

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information about events, visit  
the MTGS web site or contact  
Virginia Watson at [ginnyology@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyology@comcast.net)

### OUR MEETING PLACE

Knowles Senior Center (Fifty Forward)  
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](http://www.mtgs.org)

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013  
Knowles Center 1:00

### *Chronicles of the Cumberland Settlements*

Paul Clements, presenter

Paul Clements, historian and author, will discuss findings from his extensive research into the earliest days of settlement and interaction with Native Indians in Middle Tennessee. He will debunk commonly-believed myths and share many new stories and findings about early settlement. This meeting is open free to all.

Saturday, March 16, 2013  
Knowles Center 1:00

### *Genealogical Research in the Union Provost Marshal records at the State Library & Archives*

Darla Brock, presenter

Ms. Brock, an Archivist at the Tenn. State Library and Archives, will show attendees how to find information about civilians who got mixed up with Union Army business during the Civil War. There is lots of Middle Tennessee material in these records – along with other border states, New Orleans, and other occupied cities. The meeting is free and open to all.

# Middle Tennessee

## Journal of Genealogy & History

Volume XXVI, Number 3, Winter 2013

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### **Contributors in this issue**

Gale Williams Bamman  
Jim Long  
Debbie McConnel  
Shirley Roach Thompson  
Shirley Wilson

### *From the Editor. . .*

Readers should find plenty of variety in this issue of the Journal. From whiskey sales in Stewart County, to murder in Lincoln County, to Civil War claims from the Stone's River battle in Rutherford County, this issue reflects the wealth of information available to Middle Tennessee genealogists.

We are pleased to present the first article of what we hope will be a series about County Archives in Middle Tennessee. Shirley Wilson's account of the Sumner County Archives provides an interesting glimpse into some of the records located there which one will not find at other repositories – not even the State Library and Archives.

Shirley Roach Thompson's curiosity and good instincts led her to explore two types of county records rarely used by genealogists: trust deeds and voter's registrations. Don't miss her articles about the interesting information she found in these volumes at the Sumner County Archives.

Are you a volunteer at your local archives? If so, we'd love to have an article from you describing what can be found there.

***Chuck Sherrill***  
***M.T.G.S Journal Editor***

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

# "I write on captured Secesh paper, being out of any other kind."

## Tilton letters from the Tullahoma Campaign

The following letters were written during two weeks in July 1863 from Franklin County, Tennessee. Albert Murray Tilton and his brother, Robert, were young men from Moscow, New York, attached to the 51<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry. Robert died of illness in 1862, but a grieving Albert came to middle Tennessee with the Union army the following year. These letters, written by Albert to his mother, provide a northern soldier's perspective on the war during that period, and include his observations of the area through which he travelled. Albert survived the war but another brother, Henry, died in prison at Andersonville. Albert's letters are found in a small collection of Tilton family papers housed at the Library of Congress.<sup>1</sup>



4<sup>th</sup> July 1863 Cowan Tenn.

D<sup>r</sup> Mother,

Recd a letter from you & one from Frank today. I wrote you from front of Tullahoma. Contrary to my expectations, the rebs skedadled from T[ullahoma]. We captured a large lot of tents, a few stores & five siege guns. Have been chasing them up ever since. We are within a day's march of the Ala line. Have halted to recruit men & teams, both of which have fagged out nearly. May not leave till day after tomorrow. We still have plenty of rain but it is preferable to dust. Men are in fine spirits. The Enemy may make a stand at Bridgeport, Stevenson or Chattanooga. I think we shall carry everything before us. I am well & hearty but very dirty. Have been without a shirt for 3 hours in order to have it washed. Have just put it on and feel better for the renovation. This has been a dull 4<sup>th</sup>. A year ago we were in Big Spgs. Since then poor Bob has departed & I feel it deeply.

It is growing dark & I will close. I will write you again the first opportunity. Love to all the family & friends.

Very affectionately,  
Albert

July 5<sup>th</sup>

This morning is *pleasant* and I go on picket in charge of 2 companies, so that we shall not probably leave here today. The mail will probably leave in the morning (6<sup>th</sup>) but not certainly. We have some cheering news from the East of a 3 day's fight at Gettysburg our troops having the advantage & some good news from Grant. I see politics has necessitated another change in the Commander of Army of the P. I don't like to see it.

Write often & much oblige,  
Albert

In Camp on Cumberland Mountains, July 11, 1863

D<sup>r</sup> Mother,

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> day out and still no prospect of a permanent halt.

There has been but two days of fair weather since we left Camp. Consequently the roads have been almost impassable, otherwise we could have made more

<sup>1</sup> Tilton Family Papers, 1836-1876. MSS84497, box 1, folder 6. Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division.

progress & accomplished greater results. Bragg could not possibly get away from us had it not been for bad roads and high rivers. He burnt the bridges as he went so were forced to ford the streams.

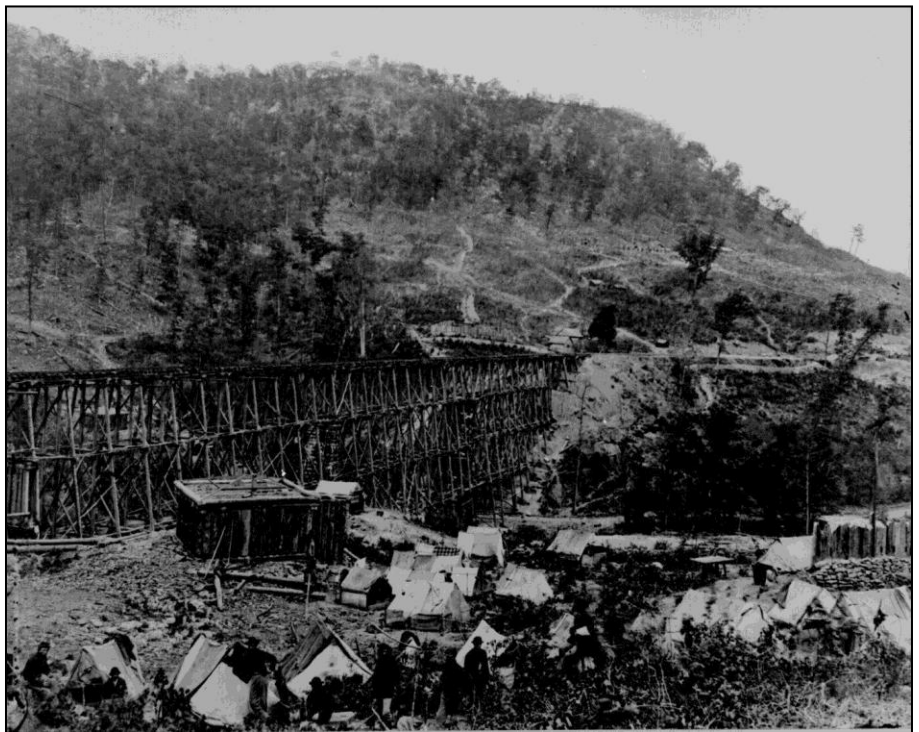
Several times we were forced to strip off & carry clothes & cartridge boxes on the end of the bayonet, the water reaching to our shoulders. One steam we crossed 3 times & then came to another all within the space of a mile. It was amusing as well as somewhat ludicrous to see a whole Regt stripping to the skin & marching with not a rag of clothing on, guns on shoulder & clothing and accoutrements stuck on the ends of their bayonets. It was a sight to have made anything but a soldier blush.

We left Cowan yesterday morning to cross the mountain, and such roads as we have travelled over you never saw.

We are taking it slowly however. We stopped here yesterday & will not probably leave here till after noon or tomorrow morning. We are bound for Bridgeport which is 20 miles from here.

The Tennessee troops are leaving Bragg every opportunity. Deserters estimate that 5000 will not cover his loss. The mountains are full of them lying secreted until we got by so that they can return to their homes. They don't like to give themselves up for fear they will be considered prisoners of war & be liable to exchange. They want to go home and stay there. They are sick of the Confed Cause the most of them having been forced into the service.

Deserters say that Bragg has destroyed Bridgeport & gone to Chattanooga. I don't doubt his making a stand there. The glorious news from the East & Vicksburg has cheered up this army amazingly. We are in fine spirits & ready for anything.



Federal bridge and guard camp in the Cumberlands. This scene, at Whiteside in Marion County, is similar to Tilton's locations at Cowan and Sewanee.  
(National Archives)

Another day will take us out of this range of mountains. Our brigade is 2 days nearly ahead of any brigade in our Corps. Genl. Sheridan is with us. I will write you again in a few days. I have written you several times but I don't know as they reached you. Love to all.

Very truly & affectionately,  
Albert

[P.S.] I write on captured Secesh paper being out of any other kind. The expedients we resort to are curious, in order to let our friends know how & where we are. I don't trouble myself to write anybody but you in times like this & even then my letters are not any too palatable. But of course you make all due allowances. Albert



University Peak on top of Cumberland Mountain, July 16/63

D<sup>r</sup> Mother,

We are still on top of the Mountains although we have [traveled?] about 6 miles since my last, about 5 days ago. We shall probably remain here a week or more until the RR can be finished & fixed up, as we are ahead of our supplies & the roads are so bad that it is almost impossible to *haul* anything through. There are no signs of rebels near here and Bragg, we learn, has left Chattanooga. So there is very little chance for the Army of the Cumberland to distinguish itself by whipping him. It reminds me of the recipe in the old cook book for cooking hares – “first catch your hare” & etc. – Deserters & men fleeing from conscription are still coming in daily at the rate of 200 to 300 per day. Bragg admits his loss from desertion, prisons & other causes to be 10,000 so that we can safely call it 13,000 or 15,000.

This is a fine place to camp although not very pleasant climbing rocks & mud to get here. It was originally intended for a University site and very extensive grounds have been laid out, splendid drives cut along the side of the mountain & a large amount of money spent in various ways. It was first talked of in 56 & a corner stone laid in 60 which is as far as they had time to go with it. It was to be a Southern Institution under the auspices of the Episcopal Church & was to be called “The University of the South.” Each state was to erect a building for the use of its own inhabitants & there were to be several larger buildings for the use of the school in common. I believe it was to be a military school withal – a sort of a Southern West Point for the Chivalry.

Our brigade is still in the advance & we hope to remain so, though there is not much glory in it here now – the Enemy being a week ahead of us & still going. The health of the Army was never better.

I rec’d yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> last night & enclosed, a letter from a juvenile whom I suppose to be Lottie but there was no name signed to it. It bears date of May 18<sup>th</sup> & is a very readable letter. So you have not rec’d any of my letters – I have written you 3 or 4 times since leaving Murfreesboro but there was no certainty of them getting through. The roads were bad & the rain fell in torrents so that it was not much of a wonder if they were lost. Some of them I had to direct in pencil –

perhaps the rain and & handling made the address illegible. I am sorry Lottie is ailing. You must watch her closely & take good care of her, for I must not miss seeing her when I go home.

I sometimes get a little blue, when thinking that perhaps before I get home some of the loved ones there may be taken away. But I hope for the best. I rec’d a letter from Aunt H by the same mail, telling that news had just been rec’d of the death of Charles Wheeler at Gettysburg & the wounding of Mr. [Munger?] & others. I was very sorry to hear it and hope it may prove to be untrue. The news from Port Hudson & Charleston rec’d here last night is glorious & gives us all hopes that we may get home before our terms of service expire. It is hard to tell however what may happen. Our Arms may meet with a reverse somewhere which will help to balance it. I am anxious as to Lee’s movements. He has an army of disciplined troops & unless Gov’t strains every nerve he will succeed in crossing the Potomac & get away. The Army of the Potomac had done nobly & have fully [retrieved?] themselves. None could do better. I will write you again soon. I am well & hearty. Love to all the family & anxious inquirers.

Your devoted Son, Albert.

[P.S.] This letter as well as my last is written on a leaf taken out of [Confederate General W.J.] Hardee’s general order book, which one of my men took at Tullahoma. Hardee now commands a Corps.



The University of the South opened in 1868

# Spotlight on Research: The Sumner County Archives

*by Shirley Wilson*

We hope this will be the first of a series about the County Archives that serve genealogists in Middle Tennessee.

Shirley Wilson is well-qualified to tell us about the Sumner County Archives. She served for seven years as a volunteer director of the archives and has been a member of the Sumner County Public Records Commission since its establishment in 1986.



During the early 1980s a group of volunteers began to organize and catalog many of the old records stored in the Sumner County courthouse. The vision for establishing an archives grew out of this effort.

Once a substantial group of records were organized, the Tennessee State Library and Archives agreed to microfilm them. Local interest in this massive project was so strong that in December of 1986 the Sumner County Records Commission was formed to oversee an archives. The records which had been organized and microfilmed were housed in the basement of the old post office building.

The Sumner County Archives (SCA) opened for business in April 1987 as a totally volunteer organization, surviving on donations and the sale of copies of documents. It remained that way until 1989 when the county hired a clerk. In 1991 the Archives moved upstairs and a second full time clerk was hired, although the administration of the archives continued to be voluntary. This changed in 2000 when the county funded the position of Archives Director and the SCA gradually became a department of the county.

The large brick, tornado-proof R. J. "Hank" Thompson building that houses the Sumner County Archives (SCA) is relatively new (2008). Located behind the county's administration building, it has a central search room, a microfilm room, and a small meeting room, all of which are for public use. There are two offices, a staff work room, two storage areas for records and a laboratory.



## SUMNER COUNTY ARCHIVES

364 N. Belvedere Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066, 615-452-0037

Email: [sumnersettlers@yahoo.com](mailto:sumnersettlers@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://archives.sumnertn.org/>

Hours: 8-4:30 Monday to Friday.

Please call first if coming from a distance and/or check our website for holiday and other closings.

The archives facility is behind the county administration building, with plenty of free parking.

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The facility has one full time staff member and one half time and some dedicated volunteers. Patrons are required to sign in and out of the facility. Lockers are provided for purses, briefcases and other containers. There is no restriction on the number of items that can be brought in to the archives, but staff reserves the right to examine what leaves the archives. No food or drink is allowed in the public areas except for the meeting room. Computers may be used, but scanners and cameras are not permitted.

**Services:** Many services are provided through the website, including the card catalogue to an extensive collection of books and the manuscript collection. The website also has a limited All Name Index to some of the records which are available to use at the Archives. Microfilm viewers and copiers and document copying are available at a modest cost. A bag lunch can be eaten in the meeting room, if not otherwise in use. There are no vending machines, but restaurants are located nearby. Clerks will respond to email to specific requests for copies of indexed records. A modest search fee is charged plus copying and mailing fees. Due to budget constraints, the facility is understaffed, so please be patient.

**Holdings:** The Sumner County Archives is the official repository for the early permanent records of Sumner County. Except for deeds, all early records beginning in 1786 are maintained there, most are indexed, and all are available to the public for research. Many records such as wills, probates, marriages and court cases are available in three different formats (the original form, in book form, and on microfilm). Patrons are asked to use the microfilmed version while searching, but the originals and books can be accessed when necessary. These records include the courts of county, circuit and chancery. Only the recent records remain in the court offices and the dates vary as to when the records are sent to the archives. A rule of thumb is that when permanent records are no longer heavily used in the office that created them, they are sent to the archives. The county's deeds are on microfilm through 1947 at the Archives. Most of the original deed books remain in the office of the Recorder of Deeds.

In addition to the official county records, the Archives has an excellent collection of military, historical and genealogical books relating to Middle Tennessee. While the focus of the collection is on Sumner County, there are also books on the surrounding counties and those from whence Sumner Countians came and to which they migrated in their path westward. There is also a good manuscript collection that was acquired over the years.

**Members of the Sumner County  
Public Records Commission**

Judge Thomas Gray, Chairman  
Bill Kemp, County Clerk  
Pam Whitaker, Register of Deeds  
County Commissioner Joe Matthews  
John Garrott, County Historian  
Shirley Wilson, Genealogist

**Sumner County Archives Staff**

Bonnie Martin  
Randy Tatum

**Unique Holdings**

The Sumner County Archives offers many historical and genealogical records that are not available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

*Wills and Estates*

- Probate index, prepared by the county about 1987-1988

*Marriage Records*

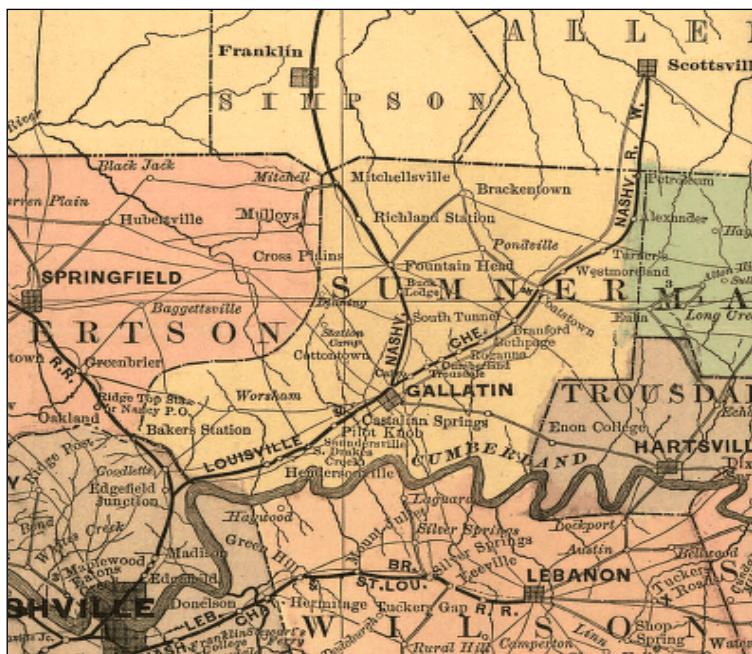
- Index to marriages of Sumner County (both brides and grooms) from 1786-2004
- Marriage records in book format to 1786 to 1850.
- Original marriage bonds scanned and available for purchase – 1786 – 1888.



- Original marriage records from 1788 to March 1980

#### *Deeds and Land Records*

- Chattel mortgage books – 1931-1964 – includes mortgages on crops, farm equipment, animals and household goods, individually indexed
- Pardue Title Collection (indexed) – title abstracts on prominent tracts of land



Sumner County from 1883 map

#### *Court Records*

- Original Records Collection Deeds 1786-1914 – index to signatures (many items other than deeds) in original and book form
- Grand jury books 1879 - 1894 & Grand Jury Records – 1908- 1938 (some gaps)
- Index to loose folders, chancery court 1900-1939 – plaintiffs and defendants only – includes cases other than Chancery (better index in progress)
- Index to loose folders, chancery court 1935-1965 – plaintiffs and defendants only, arrangement is alphabetical by plaintiff
- Index to Circuit court packets 1933 to 1954, not indexed
- Index to slave transactions

#### *Tax Lists*

- Tax records from 1786 to 1825, originals. also from 1936 to 2010.
- Index to tax records from 1786 to 1825 (work in progress)

#### *Manuscripts*

- Vertical files on local families and subjects (includes church records)
- Card catalogue describing entries in the Manuscript Collection
- Store journals 1827 – 1860 (some gaps), no index
- Durham, Walter Collection + working papers on Sumner County (NEW), indexed

#### *Other Collections*

- Original loose records from 1786 (microfilm of records to 1900 available at TSLA and SCA). Archives has original loose records from 1900 forward.
- Library collection is extensive, although many of the books may also be at TSLA
- Voter registrations for various years (not indexed)
- Thomas Photograph Collection , over 1000 views of buildings, street scenes, persons, sites and events
- USGS maps for Sumner County with locations of historical landmarks added
- 1930 Corps of Engineers map of the Cumberland River #380 (as it was before Old Hickory Dam), about eight feet in length
- Finding aids: to various collections held by the archives, such as African American research, probate research, and military research.





# First-Hand Accounts of the Battle of Nashville and Traveler's Rest

by Debbie McConnel

## Introduction

The article appearing at the left appeared originally in the Chicago Tribune, and was reprinted in a Nashville newspaper. The undated copy we worked from was cut off at one edge, and the words inserted in brackets are assumed to be the correct ones.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of 1864, Confederate forces under Gen. Hood attacked the Union forces which had been occupying Nashville since 1862. The Union forces, under Gen. George Thomas, won decisively. Thomas had 55,000 men, of which 2,558 were wounded and 387 killed. Hood had 30,000 Confederates, with 1,500 killed or wounded, and 4,500 missing or captured. This battle marked the end of large-scale fighting in the Western theater.

## General Buell

Union General George Pearson Buell was born in Indiana in 1833, and died in Nashville in 1883 while stationed there in the Army. He is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Before he joined the Army in 1861 he worked as a Civil Engineer. At one time he mined for gold.

## John and Harriet Overton

At the onset of the war Overton went south, financed a Confederate regiment and became a militia officer. Overton's wife, Harriet, later commented that it was the proudest day in her life when seven Confederate Generals sat at her dining table at Traveler's Rest before the battle. Col. Overton later took the Oath of Allegiance and committed himself to assisting disabled Confederate Veterans.

## THE FIELD of NASHVILLE

### Retrospect and Scenes and Incidents

*the Famous Fight of 1864 when*

*Thomas Turned the Rebel Tide.*

*[Chicago] Tribune*

NASHVILLE, June 27. ----- As the war gradually recedes through the dim vista of the [past] new and thrilling incidents of the [internecine] conflict come to light, here, [there] --- everywhere.

[Now] and then a noble deed which has [been] treasured in some one's memory for [only] a score of years is related, and [illuminates] the life and character of those [who] participated in the bloodiest battles of [this] age.

It was only the other day that a living [resident] came out after the death of Gen. [George] P. Buell, which showed [him] to carry in his soldiers' [breast] a heart tender as that of a woman, [and] that gratitude lived in the breast of [all] whom the vicissitudes of war threw in [his] power, and who now attests to his widow [that] she has a lifelong claim upon him who [was] once a confederate soldier and Gen. [Buell's] prisoner.

Sojourning with a friend for a couple of [weeks], whose residence was near where the [fiercest] of the fight prevailed during the [battle] of Nashville, I have had opportunity [of] going over at my leisure a great extent [of] the wide stretching grounds. I have [found] now but few evidences of the great [conflict], most of the trenches having been [fureled] by the various farmers owning the [land], and nature has healed the wounds [made] on the forest trees by the thick flying [bullets].

Stopping at the mansion of Col, John D. [Overton], I asked him what had become of [the] missiles of death which must have

*[fallen] as thick as hail upon his farm. “You [know],” said he “that after the battle of [Nashville], the federals remaining in [possession], hordes of people came out in quest [of] them, and they were picking up these [missiles] of death for weeks, some securing [them] as mementoes of the great battle, and [others] for mercenary purposes. I have [seen] men go on the fields, unscrew the caps [upon] unexploded shells, and carry them [away] in evident triumph. It [would] be difficult to estimate the [immense] amount of lead and iron [that] was thus taken away. Now and then, [even] to this late date, solid shot may be [plowed] up or found hidden beneath the [surface] of the earth. The hottest of the [battle] occurred between my house and that of John Thompson, a mile and a half from [where] we now stand.*

*Dead men lay so [thick] within that mile and a half that it [would] have been an utter impossibility to [have] walked over that part of the battle [field] without stepping upon the bodies of [dead] men, from whose ghastly wounds the [ground] was drenched with blood. Most of [the] dead were negroes (sic Negroes) who had been thrown [to] the front to receive the brunt of the [battle], many of the Negro regiments having [been] driven forward at the point of the [bayonet] by the whites in the rear. Now and then a negro brigade would rush forward with the cry: “Remember Fort [Pillow],” which was responded to by the unearthly rebel yell which always sent terror to the hearts of the bravest.*

*The confederates, who for the most part were in trenches, generally waited for the negroes (sic Negro) to come within thirty or forty [sic] feet of them, when they would pour out such a volley as would mow them as I would my wheat with a machine.*

*“One of the shells went through the back portion of my house, and my family had to retreat to the cellar for safety. Gen. Hood occupied the front portion of my house as his headquarters. That portion of the house is probably one of the oldest, if not the oldest house in Tennessee, having been built by my father nearly a century ago. You see it is a large, commodious frame and is well preserved. The brick portion was added a good many years ago.*

*“Gen. Hood stood upon the portico watching the conflict when it was raging to its climax. Pulling out his watch he said: ‘I will be in Nashville by to-morrow morning.’ Ten*

### **Fort Pillow**

The battle of Fort Pillow, generally referred to as the Fort Pillow Massacre, occurred April 12, 1864. The fort contained approximately 600 Union troops of the U.S. Colored Artillery, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Calvary. The soldiers were both white and black soldiers, and most were not well trained.

Of the white men, some were recovering from injuries and others were former Confederate deserters. The black soldiers were recruited principally for manual labor and included impressed run-away slaves.

Outnumbered, the fort’s officers originally refused to surrender. Once they did capitulate, the Confederate soldiers went on a murdering rampage. Of 600 men at Fort Pillow there were 574 casualties (about 280 dead). The 2,000 attacking Confederates lost only about 14 dead.

The Fort, a historical site, is in Lauderdale County, Tenn. A 1999 documentary, “The Forgotten Battle of Fort Pillow,” and a 2006 historical novel “Fort Pillow” memorialize the event.

### **Traveler’s Rest**

Gen. Hood stayed at the Overton home prior to the battle. Ironically, on the night of December 16, Union General W. L. Elliott slept in the same room that Hood had so recently slept in.

Overton inherited his house, Travelers Rest, from his father, Tennessee Supreme Court Justice John Overton. It is a 2 story, 4 room Federal style clapboard structure with additions in 1812, 1828, and 1887. The plantation consisted of 1,050 acres and had 80 slaves. Today it is a museum operated by the Colonial Dames of Tennessee.

### **General Hood**

Confederate General John Bell Hood was born in Owingsville, Kentucky and died in 1879 in New Orleans. He first served in the U.S. Army before joining the Confederacy.

(**Hood, cont.**) Some considered him very brave, others aggressive, and some reckless. He was injured at Gettysburg and lost use of his left arm. At the battle of Chickamagua he lost his right leg, but still returned to his post. After his spectacular losses at Franklin and Nashville, Hood lost his commission.

It was said that Hood mortally wounded his army at Franklin, and killed it two weeks later in Nashville. Yet he was fondly remembered. A verse in the song "Yellow Rose of Texas" reads: "My feet are torn and bloody, my heart is full of woe, I'm going back to Georgia, To find my uncle Joe [Johnston], you may talk about your Beauregard, you may sing of Bobby Lee, but the gallant Hood of Texas, he played hell in Tennessee." Hood's role at Gettysburg is portrayed in the movie "Gods and Generals."

#### **General Thomas**

Union General George Henry Thomas was born in Virginia in 1816 and died in San Francisco in 1870. Beginning in 1840 he was a career soldier. When Virginia became part of the Confederacy Thomas' family expected him to take a position with the Confederate army. However, Thomas remained in the U.S. Army. His family disowned him and it is believed that they never spoke to him again. During economic hard times he sent his sister money but she would not accept it.

Thomas was one of the most significant officers in the Civil War, but has received little acknowledgement. He was said to be slow, but deliberate and effective. In the Franklin – Nashville Battles he successfully destroyed Hood's army.

After the battle of Nashville, Thomas sent his wife a telegram: "We have whipped the enemy, taken many prisoners and considerable artillery." He did receive thanks from Congress after the battle of Nashville: "To Major General George H. Thomas and to officers and soldiers under his command for the skill and dauntless courage, by which the Rebel Army under Gen. Hood was

*minutes later his army was in full retreat. Gen. Thomas had flanked him from the west and had commenced driving him back. Hood's army could not retreat over the Harpeth hills, which you see about a mile dsstant [sic] on account of the abruptness of their ascent, and they were therefore forced to take the only outlet, via the Nashville and Franklin turnpike through the Brentwood gap. I believe that Gen. Thomas would have flanked them both on the right and left had he not feared failure, which would have resulted in the confederates getting into Nashville, where all the supplies of the federal army in this part of the country were stored."*

*Other reminiscences of the battle of Nashville were tole [sic] told here by Dr. W. M. Clark.*

*He says that during a heavy skirmish on Mill Creek between Gen. Wharton and Gen. Steadman, with three thousand men on each side, he went by his residence, and to his surprise found his whole family out watching the shells as they went whizzing through the air, with as much interest and innocence of danger as they would have looked upon a display of pyrotechnics, now and then breaking into peals of laughter at the ludicrous manner in which some people were endeavoring to dodge or keep out of the way of them. He at once ordered his family into the cellar of his residence and passed on to the front.*

*Dr. Clark also narrated circumstances of the killing of the first federal soldier in the Western army at the fight of Wildcat, Kentucky. Dr. Clark was then captain of company B, Twentieth Tennessee infantry [Confederate]. He was ordered by Gen. Zollicoffer to reconnoiter around the fort which the federals had established. Taking his own and another company he was soon in the vicinity of the fort, and on approaching it a skirmish ensued, in which his company killed a federal soldier, the first one that had fallen from confederate bullets in that portion of the western army.*

*Having carried out the orders, Capt. Clark and his companions returned to the protection of the artillery, which had been left in the valley to take care of itself, and which the federals were preparing to charge, Gen. Zollicoffer and his troops having gone to the left on the ridge opposite the federals. Fearing they might be flanked by a large force, which would have been done but for Capt. Clark's two hundred men, Gen. Zollicoffer retreated to the wagons, which had been left eight miles to the rear. It was ascertained the next morning that the federals had also retreated*

a distance of sixty [sic, probably six] miles under a similar belief. The fort, however, could have been taken by a bold dash. Just before the battle of Nashville, Dr. Clark was given orders by Gen. Hood to go out on a five weeks' recruiting expedition. He had recruited one hundred and fifty men in Hickman county, when he received an order to report to Gen. Hood on the Tennessee river. As the battle of Nashville had been fought and lost, the recruits refused to go, all of them deserting. They were willing to fight on Tennessee soil, but not out of it.

(Thomas, cont.) significantly beaten and driven from the state of Tennessee."

**Dr. Clark**

Dr. W. M. Clark was born in 1826 in Rutherford County, he died in 1895 in Davidson County. He attended medical school at the University of Louisville. Dr. Clark was Captain of Company B (Zollicoffer Guards) of the 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, also serving as a surgeon. Most of the men in the 20<sup>th</sup> were from Williamson County, Tennessee.

SPECKLED DWARF



"FROM GRAVE TO GAY"

**BY LEVI LILLIPUT, & Co.**

Vol. I] NASHVILLE, MARCH 26, 1824 [No 5

It would be deemed unbecoming, even in a Dwarf, to strike a rickety decrepid [sic] 'Old Woman.'

NASHVILLE.

The rapid and continued growth of this town, amidst the commercial embarrassments of the times, shews [shows] conclusively that such are its local advantages, that it will, in spite of disasters, arrive at vast commercial consequence.

Governor Shelby, who was intimately and personally familiar with the events connected with the early history of this State, remarked when last here, in 1819, that the site upon which Nashville is built, was, in early times, the general rendezvous of the wild beasts of the forests – that it was too the general rendezvous of the Indian – that when the tide of emigration flowed to the West it also became a place of rendezvous for the whiteman [white man] – and that from its first establishment it was a mart of commerce for the country of Cumberland.

Mr. Timothy Demumbrune [Demonbreun], who is still alive, and resident in this place, aged about 100 years, was the first whiteman [white man] who is known to have settled on the bluff. A few winters ago, when the square was much covered with people busily engaged in their various pursuits, a gentleman remarked to Mr. Demumbrune [Demonbreun], that he had scarcely ever witnessed before as many people on the square at one time. The venerable old man remarked, "before its [it's] settlement, I have seen it much more thickly covered with the beasts of the forest!"

From the *Nashville Whig*, Tenn. State Library and Archives

# Duckworth Murder in Lincoln County, 1834

## Petition for Henry Minor's pardon

In the fall of 1834 John and Henry Minor were convicted of the murder of Abel Duckworth, and sent from the Circuit Court in Fayetteville to the Tennessee State Penitentiary for a term of eight years. The details of the murder are not entirely clear, but records show that a fight broke out between the Duckworth and Minor families, involving at least four of the Minor brothers and two of the Duckworths. In the affray, Daniel Minor killed Abel Duckworth. It seems likely that the two families had known each other for many years, as both Abner Duckworth and Thomas Minor appear in the 1820 census of Jackson County, Tennessee.

Daniel fled and was never apprehended, but John and Henry Minor were each sentenced to eight years in the State Penitentiary. Some references in the file indicate that John and Henry Minor were father brothers, but the Penitentiary record states clearly that they were father and son. At the time of his incarceration Henry Minor was only 15 years old and stood a mere 4' 5" in height. John was released from prison by pardon in 1835 (though a prison official marked "bad behavior" on his record). In 1837 Henry was still lingering there when friends back in Lincoln County began to work for his release.<sup>i</sup> The following petition for Henry's pardon was filed in July of that year, along with a letter from Judge L.M. Bramlitt stating that he had felt at the time that the eight-year sentence for Henry was too long, and recommending his release. With nearly 200 signatures on the petition, there was clearly a lot of neighborhood support for releasing Henry. Gov. Cannon was eventually persuaded and pardoned the 19-year-old on Oct. 4, 1838.<sup>ii</sup>



These signatures on the petition reveal a variety of clues about the signers

The petition is interesting not only because of the information it provides about the Duckworth – Minor affair, but because many of the signers were women. This was highly unusual in the south during this period of time. One imagines that the petition may have been carried to church or other gatherings where both men and women were present, and everyone encouraged to sign.

Another unusual aspect of this petition is that most of the signatures are originals. On other petitions, it is not unusual to see strings of names all written in the same hand. In this case, while there are clearly instances where one person signed the names of a whole family, many of the women's signatures are in their own writing. The document testifies to the poor quality of education for women in this period – many of them had a childish scrawl and, more often than not, they used phonetic spelling and left out an occasional letter. These features make the signatures very difficult to transcribe, and researchers with family in this area should look carefully for misspellings that may not be evident at first.

In the example shown here, you can see that the names of the Luna family in the left column were all written in one hand. The Evens family which follows them was also entered by one writer, whose handwriting was less controlled than Luna's and who sometimes omitted capital letters on the first names. The spelling Evens, though consistent,

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should surely be Evans. Catherine Brooks had difficulty writing, but Maryann Blackwell wrote in a precise hand. The Brints or Brients family can be tied to the surname Bryant in other records of this place and time.

A search of the 1840 census for the signers of this petition brings up many of them in Marshall County, leading to the conclusion that the Minors lived in the northeast corner of Lincoln County at the time of the murder, which was cut off into the newly-formed Marshall County in 1836. Many of these families would have lived in the southern part of Marshall County, south of Lewisburg.

[Received 20 July 1837]

*To his Excellency Newton Cannon, Governor of the State of Tennessee*

*The petition of the undersigned citizens of Lincoln County, Tennessee, would respectfully represent to your Excellency that at the September Term 1834 of the Circuit Court of said County John Minor & Henry Minor were indicted for the killing of Abel Duckworth, convicted & sent to the penitentiary for the term of eight years. Your petitioners would further state that John Minor has been for some time released from confinement, and that Henry Minor, a boy of tender years, is yet in confinement. They further state that so far as they have been informed (and such information they believe to be correct) the only proof that was or could be made against said Henry Minor was the testimony of Washington Duckworth, who was one of the parties engaged in the fight, and whose testimony your petitioners are very much inclined to doubt as to its truth, which testimony was that said Henry told his brother Daniel to get his dirk and cut out his guts. From all the circumstances of the case your petitioners are led to believe that said Henry had no agency in aiding, abetting or assisting in the killing aforesaid, but that said killing was the act of Daniel Minor alone. They further state that said Henry has always borne the character of a peaceable honest and industrious boy. They therefore respectfully solicit your excellency that said Henry Minor may be pardoned and released from his confinement in said penitentiary.*

J.L. Stone  
Lemuel Lenard  
Egbert Campbell  
A.W. Hayes  
John Donahoo

Geo. W. Blakemore  
G.H. Hogan  
A. Hogan  
Gray Bryant  
Nathaniel Bradford

Thos. Blackmore [Blackman?]  
Jesse Conn [Cone?]  
Richard Wersh[?]  
Elisha Blackspers[?]

[page 2 col. 1]  
John S. Baggett  
Geo. L. Luna  
T.W. Ledbetter  
John H. Stone  
Jas. Old  
Malon Prim  
[illegible]  
B. McCants  
J.W. Crunk  
Camel Leonard  
Rol[and?] Luna  
P.V. Doss  
[Ila?] Dosset  
Mary Dosset

Drusiller Slone  
James Dosset  
Samuel Thompson  
[---then?] Thompson  
Henry Y. Waters  
John Waters  
Mary Waters  
George [Woodwar?]  
Margaret Wood  
Elizabeth Davis  
Caroline Davis  
Ke[zi?]ah Cavaner  
Mary Siner  
Benjamin [W—ker?]  
John Tucker

Elina Tucker  
Jane Tucker  
Matthew A. [Por?]ter  
Samuel Porter  
David Glenn  
Ct. Dal. Blakemore  
John Davis, Sr.  
John Davis, Jr.  
Carline Davis  
George W. Davis  
A.H. Wood  
A.B. Green  
Nancy Milam  
Nancy L. Milam  
Margaret Milam



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Parsons Evens [Evans]  
John Durham

[page 2, col. 2]  
Nathaniel Bradford  
Boling Harwell  
Eliza A. Harwell  
Geo. W. Moore  
[R.D.?.] Moore  
J.E. Read  
Margerett F. Yowel  
Johnson Gulley, Senior  
Johnson Gulley  
Fanney Gulley  
Susan Gulley  
Joel F. Yowel  
[Gabel?] E. Yowel  
Mary S. Yowel  
John Chapple  
Ha[den?] Columbus  
James L. Adams  
Wm. Crunk  
Polley Crunk  
Abner [J?] Jones  
Margaret A. Jones  
Joel J. Jones  
Jas. R. Brown  
Stephen Porter  
Nathaniel Porter  
Samuel Porter  
John Porter  
Wm. W. Porter  
James [J?] Blakemore  
Sarah H. Porter  
Wm. Warren  
Margaret H. Warren  
Francis M. Riveis {Rives/Rivers?}  
Emeline Wa[rren?]  
Elizabeth Warren  
Boyle Lennard  
E[lena?] [Welch?]  
Ritchar Welch  
Henry Welch  
John C. Luna  
Peter Luna  
Pete[sy?] Luna  
Marta Luna  
Elis Luna

Sophia Luna  
Patsey Luna  
Tilliff Evens  
Alford Evens  
Arrene Evens  
Mary Evens  
James Evens  
George W. Hammond

[page 2, col. 3]  
W. Gulley  
Joney Gulley  
Luas Gulley  
Lesebeth Gulley  
Lesebith Gulley [sic]  
Lesebith Gulley [sic]  
J.M. Yowell  
Thos. Little  
J.M. Chappell  
Thos. B. Chappell  
Geo. Crunk  
Adams Wells  
A.B. Cummings  
John W. Crunk  
Green Rives  
William Woodward  
M.P. Hogan  
Peter [Jones Sr.?]  
J.J.B. Crunk  
Martha S. Crunk  
Griffith J. Lenard  
Nancy E. Lenard  
Jos J.S. Gill  
Angelina Gill  
James Warren  
Harriet Blakm[e?]  
Ann Chitwood  
John Smith  
Thomas Brooks  
G.C. Chitwood  
Matthias Luna  
George Crawford  
John G.W. [T?]roop  
Josiah Evens  
Sairey Doss  
Eunice Luna  
James Patterson  
Susan Patterson

Mary Patterson  
Rachel Patterson  
Tho. J. Bonds  
Catharine Brooks  
Robert Brooks  
Marth Brooks  
Maryann Blackwell  
Martha Blackwell  
James Brints [Bryant?]  
Thomas Brints [Bryant?]  
Mar F. Brints [Bryant?]  
Thos. W. Brints [Bryant?]  
Wm. Brints [Bryant?]

[page 2, col. 4]  
David Camp[ell?] Sr.  
[--aleng?] Campel  
James Campel  
[?] M. Gray  
Daniel Lee  
Anne Lee  
Jesse Lovett  
Sally Bryant  
Lewsindy Riges  
Polly Bryant  
Meeriah Lovet  
W. Bryant  
Su[s]anah Bryant  
Jane Bryant  
178 [sic]  
Wm. D. Moore  
Aletha L. Moore  
Hanna Moore  
James A. Yowell  
Thos. H. Rives  
[J.H.?] Rowlett  
C.B. Bu[tler?]  
Wm. [Matthews?]  
J. [?]. Simmons  
Josiah Brooks  
Peter Luna  
Thomas [D?] Moore  
James P. Holl[and?]  
Joel Yowel  
Solomon Ritter [Kittes?]  
Wm. M. Lenard

‡

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<sup>i</sup> Papers of Newton Cannon, Tenn. State Library and Archives. Box 2, folder 10.

<sup>ii</sup> Charles A. and Tomye M. Sherrill, *Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary* {vol. 1} (Mt. Juliet TN: 1977), pp. 78, 182.

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

## Lawrence, Lewis & Lincoln Counties



Abstracted by  
Gale Williams Bamman, CG<sup>SM</sup>

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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.

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 question "Residence when at home" is not abstracted unless it differs from the place enumerated. 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.

## *Lawrence County*

**Jones, Mary L.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; very large head. [s.d.4,e.d.173; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.30]

**Williams, Lucindy:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 4, brain tumor; natural head. **Also:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; supported at county cost, able-bodied. [s.d.4,e.d.173; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 30, white, female, pauper, in household of Rutha Newton.

**Greenfield, Thomas:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; dipsomania; duration of first attack, 10 years; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 36, not confined. [s.d.4,e.d.112; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.5] **Pop.Sch.:** age 56, white, male, head of household.

**Burlison, Lee A.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.112; see **Pop.Sch.**p.32,ln.5]

**Griffin, J. D.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.112; see **Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.50]

**Brewer, Dave:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 60, semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.112; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.7] **Pop.Sch.:** age 64, white, male, uncle, and head of household.

**Mitchell, Reubin:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 70, totally blind. **Also:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; supported at county cost, able-bodied; admitted 1 January 1878. [s.d.4,e.d.112; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age 73, white, male, pauper, in J. H. Nance household.

**Stone, Young:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.111; see **Pop.Sch.**p.12,ln.35]

**Williams, Martha:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co., partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.111; see **Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.6]

**Haines, Burney:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 1, whooping cough and cold settling; not semi-mute, not semi-mute; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.111; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.43]

**Johnson, Ed. H.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.111; see **Pop.Sch.**p.11,ln.7]

**Williams, Mac:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 65, totally blind, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.111, see **Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 80, white, male, head of household.

**Curtis, Red:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.110; see **Pop.Sch.**p.14,ln.20]

**Sandusky, Andrew:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.110; see **Pop.Sch.**p.7,ln.38] **Pop.Sch.:** age 16, white, male, son, in household of John Sandusky.

**Nunlist[?], Catherine:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.110; see **Pop.Sch.**p.20,ln.39] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, female, sister of Charity, in household of Rev. John Wittmer, priest at Einsideln Church.

**Seaton, Andrew J.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.109; see **Pop.Sch.**p.16,ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 33, white, male, brother, in household of Francis Curtis.

**Clayton, Thomas:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 10; natural head, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.18]

**Kilburn, Amos:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 8; small head, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.7,ln.28]

**Carden, Mary E.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at age 13, as she came to be a woman; change of life; small head, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.4]

**Anthony, Martha P.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.30]

**Mitchell, Rose:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108, see **Pop.Sch.**p.7,ln.6]

**Hail, Martha:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 49, totally blind, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.17] **Pop.Sch.:** age 67, white, female, mother-in-law, in household of Robt. J. Grimes.

**Tyce, Dosie:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 2, sore eyes, totally blind; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.18,ln.49] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7, white, female, daughter, in household of Alex Tyce.

**Clayton, Fannie:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 50, totally blind; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see **Pop.Sch.**p.20,ln.23] **Pop.Sch.:** age 76, white, female, head of household.

**Morgan, Mary:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 48, totally blind; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.108; see

**Pop.Sch.**p.25, ln.36] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, female, wife, in household of Ben B. Morgan.

**Flippo, William J.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head. [s.d.4,e.d.107; see **Pop.Sch.**p.19, ln.11]

**Sharp, Elizabeth:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting. [s.d.4,e.d.107; see **Pop.Sch.**p.28,ln.13]

**Smith, Lucrea A.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 1, whooping cough. [s.d.4,e.d.107; see **Pop.Sch.**p.24,ln.24]

**Smith, Henry F.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 8/12; pneumonia. [s.d.4,e.d.107; see **Pop.Sch.**p.24,ln.26]

**Hindsley, Harve:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; age at first attack, 22. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** age 58, white, male, brother-in-law, household of B. Griffin.

**Dobbins, Mage:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; large head. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.3,ln.22] **Pop.Sch.:** Magor Dobbins, age 34, black, male, in household of A. T. Dobbins.

**Bassham, J.S.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; large head. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.4,ln.39]

**Freeman, N. J.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.8,ln.24]

**Staggs, W. T.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.12,ln.43]



**White, Jane:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting,, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.106; see **Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.43]

**Green, W.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth. [s.d.4,e.d.107; see **Pop.Sch.**p.21,ln.8]

**Stennit, Josephine:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head. [s.d.4,e.d.105; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.23]

**Hall, Jennie:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting; cause: old age; totally blind. **Also:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; supported at county cost, not able-bodied; old age. [s.d.4,e.d.105; p.15,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 80, white, female, aunt, pauper, in household of James D. Berryhill.

**Gean, William:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; melancholia; duration of present attack, 4 yrs., 1 attack; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 21; not confined, not restrained, never an inmate of an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.3] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, white, male, son, in household of Thomas Gean. **Note by enumerator:** "He is harmless and can work some."

**Mourton, Elisabeth:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; demented; duration of present attack, 1 year; age at first attack, 27; not confined, not restrained, never an inmate of an asylum. **Also:** Deaf-Mute Schedule; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.16,ln.40] **Pop.Sch.:** Elisabeth Morton, age 55, white, female, sister, in household of Alay Heffington.

~~**Cross, Joel. J.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. Pauper and Indigent Schedule; supported at cost of United States; not able-bodied; disabled from wound. **Note by enumerator:** "United States pensioner of the late war." [s.d.4,e.d.104; see~~

~~**Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.42]~~ **Note:** Line marked out. **Pop.Sch.:** age 43, white, male, brother, in household of William Cross.

**Johnson, Wiley B.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth, by fright; small, flat head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.32]

**Morris, Missouri:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; small head, never in an institution. [s.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.19,ln.24]

**Johnson, Emma:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.31]

**Jones, Andrew:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth, large head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.7,ln.37]

**Gabel, John:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 4; brain fever, semi-mute, semi-deaf; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.18,ln.50]

**Robertson, John:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; supported at county cost, not able-bodied; palsy and old age. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.1,ln.27] **Pop.Sch.:** age 73, white, male, boarder, in household of William F. Pugh.

~~**Adkisson, David:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of United States; not able-bodied, old age and infirm. [s.d.4,e.d.104; see **Pop.Sch.**p.2,ln.29] **Note by enumerator:** "United States pensioner of War of 1812." **Note:** Line marked out.~~

## *Lewis County*

**Baker, Elizabeth:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lawrence Co. [s.d.4,e.d.115; see **Pop.Sch.**p.9,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 54, white, female, in household of James H. Dean.

**Sims, Rachel E.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co.; melancholia; one attack; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 34; not confined, never an inmate in an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.114;



see **Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.19]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 46, white, female, wife, in household of Augustis C. Sims.

**Porter, Susan:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co. [s.d.4,e.d.114; see **Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.2]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 21, white, female, daughter, in household of Francis Porter.

**Williams, George A.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.114; see **Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.4]**

**Dycus, Elijah:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.114; see **Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.21]**

**Hunt, Robert B. C.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co.; afflicted at age 8, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.114; see **Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.2]**

**Hunt, Patrick C.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co.; afflicted at age 2; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.114; see **Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.11]**

**Booker, David:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co. [s.d.4,e.d.113; see **Pop.Sch.p.7,ln.42]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 54, black, male, head of household.

**Crowell, Reney:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lewis Co. [s.d.4,e.d.113; see **Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.20]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, female, servant, in household of

Lewis County was the smallest in the state in 1880, with a population of only 2,181.

Clarince Crowell.

## *Lincoln County*

**Branson, Cynthia:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted gradual; large head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.123; see **Pop.Sch.p.26,ln.36]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, female, head of household.

**Robertson, Mary:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.123; see **Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.50]**

**Toon, Susan M.:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted gradual; cause: kindred of parents; totally blind; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.123; see **Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.39]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 33, white, female, daughter, in household of A. J. Toon.

**Wiley, Sally:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; partly self-supporting; totally blind, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.123; see **Pop.Sch.p.49,ln.1]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 75, white, female, head of household.

**Warren, Charles:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; supported at county cost; mania; duration of present attack, 1 year; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 28; confined;

inmate at Nashville asylum, 2 yrs.; discharged 1879. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.22,ln.45]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 39, white, male, son, in household of Henry Warren.

**Colwell, Hiram:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; mania, age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 20; not confined. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.50]** **Pop.Sch.:** Hiram Caldwell, age 18, white, male, brother, in household of Jhon [*sic*] Caldwell.

**Gattis, Walter:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; paresis; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 2 years. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at age 2. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.28]** **Pop.Sch.:** age 9, white, male, son, in household of Isaac V. Gattis.

**Shoffner, John:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; mania; 1 year, age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 40[?]. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.36,ln.21]** **Pop.Sch.:** John Shofner, age 85, white, male, father-in-law, in household of Levi Couch.

**Benson, Robert:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; paresis. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at age



Age 4. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.14, ln.14**]  
**Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, male, in household of William Benson.

**Jennings, Cora:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; hereditary; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.29,ln.45**]

**Gattis, Lula:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, hereditary; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.31**]

**Gattis, Ida V.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, hereditary; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.29**]

**Gattis, Flora A.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; hereditary; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.30**]

**Ashby, David:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; hereditary; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.43**]  
**Pop.Sch.:** David Ahby [*sic*], age 13, white, male, brother, in household.

**Bradley, Martha:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; afflicted at age 5. **Also:** Insane Schedule; mania; 2 years, age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 5; confined, restrained. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.24,ln.30**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 28, white, female, daughter, in household of Nancy Bradley.

**Taylor, Wiliam Y:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at age 13; cause: fever. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.42**]

**Taylor, Jane:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 51; sore eyes, totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.38**]  
**Pop.Sch.:** age 66, white, female, head of household

**Malone, Elizabeth:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 51; neuralgia, totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.19**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, female, mother, in household of Andrew J. Malone.



**Hunter, James N.:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 6 mos.; sore eyes; totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.27,ln.35**]  
**Pop.Sch.:** age 6, white, male, grandson, in household of William McClure.

**Brown, Sarah:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 45, by a burn; totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.27,ln.38**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 49, white, female, wife, in household of Jhon M. Brown.

**Taylor, John:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 95; sore eyes; totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.37,ln.17**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 102, white, male, father, in household of John D. Taylor.

**Michael, Amy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, Lincoln Co.; supported at county cost; not able-bodied; old age and paralysis. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.49**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 81, white, female, head of household.

**Michael, Jemima:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, Lincoln Co.; supported at county cost; not able-bodied; paralysis. [s.d.4,e.d.131; see **Pop.Sch.p.30,ln.1**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 46, white, female, daughter, in household of Amy Michael.

**Griffis, E. Thomas:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; melancholia; total number of attacks, 1; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 26; confined at night, requires attendant; inmate, Nashville, Tenn., 18 months. [s.d.4,e.d.130; see **Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.14**] **Pop.Sch.:** age 27, white, male, son, in household of Elizabeth Griffis.

**James, Martha L.** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 5; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.130; see **Pop.Sch.**p.17,ln.26]

**Hardin, Mary:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; dementia; duration of present attack, 8 years; number of attacks, 1; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 27; not confined, not restrained, never an inmate of an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.35,ln.34] **Pop.Sch.:** age 35, white, female, wife, in household of James Hardin.

**Stevenson, Canzora:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, natural head, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.47,ln.25] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7, white, female, daughter, in household of James Stevenson.

**Bonner, Eliza:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; never an inmate in an asylum. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.33,ln.39] **Pop.Sch.:** age 38, white, female, ward, in household of Newton Maddox.

**Martin, Eliphas C.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 19; never an inmate in an asylum. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.34,ln.27] **Pop.Sch.:** age 19, white, male, son, in household of Wm. R. Martin.

**Hardin, Rufus:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 1, paralysis; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.35,ln.35]

**Land, Wm. T.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 3, epilepsy; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.44,ln.19]

**Gayle, Adelphia:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.3,ln.5]

**Nervousness in the Home.**

We are all familiar with the ruin worked in the home by disturbed nerves, the breaking down of the closer ties between husband and wife, and the influence for ill under which children grow up to mature years. It is under such conditions that the seeds of disease are sown which bear bitter fruit in the present and future generations. The nervousness of the father or the mother becomes uncontrollable. No amount of will power will keep it down, unless the nerves are brought into subjection by effective means.

The advent of nervousness into the home is a storm signal which must be heeded or the domestic fabric will soon be tottering to its fall. So lamentably true is this that when the first indications of nervousness appear they must be heeded promptly, that help may be found before the harsh words are spoken which, induced by a nervous condition, have a force in them sufficient to mar the hopes and lives of all.



Disturbed nerves break down domestic happiness.

Get Dr. Greene's advice when nervousness first appears.

**Randolph, Mattie:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.10,ln.5]

**Neeld, Jane:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.45]

**Jones, James:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.16,ln.20]

**Macklimore, Mary S:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 4, fever, semi-mute, not semi-deaf. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.29,ln.6] **Pop.Sch.:** Mary S. McLemore, age 17, white, female, daughter, in household of M. B. McLemore.

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**Petty, Bryant, L.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 13; paralysis of tongue; semi-deaf. **Also:** Blind Schedule. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.49,ln.5] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, white, male, son, in household of Lucy J. Petty.

**Holt, Gabriel:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 70; semi-blind, never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.119; see **Pop.Sch.**p.7,ln.11] **Pop.Sch.:** age 79, white, male, father-in-law, in household of William Ratley.

**Danel, Nancy:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 18; neuralgia. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.47] **Pop.Sch.:** age 54, white, female, wife, in household of Thomas Danel.

**Rogers, Absalom:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 80, old age. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.19, ln.29] **Pop.Sch.:** age 83, white, male, head of household.

**Green, Christiana:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 73, cataract, totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.24,ln.12] **Pop.Sch.:** age 73, white, female, mother, in household of Jane E. Williams.

**Hicklin, Benj. F.:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 19; scrofula; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.126; see **Pop.Sch.**p.28,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 19, white, male, son, in household of Malissa Hicklin.

**Randolph, Hugh:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at 65, protracted sore eyes, semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.29,ln.45] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, male, head of household.

**Pryor, Jane C.:** Blind Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 59, protracted sore eyes, totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.129; see **Pop.Sch.**p.48,ln.12] **Pop.Sch.:** age 67, white, female, head of household.

**Webb, Mary:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co. [s.d.4,e.d.128; see **Pop.Sch.**p.44,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:**

age 24, white, female, wife, in household of J. D. Webb.

**Roadden, Tho. G.:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co. [s.d.4,e.d.128; see **Pop.Sch.**p.33,ln.31]

**Trantham, Levi:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; duration of present attack, 15 years, not confined, not restrained; Tennessee Insane Asylum, never an inmate of an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.35,ln. 26] **Pop.Sch.:** age 54, white, male, brother-in-law, in household of J. H. Wright.

**McAfee, G. M.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; duration of present attack, 16 March; 3 attacks; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 19; confined, not restrained recently; inmate lunatic asylum, admitted [illegible], discharged 1876. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.15,ln.31] **Pop.Sch.:** George M. McAfee, age 32, white, male, brother, in household of R. C. McAfee.

**Clift, James:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; duration of present attack, 13 years, one attack, age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack,35; not confined, not restrained, never an inmate in an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.28,ln.31] **Pop.Sch.:** age 48, white, male, boarder, in household of Z. S. Jordan.

**Bishop, M. E.:** Insane Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; duration of first attack, 16 months, number of attacks 35; not confined; not chained; never an inmate in an asylum. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.16,ln.42] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, white, female, daughter, in household of A. H. Bishop.

**Spence, Dick:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 10, by a wagon run over head; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.26,ln.38]

**Lynn, John:** Idiots Schedule, enumerated Lincoln Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.127; see **Pop.Sch.**p.26,ln.3]

*Lincoln County to be Continued*

# MTGS Annual Workshop – Another Success!

A record-breaking crowd of 170 attended the \_\_\_th annual MTGS Genealogical Seminar at the Brentwood Library on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Clockwise, from top left: The food crew: Evelyn Garrett, Linda Henson, Gail Sanders, Shirley Thompson and Carolyn Cate; Charter member Shirley Wilson at the registration desk; Joe Nave and Martha Gerdeman at the sales table; Kay Gregath and Marylin Poole at the Membership table.





## MTGS Seminar Success



### The Supervisors

Event chairs Virginia Watson (center) and Suzanne Rainwater (right) with photographer Lyn James



### The Speakers

Pam and Rick Sayre provided great instruction on research using maps, Google Earth and newspapers.



### The Scribes

Staffing the registration desk and welcome center (L to R): Brenta Davis; Danya Downey; Mary Lawrence; Kathy Teague; Lallie Wallace; and Cinamon Collins.



## MTGS Seminar Success





# Trust Deed Books: Underutilized and Unexpectedly Informative for Genealogists

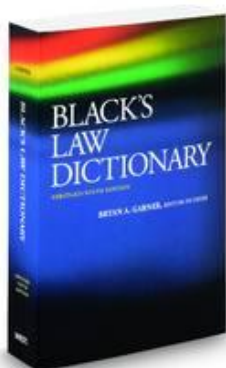
by Shirley Roach Thompson

All genealogists know that deed research is a critical part of their work. No thorough genealogist would dare to think that his research on a family surname in a county is complete unless he had examined published books of land deed abstracts and deed indexes for that county as well as the microfilm of the deed indexes. Much of the documentation for our lineage comes from information gathered from these deeds and the other types of documents which were often also recorded in these deed books, such as power of attorney, leases, etc. This same research approach should be undertaken with trust deed books as well.

Deed books are some of the earliest records maintained by the counties. Later, as time progressed, many Tennessee counties began making entries in another set of ledgers, called Trust Deed Books. These books obviously record deeds of trust, but they also contain many types of documents which relate to transactions for other than real estate, just as did early deed books.

Before proceeding to a more detailed discussion of trust deed books, some brief definitions from Black's Law Dictionary will be helpful to understand what documents should be recorded in trust deed books rather than in deed books.

Most genealogists have a basic understanding of deeds and how they work. A deed is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as "a conveyance of realty; a writing signed by grantor, whereby title to realty is transferred from one to another." And for most people purchasing a home or other real property to be paid for over time, a mortgage will be given on the property, which Black's Law Dictionary defines as "an interest in land created by a written instrument providing security for the performance of a duty or the payment of a debt." This is what we think of that would typically be recorded in the trust deed books. However, many of the deeds of trust are not just mortgages for the purchase of land or homes.



A deed of trust, as defined by Black's Law Dictionary is "an instrument . . . taking the place and serving the uses of a mortgage, by which the legal title to real property is placed in one or more trustees, to secure the repayment of a sum of money or the performance of other conditions." So a mortgage or a deed of trust may be given to secure payment on a debt for other than only the purchase of real estate, such as in earlier days, to buy a horse, a car, etc., or to just borrow cash outright for current needs.

One other pertinent definition is that of a chattel mortgage, defined by Black's as "a pre-Uniform Commercial Code security device whereby a security interest was taken



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by the mortgagee in personal property of the mortgagor. A transfer of some legal or equitable right in personal property or creation of a lien thereon as security for payment of money or performance of some other act, subject to defeasance on performance of the conditions.” Now, this is like a automobile loan in which the auto itself serves as security for the automobile loan, and the purchaser receives clear title to the auto after all payments have been made.

Counties record documents in somewhat different manners, which is one of the reasons that research can be confusing until time is devoted to understand how each county’s records are arranged and indexed. A search of the Tennessee county records on microfilm at the TSLA website shows that the counties began segregating these trust deeds from the regular deeds at various points in time and recorded them in separate ledgers with separate indexes. This new recording process may have resulted as the volume of trust deeds generated increased as the population grew and more people began to borrow money to buy land, particularly when the money was borrowed from third parties who were not family members or the sellers of the land.

These trust deed books contain a whole body of recorded legal documents, for which there may be no other reference found in the regular deed books. And as with earlier deed books, the types of documents that the trust deed books contain are surprising and can yield a great deal of information which is valuable to genealogists.



Sumner County Tennessee is a good example of the importance of using the Trust Deed Books in research. Trust Deeds were recorded in a separate book beginning in January of 1887. A separate General Index of Trust Deeds is available, arranged similarly to a regular deed index, both by grantors and grantees, alphabetically.<sup>1</sup> The general index is in a ledger book format listing in columns, alphabetically, the grantor’s name, the grantee’s name, the nature of the instrument recorded, the date of the filing of the instrument giving the month, day, and year as well as time of day of the recording, and the book and page number in which the instrument is recorded. There is a reverse index, just as in a regular deed index, which lists the instruments alphabetically by the grantee’s name, giving the same information in each column.

The “Nature of the Instrument” column was intriguing. In briefly scanning the early volumes of General Index of Trust Deeds, the following types of instruments were listed: note, deed, charter, mortgage, deed of trust, agreement, release, title bond, bill of sale, lien, assignment, power of attorney, contract, lease, judgment, map or plat, obligation, process, transfer, mortgage transfer, deposition, chattel mortgage, decree, and amendment. In the Trust Deed Books, many documents relate to transfers of property other than land. And as in earlier regular deed books, many types of documents are recorded which are not deeds.

As in regular deed research, the objective is to find family and collateral surnames listed, giving special attention to the names listed with the added identifiers of et al, and others, guardian, executor, administrator, etc., which may provide details of family relationships.

A few examples of the diversity of the information found in these Trust Deed books demonstrate the value to researchers. This is especially helpful in Sumner County Tennessee research as the Trust Deed Books begin in 1887. Since there is no surviving federal general population census for Tennessee in 1890, the trust deed books provide important information for those individuals listed therein during the 1890’s.

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<sup>1</sup> Trust Deeds Index, Volumes 1-2, A-Z, 1887 – 1919, Sumner County Records, Tennessee State Library and Archives: microfilm roll #189.

## Depositions Regarding Competency of Obediah Stone

Recorded in Sumner County, TN Trust Deeds Book 1, pages 89 through 91, are four depositions which were taken on June 18, 1888; Received for registration June 29, 1890; registered and examined July 4th 1890.

1. Deposition of G. T. Stone of Murray (sic) County, TN; age 41, son of O. B. Stone. G. T. Stone has lived in Murray [sic] County for 22 years. O. B. Stone has lived on G. T. Stone's premises since October, 1887.
2. Deposition of G. W. Stone of Sumner County, TN; age 62; no relationship specified. G. W. Stone lived "about one mile" from O. B. Stone "up to the time he left in the fall 1887."
3. Deposition of Dr. T. L. Lanier of Sumner County, TN; he has known Obediah Stone for eight years and been his "fisision" [physician] for "the last six years before he left here."
4. Deposition of Milton Carver of Sumner County, TN; he lived "one half mile" from "O. B. Stone until the time he left here in the fall of 1887." No relationship was given, but Milton Carver did "right" [sic] up contracts for O. B. Stone. Among the questions and answers are:

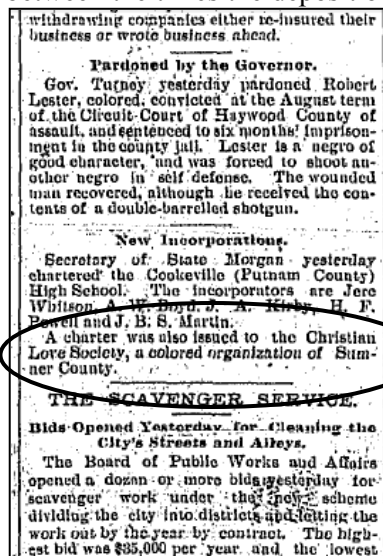
Qu: Did you right sic up any contracts for O. B. Stone's croppers for the last two or three years, up to the time he left here

Ans: I did for the last three years

Perhaps the validity of contracts of Obediah Stone with his sharecroppers had come into question, along with other documents that Obediah may have executed during this time period.

All those giving depositions stated that they considered O. B. Stone to be "competent to transact his business mentally."

All four of these depositions were taken before G. H. Burney, Justice of the Peace. On the deposition of G. W. Stone and Milton Carver, the "State of Tennessee" identifier is followed by "Rob. County," indicating a connection to Robertson County. The 1850 and 1860 federal censuses list Obediah Stone in Robertson County; the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses list him in Sumner County. On the 1850 census, there are several members of the Birney family listed following the household of Obediah Stone, which could explain the depositions being taken by G. H. Burney in Robertson County -- he may have been a neighbor to the family in earlier years. The two year delay between the times the depositions were taken and the time they were recorded could be an indicator of a significant family event occurring in 1890.



## Charter of Incorporation of the Christian Love Society of Number One

There were many corporate charters entered in the trust deeds book, including some for non-profit or charitable type organizations. In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 3, pages 403 and 404, a charter of incorporation is recorded for the "Christian Love Society of Number One . . . for the purpose & object of taking care of the sick & burying the dead members of said association by collecting sick or death benefits from the members of the said association." This society was formed by Wm. M. Howell, Joe (later listed as James) Harper, Milton Kirk, Simon Franklin, Mat (later listed as Madison) Taylor, William Douglass, Boston Lewis, Le\_ Wilson, and their associates. The document is dated 30 December, 1893 and has signatures or marks indicated for Howell, Lewis, Harper, Taylor and one name not listed in the body of the document: Robert Hockett. Marks, rather than signatures, being made for the last four. Although the term "non-profit" is not used, the charter states that "The general welfare of Society not individual profit is the object for which this charter is granted." An initial

membership fee and annual dues were to be set by the board of directors.

From an initial search of federal census records for Sumner County, TN for 1880 and 1900, the original incorporators appear to have been a group of black citizens, mostly living in District 5 or Saundersville area of Sumner County. The "Number One" in the name of the society probably refers to the Number One Community in Sumner County, located between Gallatin and Hendersonville.

### Contract for Lease of Farm

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 1, on page 4, a contract for the lease of a 390 acre farm owned by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad near South Tunnel is recorded to J. W. C. Bryant for the year 1887. Details of the rental agreement are set forth, as are the boundaries of the leased farm, bounded by Dr. W. R. Tomkins, Henry Braswell, Hardin, Wallace heirs, George Taylor, George Rodemer, G. N Brinkley and "others," who are not listed in the contract. The contract is dated January 13, 1887.

### Procession and Survey

Sumner County Trust Deed Book 1, on page 27, contains a report dated February 26, 1887 from a procession and survey by J. M. Link, County Surveyor. This procession and survey had been performed at the direction of A. B. Murry, Administrator of the estate of William Murry, deceased. The land was in Civil District No. 5 of Sumner County, bordered by Harry Smith, William Weisiger, and Mrs. A. M. Turner.

### Purchase of Horse Secured by Mortgage on Land

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 1, on pages 201 and 202, a mortgage on land belonging to John Bell, Sr., and his wife Margaret A. Bell is given to William Stringer. The mortgage was executed in order to secure a note the Bells issued to Stringer for the purchase of a sorrel mare for \$60.75 on April 19, 1888. The land is in the 16<sup>th</sup> Civil District and contains ten acres and includes the house occupied by Henry Bell, son of the owners. The land is bordered by the lands of Mortecky [Mordechai?] Cummings and Mrs. Mary Wickware.

### Purchase of Bay Mare Secured by Lien on Black Horse

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 1, on page 554, a note and liens were recorded when C. H. Mayes purchased a bay mare "about 12 years old and 15 hands high" from J. C. Hill on November 9, 1889. C. H. Mayes issued his I.O.U. to J. C. Hill for \$100. Mayes also gave Hill a lien on the mare being purchased and a lien on "one black horse about 8 years old and about 15 hands high . . ."

### Power of Attorney

Also in Sumner County Trust Deed Book 1, on page 554 and 555, "the heirs of W. G. Pond, Sr., Dec'd, in order to facilitate the settlement of the estate of said W. G. Pond, Sr., Dec'd, doth hereby appoint, constitute, and empower W. G. Pond, Jr., our true and lawful attorney . . ." executed on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1889 by M. J. Pond, Jno. L. Pond, Fannie Butler, W. F. Butler, and C. T. Pond.

**FINE SUMNER COUNTY FARM**  
**AT AUCTION**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 10:30 A. M.**  
**NEAR GALLATIN, TENN.**  
"Rain or Shine" in the Large Tobacco Barn

The O. B. Ramsey Farm of 121 acres, 1 1/4 miles out, on the Douglas pike (Dixie Highway), 40 acres creek bottom, balance gently rolling, and all in a high state of cultivation. One-third in grass, balance cultivation.

Residence, 6 rooms, 2 porches. Large stock barn, new large tobacco barn, new tenant house and all necessary outbuildings; well watered by well, spring and creek. Also waterworks to supply house and barn; lots. Fine shade and orchard.

All live stock, consisting of two pairs of mules, one combined saddle and harness mare, perfectly gentle. Five good milch cows and calves. One Hereford bull, six sows and pigs and one pure-bred boar. Two wagons and harness and a full line of implements; 100 barrels of corn, some hay and cut sorghum.

TERMS: On farm, One-third cash, balance in one, two and three years. Terms on stock, feed and implements made known on day of sale.

Will be pleased to show you.

**See O. B. RAMSEY, Owner, or**  
**W. G. SCHAMBERGER,**  
Agent, Gallatin, Tenn.  
**COL. GIL S. MOORE, Auctioneer**

### Bill of Sale

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 3, on page 340, a bill of sale is recorded in which J. H. Working sold one field of 30 acres of corn on September 4, 1893, to R. C. Harris and others. The field of corn was located in the 11<sup>th</sup> District of Sumner County on the east fork of Bledsoe Creek. This bill of sale was made to secure the payment of a \$250 note.

As the above examples demonstrate, many different types of documents are included in the trust deeds book, and many are not specifically trust deeds. A brief continued search of trust deed books for Sumner County in later years also illustrated

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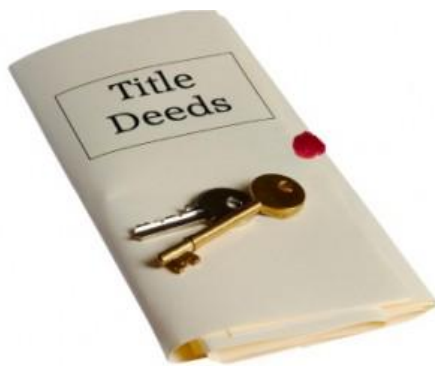
even more good examples of the different uses of trust deeds.

### **Lien on Household Items Salvaged from Trousdale House in Gallatin and Business Equipment located on Gallatin Square to Secure Note**

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 7, on pages 308 and 309, a document is recorded which contains unusual information. In order to secure a note for \$150 in which W. J. Hancock has indebted himself to J. T. Durham, Hancock gave a lien on May 10, 1901, on two sets of assorted personal property to Durham. The items from Trousdale House appear to be miscellaneous household goods that would have been sold at an estate sale or moving sale. Those items at the location situated in the "Pond or Examiner Building on the east side of the square of Gallatin" appear to be business type equipment, including barber's equipment. A detailed list of items at both locations is included in the lien document.

### **Purchase of Automobile secured by House and Land**

In Sumner County Trust Deed Book 14, on page 395, F. L. Harrington and wife Alice Harrington of Sumner County, gave a mortgage on their land and house on the public square in Gallatin to The Tennessee Automobile Company of Nashville, to secure a note of \$1,400, dated August 25, 1909. This was evidently to secure a loan for the purchase of an automobile.



The Trust Deed Books merit the same degree of scrutiny as the regular deed books for genealogists' research. Begin by checking the list of county records available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives to determine if and when the county of interest began using trust deed books, next check the card catalogue for possible trust deed indexes published in book form, and then proceed to the microfilmed copies of the trust deed indexes and from there, finally to the microfilmed documents as recorded in the trust deed books. Also, contact the local county archives to see what trust deed records might be preserved at the county level and not available on microfilm.

Research is not complete until a search of the trust deeds books has been made for your family surnames. These records may not only provide genealogical data which helps in proof of lineage, but also provide information giving more insight into your ancestor's lives and business dealings. ‡

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## **SUMNER COUNTY BROWNS A LONG-LIVED FAMILY**

*Nashville American*, Mar. 17, 1906

"Gallatin, Tenn., March 16. (Special) Gallatin and Sumner County have long been noted for their healthful climate and the longevity of their citizens, but probably the most striking figures in old age will be found in the Brown family, who reside on Franklin street, this city.

"C.H. Brown, of Gallatin, received a letter the other day from his aunt, Mrs. Lucy Brown, of Albemarle County, Va., who has reached the age of 92 years. She has two brothers living, whose ages are respectively 94 and 96. The old servant whom Mr. Brown's mother brought with her from Virginia in 1833 is still living, and is now 90 years of age.

"Mr. Brown relates an incident in his mother's life which shows plainly the pluck and endurance of that lady. He says his mother made two trips to Albemarle County, Va., and return[ed] on horseback, the last trip carrying her baby in her lap. That baby is now living and is the wife of John B. Harris, residing near Gallatin. Mrs. Harris was the seventh child, and an infant when the remarkable trip was made."



# Unidentified Ledger Yields Genealogical Clues

## Jackson County General Store Ledger, 1837-1838<sup>1</sup>

A ledger book recently loaned to the State Library and Archives for microfilming contains records of transactions in a store, thought originally to be in Carthage, Tenn., dated from 1837 to 1838. At first glance, such a record might appear to be an uninteresting column of names and numbers with no research value for the genealogist. However, closer examination gives us insight into the community where the store was located, the inter-connected families of that community, and the daily lives of our ancestors in this period.

The ledger opens with the date March 10, 1837, and transactions with John Burk, Sr. and Charles McClelen. The storekeeper was not a very good speller, but he did write with a clear, bold hand and used a good pen and ink. For that alone, the genealogist should be grateful.

There is no indication of the name of the merchant in the volume. On the opening pages several names were scrawled, but none appear to be in the same hand as the ledger entries. In one corner, very small letters spell out "Carthage, Tenn." A search of the 1840 census reveals that most of the store's customers were residents of Jackson County, rather than from Smith County where Carthage is located. A large number of the customers lived in Jackson's eleventh civil district.<sup>2</sup>

We can see that the store's first and most loyal customers were members of the Burk family. In the beginning John Burk, Sr., figures

| Date          | Customer         | Item                   | Amount |
|---------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| March 10 1837 | John Burk, Sr.   | 1 qt Whiskey           | 25     |
|               | John Burk, Sr.   | 1 lb Thomas Butter     | 50     |
|               | Charles McClelen | 5 lb Sugar             | 1 00   |
|               | Charles McClelen | 8 lb Coffee            | 2 00   |
|               | John Porter      | 3 lb Balance on Coffee | 50     |
|               | William C. Burk  | 3 lb Sugar             | 50     |
|               | John Burk, Sr.   | 1 lb Coffee            | 50     |
|               | John Burk, Sr.   | 12 lb Sugar            | 2 00   |
|               | John Porter      | 1 qt Whiskey           | 25     |
|               | John Porter      | 1 lb Coffee            | 25     |
|               | Henry Mason      | 1 lb Coffee            | 25     |
|               | John Porter      | 1 qt Whiskey           | 25     |
|               | Joshua Draper    | 1 lb Coffee            | 25     |

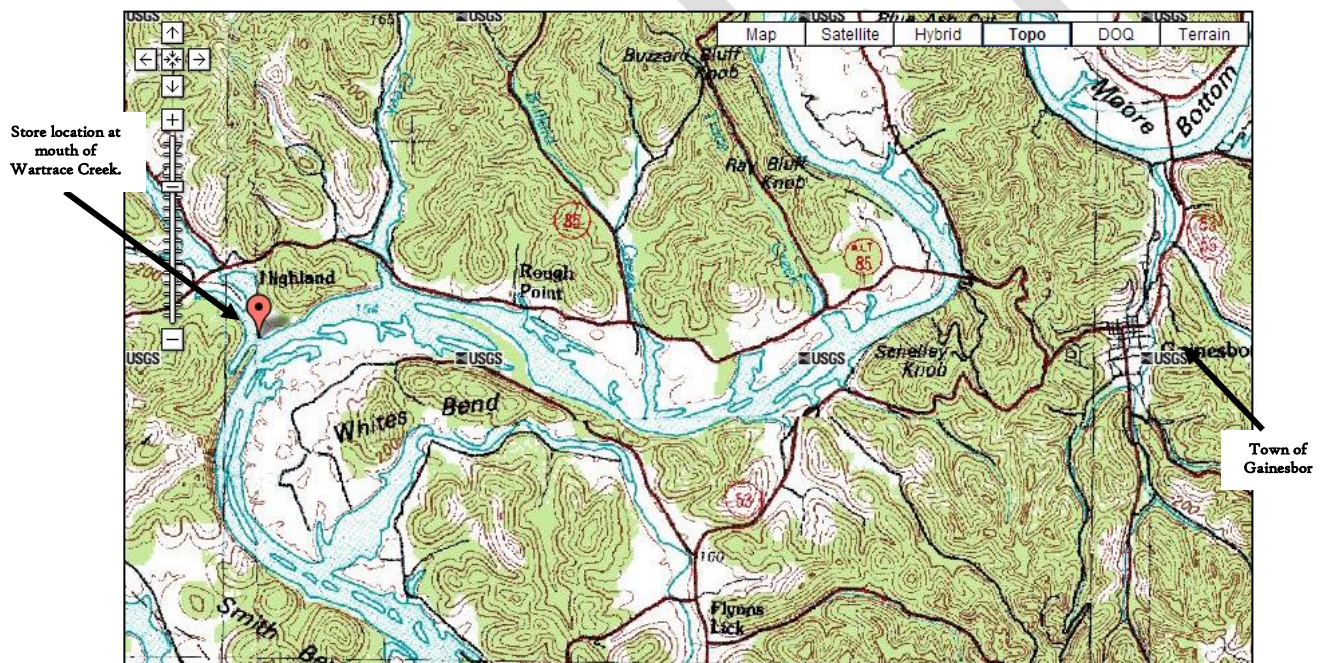
<sup>1</sup> United States Provost Marshal General's Bureau Records, 1863-1865 Camp Carthage (Tenn), Microfilm #2018, Tenn. State Library and Archives. (The store ledger was later used by the Provost Marshal.)

<sup>2</sup> Among those names in the store ledger which can also be found in the 1840 census of Jackson County's eleventh district are: Joshua Draper; Edward Mercer; Uriah Basham; James Rush; Henry Nettles; Peter Forkum; Job Nettles: John Burk; William C. Burk.



prominently. But as the months went by other Burks began to patronize the store: William C. Burk, L. Burk, James Burk and John Burk's wife all appear as shoppers. It seems likely that these may have been family members of the owner, giving him their patronage to support his fledgling business. James Burk does not appear until about a year after the store opened, when he stopped in for a quart of whiskey. James soon became a regular customer, purchasing a set of knives and forks just a few days later. Perhaps he was a family member who moved back to the neighborhood in 1838.

From the census we learn that John Burk was 50 to 60 years old and had a large family, including several younger men. One of those was aged 40 to 50 and another 20 to 30. Either could have been the storekeeper. Burk was evidently a widower – but not a lonely one, as he was enumerated with a total of 10 white family members and six slaves.<sup>3</sup> William C. Burk, also a frequent customer at the store, is listed next to John Burk in the census, and was between 20 and 30 years old. A court case arising from a dispute over John Burk's estate in the 1850s helps us understand that Burk lived near the place where Wartrace Creek enters the Cumberland River.<sup>4</sup> This can easily be found on modern maps using the United States Geological Survey's internet site. The court records, store ledger and 1840 census all link together showing the Burk[e]s, McClellands, Jones', Ramseys and Darwins in this area, making us confident that this must be the approximate site of the store.



The Cumberland River winds from east to west, dividing Jackson County in half. The marker indicates the mouth of Wartrace Creek, where we believe the store to have been located.

Gainesboro, the county seat, is near the right edge of the map. <http://geonames.usgs.gov>

This anonymous businessman evidently was a shoemaker before he opened his mercantile establishment, as among the first purchases recorded is a payment for making two pairs of shoes. Some of his customers, like Henry

<sup>3</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Jackson Co., Tenn., population schedule, Civil District 11, p. 9, John Burk and William C. Burk households; digital image, *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>4</sup> *Hopkins v. Brooks* (1855), Chancery Court Records, Jackson County Tennessee Loose Court Records, Tennessee State Library and Archives, reel #84. Abstracted by Mary Lu Johnson and Bonnie Parker ([http://www.tngenweb.org/jackson/court\\_reels/court\\_reel\\_84.htm](http://www.tngenweb.org/jackson/court_reels/court_reel_84.htm)). Note: Records digitized by the Jackson County Historical Society.

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Ausbern, came only to buy shoes, evidently purchasing their dry goods elsewhere. Others bought shoe leather in order to make their own.

This store was not a particularly busy place, with only two or three transactions recorded on most days. But the merchant did more than just sell goods. Like most people of his time, he did a lot of bartering. He would purchase items, evidently for his own use, in exchange for credit on the store's books. For example, he purchased potatoes and "mutin" (mutton?) from John Porter, a regular customer, and credited Porter with \$1.78. The merchant may have been a man of small stature, as he gave Nancy Holcomb seventy-five cents credit in return for "making short a pair of pantaloons."

This merchant also negotiated with others in the community for services. He sold cloth goods of all types, and arranged for local seamstress Elizabeth McGuire to make a coat for Charles McClelen. He paid Elizabeth from the till, and marked down the charge against McClelen's account. Moreover, he served as a banker of sorts, paying debts for trusted customers and collecting on their accounts later. For instance, he paid a small debt to a Mrs. Hopkins on behalf of John Burk, Sr.

Some customers came frequently – it appears that certain friends came by almost daily for a quart of whiskey, for which they paid 25-cents each. Joshua Draper, John Porter and William Burk were frequent visitors for this purpose. It seems likely that they stayed around and consumed their purchases on the premises, while they visited with the owner and other customers.

Other names only appear once in the ledger. Hubbard Kernell, for instance, came only once. On that day he purchased a "fine hat." Census records indicate that he was a slave-owner from Humphreys County, so perhaps he was just passing through town and took a fancy to a hat on display.

Most of the buyers were men, but the names of a few women appear. Nancy Holcom/Holcomb was a regular customer, and Elizabeth Birdwell made occasional purchases of cloth goods. The wives of John Burk and Jesse McClelon both stopped in to purchase goods and charged them to their husbands' accounts, though their given names are not recorded. A purchase by "Daniel Huffhind's lady," the only entry for that family, was made in July 1838.

An odd entry appears on Dec. 11, 1838, not long before the store went out of business. The storekeeper recorded the receipt of \$27.69 "cash for goods sold to Blacks & strangers." Was Blacks & Strangers a company he dealt with, or was band of people with dark skin passing through the community, stopping to make purchases? It was at about this time that U.S. Army troops forced Cherokee Indians out of Tennessee. Although the northern route of this trail lay about 100 miles west of Jackson County, perhaps these travelers were somehow connected to that journey. The ledger does not record exactly what was purchased, and just what this transaction consisted of is a mystery.

The record does not indicate that this merchant thrived in his business. In some months he brought in as much as \$70, but in others his receipts were less than \$20. After about two years, in December 1838, he decided to give it up. He sold the remaining stock to Charles McClelen and John Burk, closing out the ledger on page 33. Like so many other entrepreneurs before and since, his big plans fizzled.

| NAMES<br>OF HEADS OF FAMILIES | FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--|
|                               | MALES   |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | FEMALES  |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
|                               | Under 5   | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 25 | 25 to 30 | 30 to 35 | 35 to 40 | 40 to 45 | 45 to 50 | 50 to 55 | 55 to 60 | 60 to 65 | 65 to 70 | 70 to 75 | 75 to 80 | 80 to 85 | 85 to 90 | 90 to 95 | 95 to 100 | 100 to 105 | 105 to 110 | 110 to 115 |  |
| Mr. Porter                    | 1   | 1       |          | 2        |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Johnson Wheeler               | 1   | 2       | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Jefferson Chaffin             | 1   |         |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        | 2        | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| John L. Fox                   | 1   |         | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 2        | 1        |          | 1        |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| George Bright                 | 1   |         |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Wm. Bright                    | 1   |         |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| John Patten                   | 1   |         | 1        | 1        | 1        |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |           | 1          |            |            |  |
| Joseph Chaffin                | 1   | 2       | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        | 2        |          |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Abner Chaffin                 | 1   |         |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Peggy Chaffin                 | 1   |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Wm. Smith                     | 1   | 1       | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1        |          | 1        |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Charles J. Brooks             | 2   |         |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Oliab Brooks                  | 1   | 4       |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Matthew Brooks                |   |         |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Richard Fox                   | 3   |         |          | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Mrs. C. Burk                  | 1   |         |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| John Burk                     | 1   | 2       |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1        | 1        |          | 1        |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Mrs. Chaffin                  |   |         | 2        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| David Ramsey                  |   |         | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| William Patten                |   |         |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Joseph McClellan              |   |         |          |          |          | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |
| Joseph Rogers                 | 1   | 1       |          | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |            |            |            |  |

The 1840 census of Jackson County includes four pages of names in the 11<sup>th</sup> Civil District. Among those are many of the customers of the store. This page shows the entry for John Burk, in whose household we speculate the unknown merchant may have lived.

### Customers of the Store

James R. Adkins  
Henry Ausbern  
Uriah Basham  
Meardith Basham  
Joseph Birdwell  
George Birdwell  
Elizabeth Birdwell  
Reuben Brasseal  
William C. Burk  
L. Burk (by Wm. C. Burk)  
James Burk  
John Burk Sr's wife  
John Burk, Sr.  
John Burk's wife  
Thomas Butler  
Elias Chaffin  
James Cowen  
Henry Davenport  
Joshua Draper

Jas. Draper  
William Draper  
John Fitzgerald  
John Fitzgerald  
Peter Forkum  
William Hale  
William Hale  
Marthy Hall  
Samuel Hannah  
Nancy Holcom  
Mrs. Hopkins  
Nancy Horncomb  
Saml. Huff  
Daniel Huffhind's lady  
Robt. Hutson  
Henry Jones  
Henry Jones Sr.  
Hubbard Kernell  
William H. Kirby

James Kirby  
Frances (Fanny) Lee  
Elizabeth Maguire  
Charles McClelen  
A. McClelen  
Jessy McClelen  
Samuel McClelen  
Jessy McClelon's wife  
Job Meadows  
E. Mercer (by John Burk)  
Edward Mercer  
William P. Moore  
Randolph Morgan  
Henry Nettles  
James W. Patterson  
Rebecca Pierce  
Isaiah Pirant  
John Porter  
Nathaniel Price



William Ransom  
William Ransom  
James Rush  
Thomas Sanders

John Simpson  
Saml. Sloane  
William Smith  
Peter Teal

Dawney Wade  
John Wheeler  
Reuben Witt

### Goods Purchased or Bartered

#### ***Clothing***

fine combs  
fine hat  
handkerchiefs  
making shoes  
mending belts  
mending shoes  
shoe leather  
shoe thread  
socks  
suspenders  
tuck combs

#### ***Food & Kitchen Goods***

allspice  
alum  
bowls  
coffee  
corn  
ginger  
glass cannisters  
iron spoons  
knives & forks  
pepper

potatoes  
rhubarb  
spice  
sugar  
tea spoons  
tin cups  
wheat  
whiskey

#### ***Medicine & Chemicals***

camphor  
castor oil  
copperas  
essence of peppermint

#### ***Sewing Supplies***

“ribband” [ribbon]  
bobinet [cloth]  
buttons  
calico  
cambric  
checks [cloth]  
cotton [cloth]

cotton hose  
domestick [cloth]  
footing & edging (cloth)  
gingham  
lace  
pins  
sheeting (cloth)  
skein thread

#### ***Other Items***

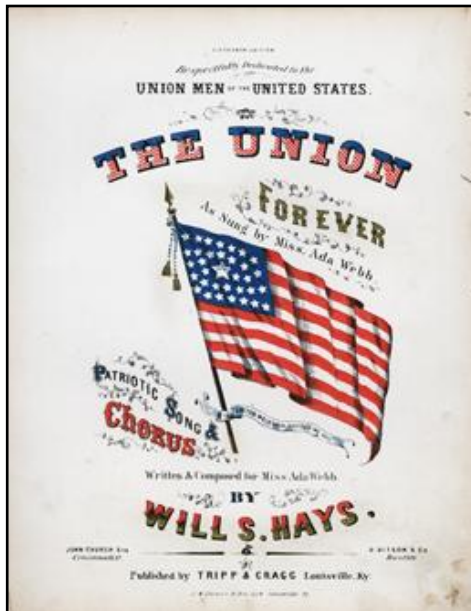
bees wax  
blacking (box)  
feathers  
iron goods  
pair of scales & weights  
pasteboard  
pencils  
pocket knife  
powder  
sacks  
tacks  
tape  
use of a cart



# Middle Tennessee Civil War Claims

From Rutherford County (continued)

*Allowed for Payment by the Southern Claims Commission*



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 can be viewed at the National Archives and digital versions are accessible on [Footnote.com](http://Footnote.com).

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

## HEIRS OF NIMROD JENKINS BY A.G. GRISHAM, GUARDIAN

Grisham is a resident of Montgomery County; age 41; claim filed in 1873; file consists of 32 pp.; claimed \$1,225 for fence rails, cordwood and timber.

### Commissioners' Remarks:

“Nimrod Jenkins died in Rutherford Co. Tenn. in 1856, without a will, leaving a widow and two infant children Jennie and Nammie Jenkins. He owned the real estate from which the rails, wood & timber was taken for which this claim is filed. Hiram Jenkins was appointed guardian for the children & died in 1870. The petitioner Grisham who married the decedent's widow in 1861, was appointed guardian of the children in 1871. The two children were only 4 or 5 years of age when the war broke out & too young to entertain any

responsible political opinions. There is no proof that the widow's dower had been set apart. She is admitted to have empathized with the south. The taking of rails for fuel is fairly proved; as this was a direct injury to the widow's freehold one third must be deducted for her interest. No more than 15,000 fence rails are proved to have been taken from the whole premises. The remaining items are not so well proved. The U.S. troops after the battle of Stones River cut timber from the premises, some for fuel, some was sawed into boards & some used in fortifications. The quantity is very uncertain, besides the wood one witness says they cut about 100 logs from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. Another witness says they cut 500 trees and used them in one way & another & another witness says 200 trees. They were selected trees, red oak & of large size. We allow per cord for the wood standing & we think

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\$200 a liberal allowance for the remaining timber. We recommend the payment of \$475.”

Notes:

Grisham lives three miles west of Murfreesboro and is a farmer. Jennie Jenkins age 18 and Nimmie Jenkins age 17 are the children of Nimrod Jenkins, who died in 1850. Deceased owned 250 acres, livestock and slaves. Grisham married Jenkins’ widow, Jane W., in February 1861 and lived on her farm. Grisham was in the Confederate army. Jenkins’ farm, where Jane and Grisham still reside, was on Wilkinson Turnpike Road three miles west of Murfreesboro. In spring 1865 a company of colored troops camped at the cemetery and cut the wood. Grisham was not at home when the items were taken.

Witnesses:

- Samuel Grisham, age 54, colored, a blacksmith, lived on claimant’s farm during the war. The Jenkins residence was taken possession of by the army and used as a hospital for three months. Samuel was formerly the slave of A.G. Grisham.
- W.R. Jenkins, farmer, lived on an adjoining farm. In Dec. 1862 Gen. McCook took possession of the house and premises for a hospital, remaining until about June 20, 1863. “The whole yard was filled with tents and these were filled with the sick and wounded.” Witness is a cousin of the two minor children of Nimrod Jenkins.
- G.S. Harding, age 54, lived and still lives on an adjoining farm. Was present and saw the troops taking the property. The farm was right on the battlefield, “right where the fight began.” The hospital established there was large; Drs. Tidball and Link were in charge of it. Logs were taken to the U.S. sawmill and turned into lumber.
- Sam Jenkins, age 37, colored, a farmer, lives at William Jenkins’. Was formerly a slave of Nimrod Jenkins and lived on his place during the war.

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**JAMES M. HAYNES**

Resident of Rutherford County; age 55; claim filed in 1874; file consists of 63 pp. Claimed \$3,260 for corn, oats, fodder, a mule, a horse, bacon and a mare.

Commissioners’ Remarks:

“James M. Haynes was a farmer about 40 years of age when the war commenced. He resided in Rutherford Co. Tenn. on his own farm of about 400 acres, 300 of

which was under cultivation. A careful reading of all the testimony satisfies us that he was loyal to the U.S. gov’t throughout the war. His witnesses are men of position & character. The only act that, unexplained, would cast doubt on his loyalty, was voting for separation. He first voted against the Convention. He denounced secession; was once arrested by the Confederates; was known, recognized & treated by both Unionists and Confederates as a Union man, and there are many acts shown to prove his devotion to the Union cause occurring at intervals throughout the war.

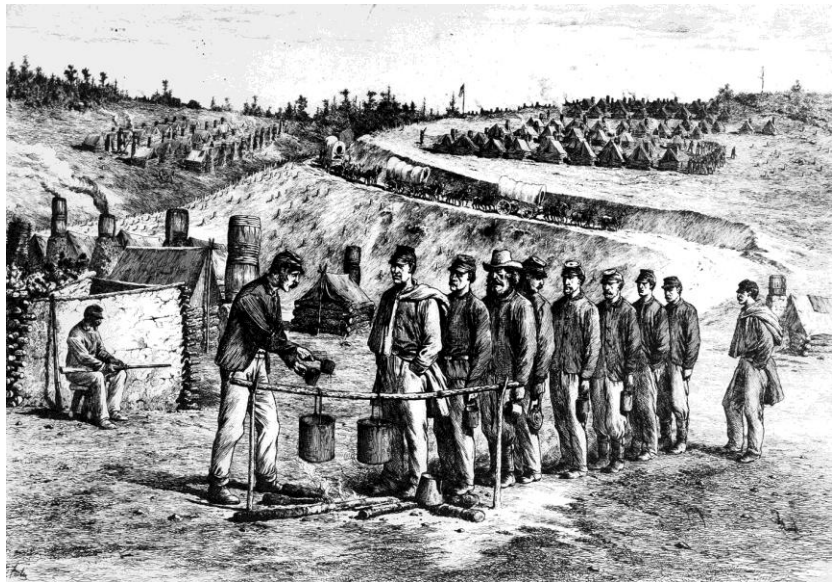
“The following extract from the testimony of the witness Carleton, which is confirmed by other evidence, is explanatory of the vote for separation. “The election was held close to claimant’s house, about three or four hundred yards, and I was the officer appointed to hold the election at this place, and I remember there was a very serious difficulty, likely to have been gotten up against the claimant, at the election that day. The claimant used some expression not favorable to the cause of the rebellion & secession & a very intense feeling was expressed against him. The claimant said at last, when he did vote, “Gentlemen I can vote with you, but my feelings are not with you” or something like this. The feeling was very high and [there were] some very hot heads, & claimant was in great danger of personal violence. There was not a vote cast against separation from Federal gov’t & secession that day, & not a word spoken in favor of U.S. gov’t except by the claimant, and during the whole war claimant acted as a Union man and was trusted as a Union man by all the Union men of the county.” We think his loyalty is fairly proved.

“The property for which claim is made was all taken in 1863. The property furnished in 1862 to Gen. Buell he received vouchers [for] and was paid. In 1862 he raised 150 acres of corn. It was harvested and in cribs and pens in January 1863. He raised that year 30 acres of oats, part of these were taken by the Confederates. No payment was made except on vouchers given for corn at the time the first item charged was taken. These vouchers were for a small part only of the corn then taken, on which less than \$200 was realized. ... Items 7 and 9 [horse and mare] are not proved ... we recommend the payment of \$2,140.”

Special Commissioner Richard Luttrell wrote, “Claimant has made as good a proof of loyalty as it is



possible for a man to make, it seems to me. I have no manner of doubt from all that I can learn about him that he was just what he claims to have been. The fact that he voted for ... secession looks badly but with the explanations given by claimant and his witnesses Hendrix and Carlton I do not think it evidence of disloyalty. Claimant is a man of as high character as any and his statements as to the loss of property are intelligible and I believe perfectly reliable. The testimony of all the witnesses corroborates his statement with only such variances as are to be expected when honest witnesses are telling what they know and remember and not what they have been *instructed* to tell.



**Union soldiers wearied of short rations and army food, and were eager to forage for better fare from the rich farms of Middle Tennessee.**

“A question arises as to the taking of the bacon, whether it was not an unauthorized depredation. The testimony of Mrs. Haynes which I took for the purpose of ascertaining just how that was, shows that no officer was present.... Mrs. H. evidently thought it was a depredation. Yet the soldiers got the meat and no doubt eat it with much greater relish than they did the ‘sow belly’ issued to them by the govt.”

#### Notes:

Haynes lived on a farm of 400 acres 8 ½ miles from Murfreesboro on the Eagleville & Salem Turnpike. He was born in Rutherford County. Early in the war Confederates held him under arrest while they took 40 horses and mules from him, along with his buggy and two loads of corn. His nephew John Haynes of Eagleville served in the Confederate army and then joined the Union army, serving until the close of the war. After the Union army took possession of Murfreesboro they began foraging on the country. It was about three weeks after the battle before they got out as far as Haynes’ place. About 80 wagons came the first time, stopping at every crib and pen.

“Great numbers of soldiers were there on the place. The country was perfectly blue with Union soldiers.... They went ... so far from their camps prepared for fighting.... I asked for a receipt for all but I would be referred to first one and then to another as the proper person to give me the receipts and they bothered me so that I just gave it up in despair. I can’t say how it happened that I got the receipts for the little I did and

not for all. I gave the receipts given me to Wm. H. Wisener, attorney at Shelbyville, Tenn., and he collected the money on them and gave it to me.... Those officers who got the corn, fodder and oats from me ... said they would take no more from me and told me to fix up my cribs and pens and I did so. But within a few days after that ... another foraging train came out to my farm again.... There were as many wagons and more as before.”

They tore down his fences and left “everything torn up generally.” He went to Murfreesboro and talked to Gen. Rosecrans, who gave him protection papers and a pass. Later a third group of soldiers who had been in a skirmish beyond Haynes’ house came back there afterwards and, despite his showing the protection papers, took all the remaining corn he had. “I asked them their names but they would not tell me....”

The file includes a power of attorney from Edward L. Jordan and Jesse R. Ferrell of Murfreesboro to John H. Ferry of Washington D.C. to present Haynes’ claim before the Southern Claims Commission. Haynes wrote to the Commission that he did not apply to the claims boards that sat at Nashville and Murfreesboro “my reason was simply this, there was so many claim agents and they was so eager to get up claimses that I had much less trust about the matter... I did not want to spend money for uncertainties.... When I was fully satisfied that the money on claimses would not be

sent to eney other party but the claiment him self then I was anxious to git up my claim.”

Witnesses:

- William Haynes, age 24, of Murfreesboro, cotton gin worker. He was raised by the claimant and was born his slave, and remained on Haynes’ farm until about 1872. He was there and saw the property taken. Claimant had killed 50 or 60 hogs and soldiers came saying they wanted to buy some meat. They took the key to the smokehouse, took nearly all the meat, and kept the key.
- Rome Haynes, age “I suppose about 35 years,” lived with the claimant during the war and has lived with him since. Was a soldier in Company E, 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry for about two years.
- Hon. William Spence, U.S. Marshal, age 57, farmer. Has known Haynes all his life and attests to his loyalty. “He often stayed at my house when it was unsafe for him to stay at home.” About a week after the battle Haynes rode his bay mare to Spence’s house and they went to Murfreesboro together in Spence’s buggy. When they returned they found the army had taken the bay mare.
- Thomas L. Hendrix, age 56, lives 12 miles southwest of Murfreesboro near the Eagleville pike road, about four miles from Haynes. Has known claimant for 30 years. Tyree H. Coursey, a constable in a district adjoining Haynes’, threatened Haynes and said he “would have to take up his duds and go north.”
- Kinion Carlton, age 57, lived adjoining Haynes, and has known him for 35 or 40 years.
- Sandy Haynes, colored, age 45, lives on Eli Seays’ farm, and was formerly Haynes’ slave. Was working in the field when soldiers came there and took his horse off the plow and took it away. Mrs. Haynes prevailed on the soldiers not to take all the bacon from the smokehouse.
- Adaline Haynes, wife of claimant, age 46. “... an immense body of U.S. troops, ten thousand troops or more, came out there. The Pike was full of soldiers.... They were crowd[ed] in the yard and even in the house. I saw a soldier picking at the lock of the smoke house door. I saw he was going to get

An immense body of troops, ten thousand or more, came down the Pike. They crowded into the yard and even into the house. The country was perfectly blue with Union soldiers.

--James and Adaline Haynes

in and I said to him ‘Don’t break my lock if you please.’ He said then he wanted to buy a ham. ... I unlocked the door and then the soldiers all rushed in and took most all of the hams.... I looked about for an officer but could not find one. Late in the evening a man came up and said ‘stick a bayonet in the last one that don’t get out of the yard’ and then the soldiers ran out of the yard.” On another day a soldier took their buggy horse out of the barn and went off toward town at a gallop. “He liked to have run over me as I stood in the gate there begging for the horse.” On another day the soldiers took a mule

and a negro man named Hiram off with them.

- John L. Brown. [The first pages of this statement are missing from the file. He was apparently a Union soldier.] Witness and two other men who were former citizens of Bedford County, Tenn.,

hid at Haynes’ house in Apr. 1863. Haynes had his negro boy pilot them to Mr. Cas Pucket’s place. Haynes also found Grandson Neil, a colored man, to guide them through the Rebel picket line on the Middleton Road to Robert Allison’s in Bedford County.

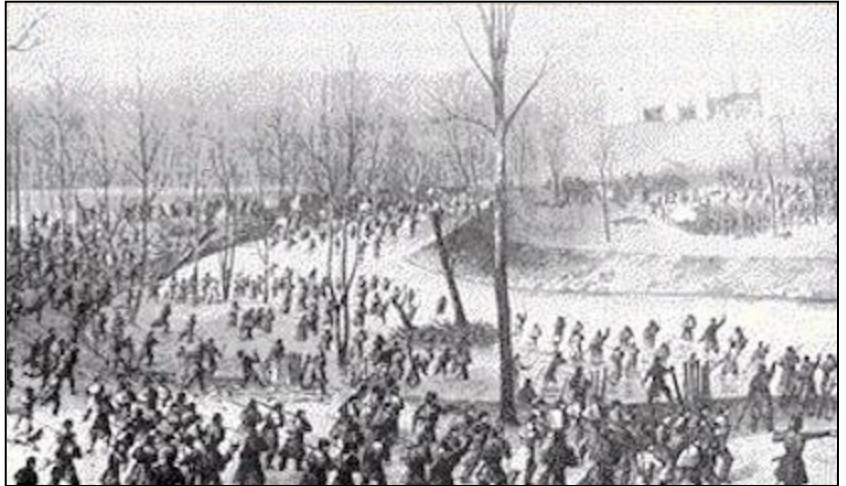
- Edward L. Jordan, states he has known Haynes since his infancy. “Mr. Haynes would not claim or accept anything [that] was not just and honestly due him. He is a very conscientious, industrious, cautious man. Made his own fortune by his own skill and labor. When a young man was very poor, a planter by trade.”
- W.N. Doughty, Register in Bankruptcy for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. In 1862 he was wounded and disabled for field service. During the battle at Stone’s River he was on duty in Fortress Rosecrans and remained there until near the end of the war. He knew Haynes to be an unflinching Union man.

### EDWARD L. JORDAN

Resident of Rutherford County; age 56; filed in 1873; file consists of 73 pp. Claimed \$6,219 for corn, fodder, cordwood, green wood, hogs and beef.

Commissioners’ Remarks:

"The claimant is about 57 years of age. He resided in Murfreesboro during the war. He owned and carried on a farm about 2½ miles south of Murfreesboro containing 355 acres of land. He was also merchandising. Early in 1862 he took the amnesty oath. His son, a college student, joined the rebel army against his wishes and he gave him money and clothing, but got him out of the army as soon as he could. The rebels took his corn, fodder and forage and paid him nothing. He was threatened for his Unionism, was socially ostracized, his oldest and most intimate friends and business associates would not recognize him on the streets. His family was ostracized during and after the war. Bitterness and hatred was manifested against them. In Sept. 1863 he followed the Union army from Murfreesboro and as a measure of safety to his person remained within the military lines of the Union army up to the close of the war. In 1863 he and his partner gave \$50 per month for the Hospitals. Cared for sick and wounded Union soldiers at his house, furnished a map of the roads and other



**Soldiers swarmed through Rutherford County following the battle of Stone's River**

been invaluable to the Union cause in this part of the state, giving it character and respectability."

#### Notes:

At the time of his application Jordan listed his occupation as banker and railroad director. During the war he lived in his house in town and worked at merchandising; his farm was on the river. The beginning of the war "broke up all business here" until 1863 when he got a permit from Gen. Thomas to begin merchandising again under the firm of Bosson & Co. in Murfreesboro. His partner was Col. Wm. Bosson. "In 1862 after I left Murfreesboro ... I was going in a stage from Nashville to Bowling Green Ky. following along with Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, when about nine miles from Nashville we all were arrested, all in our stage, and searched by a Confederate bushwhacker. He released us. Then on my return I was arrested by the same man again. He was alone and we, there were a number of us, got around him and he fearing he had 'caught a Tartar' put spurs to his horse and rode away from us." Jordan's overseer reported to him in the fall of 1862 that the rebels had robbed his farm and taken his horses and other supplies. "No doubt they would have taken all of my property had not some of my friends who were on the other side from me protected my property in hopes that I would do them a like favor if the Union Army got in here." Maj. Winn, kinsman of his in the rebel army "and who had been before that a warm personal friend of mine said to the Hon. Edmond Cooper of Shelbyville whom he had arrested as a Union man that I would have to 'leave this country hanging to a rope' because of the stand I took for the

My most intimate and oldest friends and business associates would not recognize me on the street any more than they would to a dog. My family was ostracized .... No one who has not passed through a similar experience can have any idea of the bitterness and hatred which was manifested towards me and other Union men and our families by the rebels...

*--Edward L. Jordan*

information to the Union army. He was a Union man throughout and condemned the rebellion as unjustifiable, wicked and criminal. The claimant's property was taken part in 1862 and part in 1863 by the Union Army... We recommend the payment of \$3,737.

Special Commissioner R.L. Tuthill wrote: "I feel almost able of my own knowledge of Mr. Jourdan to endorse his loyalty in the strongest terms. There can be no sort of question on that point. His character and standing as a gentleman of strict integrity and veracity is as high as any man's in the state. His influence has

Union.... My most intimate and oldest friends and business associates would not recognize me on the street any more than they would to a dog. My family was ostracized .... No one who has not passed through a similar experience can have any idea of the bitterness and hatred which was manifested towards me and other Union men and our families by the rebels, just simply because we adhered to the government of the United States.... Col. J.M. Thornburgh, M.C. from the Knoxville District laid sick at my house. Capt. Chas. O. Thomas of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mich. laid sick at my house and finally married my step daughter. Gen. Hazen used to be at my house frequently.... I was at Nashville when the movement on Murfreesboro was planned. I gave to the military authorities information about the different roads leading into Murfreesboro and the map of the roads and country was I suppose largely based upon the information I was able to give.” His son Munford F. Jourdan of Murfreesboro joined with his college friends in joining the Confederate army. “He was taken prisoner at Ft. Donelson and I went to see him while in prison and got him to leave the army and come home, or rather be married off in Ind. for several months and then come home.” I had lots of kin in the rebel army ... my wife too had relatives in the rebel army.”

Jordan had purchased his farm in 1856 or 7 from the estate of John Molloy. There was a “tolerably good house on the place, besides out houses, stables, barns, gin house, negro cabins & etc.” He had 30 or 40 slaves working the farm. “I bought the farm as a home for my negro women and children and for the purpose of raising stock.” In Aug. 1862 Gen. Buell’s army camped on his farm on its retreat from Battle Creek back into Kentucky. He complained to Gen. Hazen at Murfreesboro who “sent one of his aid de camps, Lieut. W.H. Burmy, to stop the taking of the property, but they paid no attention to him.” A report in the file from Lieut. Burmy states “I found the soldiers of Cpts. Jackson & Givens of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ky. Vol. Inftry. The men stated they were there by permission of their Cpts. And were taking whatever suited their fancy. The overseer of the place had a safe guard from Gen. Nelson which was shown to a person calling himself Lt and acting Q.M. Gillis or Libs, of the 38<sup>th</sup> O.V.; he

disregarded the safeguard called it a forgery and took Mr. Jordan’s corn.”

On 8 Jan. 1863 Jordan was riding toward his farm and met Gen. McDowell McCook at the home of Maj. Jno. W. Childress. “He said to me that he had just learned that I had a farm close by and that the understood his troops were all over my place taking everything I had; that he was sorry he had not found it out sooner or he



**General Alexander McDowell Cook of Ohio (1831-1903) had a rather poor war record, and was no help to claimant Edward Jordan.**

would have prevented it, and that he had ... sent a guard over there. I went on over to my farm and found that the place had been stripped. Not a four footed animal was left on the place....” Col Thurman from Chicago and his troops camped on Jordan’s place for three months in 1863, and Mrs. Thurman lived at Jordan’s house. Thurman’s men cut his timber to build a bridge across the river there.

Witnesses James M. Tompkins and Richard B. Ganaway gave their testimony at an earlier hearing, and died before the claim was filed. Jordan’s overseer during the war was named Buckhart but Jordan did not know where he could be found to testify.

#### Witnesses:

- James F. Fletcher, age 71, farmer. Jordan’s first wife was Fletcher’s niece. Witness was executor of John Molloy’s estate and sold the farm to Jordan. Has known Jordan since 1838 or 9.
- Wiley Williams, colored, age about 40, farmer. Formerly belonged to claimant and lived with him during the war. Col. Thurman had his headquarters in Mr. Jordan’s yard. The only white persons who lived on the farm were the overseer and his wife and mother-in-law.
- Josiah Campbell, age 63, gate keeper on the Murfreesboro and Woodbury Turnpike. Lived in sight of Jordan’s farm during the war. After the army left “the place was stripped bare. Claimant had a good many outhouses, negro cabins, barns, stables and after the war was over all were gone. The dwelling house and smoke house were all that was left on the place.”



- Charles O. Thomas, age 34, occupation is ginning cotton, married claimant's step-daughter. Was a Union soldier and was wounded in Forrest's attack on Murfreesboro 13 July 1862. Mrs. Jordan invited him to their house, where he spent six weeks recovering.
- W. Spence, U.S. Marshal, has known claimant since boyhood. Jordan "... is well known to many of the Generals of the Union army and many times called into their counsels during the war.... There is not a more honest or worthy man in our state and he should be paid for all he claims."
- George J. Booker, age 40, postmaster at Murfreesboro, has known Jordan 19 years, knows him to be loyal.
- James M. Tompkins (testimony given in 1864 before James Chamberlain, Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, at the store house of Edward L. Jordan in the town of Murfreesboro), age 57, farmer, has lived in county 33 years, has known claimant 12 or 15 years.
- Richard B. Gannaway (testimony given in 1864 as above), age 25, farmer, has lived in county all his life, lived with Jordan for a year before the war and for seven months of 1863.

### DANIEL MAYFIELD

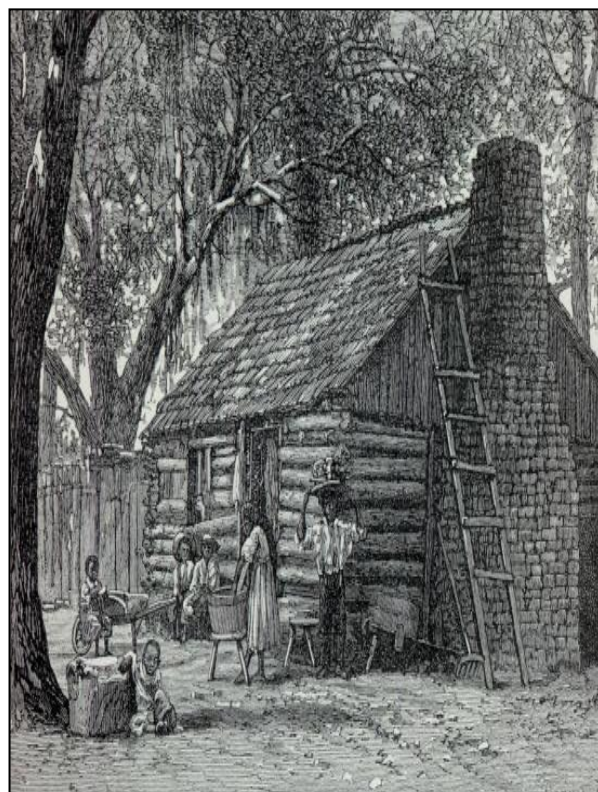
Resident of Rutherford County; age 53; filed in 1878; file consists of 27 pp. Claimed \$100 for a horse.

#### Commissioners' Remarks:

"The claimant, who is a colored man, was a slave and was living in Murfreesboro, Tenn., in 1863. He had purchased the horse for which claim is made of one Wiggs. The horse was taken from Mayfield's stable by the Federals for the use of the army soon after the battle of Stone's River. The claim seems to be an honest one and we recommend the payment of \$100."

#### Notes:

Daniel Mayfield was a slave of Martha Mayfield of Bedford Co., who is now deceased. He left her in the latter part of 1862. Two or three months after the battle at Stone's River a Union sergeant came into the stable where Mayfield was, took the bridle, put it on the horse, and led it over to the army camp 100 yards away. "I complained to the sergeant who took him [my horse] and the same day went to the Provost



Late in the war, many African-Americans fled from slavery and began to accumulate property. The Union Army often violated their property rights and treated them poorly.

Marshal, who sent me to the Quartermaster, who asked me if I knew the name of the sergeant who took my horse. I told him I did not. He said he would like to know his name but did not tell me what to do.... I did not ask for any receipt or voucher. I did not know then what ought to be done."

#### Witnesses:

- Richard Daniel, age about 60, wood hauler, says he came to Murfreesboro directly after the battle of Stone's River and saw Mayfield's horse taken. He was "waggoning with" Mayfield at the time, hauling wood.
- Spencer Maney, colored, age 30, has lived in Murfreesboro 29 years, occupation "any and all work." Was at his house next door to Mayfield when the horse was taken. The sergeant was from a Michigan unit.
- Jno. D. Wilson, postmaster, testifies to Mayfield's loyalty.

*To Be Continued*



# Early Voter Registration Books Contain Helpful and Unexpected Information

by Shirley Thompson



**Gallatin Fire Brigade, ca. 1905**

(Tenn. State Library and Archives photograph database)

While researching at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, one of the staff ladies there was helping me to try to locate some information about Sumner County. She brought me the Sumner County Voters' Registration books on microfilm and told me that there was some interesting information included in these books, which begin in 1889.<sup>1</sup> She was right.

I had thought that voter registration books listed just the names of voters with a few bits of identifying information. However, as with other books of record, it seems that those in charge of recording information had a great

deal of leeway in what was or was not recorded. Each locality may not record the same information, and even in the same office record books may contain different information from time to time, depending on who was in charge of the recording, the form used for recording, etc.

Early voter registration books of Sumner County are a good example. Those qualifying to vote were listed, as expected but, as time progressed, the listings were done in ledger books by voting district, with pre-printed columnar headings for name, date of registration, age, race, address where live, owner of property where live, vocation, nativity, years lived in city, years lived in county. Occasionally, "dead" was written in beside a name which had been listed, and sometimes just a date was written in, which appears to be a date of death. All columns were not always completed. Eventually, the later pre-printed ledger books had a column for "sex" as women were added as voters.

The voter registration books may be one of the types of books which are devoted to the purpose as stated, the registration of voters, but even these books may contain information not expected.

In the earliest volume I found two entries listing members of two fire companies of Gallatin. Both entries are dated Nov. 5, 1894.

<sup>1</sup> Register of Voters, Sumner County 1889-1942. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Sumner County microfilm reel #87.

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### Members of the Champion Bucket Brigade

|   |                   |                       |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Walter Head (Capt)                    | 13 Jerry Elliott  | 25 Henry Head         |
| 2 Norris Winstead (1 <sup>st</sup> Leu) | 14 Jerry Lyte     | 26 Logan Kirk(?)      |
| 3 George Green                          | 15 Jno Odum       | 27 Sye(?) Allgood     |
| 4 Abe Oglesby                           | 16 Joe Robb       | 28 Forrist(?) Gardner |
| 5 Jim Satterfield (2 <sup>nd</sup> Leu) | 17 H H Turner Jr  | 29 Ed Parker          |
| 6 Aron Malone                           | 18 Jas(?) Hart    | 30 Jas Parker         |
| 7 Moses Edwards                         | 19 Lewis Weathers | 31 Bill Turner        |
| 8 John Green                            | 20 H C Tyler      | 32 Jno Malone         |
| 9 Woody Baker                           | 21 Geo Peyton     | 33 Douglas Watkins    |
| 10 F. J. Brinkley(?)                    | 22 A. C. Miller   | 34 Wm Moore           |
| 11 Jno Frakes                           | 23 Chas Pursley   | 35 Wm Lockett         |
| 12 Walter Guild                         | 24 Joe Odum       |                       |

*We certify that the fore-going names compose the membership of the Bucket Brigade for the Champion[?] Fire Department for the town of Gallatin. This Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1894*

*[Illegible] Water - Head [ marked with X, evidently the Captain]*

*W. B. Moore, Secretary*

*W L Baker, Chief, Fire Dept.*

### Members of the Gallatin Fire Company

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jno Fry                  | W. L. Baker                 |
| J K Walker               | S. H. Simpson               |
| Mack Mitchell            | Lee Oldham                  |
| Lindsey Anderson         | John Mattox                 |
| W. F. Green              | Ed Powell                   |
| O. C. McLaren            | Alex Schell                 |
| O. H. Foster             | C. H. Day                   |
| Chas. Majors             | B. E. Love                  |
| Morgan Natcher           | Chas Foster                 |
| W. G. Schamberger        | S. R. Lewis                 |
| Thomas Wells             | Robert Mattox               |
| Geo Thomas               | Earnest Franklin            |
| Geo Natcher              | Robert G Miller             |
| W R Greer                | L Miller Woodson            |
| James Evans              | C. G. Harris                |
| Geo W. Boddie            | Julias Rosenstiel           |
| <del>James Pearson</del> | Hewey Lucus                 |
| B. F. Buckingham         | Harry Fidler                |
| F. A. Rippy              | Jackson McLaren             |
| George N Guthrie         | Frank Lewis                 |
| Wm Keen                  | Hilton Webber               |
| Willard Blue             | <del>Earnest Franklin</del> |
| James Cage               | Earnest House               |
| Ben House                | W. K. Walton                |

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Gus Frakes  
C. B. Brown  
Henry Rutledge  
Harvey Henley

James McIntosh  
Hugh McIntosh  
Will Blackamore  
James Joyner

[Signed]     *W. L. Baker, Chief*  
              *H. R. Fidler, Secy.*  
              *H. L. Oldham*

It appears that these fire companies were registered to vote by the group listings. Further research may reveal other such listings for similar groups in other years.

These 1894 listings are particularly interesting as there is no 1890 Federal Census, so information from 1894 is valuable for researchers. In addition, several of the men listed were located on the 1900 federal census, and none of them list “fireman” as an occupation, so we presume these were volunteer fire

brigades from the era before official fire departments with paid staff. As with all books of record, researchers are often disappointed at what they do not find in the books, but sometimes can be pleasantly surprised by genealogical tidbits included where not expected. †



**Gallatin Fire Brigade, ca. 1911**  
(Tenn. State Library and Archives photograph database)

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## GALLATIN'S FIRE

**Over \$30,000 Worth of Property Swept Away by Flames**  
*Nashville American*, July 13, 1899

“GALLATIN, July 12. – (Special.) – The most destructive fire that has visited this place in many years occurred this morning. At 2:30 the fire bell tapped and the citizens of the town rushed to the Public Square to find that the Nickelson drug store, in the west side block, was on fire. The fire company responded to a man and every effort possible was made to stop the flames, but all efforts were futile, until the flames had destroyed six business houses and had consumed the row of business houses from

Franklin Street to the Public Square, which was the best business portion of the town.

“The origin of the fire is a mystery. Some claim that it originated in the News office, but ... [others] say that it was in the rear of the store belonging to the Nickelson Drug Company, and many claim that it was of incendiary origin.

“The Nashville fire department was telephoned and two engines were sent up, but the fire was stopped about the time they arrived.

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“Had it not been for a brisk wind, which began to blow from the southeast at 4 o’clock, all of the buildings on the best side of the Square and Water street would have been destroyed. The loss, as it was, will reach something like thirty thousand dollars.

“Property destroyed is as follows: McClothlin & Crofton, saloon..... The building belonged to R.G. Miller and was worth about \$4,000. It will be rebuilt.

“The stock of goods belonging to the Nickelson Drug Company amounted to \$1,500, with \$1,300 insurance. They are undecided as to whether they will continue in business. All was a total loss. The building belonged to Mrs. M.E. Wheeler.... E.E. Christman, editor of the News, had his place of business on the second floor.... He will continue business, having ordered a new outfit by wire. His books were destroyed.

“C.E. Perkins, druggist, stock was something over \$3,000, with \$1,000 insurance. A considerable amount of his stock was saved, but was badly damaged.... Building was owned by Miss Alice Foster ... will rebuild at once. The Hustler, House Bro., loss \$12,000; insurance \$10,000; will continue business. The house was owned by Mrs. James House. The James House

building was damaged about \$1,000.... Freeberg, jewelry man, lost about \$200. W.R. Howard, silversmith, lost about \$150.

“Drs. T.M. & L.M. Woodson, whose offices were over Perkins’ drug store, lost considerable furniture, etc. The plate glass in the windows of the new Sweney, Allen & Rothe building was badly damaged, being broken by heat.

### **Engineers Sent to Gallatin**

“In response to a message from Gallatin asking for aid in fighting the fire, which threatened to sweep away the town, Chief Carroll ordered that Chemical Engine No. 1 and an extra engine at the Wharf Avenue Engine House be sent. At the time the message asking for aid was received, Chief Carroll was in East Nashville, engaged in fighting a fire, but as the flames there were under control the engines were easily spared. As Gallatin has no water-works, only chemical engines were sent. Shortly after 4 o’clock a special train carrying the engines left the North College street station. A quick run was made, but when the engines arrive the fire was practically under control, and the engines were not unloaded. The train carrying the firemen got back about 7 o’clock yesterday morning.” ‡

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### **A Disastrous Fire at Old Mitchellville**

*Nashville Daily American*, Feb. 27, 1886

“A report reaches Gallatin this morning of a very disastrous fire at old Mitchellville ... near the Robertson County line, last night, destroying three houses .... The fire originated in the dry goods house of Miller & Bostic from a defective flue, and soon enveloped that building, destroying same with entire contents. Saloon of Frank Givens and repair shop of Alex Graves adjoining were also destroyed.... A street divided the burning buildings from a large tobacco factory and dry goods store on the opposite side, and by the most vigorous effort these two

buildings were saved, but somewhat damaged from heat.”

### **A Gossipy Letter from Gallatin**

*Nashville Republican Banner*, Sept. 16, 1874

“... There was a fire in town yesterday morning, which destroyed the roof of a house belonging to Mr. Granville Gain, and occupied by W.V. Dalton. The new fire engine, worked by the recently organized company for the first time in active engagement, did ample and satisfactory service. The fire caught from a bakery attached.”

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# 1819 Petition from Some Thirsty Citizens of Stewart County

*Submitted by Jim Long*

The following petition to the Tennessee General Assembly was submitted in 1819 by several citizens of Stewart County, in behalf of their neighbor William Travis. The petition sought to have Travis exempted from having to pay for a liquor license for his distillery, due to his physical condition. The handwriting (and spelling) is that of signer G. W. Atkins.

*"To the Ginneral Assembly of the State of Tennessee. Whereas William Travis, a Citizen of Stewart County, has some time past met with the misfortune to git one of his thighs so that it injours him verey mutch, therefore we your petitioners hopes that your honourable assembly will pass an act that said William Travis be at liberty to sell spirits by the small, without being at the expense of giting licens, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1819, as he keeps a small distillery of his own."*

Asa Atkins  
Anthony Lee  
John Atkins Junr.  
Wm. Curl, JP  
D. Hogan, JP  
William Randle, JP  
Hamblin Manly

G. W. Atkins  
James Williams  
Stephen Gibbs  
Samuel Lancaster  
Harbord Taylor  
Job Metheny  
Parham Ezel

Messer Ward Junr.  
George Lee  
Lamuel Morris  
Caleb Williams Senr.  
Edmond Taylor  
Charles Metheny  
Caleb G. Williams  
William R. Atkins

There is no evidence in the Acts of Tennessee that this petition was ever honored by the General Assembly.

Source: Legislative Petitions, Record Group 60, Tennessee State Library and Archives. (Microfilm reel 6, item #108, 1819).

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## Willoughby – Everett – Carter Query

ANDREW C. WILLOUGHBY (WILLOBY/WILLABY) born abt 1812, NC, died bef. 1880, poss. Smith Co, TN or KY. Need parents and birth place. married Nancy EVERETT abt 1837, prob. Smith Co. TN, born abt 1814, prob NC, died 18 Sep 1871. Issue: (1) Mary J., born abt 1838, married Abraham M. CARTER, born 1826. (2) David Curry, born 1853, prob. Smith Co, TN, died 1 Feb 1890, Henderson Co, KY, married Margaret L. Brown.

Thanks! Jack Willoughby [jackw@surewest.net](mailto:jackw@surewest.net).



## Book Reviews *by Shirley Wilson*



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***Bedford County, Tennessee, BIBLE RECORDS,***  
Volume #1 by Helen and Timothy Marsh, 217 pp.,

every name index, 2010 reprint of 1977 book. \$25 plus shipping from Southern Historical Press, PO Box 1267, 375 West Broad Street, Greenville SC 29602.

This is an oldie but a goodie and is chock full of Bible records from the Bedford County, Tennessee, area. Some of the more prolific families include Arnold, Cannon, Couch, Crawford, Davidson, Morton, Norman, Shofner, Thompson, and Turrentine.

The entries make for a fascinating read as many include the travels the family made as well as lost children and some who were found, deaths of spouses and remarriages. The entries are a lot more than just names and dates. If you are working in Bedford County, this is a book you should add to your collection.

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***Leaves from the Family Tree*** by Penelope Allen, 400+ pp., index, photographs, 2010 reprint of 1982 book. \$75 plus shipping from Southern Historical Press, PO Box 1267, 375 West Broad Street, Greenville SC 29602.

In the 1930s, Penelope Johnston Allen wrote for the *Chattanooga Times* preparing a weekly genealogical column, "Leaves From the Family Tree." These columns became the book and it includes detailed family information on a lengthy list of East Tennessee families. There are also a number of interesting topics such as the Luminary Baptist Church in Rhea County, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Jefferson County, the Methodist Church in Washington County, and the Old Tennessee Academy at Washington in Rhea

County to name just a few.

While this huge book is an old one, and a small portion of the material it contains has been disproven as more records have come to light, it is considered a staple for East Tennessee genealogy.

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***Jamestown People to 1800*** by Martha W. McCartney, 514 pp., index, maps, 2012. \$39.95 plus \$5.50 postage and handling from Genealogical.com or Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road Suite 260, Baltimore, Maryland 21211-1053.

This is a massive collection of materials relating to those connected with Jamestown from its founding in 1607 to 1800. The beginning includes a list of sources with their abbreviations along with a glossary and a history of Jamestown. Maps assist the reader in determining what Virginia counties existed in that time frame and where their boundaries were.

By far, the largest portion of the book is devoted to a biographical directory of the persons living in and around Jamestown – landowners, public officials, minorities including slaves and native leaders. Those who did not own land on Jamestown Island but whose activities brought them to the area are also included in this alphabetical listing.

This compilation surely required an enormous amount of time and effort to compile. Reading the handwriting in that time frame is a major challenge in itself for many researchers. This is an excellent genealogical collection that anyone working in that time frame will want to have in their library.