



# **Kelly's Creek Chronicles: The Illustrated Diary of James Alexander Jones, a West Virginia Coalminer, 1870-1939**

*William Roosevelt Hudnall*

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James "Jimmie" Alexander Jones, coalminer, kept a diary for 70 years. As a boy he watched the Yankees burn Richmond then migrated to the 'new' West Virginia. Jimmie's diary of over 14,000 entries took four years to evaluate and about 2,000 were used in the book. Over 100 photographs and drawings complement the diary entries and the author has added scholarly and authoritative sources to validate Jimmie's observations. Jimmie observed the daily life of a coalmining community of the late 19th and early 20 centuries and kept abreast of the conflicts between management and labor during that period. Jimmie was an inventor, farmer, sportsman, budding artist and recorded historical moments in the era in which he lived. The book is a great genealogical source with names of people whom Jimmie knew over the 70 year span. Jimmie was a gifted coalminer.

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