

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information about events, visit
the MTGS web site or contact

Virginia Watson at ginnyology@comcast.net .

OUR MEETING PLACE

Knowles Senior Center
174 Rains Ave., Nashville

From I-65 exit 81 East and follow
Wedgewood Ave. into the State Fairgrounds.
Turn left inside the gate in the black fence.

Check our website for last-minute changes:
www.mtgs.org

Friday, October 26, 2007

Digital Camera Workshop

**How to Pick One and How to use it
in Genealogy**

Knowles Senior Center

Join us for this workshop from 10:30 to noon.
June Dorman and Peggy Sides, genealogists and
photographers, will share their expertise. A \$10
fee is charged.

Saturday, November 17,,2007

Tracking Your Ancestors with Land Records – Even if They Didn't Own Land!

Brentwood Library

The annual MTGS Fall Seminar will feature
presentations on using land records for research
and also a land-platting workshop. Watch for
details in the next issue and in your mailbox.

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Family History Show & Tell

Knowles Senior Center

Bring your favorite old photo, document, or
family artifact to share with the group. Share and
enjoy favorite family stories in this friendly,
casual meeting with other history-lovers.

Middle Tennessee

Journal of Genealogy & History

Volume XXI, Number 2, Fall 2007

Table of Contents

From the Editor.....	50
Robert Stainback, c. 1776-1837 by Roger H. Futrell.....	51
Clues in Stitches: Genealogical Records on Tennessee Samplers, by Janet S. Hasson.....	56
Ralph Earl's Nashville Museum (1822).....	60
Davidson County Civil War Claims (part 1).....	61
Middle Tenn. Supreme Court Records – Third Series by Gale W. Bamman and Joan Pruett.....	64
Martin Bates' Weary Wanderings (1876).....	66
Davidson County 1805 Tax List, Annotated (part 2).....	67
MTGS Annual Seminar: Using Land Records.....	72
Law and Order in the Territory South of the River Ohio Part VII, by Patricia Gilliam Daley.....	75
MTGS By-Laws: Proposed Revisions.....	81
MTGS Writer's Award.....	85
Defective, Dependant and Delinquent ... Davidson County by Gale Williams Bamman (Part X).....	86
History of Oglesby School by T. Vance Little.....	91
What's New at the State Library & Archives.....	96

*Journal Policy and Information
Inside Back Cover*

**Middle Tennessee
Genealogical Society, Inc.**

Board Members

President:	Virginia Gooch Watson
Vice President:	Sue Hairston Edwards
Recording Secretary:	Mary Lawrence
Treasurer:	Lyn James
Directors:	Bob Dennison Kenneth Fieth Ogden Stokes Lallie Wallace
Webmaster:	Katheryne Cowan
Mail Master:	Juanita Patton
Book Review Editor:	Shirley Wilson
Journal Editor:	Charles A. Sherrill

Contributors in this issue

Roger Futrell	T. Vance Little
Patricia Gilliam Daley	Joan Pruett
Janet Hasson	

Gale Williams Bamman
Contributor and Editorial Assistant

From the Editor . . .

Members and Friends of the Society have come forward with some excellent articles for the current issue. It's a pleasure to have so many among us who are willing to write and conduct research to benefit all the readers of the *Journal*.

Appearing as an author for the second time is Roger Futrell of Frankfort, Kentucky. He has conducted extensive research on his ancestor, Roger Stainback, and prepared an interesting article about Stainback's life and migrations.

Local member Janet Hasson shares her love of cross-stitch samplers in this issue. Using examples of samplers made in Middle Tennessee, she shows how these pieces, created by young women learning to sew, now provide us with detailed genealogical information.

Members Peggie Sides and Sarah Armistead have contributed a number of 'fillers' found in newspapers. Don't miss the heart-wrenching story of young Martin Bates on page 66.

Please plan to attend the Society's Annual Workshop on November 17th. The topic will be land records, and the speakers are planning a wonderful day of learning and exploring for all who attend.

As always, your comments on Journal articles and submissions of new materials are welcomed.

Chuck Sherrill
Journal Editor

Formerly **Middle Tennessee Genealogy**. Published quarterly by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc., a not-for-profit society, P.O. Box 330948, Nashville, TN 37203-7507. © 2006. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed in the *Journal* are of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society or the editor. See inside back page for *Journal* submission instructions.

Yearly memberships include four issues of the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*. Make check or money order payable to MTGS. Dues are \$25.00 per membership year, beginning of fiscal years on June 1. See back cover for details and application form.

Printed by Miami Systems, Nashville, Tennessee 37209. Cover design by Dorothy Williams Potter. Indexed in the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI).

Visit our website at <http://www.mtgs.org>

Robert Stainback (c.1776-1857)

by Roger H. Futrell

Robert Stainback was a pioneer tailor; he worked in Nashville, Tennessee, in Elkton, Kentucky, and in rural Robertson County, Tennessee. He followed the craft from the early 1800s well into the 1840s.¹

The 1850 U.S. census schedule for Robertson County, Tennessee, indicates that seventy-four year old Robert 'Standback,' a native Virginian, was born ca 1776. He consistently signed his name Stainback, though many legal documents list him as 'Stanback' or 'Standback.'²

Strong circumstantial evidence ties Robert Stainback to Prince George County, Virginia. The Stainback family lived in the James River area, in and around Richmond. Charles H. Rathbun of Jasper, Georgia, has researched the Stainback family for over two decades; he is a scholar of the Virginia clan. He feels that Robert Stainback of Nashville, Tennessee, was likely from Prince George County, Virginia.³

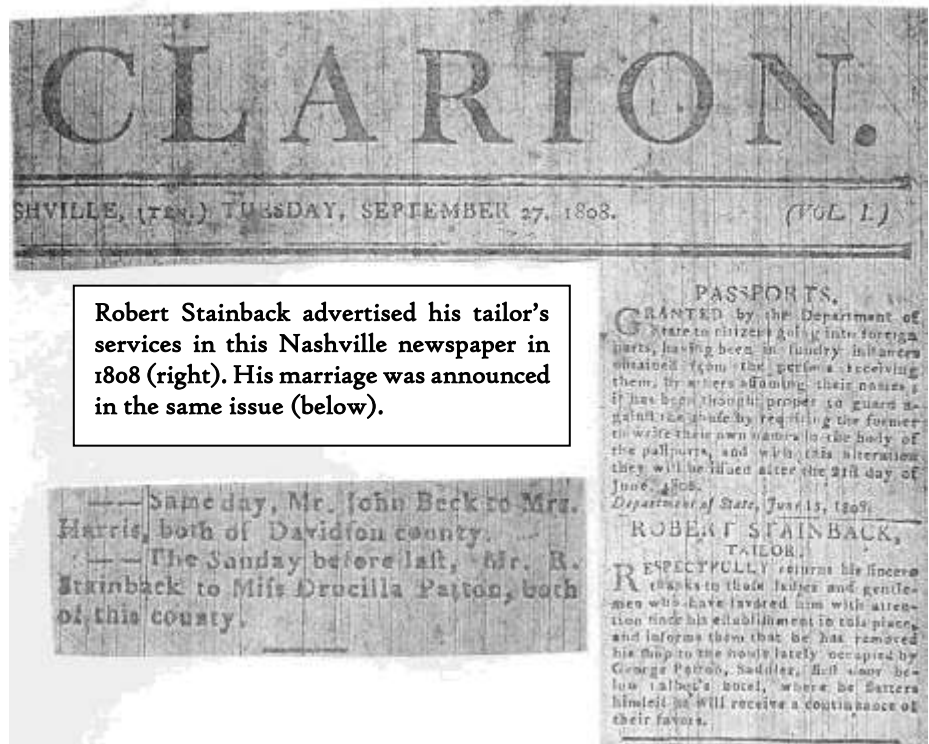
Most Prince George County court records were destroyed during the Civil War, though some tax rolls and land entries survived. Rathbun has evaluated those existing records:

A Prince George County, Virginia, survey, dated 9 July 1803, shows that Nicholas H. Stainback, William H. Stainback, George Stainback and Robert Stainback divided a 177 acre tract of land in Prince George; it adjoined George Ruffin, Esq., and was bounded by Robert's Bottom, Simpson's Bottom and Bailey's Creek. The plat shows that each of the four Stainbacks received 44.25 acres from the survey.⁴

It appears the four brothers split the parcel to settle their parents' estate. Prince George County tax records suggest that the surveyed tract probably belonged to William (d.1783) and Martha Stainback.⁵

After the 1803 survey was completed, Nicholas and William Stainback bought George and Robert Stainback's shares. George moved from Prince George County to Richmond, Virginia; Robert was probably the Robert Stainback of Virginia who went to Nashville, Tennessee.⁶

In a 2007 update, Charlie Rathbun wrote: "While I have no proof, I and other researchers believe that the four brothers (Nicholas, William, George & Robert) are sons of William and Martha Stainback of Prince George County, Virginia. William was deceased in 1782 when his estate was listed in the tax records. Martha was then listed on the 1787 Prince George County, Virginia, tax list. And based on the number of acres that were divided in 1803, it closely matches the acreage that shows up for William's estate in tax records."⁷



Robert Stainback advertised his tailor's services in this Nashville newspaper in 1808 (right). His marriage was announced in the same issue (below).

— Same day, Mr. John Beck to Mrs. Harris, both of Davidson county.
— The Sunday before last, Mr. R. Stainback to Miss Drocilla Patton, both of this county.

PASSPORTS.
GRANTED by the Department of State to citizens going into foreign parts, having been in custody in America obtained from the persons receiving them, by others assuming their names. It has been thought proper to guard against the abuse by requiring the former to write their own names in the body of the passport, and with this alteration they will be issued after the 21st day of June, 1809.
Department of State, June 13, 1809.
ROBERT STAINBACK, TAILOR.
RESPECTFULLY returns his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have favored him with attention since his establishment in this place, and informs them that he has removed his shop to the house lately occupied by George Patton, saddler, half way between Talbot's hotel, where he entertains himself he will receive a continuance of their favors.

Rathbun said he consulted with two other Stainback researchers—Joe Stainback and Jim Hamlin—while working on the Prince George County Stainback family.⁸

1805—1808

Robert Stainback arrived in Nashville, Tennessee, between 1805 & 1808. Tax records indicate he was not in Davidson County when the 1805 taxes were levied,⁹ but an advertisement in an August 1808 issue of *The Clarion* shows that Stainback had operated a tailor shop in Nashville for some time.¹⁰

23 August 1808

Stainback moved his tailor shop to a house next door to the Talbot Hotel in Nashville, where George Patton had previously operated a saddle shop:

*Robert Stainback
Tailor*

*Respectfully returns his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have favored him their attention since his establishment in this place, and informs them that he has removed his shop to the house lately occupied by George Patton, Saddler, first door below Talbot's hotel, where he flatters himself he will receive a continuance of their favors.*¹¹

An 1804 Nashville map pinpoints the location of the Talbot Hotel and the frame building that later housed Stainback's tailor shop—at the center of early Nashville and overlooking the market, the courthouse, the public stocks and the county jail. The shop was just north of Fort Nashboro in an 'old,' yellow, one-story frame building, facing the public square, on present day 1st Avenue, North, near the intersection of 1st Avenue & Church Street.¹²

September 1808

Robert Stainback married Drucilla Patton on 17 September 1808 in Williamson County, Tennessee. Drucilla's brother-in-law, Lawrence Bass, served as bondsman.¹³

Stainback's announcement regarding the relocation of his tailor shop was repeated on the

front page of *The Clarion*, 27 September 1808; their wedding announcement was inside that same issue:

*The Sunday before last, Mr. R. Stainback to Miss Drucilla Patton, both of this county.*¹⁴

Drucilla was the daughter of the late John Patton (d.1807),¹⁵ a saddler, and early resident of Davidson and Williamson Counties, Tennessee.¹⁶ Patton had lived in Williamson County, near Brentwood.

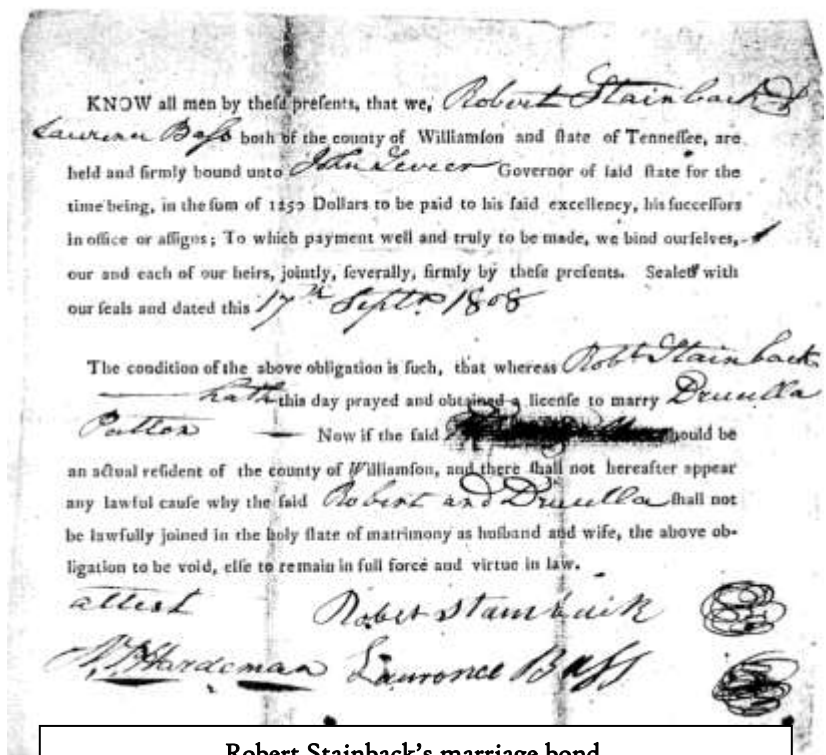
The 1850 U.S. census places Drucilla's year of birth at about 1794;¹⁷ that estimate is borne out by both the 1820¹⁸ and 1830¹⁹ census schedules.

1810

According to a notice in *The Democratic Clarion & Tennessee Gazette*, the frame house that Robert Stainback had occupied on Water Street was for rent in 1810:

To Rent

The corner house fronting the public square on Water street, Lot no. 170, recently occupied by R. Stainback—repairs to the building will be taken in discharge of the rent. Apply to E.



Robert Stainback's marriage bond,
Williamson County, Tenn., 1808.

*Talbot.*²⁰

Drucilla Stainback inherited a portion of her father's Williamson County plantation when his real property was divided in the Spring of 1810.²¹ Her allotment of 24 acres and 51 poles ran along the west branch of Little Harpeth River.²²

Robert 'Stanback' paid the taxes on the Little Harpeth acreage in 1811 & 1813.²³ He was not levied for a poll tax, indicating that he was not a Williamson County resident. He and Drucilla probably sold the parcel, but no transfer-of-title is recorded at the Williamson County Archives.²⁴

Stainback ran a public notice in the Nashville paper in November 1810:

*Will all those indebted please come
forward and settle their accounts.
Robert Stainback.*²⁵

1811

Robert Stainback was enumerated on the annual Davidson County, Tennessee, tax rolls.²⁶

Stainback served as bondsman for Jonathan Clay when Clay married Patsy Taylor in Nashville on 23 August 1811.²⁷

1812

Robert Stainback was listed on the Davidson County tax list. He was a resident of Nashville and a neighbor of statesman Felix Grundy.²⁸

Stainback served as bondsman for the wedding of William Parham and Nancy Turner in Davidson County on 28 September 1812.²⁹

Stainback's son, George Edwin Stainback, was born near Franklin, Tennessee.³⁰

1815

The Stainbacks' daughter, Martha A. H. Stainback, was born 13 August 1815, in Williamson County.³¹

1820

Robert and Drucilla Stainback and their children, George 'Edwin' and Martha, lived at Elkton, in Todd County,

Kentucky, where Robert tailored. There were fifty-five

heads-of-household in the newly formed Todd county seat at the time of the 1820 census.³²

1829-1830

Stainback paid an annual poll tax in Todd County, Kentucky.³³ No Todd County tax lists survive for 1831-1832.

1830

Robert and Drucilla 'Standback' and their two children are listed in the census of Todd County, where Robert worked as a tailor.³⁴

1833-1835

Robert Stainback was on the annual poll tax list for Todd County between 1833 & 1835. He appeared for the last time in 1835.³⁵

ca 1836

Robert Stainback settled just south of the Kentucky-Tennessee state line in northern Robertson County, Tennessee, near the old 'Red River Station' community, later known as Adams Station, or just Adams.³⁶ The area was known as home of the Bell Witch.

The Stainbacks' daughter, Martha A. H. Stainback, married James H. Gullett ca 1838. Gullett had moved to the Red River neighborhood from Carroll County, in West Tennessee, about the same time as the Stainbacks' move. In 1854, James and Martha (Stainback) Gullett bought a 50-acre farm on Keysburg Road, 3.6 miles north of Adams, from her brother, Edwin Stainback. The Stainbacks and Gulletts lived across the pike from one another.³⁷

1840

When the 1840 U.S. census was taken, Robert and Drucilla were living with their son, Ed 'Stanback,' in Robertson County's 17th District.³⁸

1850

Robert and Drucilla 'Standback' were enumerated on the 1850 U.S. census for Robertson County on 8 October 1850. They owned no real estate and lived near their son, George E. Standback. Robert was age seventy-four, a native of Virginia, and a farmer. Drucilla was born in North Carolina; she was fifty-six years old.³⁹

1 September 1857

Dr. F.A. Rice treated Robert Stainback for an unspecified

illness in September 1857, and, in turn, billed the family \$2.50 for professional services. Dr. Rice filed a claim for the charge with Stainback's estate on 8 April 1858.⁴⁰



Stainback Cemetery in Robertson County

28 October 1857

J.W. Turner charged \$25.00 to bury Robert Stainback. Turner billed the estate for a lined, walnut coffin, an outer case for the casket, and for delivering the burial containers to the Stainback home. Turner's invoice was filed with the Robertson County Court on 29 December 1857.⁴¹ The current Robertson County historian, Yolanda Reid, says Stainback's funeral was a fine one for the day. He was most likely buried in the Stainback family graveyard. Both his and his wife's graves are unmarked.⁴²

Today, the Stainback property is known as the 'Stainback Century Farm.' It is featured on the web site of Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation. Robert Stainback's great-great-grandson, George Edward 'Ed' Stainback, currently owns the homeplace and completely restored the graveyard in 2007.

The Stainback farm and family cemetery are located at 6308 Keysburg Road, 3.6 miles North of Adams, Tennessee.⁴³

2 November 1857

Edwin Stainback was appointed administrator of Robert Stainback's estate. Thomas J. Fort was his bondsman.⁴⁴

The Robertson County Court appointed Thomas J. Fort, Drury Bell and J.T. Dunn to set aside a year's allowance for Robert's widow, Drucilla, and her family.⁴⁵

28 November 1857

Drucilla Stainback was granted her year's allowance.⁴⁶

December Term 1857

The inventory and account of sale bill for Robert 'Standback's' personal effects was filed with the Robertson County Court.⁴⁷ The inventory included a sugar chest, a cupboard, a candle stand, and 'a lot of taylor's goods.'⁴⁸ An account of Drucilla's widow's allowance was filed with the court.⁴⁹

October Term 1859

The Robertson County Court accepted Ed Stainback's final report for the settlement of Robert Stainback's estate.⁵⁰

8 November 1859

Ed Stainback's closing statement for Robert Stainback's estate was ordered to be recorded.⁵¹

March Term 1866

Probate records indicate that Drucilla (Patton) Stainback (ca 1794-1866) died intestate.⁵² The Robertson County Court appointed R.G. Davenport to administer her estate; Edwin Stainback and W.H. Dillard were Davenport's bondsmen.⁵³ Apparently, no settlement was filed for Drucilla's estate, indicating that Davenport failed to communicate back to the court.⁵⁴

Endnotes

1. Roger H. Futrell, Robert Stainback-Drucilla Patton Family Group Sheet, documented, dated 1992; copy in Stainback surname file, Gorham MacBane Library, Springfield, TN.
2. 1850 U.S. census, Robertson Co., Tennessee, population schedule, district 5, p. 41 (stamped), dwelling 1041, family 1041, Robert Standback; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 894.
3. Charlie Rathbun, Jasper, Georgia, to Roger H. Futrell, e-mail, 19 November 1998, "Re: Stainback genealogy," privately held by Roger H. Futrell, 1116 Alderly Lane, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.
4. Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Prince George County, Virginia Miscellany, 1711-1814* (Richmond, VA: 1986), 31.
5. Rathbun to Futrell, e-mail, 22 Nov 1998.
6. Rathbun to Futrell, e-mail, 19 Nov 1998.

-
7. Rathbun to Futrell, e-mail, 25 Jul 2007.
 8. Rathbun to Futrell, e-mail, 22 Nov 1998.
 9. *Davidson County, Tennessee, 1805 Tax List*; Manuscript Tax Lists Microfilm, roll 3; Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville (TSLA).
 10. *The Clarion (Nashville, Tennessee)*, 23 August 1808, vol. 1, issue 31.
 11. Ibid.
 12. *1804 Map of Nashville*; map number 519; Manuscript Section, TSLA.
 13. Williamson County, Tennessee, Marriage Bonds, Robert Stainback to Drucilla Patton; Williamson County Archives, Franklin, TN.
 14. *The Clarion*, 27 September 1808, vol. 1, issue 36.
 15. Williamson County, Tennessee, Will Book 1:203-05, 230, & 298, estate of John Patton, (1809); County Archives, Franklin, TN.
 16. James W. Kluttz, *Abstracts of Deed Books 15-19 of Rowan County, North Carolina, 1797-1807* (Cary, NC: Privately printed, 1997), 164.
 17. 1850 U.S. census, Robertson Co., TN, pop. sch., p. 41 (stamped), dwell. 1041, fam. 1041, Drucilla Standback.
 18. 1820 U.S. census, Todd County, Kentucky, pop. sch., p. 124A (penned), line 12, Robert Stainback; NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 26.
 19. 1830 U.S. census, Todd Co., KY, p. 382, line 10, Robert Standback; NARA microfilm publication M91, roll 41.
 20. *The Democratic Clarion & Tennessee Gazette (Nashville, Tennessee)*, 1810, 3:105.
 21. Williamson County, Tennessee, Loose Probate Records: file John Patton estate, "John Cunningham et ux Exparte, April Term 1810"; County Archives, Franklin.
 22. Williamson Co., TN Will Book 1:230.
 23. Louise G. Lynch, *Tax Book 1, Williamson County, Tennessee, 1800-1813* (Franklin, TN: p.p., 1971), 289 & 353.
 24. Williamson County Archives, Franklin, TN, to Roger Futrell, letter, 17 Aug 2007, privately held by Roger Futrell, 1116 Alderly Lane, Frankfort, Ky., 40601.
 25. *The Democratic Clarion & Tennessee Gazette (Nashville)*, 30 November 1810, vol. 3, issue 149.
 26. Byron & Barbara Sistler, *Early Tennessee Tax Lists* (Evanston, IL: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1977), 187.
 27. Davidson County, Tennessee Loose Marriage Bonds, Jonathan Clay to Patsy Taylor; Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville.
 28. Edith R. Whitley, *Pioneers of Davidson County, Tennessee* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1996), 25.
 29. Davidson Co., TN, Loose Marriage Bonds, William Parham to Nancy Turner.
 30. George Edwin Adams, "In Re: George Edwin Stainback (1812) and his descendants," (1960), Durrett Collection, Gorham-MacBane Public Library, Springfield, TN.
 31. Roger H. Futrell, *George Gullett of Carroll County, Tennessee: & Son, James Hickman Gullett of Robertson County, Tennessee* (Frankfort, KY: p.p., 2006), 24.
 32. 1820 U.S. census, Todd Co., KY, pop. sch., p. 124A, line 12, Robt. Stainback.
 33. Todd Co., KY, Tax Lists, 1829-1830; entries for Robert Stainback; microfilm, roll 008241; Kentucky Department of Libraries & Archives (KDLA), Frankfort, KY.
 34. 1830 U.S. census, Todd Co., KY, p. 382, line 10, Robert Standback.
 35. Todd Co., KY, 1833-1835 Tax Lists, entries for Robert Stainback; microfilm, roll 008241, KDLA, Frankfort.
 36. Todd Co., KY, 1837, Tax List; microfilm, roll 008241, KDLA, Frankfort.
 37. 1850 U.S. census, Robertson Co., TN, pop. sch., district 5, page 38 (stamped), dwel. 1033, fam. 1033, Jas. H. Gullett.
 38. 1840 U.S. census, Robertson Co., TN, pop. sch., p. 187 (stamped), line 23, Ed Stanback; NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 533.
 39. 1850 U.S. census, Robertson Co., TN, pop. sch., p. 41 (stamped), dwell. 1041, fam. 1041, Robert Standback.
 40. Robertson Co., TN, Loose Estate Records: file Robert Stainback, 1859; Robertson County Archives, Springfield, TN.
 41. Ibid.
 42. Jean M. Durrett, Yolanda G. Reid & Diane Williams, *Robertson County, Tennessee Cemetery Records* (Springfield, TN: p.p. 1987), 253.
 43. George E. Stainback, Adams, TN, to Roger Futrell, letter, 13 Jul 2007; privately held by Futrell.
 44. Robertson County, Tennessee, Court Minute Book 14:152, Robert Stainback; County Archives, Springfield.
 45. Robertson County Court Minute Book 14: 157, Drucilla Stainback.
 46. Robertson County Will Book 16:543, Drucilla Stainback; County Archives, Springfield.
 47. Robertson County Court Minute Book 14:159, Robert Standback.
 48. Robertson County Will Book 16:657, Robert Standback.
 49. Robertson County Court Minute Book 14:168, Drucilla Standback.
 50. Robertson County Will Book 16:791, Robert Stainback.
 51. Robertson County Court Minute Book 14: 402, Robert Stainback.
 52. Robertson County Will Book 18:38, Drucilla Stainback.
 53. Robertson County Court Minute Book 15:274, Drucilla Stainback.
 54. Yolanda Reid (Robertson County Historian), Springfield, TN, to Roger Futrell, letter, 27 Jul 2007; privately held by Futrell.

Clues in Stitches: Genealogical Records on Tennessee Samplers

By Janet S. Hasson

Janet Hasson is the founding secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Sampler Survey, a 501 (c) 3 organization. The Tennessee Sampler Survey documents samplers with technical analysis and quality photography. Research is conducted to identify the maker and her community. If you know of a Tennessee sampler which should be documented, please contact janet@tennesseesamplers.com or call (615) 377-3556. For more samplers, visit TSS online at www.tennesseesamplers.com.



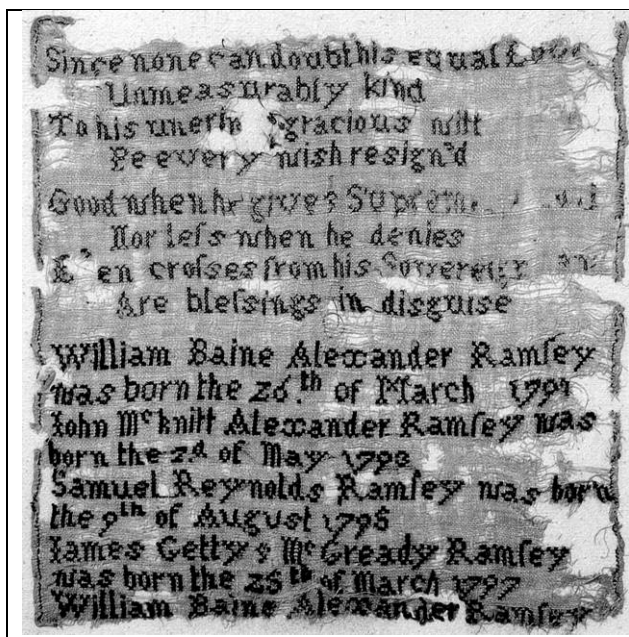
Searching for a long lost relative? Don't overlook genealogical clues found in textiles, especially embroidery samplers. Most samplers are signed and dated and many record parents, siblings, and neighbors.

A sampler is a piece of cloth used to learn and practice embroidery stitches and motifs. The earliest signed American sampler was made by Loara Standish, daughter of Miles Standish,¹ in the 1640s. By 1750, samplers had become school exercises, worked by young girls 8-16 to show their skill at handwork.

A series of samplers, each more complicated than the last, were worked by well-educated and prosperous girls. A girl's first sampler was a marking cloth on which she practiced sewing letters and numbers. After stitching a marking sampler, a girl might progress to a more complicated embroidery featuring a building or landscape, in addition to the required alphabet. Finally, if the student continued her education at an academy, seminary, or finishing school, she might execute a needlework picture, which often depicted classical or Biblical scenes.

Another genre of sampler is the family register or record which lists names and dates. To a family historian, such a sampler is a genealogical treasure. When compared to public records, birth and death dates on samplers may prove more accurate. Stitched family registers were even used by Revolutionary War widows to prove pension eligibility. The National Archives (NARA) has six such samplers in its collection.² American family registers began in the 1730s, and contained only initials. The first fully developed family record which lists names, birth and death dates, was made by Elizabeth Olmstead in 1774 in Connecticut.³ Family registers were popular from the 1770s through the 1840s, with the majority being made from 1815 to 1835.⁴ Most were stitched by school girls, usually the eldest or youngest daughter. Sometimes the matriarch of the family worked a family history in stitches. Registers were often a long-term project; with data added over the years as family members were born and died. Some were stitched in the shape of a family tree. Others were compartmentalized, a style which reflects the records found in family Bibles. Of the 186 samplers and embroideries which the Tennessee Sampler Survey has researched, six may be categorized as true family registers.

Elizabeth Jane Naomi Ramsey, daughter of Francis A. Ramsey, grew up in the Ramsey House (known as Swan Pond) in Knox County. About 1811, Eliza Jane stitched two family registers—a birth sampler and a death sampler. The text for the birth sampler (TSS 075) was taken from the Presbyterian hymn "Blest Comforter Divine." It reads:

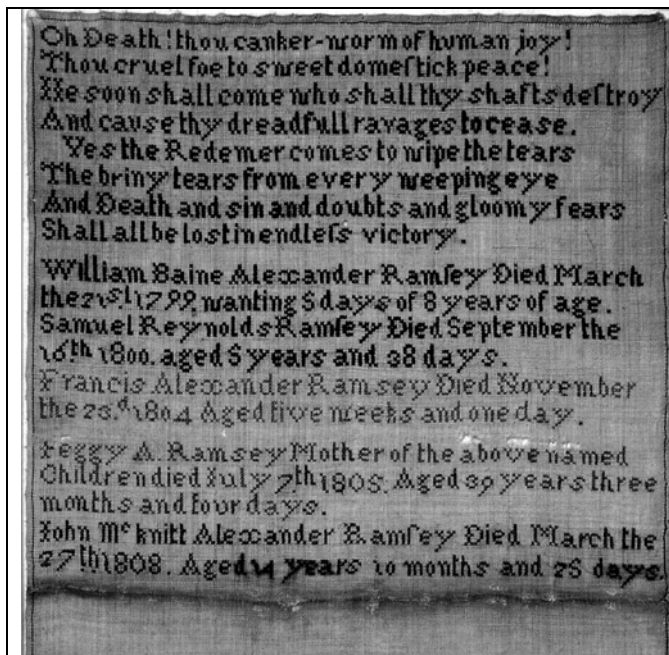


Since none can doubt his equal Love
 Unmeasurably kind
 To his une[rring] gracious will
 Be every wish resign'd
 Good when he gives Supremely good
 Nor less when he denies
 E'en crosses from his Sovereign hand
 Are blessings in disguise

William Baine Alexander Ramsey
 was born the 26th. of March 1791
 John McKnitt Alexander Ramsey was
 born the 2.^d of May 1793
 Samuel Reynolds Ramsey was born
 the 9th of August 1795
 James Gettys McGready Ramsey
 was born the 25th of March 1797
 William Baine Alexander Ramsey

Elizabeth Jane Naomi Ramsey. Ramsey birth register, c. 1811. Knox Co. 13"V x 12 1/2"H. Ramsey House Plantation, Knoxville. TSS 075.
 (The rest of this sampler is missing)

Eliza Jane's death register (TSS 074) includes a macabre verse, written by Annis Boudinot Stockton upon the death of her husband on December 3, 1780. Samplers frequently quoted morbid poems. Children were taught to repent lest they die soon, an indication of the high infant mortality rate. Before Eliza Jane stitched her death record, she had already lost her mother and four brothers. The Ramsey family Bible was the source for the genealogical entries.

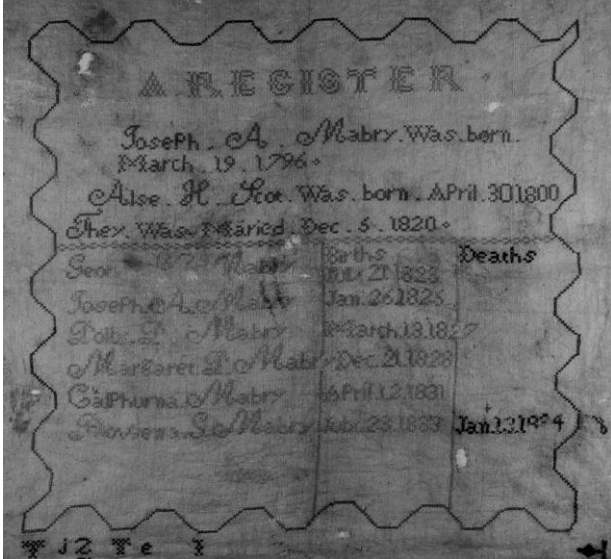


Oh Death! thou canker-worm of human joy!
 Thou cruel foe to sweet domestick peace!
 He Soon Shall come who shall thy shafts destroy
 And cause thy dreadfull ravages to cease.
 Yes the Redeemer comes to wipe the tears
 The briny tears from every weeping eye
 And Death and sin and doubts and gloomy fears
 Shall all be lost in endless victory.⁵
 William Baine Alexander Ramsey Died March
 the 21st. 1799. wanting 5 days of 8 years of age.
 Samuel Reynolds Ramsey Died September the
 16.th 1800. aged 5 years and 38 days.
 Francis Alexander Ramsey Died November
 the 23.^d 1804 Aged five weeks and one day.
 Peggy A. Ramsey Mother of the above named
 children died July 7.th 1805. Aged 39 years three
 months and four days.
 John McKnitt Alexander Ramsey Died March the
 27th.. 1808. Aged 14 years 10 months and 25 days.

Elizabeth Jane Naomi Ramsey. Ramsey death register, c. 1811. Knox Co. 23"V x 17"H. Ramsey House Plantation, Knoxville. TSS 074.

Textile historian Patricia Veasey of Clover, South Carolina, has connected the Tennessee Ramsey family registers to a group of samplers worked in North Carolina, where the Ramsey, Alexander, and McKnitt families originated. These samplers also feature birth and death dates and contain the names of Eliza Jane's maternal family members.

A sampler from the Joseph Mabry family (TSS 182) of Knox County reads:



A. REGISTER

*Joseph. A. Mabry. Was. born.
March. 19. 1796.*

Alse. H. Scot. Was. born. April. 30 1800

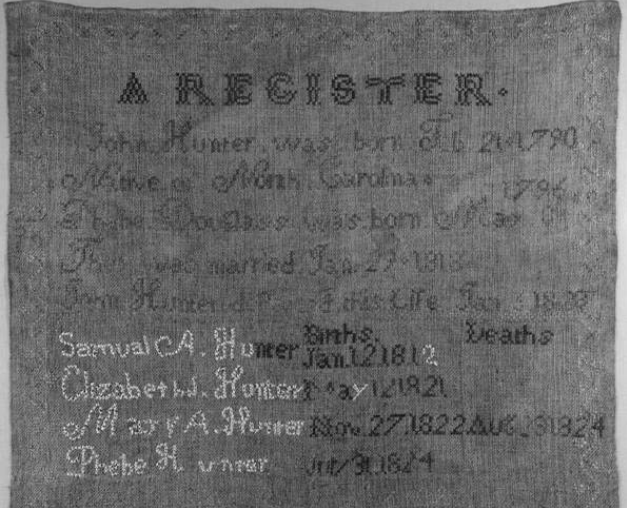
They. Was. Married. Dec. 5. 1820.

Births	Deaths
<i>Joseph. A. Mabry Jan. 26 1825</i>	
<i>Polly. P. Mabry March. 13 1827</i>	
<i>Margaret. P. Mabry Dec. 21 1828</i>	
<i>CalPhurna. Mabry April. 12 1831</i>	
<i>Rowena. G. Mabry July. 23 1833</i>	

Mabry family register, c. 1834. Knox Co. 20 1/4"V x 20 3/4"H. Mabry-Hazen House, Knoxville. TSS 182.

Joseph Alexander Mabry (1796-1837) was a member of the Tennessee state legislature and of the Constitutional Convention of 1834. The Mabrys lived on Kingston Pike in Concord, Knox Co., TN. It is not known who stitched the sampler; it may have been Polly [Mary Penell] Mabry or her mother, Alse [Alice] Hare Scott. Joseph A. Mabry died in a duel with a Dr. Leland in 1837. In 1858 Joseph Alexander Mabry II, who was the publisher of the *Knoxville Whig*, built the Mabry-Hazen House, now a museum in Knoxville. Both Joseph A. Mabry II and his son, Joseph A. Mabry III, died in 1882 following a duel with Thomas O'Conner on Gay Street in Knoxville. The incident was later recorded in Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*.

A similar family register (TSS 183), also from Knox County, was stitched by Elizabeth J. Hunter in 1835. It reads:



A REGISTER

John. Hunter. was born. Feb. 21 + 1790

Native of. North. Carolina + 1796

Phebe. Douglass. was. born. May. 8 +

They. was. married. Jan. 29 + 1818 +

John. Hunter. departed. this. Life. Jan. 5. 1828

Births	Deaths
<i>Samuel A. Hunter Jan. 12 1819</i>	
<i>Elizabeth J. Hunter May 12 1821</i>	
<i>Mary A. Hunter Nov. 27. 1822</i>	<i>Aug 23 1824</i>
<i>Phebe Hunter July 21 1824</i>	

Wrought. By. Elizabeth J. Hunter

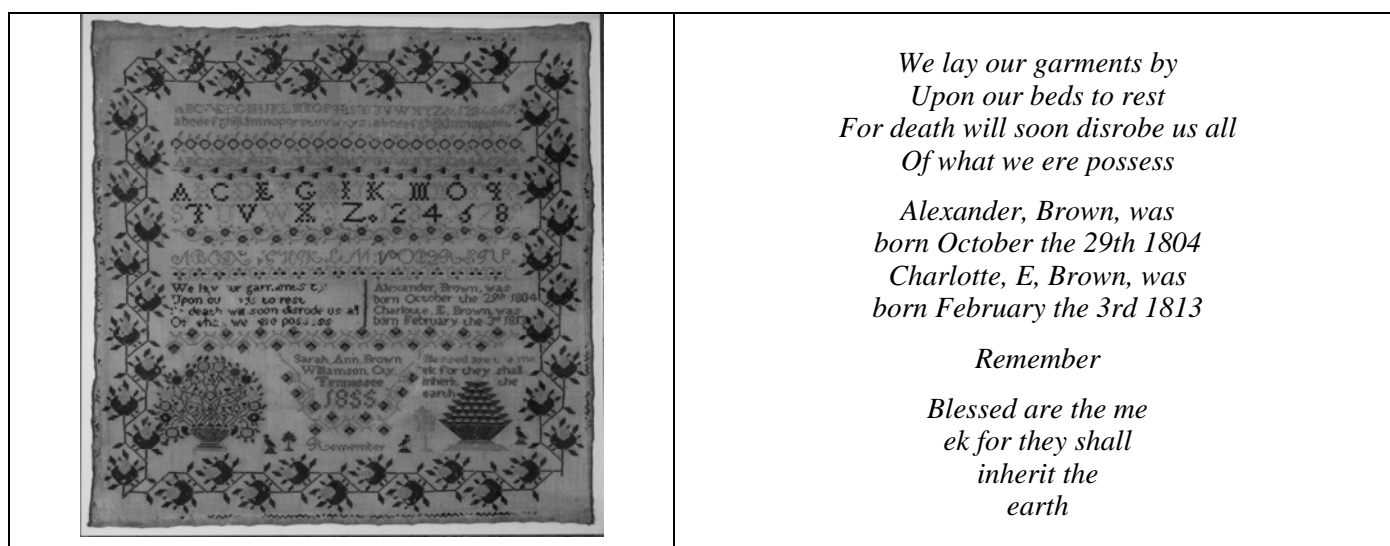
May. 27. 1835

Jan. 13. 1834

Elizabeth Jane Hunter. Hunter family register, 1835. Knox Co. 22 1/2"V x 22 1/2"H. Private Collection. TSS 183.

The only Middle Tennessee family register documented so far was made by Sarah (Sally) W. Gooch (TSS 005). Born in 1798 in Caswell County, North Carolina, Sally came with her family to Middle Tennessee in 1817. She stitched a family record using over 30 sets of initials. Beginning with her sister's marriage in 1822, Sally steadily added new family members' monograms until 1856. Sally was the 3rd great-aunt of MTGS president Virginia Gooch Watson, who established the date range and the identities of the family members listed. Sally married William Scruggs in 1833 in Rutherford County. The couple settled on the southeast corner of Hillsboro Road and Old Hickory in Williamson County. Although they never had any children, they adopted a niece and nephew, Edward and Lucinda Scruggs. Sally died in 1856.

Samplers which are not family registers may also include family information. Sarah Ann Brown, the fourth of nine children born to of Alexander Brown and Charlotte E. Claud, lived in the Cottonwood District of Williamson County. She worked her sampler (TSS 002) in 1855 when she was twelve. Her sampler, a vibrant and decorative masterpiece, is not a family register, although it contains important family information. Sarah stitched her parents' names and birth dates as follows:



Sarah Ann Brown. Sampler, 1855. Williamson Co. 23"V x 22 3/4"H. Tennessee State Museum, Nashville. TSS 002.

Sarah grew up to marry Norman N. Morton, a merchant in Davidson County. They had one child, Norman N. Morton, Jr. born about 1870. Sarah died sometime between 1880 and 1900.

Matilda G. Alexander of Beechcroft in Williamson Co. stitched a sampler in 1847 (TSS 110), which lists her parents', neighbors', and teacher's names. Her parents were Abdon I. Alexander and Eliza Eugenia Campbell. Neighbors included on the sampler were J. S. Sedberry and J. M. McCord. Tabitha C. Dabney (Mrs. John O. Dabney) was most likely her teacher.

Pictorial mourning embroideries on silk are another form of needlework which may interest genealogists. More advanced than samplers, these pieces were made in the final years of school. They were popular from 1799 (when the death of George Washington resulted in many forms of memorials) through the 1820s. School girls made such pieces to memorialize family members. They usually included mourning symbols such as a tombstone, a weeping willow, urns, and a figure weeping. In 1811 Sally Gooch (who stitched the family register TSS 005) worked a mourning embroidery (TSS 006) in honor of grandfather William Gooch Sr., a Revolutionary War veteran who died December 22, 1802. Sally attended Salem Female Academy in Salem, NC, where this piece was made.

Samplers which are signed and dated can provide wonderful information for your family tree. They may be found unframed, folded in a drawer or trunk. Sometimes they are hiding in picture frames behind photographs or prints. When the Eliza Jane Ramsey death register was taken out of the frame for conservation, the birth record was found behind it. Old letters, notes, and photographs may be found within the framing itself or on the back. Beware, however, if you are thinking about opening up an old frame. Work from the back only and do not remove the sampler itself or any backing material that adheres to the needlework. Samplers also may meld to the glass. If either of these conditions occurs the piece should be taken to a conservator.

¹. Sebb, Anne. *Samplers Five Centuries of a Gentle Craft*. New York: Thames and Hudson, Inc., 1979, pp. 50 and 53.

². Heaps, Jennifer Davis. "'Remember Me' Six Samplers in the National Archives," Part 1. *Prologue*, Fall 2002, Vol. 34, No. 3. The U.S. National Archives & Records Administration. 18 September 2007. <<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2002/fall/samplers-1.html>>.

³. Bolton, Ethel Stanwood and Eva Johnston Coe. *American Samplers*. Boston: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1921, pp. 18 and 28.

⁴. Allen, Gloria Seaman. *Family Record Genealogical Watercolors and Needlework*. Washington, DC: DAR Museum, 1989, p. 3.

⁵. Excerpt from a poem written by Mrs. Richard Stockton during her husband's final illness in 1780. Yardley, Margaret Tuft. *The New Jersey Scrap Book of Women Writers*. Newark, NJ: Advertiser Printing House, 1893, pp. 245-246. Google Books. 20 September 2007. <<http://books.google.com>>.

Ralph Earl's Nashville Museum

From *The Whig* January 9, 1822

R.E.W. Earl
Proprietor of The Nashville Museum

Has removed all his Natural and Artificial curiosities from his former residence on Cedar street, to the square, over the Confectionary Store of Mr. Decker's where he will for the future receive any donations from the public, they may think proper to present to his collection. Mr. Earl also returns his thanks to those persons who have already made donations to his Museum.

To the public at large, he requests their attention to that important department of collecting natural and artificial curiosities of the country, which, when concentrated, will throw more light on the ancient history of this state, than any other information that can be given. He has already made a greater collection of curiosities than could have been anticipated in so short a period of time. With the assistance of that patriotic & generous spirit which characterizes the people of this state, he flatters himself, in a few years, to make an establishment which will reflect some honor to the state.

P.S. Those gentlemen who may be disposed to promote the interest of the above institution, by donations of natural or artificial curiosities, by depositing them with Mr. Earl, at the Nashville Museum, will have their names attached to them, as the donors, and will assuredly receive the thanks of the proprietor. A donation, however small, in itself, will be gratefully received.

Davidson County Civil War Claims

Allowed for Payment by the Southern Claims Commission

Part I of a Series

Following the Civil War, many residents of Middle Tennessee attempted to get compensation from the Federal government for damage done to their property by the Union Army as it marched through their towns, raided their barns and camped in their fields. The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to review the claims of Southerners. Only those deemed to have been loyal to the Union throughout the war were eligible to receive payment for damages.

More than 20,000 people filed claims with the commission; the records show that fewer than one-third recovered anything. The records of these "allowed" claims are located at the National Archives. Files pertaining to those who were rejected have been microfilmed and are available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The files of those claimants who were allowed some payment have not been filmed and can be viewed only at the National Archives branch in College Park, Maryland.

The following abstracts are based on the claims of Davidson County residents who were deemed loyal Unionists and allowed payment by the Commissioners for Southern Claims.

William Baker

Age 74; filed 1873; file consists of 72 pp. Claimed \$4,782 for corn, potatoes, fodder, oats, hay, hogs, shoats, grinding stone, wagon & plow gears, mares, horse, saddle, bridle, fence rails, cordwood, picket fence, planks, log houses, frame house.

Commissioners' Remarks:

"Claimant is 74 years old. He swore to his loyal sympathies and sentiments. He had a son in the Rebel army who laid down his arms under President Lincoln's Proclamation in 1862 and did not again enter the army. His witnesses testify to his loyal conversation and reputation. His claim was before the Driver Board and payment thereof was recommended, and the same claim was before the Army Board with a similar result. Some of the items before us are not satisfactorily proved to have been taken as supplies for the army, others are evidently to be set to the account of depredation and pillage. In view of the testimony submitted including that taken before our Special Commissioner and that before the Driver Board we allow the sum of \$2,558."

Notes:

Claimant was born in South Carolina and raised in

Kentucky. Has lived 40 years on his 200 acre farm on Mill Creek seven miles from Nashville, where the Nashville Railroad crosses the creek. Was arrested in December 1863 after two Union soldiers came to get his beef and was then captured by rebel soldiers. He was imprisoned as a "leader in the rebellion" but later released. "One night some Confederate soldiers came to my house and wanted to stay all night. I told them I could not let them do it as I had taken the oath. They threatened to burn me out ... and report me to Morgan. At the time the Block House on my place occupied by Federal soldiers was captured in 1864 I took care of the Union wounded who were left there." Had one son and several grandsons in the CSA against his will. The son, H.B.Baker, is age 50 and lives in Humphreys County. Shortly before the battle of Stone's River Gen. Rosecrans' Army camped on and about his place for three weeks. Gen. Sills' headquarters was in his yard and some of the officers occupied rooms in the house. His farm was fenced with five miles of cedar rails eight rails high and much of it "staked & ridged." The log houses where his hands lived were about 20 feet square and 8 to 10 feet high. U.S. troops came in wagons and hauled off corn and livestock for three days. On the third day he was arrested and kept in prison for five days. When he got out all of his property was gone.

Witnesses for William Baker

- Benjamin F. Wilkinson, age 45, neighbor.
- H.B. Baker, son of claimant, lives near Waverly in Humphreys County. The Federal line stopped about a mile from his father's house but seven or eight of the soldiers strayed beyond the picket line and came to his father's to get supplies. While they were there the Confederate cavalry found and captured them at his father's house. The Federal commander was "enraged at the capture" and had his father arrested. "When I got to the house of my father he had been arrested ... the first thing I saw was two soldiers shooting fat hogs in a lot close to the stable. Four soldiers were skinning them.... I passed on by, but heard shooting in that direction. I went around by the barn and from there to the house. The crib which stood next to the barn was torn down and U.S. soldiers in great numbers were there loading wagons with corn. The yard was full of soldiers. At the same time soldiers, a great many of them, were in the sweet potato cellar putting the potatoes in bags ... and taking them away. I then went into the house where my mother was. She was alarmed and requested me to stay there with her and I did so." He spoke with the captured soldiers at Gilliam's headquarters after they had been paroled and returned. Forage Master Capt. W.W. Wheeler seemed to be in charge of the taking; he was part of Gen. Sills' headquarters. "My father was bitterly opposed to my going into the [Confederate] army."
- Andrew Gregory, age 56, neighbor since 1850. Baker "had a splendid farm, well enclosed and well stocked; it is one of the best farms in the county."
- E.B. Bigley, Esq., age 73, farmer, has known claimant about 40 years, lived nearly in sight of each other. "We had a Union Club in the neighborhood at the breaking out of the war [but] we left it off after the war broke out. ... It was very dangerous to say anything [against the Confederacy] at that time and this caused men to be very cautious.... Gen. Sills who was camped on his place sent for me twice to ascertain who were the Union men there... in

order to give them guards for their houses and families." Union officials in Nashville considered Baker a loyal man and gave him a pass to take provisions out of the city for his family.

- Hon. John Trimble, only knew Baker slightly but knows he belonged to the "class [of people] that were in no sense responsible for the Rebellion."

The following brief depositions in the file were taken in 1863 before William Driver:

- P.W. Davis, neighbor, physician. He and James Alexander were called on to measure the corn cribs and their capacity.
- Louisa Smith, lived on Baker's farm in 1862, saw the soldiers kill the livestock and saw stragglers enter the house and take cloth and clothing.
- W.R. Lucas, lived two miles away, was called to measure the amount of fencing lost to the army.
- T.A. Harris, measured fencing with Lucas.
- Ester Waggener, says in fall of 1862 she was riding on Mill Creek Valley pike and a federal soldier swapped horses with her. She was met by Dr. Charlten who told her the horse belonged to Baker.
- Alfred Dunn, son-in-law of claimant, saw the livestock killed and crops taken.
- William Baker, son of claimant, rented and farmed part of his father's land in 1862.
- A.J. Baker, nephew of claimant, had cut 12 acres of hay for claimant in 1862.
- Hiram Baker, son of claimant, helped cut 12 tons of clover for his father in 1862.
- Ephriam Charlten, saw Mrs. Waggener with the mare.
- Francis E. Baker, son of claimant, was at his father's house when Lieut. Covert took a horse.
- Mrs. Ezell [Mrs. N.S. Bell crossed out], daughter of claimant, saw father's horse taken in a forage train.
- Y.E. Smith, lives on Baker's farm, saw horse taken. Had helped gather the corn and dig the sweet potatoes in 1862.

William T. Berry

Claim filed in 1871; file consists of 136 pp. Claimed \$24,778 for nine frame buildings, one brick factory building, cedar fencing, cordwood, standing timber, coal, corn, hay, oats, stationery.

Commissioners' Remarks:

"Claimant's loyalty is established by his own statement and the testimony of Hon. Horace Maynard, R.J. Meigs, Gen. Whipple and others. The evidence of loyalty is entirely satisfactory and leaves no shred of doubt of the fact. He kept an extensive and elegant book store in Nashville and had valuable real estate in the vicinity of the city. His dwelling, out houses and lard factory were torn down and used by the Army for firewood and quarters, as were also his fences. And besides this great destruction and waste 40 acres of timber was cut and used for fuel. We are not satisfied that the stationery was taken or furnished for the use of the army. We allow \$9,410."

Notes:

Berry lived 2.5 miles from downtown Nashville on the Franklin Pike, on a farm of 100 acres. His primary deposition is missing from the file, but his statement to the Driver Commission is present. "I leant Gen. Nelson some money. On the retreat of Gen. Buell's army from Alabama, Gen. Nelson came into our store one day. He often came in there, having excellent taste in books. He said he had no money, and he and his staff wanted money. He asked for \$300, which I let him have. I never got it back. ...After I got home, just before the battle, I went with Col. Bennett to see it [my farm] and I really did not know the place. We have partially restored it, with an expenditure of between \$25 and \$30,000."

A letter in the file dated 8 Jan. 1865 from W.T. Berry to Maj. Gen. Thomas begins "General – We are homeless by the chances of war. All outbuildings, servant rooms, fences & etc. are gone. We have no lumber wherewith to repair these losses." He asks whether the Army would assist in rebuilding the necessities. "We have given very little thought to our personal losses, and have rejoiced with those that rejoice at the Grand Achievements of the 15th & 16th of December...."

File includes detailed accounts of stationery, inkstands and other items purchased by officers at Berry's



bookstore. The officers are: Capt. J.M. Blair; AQM M.D. Wickersham; AQM C.H. Irwin; Maj. Gen. Jas. S. Negley; Col. Jno. C. Crane; Col. R.D. Massey; Lieut. Blackman of the 8th Kansas; Lieut. J.S. Goddard.

A declaration of support for Berry was signed jointly by these former officers who were acquainted with him and his property: G.P. Thruston late AAG and Bvt. Brig. Genl.; Jas. Chamberlain, late Col. 28th P.V.M.; E.M. Metcalfe, late Capt. 129th Ind. Vol. Inf. & Asst. Pro. Marshal at Nashville; J.R. Paul, late Lt. Col. 14 H.C.C.B[?]; Samuel J. Little; J.W. Paramore, late Col. 3rd O.V. Cav.; James R. Willett, late Major 1st U.S. V.V. Engineers and Chief Inspector R.R. Defenses.

Capt. David White wrote a letter to Claims Commissioner J.B. Howell in support of Berry's claim. A letter dated 25 January 1867 signed by 18 Tennessee state senators in support of Berry's loyalty is in the file.

Witnesses for William T. Berry:

- W. Berry Bayless of Giles Co., Tenn., nephew of claimant, lived in Berry's home and went to school with his son prior to the Battle of Nashville. He was in charge of Berry's place during the siege of Nashville. The factory was torn down and the bricks used for floors and chimneys in the soldiers' quarters. Gen. Opedyke had his headquarters near the house. Albert Berry, now of the U.S. Navy, and Corp. Elwood F. Nichols of the Ohio Volunteers were placed as guards at Berry's by order of Maj. Gen. George Thomas. But Gen. Gross' men forced the guard and took about half the corn. Berry and his family were ordered into Nashville for protection. Four regiments of

Middle Tennessee Supreme Court Records

Third Series

by *Gale Williams Bamman, CG*
and *Joan W. Pruett*



Supreme Court Records, Box 79,
Middle Tennessee, 1845

Aquilla Wheelless vs E. Marion Barker

Original Bill heard in
Montgomery County Circuit Court

Be it remembered that on the trial of this cause the plaintiff offered in evidence a copy of the conveyance from Charles M. Barker to plaintiff (the absence of the original being satisfactorily accounted for) hereto annexed as Exhibit A ...

This indenture made and entered into this 12th day of February in the year 1844 between Charles M. Barker of the County of Todd & State of Kentucky of the one part and Elizabeth Marion Barker Executrix of the last will and testament of Edward S. Barker of the County of Montgomery and State of Tennessee of the other part witnesseth that whereas the said Charles M. Barker stands justly indebted to the said Elizabeth Marion Barker, Executrix aforesaid in the sum of nine thousand two hundred twenty four dollars & 70 cents due by note on or before the first day of January 1842 with interest ... dated 19th March 1841 ... [and other notes] ... And ... the said Charles M. Barker is desirous to secure the payment thereof ... Now this indenture further

witnesseth that the said Charles M. Barker ... doth by these presents ... convey to the said Elizabeth Marion Barker ... and to her assigns forever the following described slaves, to wit: fifteen negroes named as follows, Tom, about 50[?] years of age, Morgan about 40, Willis about 38, Betty about 30, Daniel about 38, Patrick about 25, Nathan about 22, Jackson about 14, Maria about 50[?], Kitty about 28, and her two children, Young Pamela about 16, and Ben & Bob, not of much value, with the increase of said slaves for life. Also the following described stock: about 25 head of horses, 6 mules, 150 head of sheep, 40 head of cattle including oxen and 200 head of hogs ... to have and to hold the said negroes and stock to the said Elizabeth Marion Barker, Executrix of Edward Barker, and her heirs forever.

Provided nevertheless and this indenture is made upon the express condition that if the said Charles M. Barker shall on or before the first of April in 1844 pay or cause to be paid unto Elizabeth Marion Barker afsd. the sums of money due to her as afsd. described together with the whole amount of interest thereon then the above is to be void and of no effect. [signed] C. M. Barker. Witness: Henry J. Stiles, R. H. Barker.

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
County of Christian, to wit:
I Abraham Stiles, clerk ... do certify that this deed ... was this day produced to me ... and proved to be the act and deed of the said Charles M. Barker by the oaths of Henry J. Stiles and Richard H. Barker, the subscribing witnesses and ordered to be certified ... Given under my hand the 8th day of April 1844. Attest Abram Stiles, CCCC
Filed Apr. 9, 1844.

Supreme Court Records, Box 80,
Middle Tennessee, 1842

Nancy L. Coleman vs Nathan B. Farrier and John V. Easley

Original Bill heard in
Montgomery County Circuit Court

And the defendants prayed an appeal to the next Supreme Court to be held at Nashville and having entered into bond with security satisfactory to the court the same is allowed.

Bill of Exceptions:
The plaintiff introduced Thomas R. Coleman who swore that he was living with his mother who is a widow and 50 or 60 years old, that she is very feeble and that her intellect is obviously in the decline, that Farrier and Easley came to his mother's house in Dickson County about 1 ½ hours in the night and

had with them the negroes in the pleadings mentioned. At breakfast next morning Farrier first proposed to sell these negroes. Pltff. said she had no money. Farrier then said she had notes on Mrs. Thurston & that they would do. Plaintiff then said she had a negro woman Ellen which was runaway. Farrier then proposed to trade for her as she was a runaway & for the note on Mrs. Thurston. On cross examination he said he did not recollect whether his mother or Farrier first spoke of the note on Mrs. Thurston. Ellen had been runaway two or three days ... and was worth \$550 or \$600 dollars. The plaintiff's son Henry Coleman who usually transacted her business and did her trading was from home in Sumner County. The defendants urged her very much to make the trade & talked so much to her she was greatly confused & scarcely knew what she was doing. Said she did not know Easley but that Mr. Farrier was an old neighbor when she lived in Montgomery County and she had confidence in him but wished to send for her son-in-law a Mr. Williams who lived 1 ¼ miles from her house. When the boy was ordered to catch the horse to go for Williams, defendant said it was not necessary and that they could not wait for him, that they must go to Whiteoak ... The defendants continued to talk to her about the trade till nearly dinner-time when the trade was made, the plaintiff giving her girl Ellen & \$600 in notes on Mrs. Thurston for the negroes Mariah and Anthony ... When the trade was progressing the negro man Anthony came into the house from the stables where the Defts. had been after breakfast & urged the plaintiff to buy him and his wife, that he had just found out the place where he wanted to be and that he wanted for the balance of his

life to serve his old Mistress, as he called the Plaintiff, & that he liked the farm and everything about it. When asked about the health of Mariah, Deft. said she had had the chills and that he had just bought her & that she had gotten a little wet in going to Dickson County & had taken cold, which caused her to cough. The woman Mariah, he said, was diseased & that she was of no manner of account, that she had done no service for his mother since the trade in August 1842 & ... that she is constantly laid up & coughs continually and that her general appearance is feeble and emaciated. He said she was from appearances 40 years old. He further said the negro man was from 45 to 50 years old – that he is very gray – that he did not observe his head was gray when the trade took place, that he had his hat on, but that he discovered it was smartly sprinkled with gray in a few days thereafter, and that he did not know whether it had been blacked or not, but that it turned gray very fast. He further proved he & his mother's family knew where the girl Ellen was, that she was lurking about Dr. Hudson's, from whom his mother had bought her, about 12 miles off, that he had been in that neighborhood and learned she was there ... After the sale of the negroes, Farrier & Easley did not go towards White Oak, but the contrary way. He proved the Bill of Sale here marked A, which was in the handwriting of his mother, the Complainant.

Exhibit A. We the undersigned have this day bargained and sold to Nancy L. Coleman living in Dickson County in the State of Tennessee two negroes a man named Antney [sic] for the consideration of eight hundred

dollars to them in hand paid. The said negro Antney is about thirty-five years of age ... and a slave for life, also a woman named Maryer [sic] aged about thirty years of age for the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars to them in hand paid the said undersigners do not warrant [her] to be in good health at this time but free from all claims whatever and a slave for life this August the 16th 1842 ...

[signed] John V. Easley, N. B. Farrier. [Witness] George R. Coleman

Henry Coleman was next introduced who proved his mother was old and infirm and that her mind was very much impaired & that he usually did her trading for her. He also proved Farrier knew she had the notes on Mrs. Thurston for \$600 and that he had at one time before offered to sell witness a negro for these notes & that the family his mother and her children had no fears about getting Ellen. They knew she was in the neighborhood of Dr. Hudson's for that she had been heard of there when his brother went in pursuit of her ...

Thomas Walthal proved as the agent of plaintiff he called on Farrier shortly before the suit was brought & proposed to them to rescind the contract with Mrs. Coleman ...

Dr. C. R.[?] Cooper proved he was called on to attend the negro Mariah in June & July 1842 while she belonged to Mr. Arnold of the Town of Clarksville. She was quite ill, had been confined in jail in Paducah ...

Dr. Moody proved he had seen the negro often in the possession of

Mrs. Coleman, that she had a bad cough ... He said from the symptoms he could not tell whether the disease was bronchitis or common cold—that he was a young Dr. and had never been called to see a common cold.

N.[?] P. Arnold proved he sold the negroes Mariah & Anthony to Farrier & Easily on 16th August 1842, got \$400 for them. Refused to warrant the woman to be sound, warranted the man ... Sold her on 16th August 1842 & her husband Anthony on same day, said she had been in jail in Paducah where she had been badly treated ... that they had run off and had gotten into the State of Kentucky ...

The jury found a verdict for plaintiff, and the Defts. moved for a new trial and the court overruled the motion. To all of which the counsel for Defts. except and pray that this bill of Exceptions may be signed,

sealed and made part of the record, which is done.

Supreme Court Records, Box 79,
Middle Tennessee, 1845

**John W. Hagen & others vs
Thomas H. Bradford & others**

Original Bill heard in
Williamson County Chancery Court

On 21 March 1845 a bill of complaint was filed ... to wit ... the Bill of Complaint of John W. Hagen, Gilbert Hagen, Powhatan W. Maxey, George W. Coleman and Thomas B. Coleman, citizens of the County of Davidson, State of Tennessee, against Thomas H. Bradford, Martha Bradford, James J. Bradford & Edward Bradford, citizens of the State of Mississippi and Alfred Hume a citizen of Davidson County, State of Tennessee.

... that on the 25th day of July 1840 the said defendants Thomas H.

Bradford, Martha Bradford and James Bradford by their guardian Edward Bradford filed their petition in the chancery court at McMinnville in the State of Tennessee stating among other things that they were infants under the age of 21 years, to wit that the said Thomas was between 13 and 14, Mary 11 and 12, and James about 9 years old, and that they were the children and heirs at law of Mary Jane Bradford, deceased, who was the daughter and only heir at law of John Bradford, dec'd. of Jefferson County, Mississippi. That the said John Bradford was the brother of Thomas Hopkins, dec'd. late of Warren County and that the petitioners constituted a portion of the heirs at law of Thomas Hopkins, and that several tracts of land lately belonging to said Thomas Hopkins were allotted to or assigned to them, and that several of said tracts were situate in said Warren County

To Be Continued

Martin Bates' Weary Wanderings

Restored to His Father The Weary Wanderings of a Confederate Soldier's Waif

Martin Bates, now a section foreman on the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, was a Confederate soldier. During the war his wife died. Shortly before her death, she placed their only boy in the keeping of her sister, who also died, and the boy was set adrift in the world. Since that time he has been a wanderer, working from place to place and having a hard time of it. Though never sent to school, he has learned to read and write, having been assisted by those with whom he found employment. He met a freight conductor at Chattanooga, a day or two ago and related his story, telling him that he had a father employed on the Chattanooga road. He was taken to Wartrace that day. Bates happened to be at the depot, when his son approached him and said, "You are my father." Bates turned pale and his voice "choked up," as he said, while the son shed tears freely. The latter told so straight a story concerning his youth that Bates was thoroughly convinced of the truth of his statements, and then the greeting became one of the most affectionate nature. On the way up the boy was told that his father was a poor man and would not be able to render him much assistance. "Well," said the young Bates resolutely, "perhaps I can render him some." He is now 17 years old.

From *The Daily American* (Nashville), August 11, 1876

1805 Davidson County Tax List, Annotated

Part 2 of a series

The following list of taxable inhabitants taken in Davidson County in 1805 provides the names of 1,855 free white males and a few females, and enumerates (but does not name) 2,205 taxable slaves. It is one of the most complete records of early Nashville area that names all taxable settlers.

At the time this tax list was taken, Davidson County encompassed all of its current boundaries plus most of what would later become Cheatham County. Rutherford County had been formed in 1803, considerably reducing the size of Davidson County.

The published laws of Tennessee reveal to us that residents were required to report and pay their taxes each April, and to be listed according to this procedure:

“The clerk of each county court ... shall, on or before the first day of February ... furnish the collector or sheriff of each county with a list of taxable property by them to be collected.... The collector or sheriff shall appoint the day and place in each district of the said county, in the month of April, when and where he will attend.... posting it three of the most public places” in the district.”¹

Subsequent sessions of the General Assembly passed laws revising and adjusting the tax code established by the territorial legislature. By 1805 the following property was taxable at these rates:

- Lands held by deed or entry or lease or right of dower, 12 ½ cents per 100 acres
- Free males and male servants aged 21-50, 12 ½ cents each
- Male and female slaves aged 12-50, 25 cents each
- Stud horses, \$2.00 each
- Town lots, 50 cents each
- Retail stores, \$25 each
- Billiard tables, \$1,000 each (!)
- Peddlers and hawkers, \$25 each

The original list turned in to Sheriff John Boyd of Davidson County in 1805 is not extant. That list would have included columns for all of the information listed above. However, a copy listing the names of taxpayers and the number of black and white polls for which they were charged was made by Andrew Ewing, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. This copy, from which the transcription below was made, is housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.² The list is shown here in the exact order as it appears on the copy, with no information omitted. Ewing’s handwriting was cramped and filled with flourishes that make it difficult to read. Moreover, when he was several pages into the list Ewing must have felt he was short on paper, and instead of listing each name on a separate line he began to run them together, making transcription even more difficult. Question marks [?] have been inserted to indicate where the transcriber was uncertain.

Although the 1805 tax list was carefully indexed by Byron Sistler for his 1977 publication, *Early Tennessee Tax Lists*,³ that index does not show the details provided in the original. This *verbatim* transcription provides the genealogist with new information as well as insightful clues.

¹ George Roulstone, comp., *Journal of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Territory of the U.S. South of the River Ohio, etc. [1795]* (reprint, Nashville: n.p., 1852), Chapter IV.

² Access to the manuscript list is restricted for preservation, but a microfilm copy is available on Manuscript Tax Lists Microfilm, roll 3, TSLA.

³ Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Early Tennessee Tax Lists*. (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1977).

Heads of Household – The enumerator sometimes listed more than one male per household. These names were separated in the Sistlers’ index. For example, Joseph, Jordan and James Anderson are listed together in one household, making it clear that the other James Anderson, listed separately, was a second man of the same name living in the county.

White Polls – The enumeration shows the number of free white males aged 21 to 50 taxed in each household. Christopher Stump, for example, paid tax on 13 white polls. Who were the other 12 males in his household? Perhaps Stump genealogists can answer that question.

Taxable Slaves – The enumeration shows the number of male and female slaves over age 12 living within each household. Slave ownership can help distinguish records of two people with the same name. In this list, for example, two men named Robert Thompson appear, each paying one white poll. But one Robert paid tax on seven slaves, while the other paid none. With the knowledge that an ancestor owned slaves, the researcher discerns that the ancestor was a person of some wealth and that further clues may be found in deeds and other court records.

Annotations - As a ‘leg up’ for the genealogist just beginning research in Davidson County, this list has been annotated by comparing it with two other sources. One of those is Marjorie Fischer’s masterful index titled *Tennesseans before 1800: Davidson County*,⁴ in which she indexes names found in early court minutes, deeds, and other records. Each name in the 1805 list of taxable inhabitants was compared with Fischer’s index, and the earliest-dated reference to the name in her book is indicated in the annotations. Refer to Fischer’s volume for full citations to the primary sources mentioned here.

Additionally, the 1812 enumeration of free taxable inhabitants in Davidson County was also compared to this list. The 1812 enumeration was previously indexed in Charles Sherrill’s *Reconstructed 1810 Census of Tennessee*.⁵ Any names appearing on both lists have been noted, and the names of the militia captains from the 1812 list are also given. The 1812 list was not rearranged alphabetically and because of that it is useful for determining an ancestor’s neighbors. It did not, however, indicate slave ownership. The Captains and Justices of the Peace enumerated in 1812 were:

Captain of Company	J.P. of Company	Captain of Company	J.P. of Company
Capt. Butler	Alexander Walker, JP	Capt. Wm. Criel	Eli Hammond, JP
Capt. Richard Boyd	Josiah Horton, JP	Capt. Birdwell	Joseph Love, JP
Capt. Jos. Williamson	Thos. Williamson, JP	Capt. Philip Campbell	Robert Johnston, JP
Capt. Hail	Geo. S. Allen, JP	Capt. Jno. L. McCormack	Braxton Lee, JP
Capt. Jesse W. Thomas	Jas. Mulherin, JP	Capt. Bell	Cary Felts, JP
Capt. Wm. Mullins	Robert Thompson, JP	Capt. Rogers	Christopher Stump, JP
Capt. Barnheart	Joel Lewis, JP	Capt. Wm. R. McAdams	Wm. Donelson, JP
Capt. David Cloyd	Samuel Shannon, JP	Capt. Winfrey	Edmond Gamble, JP
Nashville Captains	E.S. Hall, JP	Capt. Jas. Benning	Willie Barrow, JP
Capt. Wm. Henry	Thos. Dillahunt, JP	Capt. Stringfellow	Wm. Anderson, JP
Capt. Liles	Robert Hewitt, JP	Capt. Dempsey Morris	Thos. Hickman, JP
Capt. Dempsey Morris	Thos. Hickman, JP		

“*State of Tennessee Davidson County. To William Martin Esquire Secretary & etc.*
The following is a list of the enumeration of Davidson County as taken & returned to me by John
Boyd Esq. on the 31st of August 1805, To wit”

⁴ Marjorie Fischer, *Tennesseans before 1800: Davidson County* (Galveston, TX: Frontier Press, 1997).

⁵ Charles Sherrill, *Reconstructed 1810 Tennessee Census* (Mt. Juliet, TN: n.p., 2001).

Surname	Given Name(s)	Free White Males	Taxable Slaves	Notes from <i>Tennesseans Before 1800: Davidson County, and from the 1812 Davidson County list of free taxable inhabitants</i>
<i>In Letter C To Wit</i>				
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 George Campbell is listed in the militia company of Capt. McAdams
<i>Cook</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	Joseph Cook appears in the Register's book in 1799. In 1812 Joseph Cook is listed in Capt. Criel's militia company.
<i>Casellman</i>	<i>John Sr.</i>	<i>3</i>		John Casellman appears in Court of Pleas minutes in 1787. In 1812 John Casellman is listed in the militia company of Capt. Criel.
<i>Casellman</i>	<i>John & David</i>	<i>2</i>		John Casellman appears in Court of Pleas minutes in 1787. In 1812 John Casellman Jr. is listed in the militia company of Capt. Criel.
<i>Casellman</i>	<i>Abraham</i>	<i>1</i>		Abraham Cassellman appears in Court of Pleas minutes in 1785. In 1812 Abraham Casellman is listed in the militia company of Capt. Henry.
<i>Connely</i>	<i>Christopher</i>	<i>1</i>		Christopher Connelly appears in County Court minutes in 1799
<i>Carmick</i>	<i>Acquilla</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Aquilla Carmack is listed in the militia company of Capt. Barnheart. He appears in Court of Pleas and other records in 1784.
<i>Corbitt</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>3</i>		William Corbitt appears in the Register's book in 1790.
<i>Cox</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	Thomas Cox appears in the Register's book in 1788. In 1812 Thomas Cox is listed in Capt. Campbell's militia company.
<i>Cockrill</i>	<i>John Sr.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	Jno. Cockrill appears in court minutes in 1784.
<i>Cockrill</i>	<i>Lewis</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Allen</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Allen Cotton is listed in Capt. Campbell's militia company.
<i>Craighead</i>	<i>B. Thomas</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	Rev. Thos. Craighead appears in County Court minutes in 1789. In 1812 Thos. B. Craighead is listed in Capt. Butler's militia company.
<i>Cole</i>	<i>Edward</i>	<i>3</i>		Edward Cole appears in Will Book 2, 1797.
<i>Cole</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	William Cole appears in Will Book 2, 1799. In 1812 he is listed in Capt. Butler's militia company
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	Robert Cartwright appears in County Court minutes in 1786. In 1812 Robert Cartwright is listed in the militia company of Capt. Butler and Robert Cartright is in Capt. Campbell's company.
<i>Craig</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Alexander Craig is listed in Capt. Mullins' militia company.
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 one James Campbell is listed in the militia company of Capt. Bell. The name appears in County Court minutes in 1786.
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Edmond</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	
<i>Condries</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>		John Condry appears in County Court minutes in 1786.
<i>Camp</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>4</i>		In 1812 John Camp is listed in the militia company of Capt. Thomas
<i>Cross</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	William Cross appears in County Court minutes in 1793.
<i>Coffee</i>	<i>[blank]</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>	Adam, Henry, Joel and John Coffee and Coffey all appear in pre-1800 records.
<i>Collins</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Thomas Collins appears in County Court minutes in 1797. In 1812 Thomas Collins is listed in Capt. Kincaid's militia company.
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	In 1812 one James Campbell is listed in the militia company of Capt. Bell. The name appears in County Court minutes in 1786.

Surname	Given Name(s)	Free White Males	Taxable Slaves	Notes from <i>Tennesseans Before 1800: Davidson County, and from the 1812 Davidson County list of free taxable inhabitants</i>
<i>Collinsworth</i>	<i>Edward</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Edward Collinsworth appears in County Court minutes in 1795. In 1812 <u>Edmond</u> Collinsworth is listed in Capt. Bell's militia company.
<i>Cleaver</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Francis</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Francis Curtis appears in Will Book 2 in 1798.
<i>Cloyd</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	In 1794 David Cloyd appears in the Register's book. In 1812 he is listed in Capt. Cloyd's militia company.
<i>Crawford</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	
<i>Cryer</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>1</i>		George Cryer appears in the Register's book in 1790.
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>1</i>		Robert Cartwright appears in County Court minutes in 1786. In 1812 Robert Cartwright is listed in the militia company of Capt. Butler & Robert Cartright is in the Capt. Campbell's company.
<i>Cavens[?]</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Caldwell</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Joseph Caldwell appears in the Register's book in 1799. In 1812 he is listed in the militia company of Capt. Campbell.
<i>Cook</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>		John Conner appears in the Register's book in 1788.
<i>Congo[?]</i>	<i>John, Henry & Martin</i>	<i>3</i>		In 1812 John Congo is listed in Capt. McAdams' militia company.
<i>Caffrey</i>	<i>Donelson</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cowen</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Chambers</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cockrill</i>	<i>John Jr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	John Cockrill Jr. appears in the Register's book in 1799.
<i>Coffman</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cromwell</i>	<i>Drury</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cleaver</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Caldwell</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	William Caldwell appears in the County Court minutes in 1798. In 1812 William Coldwell is listed in the militia company of Capt. Rogers.
<i>Cunney</i>	<i>Vinson</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Carter</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 James Carter is listed in the militia company of Capt. Thomas.
<i>Cross</i>	<i>Maslin</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	Ma ^{cl} in Cross appears in County Court minutes in 1795.
<i>Casselman</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	Benjamin Casselman appears in Court of Pleas minutes in 1784. In 1812 he is listed in the militia company of Capt. Criel, and Benjamin Sr. is listed in Capt. Mullins' company.
<i>Castilio</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	John Castilio appears in County Court and Court of Pleas minutes in 1785.
<i>Carters</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cornelius</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>2</i>		
<i>Connelly</i>	<i>William & Thomas</i>	<i>2</i>		William Connelly appears in the Register's book in 1796. In 1812 William Connelly Jr. & Sr. and Thomas Connelly are listed in Capt. Benning's militia company.
<i>Curry</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Casselman</i>	<i>Benjamin</i>	<i>2</i>		
<i>Curry</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Clayburne[?]</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>2</i>		William C. <u>Clajborne</u> appears in the Register's book in 1796.
<i>Chilcut[?]</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>2</i>		Thomas Chilcut appears in the Register's book in 1800.
<i>Currin</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	John Curren appears in the Register's book in 1796.
<i>Clement</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Curtis Clemons is listed in Capt. Kinkaid's militia company.

Surname	Given Name(s)	Free White Males	Taxable Slaves	Notes from <i>Tennesseans Before 1800: Davidson County, and from the 1812 Davidson County list of free taxable inhabitants</i>
<i>Crutchlow</i>	<i>Henry</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	In 1812 Henry Crutchlow is listed in Capt. Liles' militia company.
<i>Carson</i>	<i>S. Charles</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Curry</i>	<i>B. Robert</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Robert B. Curry is found in Hall's list of Nashville men.
<i>Casellman</i>	<i>Sylvanus</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Sylvanus Casel <u>l</u> man appears in the Register's book in 1794. In 1812 Syl <u>v</u> enus Casellman is listed in the militia company of Capt. Campbell.
<i>Craven</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Coleman</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>14</i>	Joseph Coleman is listed in County Court minutes of 1799. In 1812 Joseph Coleman is listed in Capt. Benning's militia company and in Hall's list of Nashville men.
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>		John Cooper appears in County Court minutes in 1798. In 1812 John Cooper is listed in Capt. Stringfellow's militia company.
<i>Claybourn</i>	<i>B. Thomas</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	In 1812 a Thomas Claiborne is listed in the militia company of Capt. Benning; another is found in Hall's list of Nashville men.
<i>Cummins</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>2</i>		David Cummins appears in the marriage records of 1800. In 1812 David Cummins is listed in both Capt. Hall & Capt. Barnheart's militia companies.
<i>Clopton</i>	<i>Anthony</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	In 1812 Anthony Clopton is listed in Capt. Thomas' militia company.
<i>Chapman</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>1</i>		Samuel Chapman appears in the Register's book in 1796.
<i>Compton</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	William Compton appears in marriage records in 1799. In 1812 William Compton Jr. and Sr. are listed in Capt. Mullins' militia company.
<i>Crutcher</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Thos. Crutcher appears in Court of Pleas minutes in 1787. In 1812 Thomas Crutcher is found in Hall's list of Nashville men.
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 John Campbell is listed in the militia company of Capt. Hail. The name appears in the Register's book in 1786.
<i>Childress</i>	<i>John Jr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	John Childress Jr. appears in the Register's book in 1798.
<i>Childress</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Thomas Childress appears in County Court minutes in 1800. In 1812 he is listed in Hall's list of Nashville men.
<i>Childress</i>	<i>John Sr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	John Childress Sr. appears in the County Court minutes in 1795.
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Vinson</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Vinson Cartwright is listed in the militia company of Capt. Henry.
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Conner</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>1</i>		John Conner appears in the Register's book in 1788.
<i>Carrel[?]</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cook</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>1</i>		In 1812 Joel Cook is listed in Capt. McAdams' militia company.
<i>Crossway</i>	<i>Nichols</i>	<i>2</i>		In 1812 Nicholas Crossway is listed in Capt.. McAdams' militia company.
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	Thomas Cartwright appears in County Court minutes in 1788. In 1812 Thomas Cartwright is listed in the militia company of Capt. McAdams.
<i>Cherry</i>	<i>Calip</i> <i>[Caliss?]</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>Cartwright</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Jacob Cartwright appears in County Court minutes in 1789. In 1812 Jacob Car <u>t</u> right is listed in the militia company of Capt. Butler.

To be continued

The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society

and the Tennessee Historical Society present

the 22nd Annual Genealogical Seminar

Saturday, November 15, 2008

8:15am until 4:00pm

at the FiftyForward Knowles Center



SEARCHING FOR YOUR MILITARY ANCESTORS **Featuring Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG**

Craig Scott, is the CEO and President of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 2,950 titles in print located in Westminster, Maryland. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than twenty-one years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives and focuses specifically on those that relate to the military. He is an APG Director and IGHR faculty member.

Morning sessions

Basic Military Research: Where To Begin

Learn the steps necessary to research a soldier in any war before 1900. We will look at Compiled Military Service Records and Pension records among others to piece together the military service of our ancestors.

Searching For Your Revolutionary War Ancestors

Learn about the records created by the Revolutionary War as well as those created after the war relating to veterans and widows.

Afternoon Session

Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon

Most researchers are familiar with pension application files, but there are other records related to the pensions that are not found in the application files. These records sometime provide more genealogical information than is found in the pension files.

Treasury Records: Follow The Money

Some of the most useful records available to genealogists in the National Archives relate to how the government spends its money. Many times these records hold the clues necessary to establish family relationships.



Craig Roberts Scott

Craig is a faculty coordinator at Samford University, Birmingham, AL, teaching Advanced Military Research, specifically, the Mexican War and the Civil War.



Allegheny Arsenal

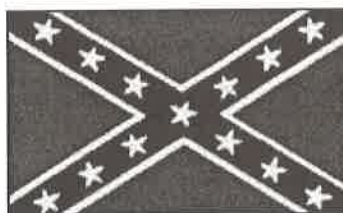
Craig Scott was the co-editor of *Northern Virginia Genealogy* (1996-97) and the editor of the *Scott Genealogical Quarterly* (1987-1995). He is the author of *The 'Lost Pensions': Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838 and Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Inventory 14* (Revised). He has co-authored several books relating to records in Northern Virginia. He is President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 2,800 titles in print.

A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than twenty years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. He is the current president of the Association of One-Name Studies and was the Clan Scott Genealogist (1985 - 2000). He is a member of the Company of Military Historians, a citizen member of the Library Board of Virginia, and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Virginia Genealogical Society and the Maryland Genealogical Society. He is on the Editorial Board of the National Genealogical Society.

To review the *Heritage Books, Inc.* catalog visit www.heritagebooks.com



USA Civil War Flag



Confederate Battle Flag

Seminar Schedule

Registration Opens 8:15 Workshop Begins 9:00 Lunch at Noon Closing 4:00

Morning Sessions

"Basic Military Research: Where to Begin"
"Searching For Your Revolutionary War Ancestors"

Afternoon Sessions

"Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon"
"Treasury Records: Follow the Money"

On-site registration begins at 8:15.
Lunch is not guaranteed for registrations after deadline.
Complimentary pastries & beverages available at the morning session

Register Today!

MTGS/THS Genealogical Seminar November 15, 2008
Send this completed form with your check or money order (payable to MTGS)
To Brenta Davis, Registrar, P.O. Box 330948, Nashville, TN 37203-7507
Phone: (615) 661-9775 e-mail: bdavis66@comcast.net

Deadline: Arrival no later than 7 November 2008

.....Clip or Photocopy.....

Name _____

Street Address _____ Please print

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Member of MTGS? _____ THS? _____ Non-member _____

Enclosed is my check/MO payable to MTGS for \$ _____. The registration fee is \$40 for members & \$45 for non-members and includes a box lunch and hand-outs. If you do not want lunch, deduct \$5.00.

Law and Order in the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio

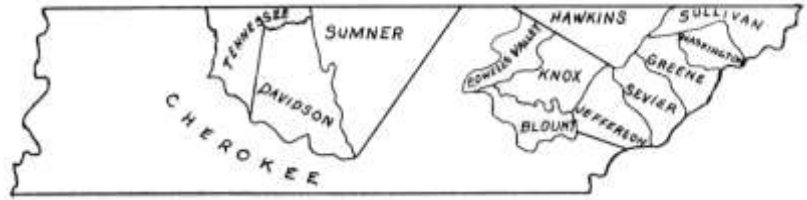
Part VII of a Series

By **Patricia Gilliam Daley**

(ducstop@aol.com)

© Patricia Gilliam Daley, 2007

Used by permission



Territory South of the River Ohio in 1795

(Courtesy of Sharon McCormack, McMinn County Rootsweb site.)

The following is a continuation of an exact transcription and analysis of the earliest statute establishing the judicial system in the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

The series began in the Winter 2006 issue (vol. XIX, #3).

Headings in the text below are added for clarity and do not appear in the original statute.

Jurisdiction of a Single Justice of the Peace

Sec. 52. *And be it enacted*, That all debts and demands of twenty dollars and under, where the balance is due on any specialty, note, or agreement, for money or specific articles or for goods, wares, and merchandize sold and delivered, or work and labour done, are hereby declared to be cognizable and determinable by any one justice of the peace, who may give judgment, and thereupon award execution against the goods and chattels, or body of the debtor, which shall be executed and returned by the sheriff constable, or other officer to whom the same may be directed, in the same manner as other writs of *Fieri Facias*, or *Capias ad Satisfaciendum* are to be executed and returned ; *Provided always* that judgment given by a justice of the peace, execution thereon shall be stayed in the following manner, viz For all sums not exceeding five dollars, thirty days; For all sums above five dollars and not exceeding ten dollars, sixty days ; and for all sums above ten dollars, one hundred and twenty days; for the full and true payment of which, with costs and interest until paid, the party requiring such stay of execution, shall give sufficient security, if required by the adverse party; and if the said judgment shall not be discharged at the time to which the execution thereon may have been stayed, then it shall and may be lawful for any justice to issue execution in the usual form, for the same, against the principal and his securities.

The justice of the peace was the ordinary working person's usual interface with justice. True, the superior court judges rode a circuit and sat in the towns, but the Justice of the Peace lived in the neighborhood. A single justice was authorized to hear most disputes between ordinary people in the routine course of life and business – goods, wares, merchandise, labor, promissory notes, agreements. Note, however, that the statute does not mention jurisdiction over disputes regarding land, which held a special position in Anglo-American law. Section five, found in Vol. XIX, No. 4 (Spring 2006), reserved “real actions” (lawsuits involving real property) to the superior courts. Once a judgment was rendered, it was the sheriff's job to execute against the defendant's “goods and chattels” (personal property as opposed to real property) or the body of the debtor (arrest). Execution was stayed (postponed) for a specified number of days after the justice's judgment was rendered, most likely because the parties were working people who often needed time to raise cash to pay even a relatively small judgment. Money was scarce, and most people produced most of what they used. The defendant was liable for interest until the judgment was paid, and the adverse party could require the defendant to give security. If the judgment remained unpaid (“the said judgment shall not be discharged”) when the stay expired, the justice awarded execution (either seizure and sale of the debtor's property or his arrest), depending on whether the court issued a *fieri facias* or a *capias* writ.

A “specialty” was an agreement under seal.¹ Historically, a seal was a wax impression indicating that a document was authentic and had been executed by the person whose seal was affixed. In Tennessee, however, the seal was usually simply the word “seal,” a man’s initials, or his name encircled with an oval or decorative line. A “note” evidenced debt. A writ of “*feri facias*” was a judge’s order to sell a debtor’s property to satisfy a court’s judgment. A writ of “*capias ad satisfaciendum*” was a judge’s order to arrest the debtor.



Although the colonies had already reformed the worst abuses of debtors’ prisons, at this time in the Southwest Territory a debtor could still spend time in jail. After a debtor had served twenty days in jail for an unpaid judgment, he could petition two justices of the peace or one judge of the superior court who could, after notice to the creditor, bring the debtor before them. If the debtor had no visible estate, he presented the court with a list of the judgments, writs, and executions against him and gave a sworn statement regarding certain matters: that he had no assets exceeding forty shillings (about \$230 today), including any debts owed to him (excluding his clothing, working tools, and arms for muster) and that he had not sold, assigned or disposed of property -- either outright or in trust for himself -- in which he expected to regain an interest, so as to defraud his creditors. If no proof contrary to his sworn statement were offered, he was released and could never again be imprisoned for the same debt. There were severe penalties for swearing falsely.²

Obtaining Testimony from Witness in Another County

Sec. 53. *And be it enacted*, That where a witness lives in another county within this Territory, in trials before a single justice, such justice may issue a *Dedimus Potestatem* to any justice of the county where in the witness resides, who shall take the deposition of such witness in the manner prescribed, where depositions have been heretofore given by county courts ; and the depositions so taken and returned to the justice who granted the *Dedimus Potestatem* shall by him be received as sufficient evidence in the case for which it was granted.

A “*dedimus potestatem*” was an order historically issued by a court of chancery (a court of equity as opposed to a court of law) giving an agent (here, a justice of the county where the witness resided) the power to administer oaths and take testimony. A discussion of courts of equity as opposed to courts of law is beyond the scope of this article; readers may want to consult Henry Gibson’s *Suits in Chancery* for a more comprehensive understanding of chancery courts and their differing methods of hearing testimony. In sparsely settled locations such as the Southwest Territory where there were no separate chancery courts, the courts usually sat in separate sessions either as courts of law or courts of equity. A “deposition” is testimony taken in writing, rather than in open court.

Appeal from a Judgment of a Single Justice of the Peace

Sec. 54. *And be it enacted*, That if either party on a trial before a justice of the peace, shall be dissatisfied with the judgment of such justice, such party may appeal to the next county court of pleas and quarter sessions, first giving security for prosecuting such appeal with effect, which said appeal shall be tried and determined at the first court, by a jury of good and lawful men, and determination thereon shall be final : *Provided* That the cause shall be tried by, and the appeal made from such justice five days at least, before the term to which the appeal shall be made, otherwise the cause shall be continued to the next succeeding term. *And provided further*, That the justice or justices before whom the suit was first heard, shall at the request of the respective parties, summon such witnesses to court as they shall name ; but shall not sit in court or give judgment on the appeal.

The reason for the requirement that the trial, judgment, and appeal from the single justice of the peace take place at least five days before the next term of court or be continued until the following term was to provide fair notice to the opposing party. Since appeal from a single justice to the court of pleas and quarter sessions was *de novo* (a new trial in which both sides again presented the proof they had previously offered in the trial before the single justice), both parties needed to be certain that their witnesses would be in attendance and that their attorneys would be present. Since the justices of the peace sat together as the court of pleas and quarter sessions, the exclusion of the justice who had rendered the judgment from which the appeal was taken was necessary, since he already had formed an opinion in the case and had an interest in seeing his own judgment affirmed on appeal.

Power of Individual Justice to Grant Attachments; Defendant's Rights upon Attachment

Sec. 55. *And be it enacted*, That every justice of the county courts shall have power, and they are hereby authorized and required, upon any complaint being made by any person or persons, for any debt or damage, matter or thing, cognizable in the county courts of pleas and quarter sessions of this




Territory, to grant an original attachment against the estate of any person absconding, or concealing himself, or removing out of the county privately, returnable to the court of such county, observing therein the rules and restrictions directed, for granting original attachments in the superior courts ; and all sheriffs and coroners shall execute and return the same, and observe the rules and directions appointed to be observed in executing attachments returnable to the superior courts ; and the like judgment, recovery, remedy, relief, and proceedings shall be had thereupon, as in like cases are grantable in the said superior courts.

Sec. 56. *And be it enacted*, That any one justice of the peace, in cases where, by this act, he has jurisdiction, may issue an original attachment against the estate of any absconding or absent debtor, upon the oath of the plaintiff, his agent or attorney, directed to the sheriff or any constable of the county, first taking sufficient security, as in other cases of attachments; and the proceedings thereon shall be in a summary way, in the same manner as on a warrant, and the defendant may replevy the goods attached, and either party may appeal from the judgment of the justice, in manner as herein before directed.

The reasons for allowing judicial attachment of an absconding defendant's property were discussed following Section nineteen in Vol. XX, No. 1 (Summer 2006). Readers will remember from earlier installments that attachment was a lien on property, making it virtually impossible to sell. As a balancing factor against the plaintiff's ability to attach the defendant's property, the plaintiff was required to submit a sworn statement ("upon the oath of the plaintiff") setting forth the amount of the defendant's debt and the fact that he expected that the defendant could not be located for service of process ("absconding or concealing himself or removing out of the county privately"). The plaintiff also had to give bond and security before the attachment was issued. After his property was attached, the defendant could replevy it. Replevin allowed the defendant to regain use of the attached property, but he was required to post bond and furnish security to guarantee that the property would continue to be in the same condition as when it was attached and that he would pay if a judgment were rendered against him. No hearing was held at the time the property was attached ("...proceedings thereon shall be in a summary way").

Notice Requirement for Hearing at Next Court; Exception for Criminal Cases

Sec. 57. *And be it enacted*, That all original process, and all subsequent process thereupon, to bring any person or persons to answer to any action, suit, bill, or plaint, in any county court of pleas and quarter sessions, (except subpoenas for witnesses, which in term time may be made returnable immediately) shall be issued by the clerk of such court, and shall be returnable to the first day of the term, and shall be executed at least five days before the return thereof. And if any person takes out



any writ or process, while such court is sitting, or within five days before the beginning of the term, such writ or process shall be made returnable to the term next after that then held, or to be held, within five [p. 19] days as aforesaid, and not otherwise; and all writs and process issued, made returnable or executed in any other manner, or at any other time than is herein before directed, may be abated upon the plea of the defendant: *Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to invalidate or vacate any writ, process, warrant or precept issued by a justice, or other officer, having jurisdiction thereof, on any criminal prosecution, or in behalf of the government ; but the same may be made returnable to any day in the term, and the proceedings in all criminal cases shall be had according to the laws and statutes of this government, and in the mode heretofore practised within the limits thereof, under the laws formerly in use therein.

Original process (the summons which required the defendant to appear in court and answer) was required to be issued by the clerk and executed (served upon the defendant by the sheriff) at least five days before its return on the first day of the court's term; otherwise, it was to be returnable at the next term of court. This requirement gave the defendant time to arrange his and his attorney's appearance. If the defendant did not receive the summons on time, he was entitled to object by filing a plea in abatement, and the suit could be dismissed. It is not clear from this statute whether the plaintiff could refile his declaration at the next session of court. On the one hand, a plea in abatement usually did not go to the merits of the case; thus the plaintiff should have been able to refile his suit at a later term of court, provided the statute of limitations had not expired. On the other hand, the common law had a long history of inflexibility toward even very minor procedural errors, frequently causing a party to lose his claim. The phrase "...may be abated upon the plea of the defendant" indicates that the court had discretion in this matter. The urgency of dealing with criminal matters required that a dismissal, even if it caused only delay, not be extended to criminal cases.

Bond and Security Requirements Accompanying Arrest in Civil Cases

Sec. 58. *And be it enacted*, That when any writ or process shall issue to take the body or bodies of any person or persons, to answer to any plaintiff in any civil action in any county court of pleas and quarter sessions, the sheriff shall return therewith a bail bond, with two sufficient securities, for double the sum for which the person or persons shall be held in arrest (executors and administrators, and persons sued on such penal statutes as do not expressly require bail, excepted) to the clerk, on or before the first day of every term; and if the sheriff shall not return bail, or the bail returned be held insufficient, upon exception taken thereto and entered on the docket the same term to which the writ shall be returnable, and notice given that term to the sheriff to justify, then and in such case the sheriff shall be held and stand as special bail for the defendant, and the plaintiff may proceed to judgment according to the rules hereinafter mentioned ; and the plaintiff on recovery, may take out execution against the defendant, or sheriff, or both, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding – *Provided always*, That if the defendant puts in bail, before the time to plead, by the rules herein after mentioned is expired, then the sheriff shall be discharged – *Provided also*, that the sheriff may surrender the defendant in discharge of himself, at any time before final judgment obtained against the said bail.

In civil cases when the sheriff was ordered to arrest the defendant, the sheriff, in exchange for the defendant's release, was required to take bond in the amount of twice the plaintiff's claim, with two securities, to secure the defendant's appearance at trial. If the sheriff failed to take the bond or if it were found to be insufficient, he became special bail so long as the objection to the sufficiency of the security was made during the same term that the bail was returned. Special bail was discussed in Section eleven in Vol. XX, No. 1 (Summer 2006). The sheriff could extricate himself from the requirements of special bail by arresting the defendant or by the defendant's later posting

■

sufficient bond.



Collection of Judgments From Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions When Defendant or his Property is Beyond the Court's Jurisdiction

Sec. 59. *And be it enacted*, That where any judgment or decree shall be obtained in any county court of pleas and quarter sessions, for any debt, damages, portion, legacy, or distributive share of an intestate's estate, and the person against whom such judgment or decree shall be obtained, shall remove him or herself and effects, or shall reside out of the limits of the jurisdiction of such court, it shall be lawful for the clerk of the court where such judgment shall be given, or decree made, at the request of the plaintiff, to issue execution to any county of this government, where the defendant or his goods may be found ; and the sheriff or other officer to whom the same may be directed, is hereby empowered and required to execute the same, and make return thereof in the same manner as is directed for process issuing from the superior courts. And for the better ascertaining what process may be issued, where the sheriff shall return that the defendant is not to be found in his county, *It is hereby enacted*, That when any sheriff shall make such return, the plaintiff in any civil action may take out an attachment against the estate of such defendant, returnable as is herein before directed for the return of other process, thereupon to enforce an appearance, or an *Alias* or *Pluries Capias*, until such defendant be arrested, at the election of the plaintiff; and if the sheriff shall return such attach-[p. 20]ment executed, the plaintiff shall file his declaration according to the rules of the court and proceed as in other cases.

If a defendant moved himself or his property beyond the jurisdiction of the court, it was necessary to prescribe how execution was to be handled so that the judgment could be collected. This section provided that the clerk in the county where the judgment was given could issue execution into any county in the Territory, just as the superior court did. Following the sheriff's return "not found in my county," the defendant's property could be attached or he could be arrested. If the first attempt at execution were unsuccessful, an alias (second attempt) or pluries (third attempt) capias could be issued until the defendant was arrested.

Legal Procedure Same as in Superior Courts

Sec. 60. *And be it enacted*, That the same rules, method, and proceedings shall be had, kept, and observed, by the said county court of pleas and quarter sessions and the officers thereof, in granting issuing, executing, and returning process, and awarding judgment on judicial attachments, and the like remedy, recovery, and relief against the sheriff and bail, as in like cases are provided by law in suits depending, or to be commenced in the superior courts of law.

The rules of procedure in the superior courts were described beginning with section twenty-six in Vol. XX, No. 3 (Winter 2007). However, most matters of procedure in the courts of pleas and quarter sessions are described in the following sections:

Additional Procedural Matters in the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

Sec. 61. And for the regular prosecution and determination of suits, entering up judgments, and preservation of the records in the said county courts of pleas and quarter sessions, *Be it enacted*, That the following rules and method shall be observed, to wit :

The plaintiff in every suit shall file his declaration within the three first days of the term, or first calling of the cause in court

If the plaintiff fails to file his declaration or to appear and prosecute his suit, the defendant may enter a *non pross*.

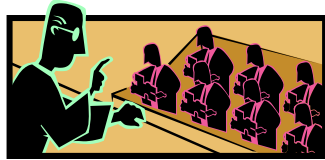
The defendant shall enter his appearance, and file his plea in writing, whether general or special,



the first term ; and if he fails so to do, the plaintiff shall have judgment, which in actions of debt shall be final, except where damages are suggested on the roll, in which case, and in all others, where the plaintiff is to recover in damages, a writ of enquiry shall be executed the next succeeding term.

The defendant may plead as many several matters as he may think necessary, so that he be not admitted to plead and demur to the whole.

All issues, whether general or special, shall be heard and tried the next succeeding term after the issue shall be made up, unless sufficient cause be shewn to the court why such cause shall be continued.



All jury causes at issue shall be first heard and tried. Every motion in arrest of judgment shall be argued the last day of the term in which the issue shall be tried, the defendant's attorney first serving the plaintiff's attorney with a copy of the reasons in arrest of judgment, unless, upon sufficient reason shewn and approved of by the court, further time shall be allowed.

When a special verdict shall be found, a case agreed, a demurer filed, or a bill of exceptions to evidence tendered, time shall be allowed ; at the motion of either party, to the next succeeding term.

"*Non Pros*" is short for "*non prosequitur*." The plaintiff was required to prosecute his case effectively and in a timely manner. If he did not appear on the first day of court when the docket was called, if he failed to file his declaration within three days thereafter, or if he failed to continue to prosecute the case, the defendant was entitled to a "*non pros*," or a dismissal of the case. Likewise, if the defendant did not appear when the docket was called ("enter his appearance") or if he failed to file his response in writing in a timely manner, the plaintiff took a default judgment against him. In cases of debt when the sum in question was clear, the default judgment was final, and execution could proceed. If damages were alleged and the amount could not be determined from the declaration, proof ("writ of enquiry") was taken later regarding the amount of money due. The writ of inquiry required the sheriff and a jury to investigate and report the amount of damages to the court.

Reasonable Continuances vs. Dilatory Behavior

Sec. 62. *And be it enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any court to grant a continuance of any cause therein depending, but by consent of both parties, or on cause shewn by affidavit filed, which cause shall be held sufficient in law for the said continuance

And for prevention of vexation, by dilatory pleas. *It is hereby enacted* That no plea in abatement shall be received in any action or suit, in the said county courts, unless the truth thereof be sufficiently shewn to the court, by affidavit or otherwise. And in all actions where the declaration shall plainly set forth sufficient matter of substance for the court to proceed upon the merits of the cause, the suit shall not abate for want of form in the proceedings ; and when any plea shall be pleaded in an action, and upon argument thereof, the same shall be adjudged insufficient to abate such action; the plaintiff shall recover against the defendant full costs to the time of over ruling such plea, including the costs of court. [p.22]

The party who wanted additional time was usually the defendant. Delay was usually in his best financial interest, since it enabled him to use for a longer time the money he would eventually have to pay to satisfy a judgment against him. However, the plaintiff was entitled to expeditious justice. In some situations justice required delay in a case. The parties could agree to a continuance, or if they could not agree, the party seeking the delay filed a sworn statement ("affidavit") evidencing a legally sufficient reason for requesting the continuance and asking the court to grant it.

A defendant who could not convince a court to provide a delay had other opportunities to cause delay. He could, for

example, ask the court to dismiss the plaintiff's suit ("plea in abatement") either because of procedural mistakes or because the declaration did not present a claim for which the law allowed recovery. The court would not even consider a dismissal without proof, either by affidavit or by sworn testimony, that the facts given in support of the plea were true. If the plaintiff's declaration exhibited facts upon which a judgment could be granted if the case were proven ("sufficient matter of substance for the court to proceed upon the merits"), mistakes in procedure were not sufficient cause to dismiss the case. The common law had allowed dismissal of a case for a large number of procedural reasons, most of which were not consistent with the more streamlined and equitable system of justice that was developing in the new country. The plaintiff could recover his costs from a defendant whose plea in abatement was rejected by the court.

To be Continued

-
1. Definitions verified for accuracy in *Black's Law Dictionary*, Sixth Edition .
 2. Laws of North Carolina 1777, ch. 4, § 1.

**BYLAWS
of the
MIDDLE TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

Changes to the Society's By-Laws were voted on by the Board at its meeting on Sept. 17, 2007. The Board's recommendations will be presented to the membership for a vote at the Jan. 19, 2008 regular meeting. Please review the changes and be prepared to vote on Jan. 19th.

Changes are shown here as follows: deleted text is shown with ~~strike-through marks~~; inserted text is shown in *italics*. The changes are briefly described as follows:

- Article IV, Sections 1 & 6 - Office of Corresponding Secretary deleted.**
- Article IV, Section 6 - Duties of Recording Secretary revised.**
- Article V, Section 3 - Fiscal year and Annual Meeting calendar defined.**
- Article V, Section 8 - Web Master position added.**
- Article V, Section 9 - Newsletter editor position added.**

ARTICLE I.

Name.

The name of this non-profit Society shall be Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc.

ARTICLE II.

Objectives.

The objectives of this Society shall be to create and stimulate interest in the study of genealogy and family history; to collect, preserve and make available to others genealogical information pertaining to Middle Tennessee; to provide assistance to others in genealogical pursuits through all means available or developed by this Society.

ARTICLE III.

Membership and Dues.

SECTION 1. Any person interested in the study and pursuit and preservation of genealogy and family history shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be granted upon submission of application for payment of dues.

SECTION 2. Dues shall be payable on or before the first day of June each year in an amount set annually by

the Board of Directors of the Society.

SECTION 3. No member shall be deemed a member in good standing whose dues shall be in arrears for more than thirty (30) days. Delinquent members shall be notified and advised that they will be dropped from membership unless dues are paid within thirty (30) days.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers.

SECTION 1. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a ~~Corresponding Secretary~~, and a Treasurer.

SECTION 2. Not less than six months before the annual meeting in May, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five (5) persons, one of whom shall be named as chairperson, to be approved by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the annual meeting in May. The Nominating Committee shall report at the regular meeting just prior to the May meeting. Before the election at the meeting in May, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted. Each candidate shall have consented to the nomination.

SECTION 3. The Officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected and assume office. Their term of office shall begin June 1 following the annual meeting in May. In the event there is only one candidate for any office, voting on that office may be by voice vote.

SECTION 4. No Officer shall hold more than one office at a time or be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

SECTION 5. A. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President who shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of the term. B. If a vacancy should occur during the year in any office or directorship other than Presidency, the vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. A. **The President** shall: 1. Preside at all meetings of the association and Board of Directors. 2. Appoint all standing Committee Chairpersons and such other committees as authorized by the Society or Board of Directors. 3. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. 4. Appoint a member to serve as Parliamentarian. 5. Perform other duties as pertain to the office of President.

B. **The Vice President** shall: 1. Be an active aid to the President. 2. In the event of the absence or inability of the President to perform his/her duties, the Vice President shall perform the duties of and have the authority and privileges of the President.

C. **The Recording Secretary** shall: 1. Take minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors; keep a permanent, continuous record of all activities of the Society; make a report of the written record at each meeting. 2. ~~Be responsible for maintaining an accurate list of membership.~~ *Be responsible for filling orders for back issues of the MTGS Journal.* 3. Perform other duties as pertain to this office. 4. *Be responsible for seeing that members are notified of delinquent dues per ARTICLE III, SECTION 3.*

D. ~~The Corresponding Secretary shall: 1. Conduct the correspondence of the Society as directed by the President or Board of Directors. 2. Perform other duties as pertain to this office.~~

~~E.~~ **The Treasurer** shall: 1. Receive and deposit all funds of the Society in a suitable depository bank. 2. Receive all monies and disburse funds that are proper and reasonable expenses of the Society. 3. Submit a full, written report at each regular meeting giving a full account of all financial transactions. 4. Maintain a permanent record of all receipts. 5. Submit all financial records for audit upon vacating the office. In addition, the Board of Directors may require a special audit. Audits are to be performed by a committee selected by the Board. 6. It shall be the Treasurer's responsibility to file any federal, state or local tax forms required.

~~F.E..~~ **The Immediate Past-President** shall: 1. Serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors for one year following the term of office as President.

SECTION 7. In the event an Officer or Director fails to attend at least one half (1/2) of the stated meetings without valid reason or just cause, the office held by such person(s) shall be declared vacant and a new person shall be elected by the Board of Directors to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V. Board of Directors.

SECTION 1. Four Directors of the Society shall be elected at annual meetings of the Society and shall serve for a term of two (2) years. At the first election, one half (1/2) of the members of the Board of Directors were elected to serve for one year and one half (1/2) for two years. Thereafter, two Directors are to be elected annually. Any elected Director who shall have served two consecutive terms of two years each shall be ineligible for re-election as a Director for a period of one year immediately following the expiration of such second full term.

SECTION 2. The Officers and Directors of this Society shall constitute a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly, at a place and time determined by the Board. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society between its business meetings, make recommendations to the membership and perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Board shall be responsible to the membership.

SECTION 3. The Board of Directors shall develop annually a budget *covering the fiscal year beginning June 1 and ending May 31* for approval by the Society at the annual *July* meeting, and shall have authority to expend funds in accordance with the budget. In addition, they may transfer funds from one item of the budget to another and may expend additional monies not to exceed 20% of the current budget, without prior approval of the Society.

SECTION 4. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to develop a policy for answering requests directed to the Society for general information and/or genealogical research and to develop and approve all public releases pertaining to the Society.

SECTION 5. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 6. The Board of Directors shall appoint one Director to serve on the Board of Directors whose responsibility is to serve as Editor of the Society quarterly publication. This Director is a voting member of the Board and is to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Mail and Membership Master whose duties shall be: (1) To maintain an accurate list of members, along with such information as mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, expiration dates of membership, and other pertinent information; (2) to notify members of delinquency of dues; and (3) to notify mailing service of any additions or deletions from the mailing list, making sure that the mailing service has a current and correct membership list along with correct addresses; (4) to maintain a post office box and periodically collect mail addressed to the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society from that box and process such mail or forward it to the appropriate officer, director or member of the Society. The Mail and Membership Master shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors and shall serve a term concurrent with his/her tenure as Mail and Membership Master.

SECTION 8. *The Board of Directors shall appoint a Web Master whose duties shall be: (1) To maintain the MTGS web site with current meetings, events, etc.; (2) maintain an accurate list of member's email addresses as provided by the Mail and Membership Master; (3) notify members by email of delinquency of dues and provide notices to be mailed to those without email; (4) email the Society's newsletter, the MTGS MESSENGER, to all current members and supply copies of same to be mailed to those without email; (5) the Web Master shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors and shall serve a term concurrent with his/her tenure as Web Master.*

SECTION 9. *The Board of Directors shall appoint an editor of the bi-monthly newsletter, the MTGS MESSENGER, whose duties shall be: (1) To write the newsletter with the bi-monthly program, forthcoming workshops, special interest groups and projects, the annual November seminar, and notices of activities of other genealogical groups within our 40 counties that MTGS serves and other items of interest to the membership; (2) the Editor shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors and shall serve a term concurrent with his/her tenure as Editor.*

ARTICLE VI. Membership Meetings.

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of the Society will be held bi-monthly on the third Saturday beginning in

January.

SECTION 2. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of June and end of the last day of May. The regular meeting in May shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of election of Officers, receiving reports of Officers and committees, and any other business that may arise.

SECTION 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors or upon the written request of ten (10) members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call and no other business shall be considered at that special meeting. Except in cases of emergency, at least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given.

SECTION 4. Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Committees.

SECTION 1. There may be the following standing committees: Program; Collection and Archives; Public Relations and Membership; Publications and such other committees as may be authorized by the Society or the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Duties of Standing Committees. A. **The Program Committee** shall: 1. Arrange a program for presentation at each of the meetings of the Society. 2. Any seminars sponsored by the Society shall come under the direction of this committee. B. **The Collections and Archives Committee** shall: 1. Receive and process any genealogical information received by the Society in a form directed by the Board of Directors so as to preserve and make such information accessible to the public. C. **The Public Relations and Membership Committee** shall: 1. Actively seek new members for the Society. 2. Publicize information pertaining to the Society as directed by the Board of Directors. D. **The Publications Committee** shall: 1. Prepare materials, other than the quarterly journal, for publication as approved by the Board of Directors. 2. Assist the Editor of the quarterly as needed. 3. Provide input to the board on matters relating to publication.

ARTICLE VIII.

Parliamentary Authority.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure for this association not specifically covered by its bylaws and standing rules.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendment of Bylaws.

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of members present provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting or has been mailed to the entire membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which they shall be considered.

ARTICLE X.

Dissolution of the Society.

To effect dissolution of this Society, these bylaws must be rescinded by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present after thirty (30) days notice has been mailed to each member. In the event of dissolution, all assets and holdings of the Society shall be converted into an acceptable form and presented to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 1. No Society member shall accept remuneration for any research or general information request directed to the Society.

SECTION 2. This Society shall be operated as a not for profit organization and no part of the assets or net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual.

The Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Schedules of the 1880 Tennessee Census



Davidson County (continued)

Abstracted by
Gale Williams Bamman, CGSM
Copyright © 2005

The DDD Schedules, as they are often called, were part of the non-population schedules supplementing the 1880 federal census, and were created to help the government decide on funding appropriations for institutions and health programs. On each of the following schedules of the

DDDs, the census-takers were instructed to give an account of the location and condition of persons who met these descriptions:

The following questions were asked on all seven of the DDD schedules:

name of the afflicted person; county and district where enumerated; county of residence; and location in the population schedule.

Certain questions were repeated on all seven schedules:

name of the afflicted person; county and district where enumerated; county of residence; and location in the population schedule.

The remainder of the questions pertained to each particular class of persons:

Insane Inhabitants: form of disease; duration of current attack; age at first attack; if requires restraint; if ever institutionalized and for how long; if additional features, such as epileptic suicidal, or homicidal. Distinction was to be made between persons with deterioration of mental power, such as dementia and those born defective; the latter were to be classified as Idiots.

Idiots: supposed cause; age of occurrence; size of person's head [at that time considered as significant]; if self-supporting or partly so; if ever in training school and for how long; and if additional illnesses present (insane, blind, deaf, paralyzed.)

Deaf-Mutes: supposed cause; age of occurrence; if semi- or totally deaf and/or mute; if ever institutionalized; if also insane, idiotic, or blind. Enumerators were instructed to inquire about deaf-mutes and their residences from physicians in the area and also from schoolteachers.

Blind: if self-supporting; age at occurrence; form; supposed cause; if totally or semi-blind; if ever in an institution for the blind; length of time there; date of discharge; if also insane, idiotic, deaf-mute. Those who could see well enough to read were not to be placed on this schedule.

Homeless Children: whether father and/or mother were deceased; whether abandoned or surrendered; whether born in an institution, or year admitted; whether illegitimate; if separated from his/her mother; if ever arrested, and why; if origins were "respectable;" whether removed from criminal surroundings; if blind, deaf-mute or idiotic.

Inhabitants in Prisons: place of imprisonment; whether awaiting trial, serving a term, or serving out a fine; if awaiting execution, or transfer to higher prison, or if held as a witness; if imprisoned for debt, or for insanity; date incarcerated; alleged offense; fine; number

of days in jail or workhouse, or years in penitentiary; whether at hard labor, and if so, whether contracted out. Enumerators were also to ask these questions of wardens or keepers of any prison, "station-house, or lock-up in their respective districts."

Paupers and Indigent: if supported wholly or partly at cost of city, county, or state; or at cost of institution; whether able-bodied; whether habitually intemperate; if epileptic; if ever convicted of a crime; if disabled; if born in the institution, or date of admission; whether others of the family were also in that establishment; if also blind, deaf and dumb, insane, idiotic. Paupers living in individual homes who were supported partly or fully at county cost were referred to by the Census Office, as "outdoor paupers," to distinguish them from paupers in institutions.

For a more-detailed discussion of the DDD Schedules and this abstracting project, please see Part I, in the Summer 2005 issue of this journal (Volume XIX, no. 1), pp. 32-40. The additional data in these abstracts comes from the population schedules and does not appear on the DDD Schedules themselves. The interpretation of the records may contain deciphering errors. The reader is encouraged to view the originals on microfilm. If any mistakes are noted, please contact the compiler with that information.

Davidson County (continued)

Bang, Austin: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.41,ln.35]

Starks, Thos.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.45,ln.46]

Pop.Sch.: age 54, black, male, single; brother, in household of Seymore Starks and family; born Tenn.

Shipp, Solomon: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.39,ln.16]

Pop.Sch.: age 71, white, male, widow; boarder in household of Christopher Janeway, age 28; born North Carolina.

Roane, Katie: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.28,ln.45]

Pop.Sch.: age 19, white, female, single; step-daughter, in household of Patrick, McDermott, age 60, and family; born Tenn.

Payne, Buckner H.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.22]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 80, married; born Kentucky.

Doyle, John: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.23]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: Dale, John, age 68, single, born Maryland.

Payne, Priscilla: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.23]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 78, black, single, born Virginia.

Douglass, Rose: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.24]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 93, black, widowed, born Virginia.

Humphrey, Jane: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.26]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 42, black, married, born Tenn.

Napier, Looney: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.26]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 65, black, single, born Virginia.

Benton, Mitchell: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.5]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: Bentin, Mitchell, age 65, single, black, born Virginia.

Bosworthy, Anthony: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.14]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 60, black, single, born Tenn.

Douglass, Hugh: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.18]

Pop.Sch.: age 68, white, male, married, retired merchant, head of household, born Virginia.

Humphrey, Ransom: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.28]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 43, black, married; born Virginia.

Burns, Sarah: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.28]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 1, white, female, born Ireland.

Benton, Daniel: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.39]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 2, bastard, paralysis, born Tennessee.

Simmons, William: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.18]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 9, white, male, born Tenn.

Rosson, William: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.34]

Pop.Sch.: age 10, white, male, born Tenn.

Lipscomb, John: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 18th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.77; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.42]

Also: Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated in Davidson Co. Asylum for the Poor.

Pop.Sch.: age 6, black, male, born Tenn.

Vaughan, James: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 15th Civil District. [s.d.3, e.d.75; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.42]

Castleman, Henry: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 15th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.75; see Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.12.]

Sweeney, Ann Jane: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 14th Civil District; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.74; see Pop.Sch.p.29,ln.4]

Sweeney, William: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 14th Civil District; not self-supporting; afflicted at 9; epilepsy; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.74; see Pop.Sch.p.29,ln.5]

Sneed, R. H.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 14th Civil District; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.74; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.7]

Berry, Patsy: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 14th Civil District; self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,s.d.74; see Pop.Sch.p.26,ln.30]

Boston, Berry: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 14th Civil District; self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.74; see Pop.Sch.p.29,ln.11]

Love, Madora: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; dementia; duration of present attack, 8 mos.; 3 attacks; age at first attack, 30; requires attendant. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.15]

Pop.Sch.: age 38, black, female, wife, in household with husband and children; born Louisiana.

Brown, Addie: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; mania; duration of

present attack, 1 year; 1 attack; age at first attack, 26; confined at night; inmate, Tennessee Asylum, 1 year. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.43,ln.13]

Pop.Sch.: age 28, black, female, daughter-in-law, “in Asylum”; born Tenn.

Brown, Martha: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; dementia; duration of present attack, 7 years; 1 attack; requires attendant. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.49,ln.14]

Pop.Sch.: age 28, black, female, married, wife, in household with husband, sister, and sister’s children; “Insane”; born Tenn.

Trench[?], James: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.47]

Pop.Sch.: age 50, white, male, common laborer, head of household, born Ireland.

May, Paulina: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.30,ln.44]

Pop.Sch.: age 30, black, female, sister in household of Henry May and family; born Tenn.

Parish, John E.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; self-supporting; afflicted at age 4; Scarlet Fever; inmate, Knoxville Deaf & Dumb Asylum, 7 years; discharged, 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.15]

Pop.Sch.: age 21, white, male, single, son in household of Margaret Parish; Printer, born Tenn.

Bunch, Laura: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.75,ln.44]

Pop.Sch.: age 8, white, female, daughter in household of John Bunch; born Tenn.

Mays, John: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; partly self-supporting; afflicted at 51; cataract; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.28]

Pop.Sch.: age 54, white, male, married, chair-bottomer, head of household, born Tenn.

Lawrence, Wm.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; partly self-supporting; afflicted at 36; traumatic, one eye hit by

nail; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.31,ln.5]

Bonnard, Stephen: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 13th Civil District; partly self-supporting; afflicted at 47; Scrofula; semi-blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.38,ln.40]

Pop.Sch.: age 73, black, male, married, head of household, Beggar, born Tenn.

Mesker, James: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; afflicted at 52; cataract; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.73; see Pop.Sch.p.90,ln.35]

Jordan, Martha: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 12th Civil District; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.72; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.20]

Jordan, Nancy T.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 12th Civil District; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth. s.d.3,e.d.72; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.22]

Lanier, Mary: Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 12th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.72; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.21]

Pop.Sch.: age 28, female, mulatto, “county prisoner,” born Tenn.

Starnes, Frank: Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 12th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.72; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.22]

Pop.Sch.: p.23,ln.23, **Starnes, Francis**, 18, female, black, single, “county prisoner,” born Tenn.

Cloddy, Ben: Insane Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 11th Civil District. [s.d.3,e.d.71; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.40]

Pop.Sch.: age 50, black, male, widowed, in household of Albert Armstrong, 39, and family; born Tenn.

Lee, Julius: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., 11th Civil District; self-supporting; afflicted at 35; cause, powder blasting; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.71; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.23]

Pop.Sch.: age 70, black, male, in household of Richard Haines and family; born Tenn.

Calhoun, Louise: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.21]

Porter, M.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.16]

Dodd, Sarah: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.26,ln.27]

Lanier, Amanda: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; scrofula; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.5]

McCreary, John: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; cause, powder; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.11]

Siglar, George: Blind Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., partly self-supporting; cause, powder; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.70; see Pop.Sch.p.47,ln.15]

**Beginning here is St. Mary's Orphan Asylum, Davidson Co., District #9,
[s.d.3,e.d.69,] p.42, lines 1 through 50, and p. 43, lines 1 through 42:**

Timmons, Thos.: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents deceased; admitted 1877. [s.d.3,e.d. 69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.16]

Pop.Sch.: age 6, male, white, born Tenn.

Timmons, Pat: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents deceased; admitted 1877. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.17]

Pop.Sch.: age 4, male, white, born Tenn.

McRedman, John: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Florida; mother deceased; admitted 1877. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.18]

Pop.Sch.: Redman, John, age 9, male, white, born Florida.

McRedman, Mattie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Florida; mother deceased; admitted 11-8-77. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.19]

Pop.Sch.: Redman, Mattie, age 9, female, white, born Florida.

Nolan, Phil: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents deceased; admitted 1877. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.20]

Pop.Sch.: age 2, male, white, born Tenn.

Nolan, John: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents deceased; admitted 1877. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.21]

Pop.Sch.: age 4, male, white, born Tenn.

Carney, Mary: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co.; parents deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.22]

Pop.Sch.: age 9, female, white, born Tenn.

Carney, Joseph: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co.; parents deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.23]

Pop.Sch.: age 8, male, white, born Tenn.

Little, Clara: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; mother deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.24]

Pop.Sch.: age 8, female, white, born Tenn.

Hagerty, Joseph: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum;

parents deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.25]

Pop.Sch.: Hagerty, **Josie**, age 10, female, white, born Tenn.

Connelly, Elinor: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Shelbyville, Bedford Co.; parents deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.43,ln.26]

Pop.Sch.: Connelly, **Annie**, age 9, female, white, born Tenn.

Connelly, Mary: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Shelbyville, Bedford Co.; parents deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.43,ln.27]

Pop.Sch.: age 7, female, white, born Tenn.

Note: Omitted on the DDD Schedules: **Gibson, Tom**, age 7, male, white, born Tenn. [s.d.3,e.d.69; Pop Sch. p.42,ln.28]

Gibson, Sophy: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; residence Shelbyville, Bedford Co.; father deceased; admitted 1878. s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.29]

Pop.Sch.: age 7, female, white, born Tenn.

Coleman, Carrie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.30]

Pop.Sch.: age 12, female, white, born Tenn.

Note: Omitted on the DDD Schedules: **Coleman, Mattie**, age 9, female, white, born Tenn. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.31]

Little, Ada: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.32]

Pop.Sch.: Litter, **Eda**, age 3, female, white, born Tenn.

Rodgers, Mattie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.33]

Pop.Sch.: Badger, **Mattie**, age 8, female, white, born Tenn.

Cavender, Lee: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; illegitimate. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.34]

Pop.Sch.: age 8, male, white, born Tenn.

Cloyd, Annie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.35]

Pop.Sch.: age 8, female, white, born Tenn.

Rodgers, Cath: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.36]

Pop.Sch.: age 9, female, white, born Tenn.

Rodgers, Charles: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.37]

Pop.Sch.: age 7, male, white, born Tenn.

Rodgers, Maggie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; father deceased; admitted 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.38]

Pop.Sch.: age 2, female, white, born Tenn.

Kimsey, Cath: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents not deceased; admitted 1879; has been in penitentiary. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.39] born Tenn.

Pop.Sch.: **Kinnie, Cath**, age 8, female, white, born Tenn.

Kimsey, Willie: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents not deceased; admitted 1879. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.40]

Pop.Sch.: **Kinnie, Willie**, age 7, male, white, born Tenn.

Kimsey, John: Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Davidson Co., St. Mary's Orphan Asylum; parents not deceased; admitted 1879. [s.d.3,e.d.69; see Pop.Sch.p.42,n.41]

Pop.Sch.: **Kinnie, John**, age 4, male, white, born Tenn.

To Be Continued

History of Oglesby School

By T. Vance Little



Education on the Tennessee Frontier

Education got off to a slow start on the Tennessee frontier. When Tennessee became a state in 1796, it adopted verbatim the Constitution of its parent state, North Carolina. That constitution made only a vague reference to education and spoke of hiring teachers for *low prices*.

Even before Tennessee became a state, Davidson Academy was established in Davidson County. It was founded in 1785. It later became Cumberland College, the University of Nashville, and still later George Peabody College for Teachers. It is today a part of Vanderbilt University.

In 1810 the Tennessee Legislature appropriated money to establish an academy in each of the counties then existing. There were not many counties at that time, and not many of those that were in existence took advantage of the state's offer. To their credit both Davidson County and Williamson County established academies under the 1810 Act. The one in Davidson County was Robertson Academy, which is still in existence on Franklin Road. The new academy in Williamson County was Harpeth Academy, which is still around too, although it did take a 100-year hiatus. It is today a part of Battle Ground Academy.

No Public Schools in Early Days in Tennessee

There was no such thing as a public school system in Tennessee as we know it today until well after the Civil War. The Tennessee Legislature never recognized an obligation to educate all of its youth. Consequently, there grew up a system of private academies and colleges in Tennessee that constituted a very good educational system. The only problem was that it was only for those who could afford the tuition. Oglesby School was the outgrowth of a private academy on Edmondson Pike.

The most common form of school in pre-Civil War days was the subscription school. Local people got together and pooled their resources to hire a teacher to teach their collective children. They secured a building, such as an abandoned cabin or church, to hold classes.

During the first half of the 19th century, there were several attempts by the Legislature to fund schools. Such funding was designated for so-called *pauper schools* or *field schools*. The pittance was sufficient to build only substandard schools staffed by teachers who were not prepared to teach. There were no such things as standardized text books and graded classrooms. There are said to have been three classes in the old field schools – the little boys, the big boys, and the girls.

New Day After the Civil War

After the Civil War, it was a new day. There was a drastic change in the economic and social structure of Tennessee. Not only was there a new race of citizens to deal with, the pauper class now included a lot of people who had been a notch above that category before their lifestyle was swept away by the winds of war. Industrialization of the South created a new Middle Class of whites.

It took a while, but Tennessee Legislature finally realized that an educated public would benefit the entire state. Accordingly, several Acts were passed by the Legislature that resulted in the creation of a public school system. Most counties had schools up and running by the last quarter of the 19th century. County school systems set about standardizing text books, setting up graded classrooms, and employing qualified teachers. Davidson County was in the lead.

Early Schools on Edmondson Pike

An 1871 map of Davidson County shows a *school house* near what is now the intersection of Edmondson Pike and McMurray Drive. That school is likely to have been the *Rains School* referred to in early histories of the Oglesby Community.

Another source refers to a log school building located on the southern part of the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ lot. Many people remember the log building; it was on the then Bailey Franklin place. That source also says that one of the teachers was Archeleus Turrentine, the ancestor of the Turrentine family of Edmondson Pike. There were other schools of the subscription variety in



the Edmondson Pike area. In the early 1800s a daughter of David Bell announced that she was opening a school at her father's home. The home was on Edmondson Pike on land that is now a part of Chenoweth subdivision. Another subscription school was operated at the Phillips place on Edmondson Pike at the county line. It was no doubt operated by Margaret J. May Phillips or one of her daughters. The elder Mrs. Phillips was in the vanguard of most progressive movements on Edmondson Pike.

Subscription Schools Were Popular in the Mid 1800s

Dr. Robert Nathaniel Herbert said in his family notes that he attended a subscription school at a church a quarter of mile from his home. It must have been the Old Smyrna Methodist Church. Still another subscription school was on Edmondson Pike on the farm of William H. Edmondson. The following people are known to have attended that school: John Wesley Little, Mary Redmon, Oscar Redmon, Ursell Hunt Little, Ethel Hunt, Marie Primm Oeser, John Hamer Primm, Annie Edmondson Still, Henry Cummings Edmondson, and Harden Edmondson Fly Alley.

Toward the end of the 19th century there was a realization of a need for a bigger and better school to serve the needs of the Oglesby Community. In 1894 Harris Benton Ogilvie deeded two acres of land to Margaret J. Phillips as trustee for the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ. On the same day, Margaret J. Phillips transferred one half acre of land to the trustees of the Eighth District of Davidson County School District. Those trustees were William Henry Blackman, W. R. Rains, and P.A. Smith.

The building that is now the Oglesby Community Center was built, no doubt, shortly after the property transfer. It served as the school for the Oglesby Community for the next 45 years.

The Mary Lee Academy

According to a history of the Oglesby School compiled by Julia McClung Green, the last teacher at the old log school house that preceded the Community Center building was a lady named Mary Lee Clark. It was she, according to Miss Green, who persuaded the School Board to build a new school. The new school was known as the *Mary Lee Academy*.

This Miss Mary Lee Clark was the daughter of William Martin Clark. He was indeed a quintessential Renaissance man. He was a physician, a journalist, and a teacher. He was born in Rutherford County, graduated from Clinton College and took his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He served as a captain and later as a surgeon in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He practiced medicine for 40 years in the Nolensville area and on top of that had time to serve as Editor of the *Nashville Banner*, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Tennessee, and Secretary to the Tennessee State Health Board. He fathered 11 children, of whom Mary Lee was the eighth.

Mary Lee Clark had a few credentials of her own. She was a graduate of Ward Seminary, the forerunner of Ward-Belmont and later Harpeth Hall School. She graduated from George Peabody Normal School and taught there for three years. After her stint of teaching in the Oglesby Community, she moved to Oxford, Mississippi, where she married and had several children of her own.

From Ogilvie to Oglesby

One might wonder how we got from Harris Benton Ogilvie deeding property for the school to *Oglesby* as a name for the school. There is no doubt about the fact that the Ogilvie family was an old family in the community. They came from North Carolina and settled on what is now Holt Road, where Dan Covington now lives.

Interestingly enough, the 1871 map of Davidson County shows a family by the name of *Oglesby* living on the southwest corner of Owen-Winstead Pike (Edmondson Pike) and an unnamed road that became Old Hickory Boulevard. No immediate explanation comes to mind for this spelling. It almost has to have been Benton Harris Ogilvie. There was a blacksmith shop diagonally across the intersection. Maybe the map maker could not spell. There is also a Civil War map that shows the resident living at the corner of Edmondson Pike and what is now Old Hickory Boulevard as *Oglesby*.

Some say that the name *Oglesby* came from a garbled form of *Ogilvie*. It must have been a tongue-tied postmaster. Others say that when a permit for a post office for *Ogilvie* was applied for, there was already an *Ogilvie*, Tennessee. Research does not reveal that the statement is true, but postal authorities were notorious for selecting something close to the first choice for a name of a post office. They may have chosen *Oglesby*, assuming no one would be offended.

And then there is another possibility. Perhaps Harris Benton Ogilvie changed the spelling of his last name to *Oglesby* intentionally. People do it all the time. You can spell your name any way you want to. Back in the mid 1800s there were no birth certificates or Social Security registration. There were far fewer constraints on name changing than there are today. Lots of people got at odds with family members and changed the spelling of their names to disassociate themselves from the rest of the clan.

There is always the possibility that Harris Benton Ogilvie did not know how to spell his name. Actually, rules of spelling were not formalized until after the compilation of the first dictionary. Before that time all spelling was done phonetically, according to how the word sounded. All words did not sound the same to all people. Maybe Mr. Ogilvie had a hearing problem rather than a speaking problem.

Anyway, *Ogilvie* became *Oglesby*, for better or for worse.

Oglesby School Continued to Grow

After Miss Mary Lee Clark, there were a number of men teachers who taught at the school. One of them, W. H. Stamps, introduced high school level classes for those who were inclined to take them. Several of the students are said to have taken entrance examinations and entered Vanderbilt University on the strength of their classroom work at the Mary Lee Academy.

During the tenure of A.J. Smith as principal of the school, a second room was added and a graded system was introduced that included elementary school and two years of high school.

Oglesby School continued in the frame building until the early 1930's. The growth of the school mandated a newer and better facility. According to a newspaper article at the time, there were 62 students in Oglesby School at the

time
of its move into the new building.

The need for a new school was met when the Board of Education bought three acres of land on Edmondson Pike, just south of Old Hickory Boulevard. There was built on the site a brick building with a stone foundation, running water and central heat. It was a far cry from the old building. The new building opened in the fall of 1931. The five members of that graduating class were Harris Williams, Warren McMahon, Thomas Allen, John Williams Blackman, Jr., and Cecil Dixon.

Some of the other early graduates from Oglesby School after it moved into the new building were Mary Elizabeth Herbert, Josephine Dixon, Addie Marr Williams, Elmer McMahon, Jerry Turrentine, Rebecca Williams, Arthur Jennette, Wilburn F. Little, and Rosa Williams.

The Oglesby School continued until 1952, when decreasing enrollment forced the Board of Education to close the school. The last graduating class included Eugene Williams and Rosa Beverly Herbert. There were only two members of the first grade class during the last year that Oglesby was open. They were Mary Margaret Williams and Danny Alexander.

New Use for an Old School House

After the new school was built, there was a quandary about what to do with the old building. It was decided to use it as a community center. A charter of incorporation was drawn up for that purpose. The charter recited the following uses for the building:

1. *Promote and conduct free night schools for adult farmers.*
2. *Promote and conduct free schools for young men and women living in the community who are out of school.*
3. *Promote and conduct free home making in home conveniences, canning, and processing, sewing, home nursing, etc., for the housewives of the Oglesby Community.*
4. *Promote and conduct social, civic and recreational meetings for the welfare of all the people of the community.*

The corporate charter provided for a Board of Directors to be in charge of the building and all the activities carried on there. It specified that all activities to be carried on there were to be for the *general welfare of society, not individual profit*. It went on to say that *no*

dividends or profits shall be divided among the members. The incorporators of the not-for-profit corporation were J.E. Moss; Mrs. Minnie Loftis Williams; A.J. Strasser; J.W. Ezell, Jr.; and Mae Rains Faller. At the same time \$200 was borrowed to make improvements on the building. A mortgage was placed on the property to secure the repayment of that loan.

During the years of World War II, the Community Center was best known for being a meeting place for the *Teen Age Club*, which met on Friday nights for square dancing and social dancing. When World War II maneuvers came to Oglesby, local people opened their homes and hearts to soldiers. The Community Center became a USO Club for square dancing that included the soldiers. Even some romances blossomed, and hearts were broken when the GIs moved on.

Oglesby Was a Farming Community

The Oglesby Community was a farming community. Matters of an agricultural nature were important to the people. There was a heavy emphasis on improving the quality of life for farmers and housewives. It was an era when conveniences were becoming available. It saw the first automobiles, farm tractors, telephones, electric lights, and all the other conveniences made possible by these innovations. Gardening and canning were important as well as soil conservation and crop rotation. Men and boys worked on their skills as stewards of the land, while women and girls devoted attention to sewing, cooking, and canning.

The 4-H Club and Future Farmers were important organizations to the young people of the Oglesby Community. The parents belonged to the Farm Bureau and the Oglesby Community Club, which is still active and still meets at the Oglesby Community Center. The Extension Service offered valuable service to the community.

Both Marie Little and Margaret Weber represented their community in farm youth exchanges with European countries.

The Home Demonstration Club has always been active in the Oglesby Community. It is at this writing still going strong and still meeting at the old Oglesby Community Center. In 1937, the officers of the club were: Mrs. J.P. Rains, president; Mrs. Mai Faller, vice president; Mrs. Albert Gasser, secretary; and Mrs. Lester Williams, treasurer. Committee chairwomen were: Mrs. Martha



A Class at Oglesby School ca. 1950
Courtesy of the Author

Edmondson, food preservation; Mrs. J.C. Williams, meal planning and preservation; Mrs. John Williams, home management; Mrs. Jesse Williams, household improvement; Mrs. Wash Herbert, clothing, Mrs. Bob Minton, child care and training; Mrs. Holt Williams, better homes week; Mrs. J.W. Blackman, music, Mrs. Mai Faller, flowers and gardens; and Mrs. Albert Gasser, community activities.

Teachers at Oglesby School

Some of the very early teachers in the Oglesby Community were Archeleus Turrentine, W.H. Stamps, A.J. Smith, and Miss Mary Lee Clark.

Other early teachers who lived in the community included the Wilkerson sisters, Thelma and Lucy Belle. Mrs. Ruby Turrentine Williams, a lady with strong Oglesby Community ties, also did a stint of teaching at Oglesby School, as did Mrs. Hattie Gosey, and Mrs. Cordell Smith.

Another early teacher who had strong ties to the Oglesby Community was Miss Susan Blackman. She was the daughter of William Henry Blackman and sister of John Williams Blackman, Sr. She received her education in local schools, probably the Mary Lee Academy and went on to graduate from Ward Seminary and later George Peabody College. She taught at Oglesby about the time the new school was built. She had a varied career. When she retired, she was teaching at Robertson Academy.

Oglesby teachers during the 1930's and 1940's included Mrs. Carolyn Bridges, Miss Naomi Eubank, Mrs. Elizabeth Henley, Mrs. Prudence Holt, Mrs. Harriett Farrar Hume, Mrs. Peyton Alsop, and Mrs. Wilbur S. Young.

Leora Harrell McPherson a Beloved Teacher

One of the most beloved teachers and principals at Oglesby School was Mrs. Leora Harrell McPherson, who came to Oglesby in 1934. She was born in Cannon County, Tennessee, the daughter of a physician. She graduated from Cannon County schools and went on to Middle Tennessee State University. She says that she was hand-picked for the job at Oglesby by a committee composed of Milton McArthur, J.W. Little, and Holt Williams.

Mrs. McPherson had but 12 weeks of college work at the time she came to Oglesby. But she went on to earn two degrees later. She says that she chose to come to Davidson County to teach because it was one of the only school systems at that time that paid in cash. It being during the Depression, most school systems paid in script.

Miss Harrell, as she was affectionately known, boarded at the home of Spencer and Ida Hunt Turrentine while she taught at Oglesby. She remained there for eight years before she was lured away to teach at Una School. She went on for a distinguished career as head mistress of Harding Academy, one of Nashville's premier private schools.

Miss Harrell married a local boy, F.M. McPherson. They made their home Nolensville. She was always recognized as one of the best administrators and most professional educators in the Nashville area. She was chosen to be honoree at the Oglesby School Reunion of 1999.

Another Popular Teacher

Another popular teacher at Oglesby School was Mrs. Ida Mai Stark McPherson. She came to Oglesby in 1934 to teach the primary grades. After her first year of teaching, she married Herbert McPherson. The Board of Education required her to resign because it was not then their policy to employ married female teachers. The policy was later rescinded, and Miss Ida Mai returned to Oglesby in 1937. She remained there until 1943.

Miss Ida Mai was a native of Joelton, Tennessee. She was a graduate of Peabody College. In addition to teaching the primary grades at Oglesby, she was the girls' basketball coach. After leaving Oglesby, Miss Ida Mai taught at Dellwood and Stratford Schools in Davidson County. She is at this writing living with her daughter in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The Closing of Oglesby School

In 1952, the Davidson County Board of Education voted to close Oglesby School, citing an insufficient number of students to sustain it. The Oglesby Community Club appointed a delegation to appear before the Board of Education and plead a case for keeping the school open. Members were W.H. McMurray, Edgar Turrentine, Lester Williams, Jack Ezell, and A.J. McMahon.

W.H. McMurray was the spokesman for the group. He presented an effective appeal that lasted an hour. The committee had conducted a survey of students available to attend Oglesby School and reported that there were 42 potential students. The School Board challenged that figure, stating that their survey indicated only 27 students. After a long discussion, it was determined that the discrepancy lay in the fact that the Oglesby group was including Williamson County students.

The School board insisted that even if there were 57 students attending the school, that number was not enough to provide a quality education for all of them. They said that two teachers could not handle all eight grades, as it would result in lower educational standards. They went on to say that there was evidence that Oglesby graduates were not doing as well in high school as were students from larger schools.

Committee Appointed to Study Alternatives

A committee of School Board and Community Club members was appointed to explore certain alternatives, such as having a six-grade school rather than an eight-grade school or re-routing the school buses. Efforts of the committee came to naught. The school closed anyway.

One of the main reasons for the loss of students at Oglesby in the late 1940's and early 1950's was the loss of Williamson County students. Since its beginning, a large percentage of the students attending Oglesby School were from Williamson County. They did so to obtain a better education than was available in Williamson County even though they had to travel a long distance and pay out-of-county tuition.

The 1940's and 1950's saw a radical change in the Williamson County schools – for the better. Also, school buses were added. In 1949, Lipscomb Elementary School opened the school year in a brand-new building. It no longer made sense to pay tuition and drive a four-mile hook-up twice a day when a school bus was coming by your front gate. Thus ended Oglesby School. ■



News from the

Tennessee State Library & Archives

by Trent Hanner and Stephanie Sutton, Reference Librarians

We are excited to have the opportunity to keep you updated about activities of the Public Services section at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). Change is constant here, as we are always adding noteworthy items to the collection. Since our last update, we have added many resources that will be of great benefit to genealogical researchers. Several of these are accessible through TSLA's website (www.tennessee.gov/tsla).

Now available on the TSLA website is an index derived from recently donated microfilm (Mf. 1797): *List of Slaves and Their Owners Employed August 1, 1862 to April 1, 1863, Employment Rolls and Nonpayment Rolls of Negroes Employed in the Defenses of Nashville, Tennessee*. This index is available under the Military section of History and Genealogy on the TSLA website. As noted in our previous article, this may be the first reliable documentation of many slaves and free blacks before the Federal Census of 1870.

Also recently added to TSLA's website are four different resources associated with death dates. The first is an index to the Davidson County Death Records: 1900-1913. This index will be a great source of information since it covers nine years of records that state records do not encompass. (Tennessee did not require that death records be kept until 1908; that law lapsed in 1912, creating a "dead year" for 1913). The second recent addition to TSLA's website is an index of Nashville Obituaries and Death Notices for 1913. This index will be a valuable resource, as obituaries usually list information such as date of death, interment location, and immediate survivors. The index was collected by Clarence Campbell and compiled by Peggy Sides, and both are volunteer efforts. Also recently added to the website are the Statewide Indexes to Tennessee Death Records for 1920 and 1921.

A new Civil War Era database has recently been added online. This database provides access to thirteen different mid-19th century newspaper titles

from Memphis and other cities. Years of coverage are roughly 1840 to 1865. All material is searchable by keyword. Access to this database is available to users both at the library and remotely from our home page.

We are excited to announce the beginning of our new workshop series. The first workshop, *Researching Your Civil War Ancestor*, was held in September. On Dec. 1st, *Scrapbooking Your Family Heritage* will be offered. Check our web site for details and registration.

The TSLA digital initiative, Tennessee Virtual Archive (TeVA), continues to add new collections online. Among the most recent is a group of photographs entitled *Tennessee in World War I*. These photos, from the Frierson-Warfield Papers provide a glimpse of military service during The Great War. You can also view a collection of images from a scrapbook in the Ambrose A. Bennett Family Papers. These images provide insight into the history of Fisk University, an institution that played a significant role in the education of freedmen in the South. Check out these new images linked to the TSLA homepage.

TSLA researchers in the microfilm area will be pleased to find three new manuscripts collections that have recently been microfilmed. The Ligon Family Papers, spanning the years 1866-1973, include over 600 items concerning this family from the Hermitage area. The Smoot Collection (1854-1939), a large collection containing a variety of historical and genealogical material, is newly accessible on microfilm. Finally, the James Perry Foster Diaries, 1939-2005, provide daily insight into Nashville life over more than six decades. Mr. Foster's collection is now available on microfilm.

We hope these new features on the TSLA website and in the library provide you with new avenues to achieve richer and more productive genealogical research.

