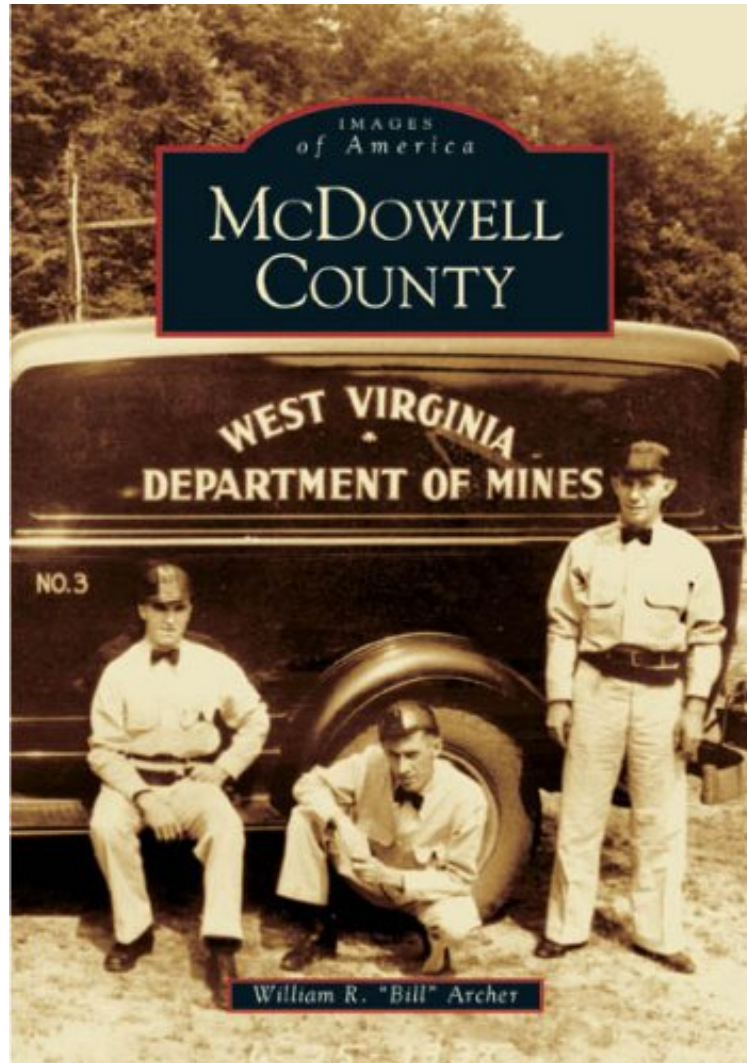


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## McDowell County (WV) (Images of America)

*William R. "Bill" Archer*

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**William R. "Bill" Archer : McDowell County (WV) (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised McDowell County (WV) (Images of America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The book was pretty much filled with the same pictures from the one ...By valliThere were very few mentions or pictures except for a few "Hollows" and towns in this book. I was especially hoping to see some of Davy and Asco or Pineville . The book was pretty much filled with the same pictures from the one on WELCH.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Book...lots of memoriesBy Senior SwedeNice book about my wife's birthplace.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wild and wooly era in WV history.By Martha GilbertA lot of history that I didn't know. I am writing a memoir of growing up in the WV

coalfields and this was very helpful. My parents who went to Welch in the '20s lived through much of the history.

McDowell County was established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1858, two years before the start of the American Civil War. In 1863, the county was one of the 55 that separated from the Old Dominion to form West Virginia, thus earning the nickname the Free State. Long before this, though, McDowell County was known for its bountiful natural resources; a great geologist, Dr. Thomas Walker, touted these vast coal lands after his 1748-1750 exploration. Political leaders like Thomas Jefferson, who knew of the county's mineral wealth, steered Robert Morris, financier of the American Revolution, to obtain all of McDowell County in the land speculation boom of the mid-1790s. After Morris was sent to debtors prison in 1799, however, his land holdings were acquired by Michael Bouvier, a cabinet maker. In the 1920s, the remains of Bouvier's holdings were purchased by Henry Ford, the automobile tycoon. Other famous personalities associated with McDowell County include J.P. Morgan and Thomas Stonewall Jackson.

About the Author William R. Bill Archer is the senior writer for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. Through the years, he has written many newspaper and magazine articles about McDowell County and her people. His previous works include *Arcadia: Images of America: Bluefield* and *Images of America: Mercer County*.