

Shepherdstown, WV

January 24, 2010

The following is extracted from a comprehensive genealogy compiled by my late uncle Ltc. George B Shutt(ret) and distributed to his extended family in 1975.

Extracted from obituary

George Webber Shutt had a very remarkable career and was a very brilliant man. When he was young he went to St. Louis and started a drug business with several partners, to one of whom, a Mclean, he sold his interest and returned to Illinois to study law with Steven A. Douglas and was successful at law. He was with Douglas throughout the campaign of 1860, attended both Democratic Conventions (Charleston, S.C. and Baltimore, Md.). Judge David Davis characterized him as being as bright as any man who ever appeared before his court. He knew Abraham Lincoln, as well as Adlai Stevenson, Joe Cameron, Judge Davis, Daniel Vorhees, Joe Blackburn and John E. Kenna. He amassed a fortune from real estate and street railways in Springfield, but became involved in coal mining with imported Welsh miners and lost his fortune. The last years of his life were spent in or near Washington, writing for newspapers and as General Assistant (Colonel Commission by Grant) of the Geological Survey. In this capacity he was with the Powell Expedition on the Colorado River which was the first through the Grand Canyon. He died at Leslie Hall, Hillsboro, Loudon Co., Va.

*I have a book published by the Dept. of the Interior; US Geological Survey which recounts Powell's expedition through the Grand Canyon in 1869 and names all ten members of the party. All but Powell were westerners; rugged mountain men and explorers as well as Indian fighters. No Washington Lawyers, even if they were friends of Powell's, which George Webber Shutt was.*

*This myth did prevail among his descendants. My mother assured me it was so.*

*Arnold D Amoroso (Don)*