparently was aroused because Joshua had mentioned having Cassandra visit Eliza in Newark. His concern was for their mother and her being left alone. Until he received Eliza's letter he may have thought this was a scheme for Eliza to obtain some help for herself. He did not know that their mother had expressed the wish that one of the girls could visit Eliza.

We do not know what answer Jacob gave but it must have been acceptable because Eliza continued to write to Jacob every few months until the time of his death.

Joshua also held no grudge. He wrote quite often to Jacob and visited with him many times, and Jacob visited Joshua and Eliza in Newark.

In 1827 Jacob Mathiot was dangerously ill. We do not know the nature of his sickness but there are many letters from relatives, friends and business acquaintances, asking about his health and stating their pleasure at his recovery. Joshua, on a visit to Connellsville at this time, said there were ten or twelve letters from his Ohio friends alone expressing concern over his health. Thomas White, a business

39 M.P., 1-5-4.
40 M.P., 1-5-2, 3-4-56, 3-4-64, 3-4-82.
acquaintance at Indiana, Pennsylvania, in a letter dated December 29, 1827, said, "Your convalescence from your long and painful indisposition has afforded much pleasure to all your friends." Discounting the flowery language of the times we still can feel the sincerity of the thought behind these words.

Henry Mathiot, Jacob's youngest brother, tried various trades and businesses without success until he decided to study medicine in Newark, Ohio. (Some time during the elapsed years New Ark became Newark.) The study of medicine in those days paralleled the study of law. One went into a doctor's office, read his medical books, watched and listened as the doctor treated his patients. He cleaned the office and the yard, looked after the garden and did any other chores the doctor could think of. He was a combination apprentice, servant, gardener, and hostler. After several years of this the student would usually, but not always, attend a medical school for a short time to learn surgery and then put up his shingle and wait for patients. During these years of study Henry was financed by Jacob, who helped him even after he married until his practice was established in Smithfield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

It is not known if either Joshua or Henry ever repaid Jacob. Nothing to that effect has come to light.

Jacob Mathiot had a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. Friends and relatives would leave decisions involving money or property to his judgment. In the early part of the nineteenth century it was the custom to settle property valuation disputes by arbitration. A jury of three impartial men of knowledge and experience would be selected to view the property involved and to set a fair value on it. Mathiot always was in demand for this kind of work. On December 15, 1832, a Pittsburgh bank explained that they were executing a judgment against the company of Meason, Mathiot and Paull. They were sorry they had to do it but Meason owed them over $1,000 interest and Paull wasn't much better off. If it had been Mathiot alone, they would have carried him.

In 1833, when John, Jacob's brother, married and wanted to have his wife live at the home of his parents, brother George wrote to Jacob to get his views about this added expense because, after all,

41 M.P., 7-3-2.
42 M.P., 1-16-1.
43 M.P., 3-2-24.
44 M.P., 2-16-24.
46 M.P., 7-6-75.
Jacob was helping to support the family and his interests had to be considered.47 Jacob's daughters were educated at a female academy at Braddock's Field, Pennsylvania.48 The boys attended various private schools in Blairsville, Ligonier, and Greensburg.49 George Davies Mathiot, one of the sons, enrolled at Allegheny College at Meadville but soon left "to go into business." 50 Jacob believed in education. He never suggested that people quit school, but on the other hand urged them to continue whenever they grew tired and suggested leaving.

Over the years, when times were bad, when business was failing, when his wife or children were dangerously ill,51 when one daughter was so emotionally disturbed, as we say today, that on several occasions Jacob considered sending her to a "lunatic asylum" 52 — she recovered finally and outlived all her brothers and sisters53 — Jacob continued to work and help others even though his own burden was at times almost too much to bear. His wife, Mary, also had emotional problems54 and one son, George Davies, was a disappointment. When Jacob was old and in poor health he would have liked to leave Washington and return home to Laughlinstown. (In those days Laughlinstown was spelled with an "s.") In order to do this, George D. was to take Jacob's place at the Treasury to provide an income for the family. The only other living son, John, was in the Union Army. Every time the exchange was planned, George D. became ill.55 George said that the confinement of a job in Washington would be too much for him.56 Even the thought of going to Washington would bring on some sickness. Dr. Cummins pointed out to Jacob that he had examined George and had talked to him and found him in good health but that as long as Jacob would work and keep him he would not work. He lacked confidence in himself and would not assume responsibility.57

On September 21, 1843, James, another of Jacob's sons, died of mercury poisoning,58 a horrible death. Eliza, Jacob's oldest daughter

48 M.P., 1-6-4 and 1-7-3.
49 M.P., 2-6 several, 1-13 several.
50 M.P., 1-14-16.
52 M.P., 2-16-9.
53 Cemetery stone, Lloyd Cemetery, Reed Lot, Ebensburg, Pa.
55 M.P., 3-2-47.
56 M.P., 3-2-58.
57 M.P., 3-5-3.
58 M.P., 2-4-6 and 7.
and wife of Dr. Samuel P. Cummins, died of puerperal fever after the birth of their only son, John Mathiot Cummins. Sarah Ann, another daughter, had an unknown sickness and lay at death's door for many months. Cassandra, his youngest daughter and wife of George M. Reed of Ebensburg, became ill after the stillbirth of their third child and died in a few days.

Cassandra, Jacob's youngest sister, also died a terrible death. Certain medicine, given her to counteract the very common childbed fever, evidently poisoned her. It contained calomel, a mercury salt. Before she died her mouth had become black and the medicine had eaten a hole "the size of a twelve and one half cent piece" through her lower lip.

All of this sickness, suffering and worry did not deter him. He continued with his business. It is admitted that without these distractions he might have done better.

Sarah Ann, a daughter of Jacob, married Dr. John McCreery, who died after a few short years. Their marriage was a happy one. A few years after his death she married a second time and this marriage was not happy. Her new husband had been married before and had three children. Sarah Ann had three children from her first marriage. John Curry did not want to keep her children (said he couldn't afford it) and wrote to Jacob telling him that, as guardian of Sarah Ann's children, it was his responsibility and he would have to provide for them. From then on at least one of the two boys and sometimes both of them lived with the grandfather. Also he would send Sarah Ann money from time to time because her husband could not or would not give her enough to meet expenses. Jacob practically kept Sarah Ann and her three children for several years.

In 1862, when Jacob was working in Washington and had just written to his son, George, that in another month or two he would have all his debts paid and would have a little left over — his salary was one hundred dollars a month — he received word that a nephew, Albert Wood, was in poor health and because of that and the fact that his farm was unproductive and he hardly knew how he was going to

60 M.P., 2-7-1.
61 M.P., 3-1-22 and 23.
62 M.P., 1-11-4 through 46. Many letters about this sickness.
63 M.P., 1-11-43.
64 M.P., 2-11-1.
65 M.P., 2-18-5, 2-16-3 and others.
feed his family, Jacob sent money to him.\textsuperscript{67} This was repeated at intervals afterwards.

Ruth, daughter of George F. Mathiot, Jacob's brother, postponed her wedding twice because of lack of money to buy suitable wedding clothes. George had died several years before and his widow and children were very poor. When Jacob learned of this he sent her the money\textsuperscript{68} she needed and she was married at the St. Charles Hotel in Pittsburgh.

It seemed that whenever anyone in the family needed help Jacob was the person who was called upon. He was always there with a helping hand or pocketbook.\textsuperscript{69}

Many of Jacob's relatives and friends had asked for a "likeness" of him. In 1861 he finally consented and stood for his picture by Mathew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer. When he told his sister-in-law, Mary Mathiot, that he had at last had his "likeness" taken she wrote, March 11, 1861, "We will be greatly pleased to see your likeness when it is convenient for you to send it."\textsuperscript{70}

Dr. Henry B. Mathiot, Jacob's youngest brother, was a very religious man. While practicing medicine he also became an ordained minister in the Methodist Church. C. A. Black, local historian of Smithfield, Pennsylvania, who can remember as a very small boy seeing the doctor, said that if he felt that he might not be able to save a person's life, at least he could try to save his soul. Jacob was a great worry to Henry. Although a religious man in the usual sense of the word, Jacob did not come up to Henry's standards. Many of Henry's letters to Jacob were on the subject of religion and pointed out where and when Jacob erred and that if he did not repent and accept Christ — "oh fearful situation — condemned to eternal death."\textsuperscript{71} In 1863, when Jacob was seventy-five years old, Henry, aged forty-eight, visited him in Washington, D.C. On a walking tour of the city Henry had to quit. He could not keep up with Jacob.\textsuperscript{72}

Jacob Mathiot was very attentive to details. During his entire working life he carried with him at all times a small notebook in which he entered every cent that he spent. Following is a typical page from one of these notebooks.\textsuperscript{73}

\textsuperscript{67} M.P., 3-2-28.
\textsuperscript{68} M.P., 3-4-42 and 48.
\textsuperscript{69} M.P. Personal Expense Books, Box 23.
\textsuperscript{70} M.P., 3-2-8.
\textsuperscript{71} M.P., 2-15-17 and 2-17-1.
\textsuperscript{72} M.P., 3-2-30.
\textsuperscript{73} M.P. 22 Notebooks.
August 1862 Amount brought forward $1432.06
Thurs. 21 Treasury note sent to George D. Mathiot 1
Fri. 22 Sent to Catherine 1-10 and 1-25 postage stamp currency .35
Mon. 25 4 Sunday mg Chronicles .16
Tues. 26 Seg. 10 Rep. 2 Star 4 .16
Thurs. 28 1/8 bu. apples 10 Rep. 2 .12
Fri 29 Sent to John Mathiot For John McCreery to buy shoes 1
Sat. 30 Apples 5 2 Stars 6 .11
  Sent to Catherine 1-10 and 1-25 postage stamp currency .35
  Hack etc. .50
  3 sheets paper 3 Star 2 Times 1 .06
  47 yds. calico @ .17 7.99
  Expenses from Washington to Laughlinstown and back 34.45
  Supper for two soldiers .55
  Grandchildren, Ebensburg .50
  Mending shoes .37
  Altering pigs .25
  Cane (lost one at Balt’o.) 1.00
  Washing .44
  1 lb. candles 25 matches 1 .26
  Blistering tissue .05
  ” salve .10
  1 Frock Coat 9.00
  Dime novel The Kings Man .10
  1/8 cord wood 1.25
  Negro carrying up wood .25
  1 Merino undershirt 1.75
  2 Oyster suppers for J. M. Cummins and self .70
  Paid to Mr. Willey for Albert Wood 38.17
  3 shirt bosoms 1.87
  Frock coat 22.00
  Pantaloons 3.50
  Beggar .13
  Hungry soldier .25
  1 Hoop skirt for Catherine 1.25

Deduct loan to Edward Green returned 25.00

Expended up to 31st July, 1862 $1299.60
Expended in August 113.50

Sept. 1, 1862 2 doz. cakes .16
  Travelling bag 1
  4 Sunday mg Chronicles .16
  Avenue House 1 mo. boarding 25.00
  Sent to Albert C. Wood 20.00
  3 Stars 3 Seg 10 Star 3 .16

A few other items picked at random from various books:
  Sent to Sarah A. Curry 5.00
  Harpers Weekly .06
  Sent to George R. McCreery 1.00
  Frank (waiter) .25 charity .25 .50
  Seg. 10 i/4 peck peaches 10 .20
  Honing and dressing razor .15
  Overcoat from Barr and Bros. 11.00
  Satinet pants from N. Walk eidt 3.58
  47 yds. calico @ .17 7.99
  Expenses from Washington to Laughlinstown and back 34.45
  Supper for two soldiers .55
  Grandchildren, Ebensburg .50
  Mending shoes .37
  Altering pigs .25
  Cane (lost one at Balt’o.) 1.00
  Washing .44
  1 lb. candles 25 matches 1 .26
  Blistering tissue .05
  ” salve .10
  1 Frock Coat 9.00
  Dime novel The Kings Man .10
  1/8 cord wood 1.25
  Negro carrying up wood .25
  1 Merino undershirt 1.75
  2 Oyster suppers for J. M. Cummins and self .70
  Paid to Mr. Willey for Albert Wood 38.17
  3 shirt bosoms 1.87
  Frock coat 22.00
  Pantaloons 3.50
  Beggar .13
  Hungry soldier .25
  1 Hoop skirt for Catherine 1.25
The loss of his purse containing $8.53 and the time he gave a shoe-shine boy a five-dollar gold piece instead of a penny were great tragedies, each noted in the expense book.

One item which appeared in the Furnace Waste Book of the Ross Iron Works is interesting for several reasons. First: It points out the self-sufficiency of the small communities of those days. Second: It shows the difference between their standard of living and ours, and the difference in costs between that age and this. The statement was "Paid to Mr. ———— for coffin for James — $6." 74 Even at the low prices prevailing at that time six dollars would not have bought a very elaborate coffin. Compare that price with today's prices.

Mathiot also kept a record of all letters received by him, 75 the author, date written, date received and date answered. Before 1845 and the advent of postage stamps, it seems that the person receiving a letter paid the postage. The postmaster kept a record and at the end of the month the customer was billed for the amount due. 76 This itemized statement was, in most cases, record enough.

Mathiot's handwriting was always neat and legible. In his younger, more active days, his writing was larger and bolder than in later years. It is said that character and disposition are reflected in handwriting. This was very true of Jacob D. Mathiot. None of the waver- ing, tremulous handwriting so common to elderly people. Instead, his handwriting was small, firm and perfectly legible at all times. A graphologist would see in this writing a very meticulous person with tremendous drive, a leader, a man whose every move was planned in advance and every eventuality considered.

All in all, Jacob Davies Mathiot was quite a remarkable man. Although never a national figure, he was loved and respected by all who knew him. It is possible that if he had continued in politics instead of business he could have become known throughout the country. But his interests did not lie in that direction. His three years in the state legislature were enough for him. He was more interested in business than in politics and, though never wealthy, he was rich in the good will and the thoughts of his many friends and relatives.

75 M.P., 23-1. Many sheets.
76 Ibid.