

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information about events, visit
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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

Saturday, May 16th
1:00 p.m. Knowles Center
MTGS Regular Meeting

"Publishing the *Nashville Retrospect*" by Allen Forkum

The Nashville Retrospect is a monthly newspaper devoted to Nashville nostalgia and history. Editor Allen Forkum will present a program this historical newspaper and some of its most interesting topics. Mr. Forkum will also present our annual MTGS Writer's Award for the best-judged article in our previous year's issues of our *Journal*.

Saturday, July 25th
1:00 p.m. Knowles Center
Special Seminar

"Discovering Pioneer Ancestors in the Old Southwest" by Dorothy Williams Potter

MTGS Board member Dorothy Williams Potter will present four topics focused on finding your ancestors among the earliest records here in the "Old Southwest" region west of the Appalachians. Her lectures will spotlight often-overlooked records that pre-date the earliest census records, and in some cases pre-date Tennessee statehood. (Fee charged, lunch provided, see web site for details).

Visit www.mtgs.org for more information.

Middle Tennessee

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James T. Bueche
Mary Lawrence
Jay Richiuso
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From the Editor. . .

I have always maintained that a genealogy book without a thorough index is next to useless. MTGS feels the same way about its *Journal* and an every-name index is prepared for each annual volume (there being four issues in each volume). This issue concludes volume 28 and includes the index, prepared by Mary Lawrence.

With 28 volumes now behind us, the MTGS has compiled a wealth of data on Middle Tennessee counties and families. The first 20 years of these journals can be purchased on a single DVD for \$25 plus postage. See our web site at mtgs.org/journal for ordering information.

The indexes to all of the volumes are published on the web site as well. An easy way to determine if your surname appears anywhere in these indexes is to do a "site search" on Google.com. For example, to see if the name Askew has ever appeared in the *Journal*, you would type this into the Google search bar:

Askew site:mtgs.org/journal

You would find that Askews appear in seven different issues of the Journal. If you wish to order a copy of a single journal issue, you can also find information about that on the web site.

I hope you'll enjoy the articles in this issue, and that you won't forget to check the back-issues for your elusive ancestors.

Chuck Sherrill
M.T.G.S Journal Editor

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Yearly memberships include four issues of the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*. Make check or money order payable to MTGS. Annual dues are \$25.00 beginning June 1 of each year. See back cover for details and application form.

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

Identifying a Mystery Photograph

Using Print and Online Sources to Uncover a Forgotten Story



The photograph shown above was found by Jessica Pyles of Nashville while cleaning out the basement of her grandmother's home. Jessica and her mother began tracing their genealogy. Some of the papers found with the photograph were records of the Renfro family and her great-grandmother, Rosa Mae (White) Renfro. This image was intriguing – a group of nine women seemily peering out of the cloudy and damaged photo. Taken by a Nashville photographer, it also bore a list of names on the back, beginning with “Mama,” which may refer to Rosa May White.

Studying the image, it appeared to be a group of school girls and their rather severe-looking teacher. Most of the girls had on the fancy white cotillion dresses popular in that day, while others wore more ordinary clothes. The period, judging by the dresses and hair styles, was some time after the Civil War but before the turn of the century.

A search for more information began with checking the photographer. The card on which the image is mounted bears the name of W.S. Mahon and the address: 10 Public Square, Nashville. The article on Nashville photographers prepared by Jay Richiuso and published in the last installment of this *Quarterly* proved helpful. William S. Mahon first appears as an “artist” in the 1880 Nashville City Directory. In 1881 he is identified as a photographer, and his business location is just what I was looking for – 10 Public Square. In 1882 and 1883 he was working from number 25 on the Public Square, and was in partnership with Jacob Herstein (Herstein & Mahon). This partnership evidently did not work out; by 1885 he had moved back to his old location at 10 Public Square,

and was in partnership with Harry Fuller (Mahon & Fuller). In 1886 and 1887 both Mahon and Fuller are listed as photographers at 10 Public Square, but evidently had dissolved their formal partnership of Mahon & Fuller. By 1888 they had moved to a new address at 117 Public Square, where Mahon remained for several years.

Given that information, it was evident the image was taken in 1881 or between 1884 and 1887, the only years when Mahon was at the address shown on the photograph card.

It is not possible to be certain that the names listed on the photo represent the ladies ranged from left to right, but that is a reasonable assumption. If that is the case, Mary Melody is the tall, older woman in the back. Thinking the Directory would list her as a teacher at the school where these girls attended, I began looking for her listing in the early 1880s. Mary Melody (listed consistently with only one *l*) appeared in the 1885 directory as:

Melody, Mary (Miss), works 43 N. Market¹

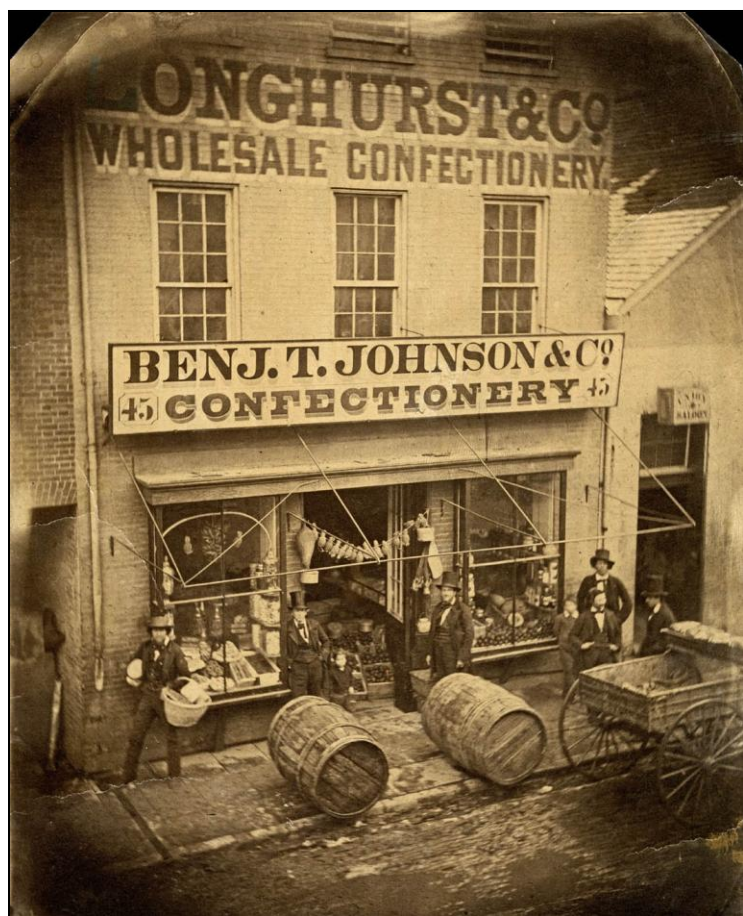
I couldn't find a school listed on North Market Street, so I looked for Mary Melody in the 1880 census. What I found didn't fit my preconceived notion. Mary Melody in 1880 was a 13-year-old girl living in the 6th Ward with her parents, James and Catherine Melody. They were both born in Ireland. James was a laborer and Catherine a grocer. This didn't look like the family of a girl who would become a school teacher within the next few years.

Puzzled, I began to search for the other girls in the 1880 census. Jennie Clemmons' father was a butcher, and her parents had emigrated from England. Emma Fay's parents were German immigrants, and her father, Chris Fay, was a candymaker. My theory about the photo showing a class of wealthy schoolgirls was crumbling.

With all that in mind, I returned to the clue that Mary worked at 43 N. Market. That wasn't very helpful all by itself, but it occurred to me that many city directories are searchable online at Ancestry.com. The 1885 Nashville directory was among them. I was able to search that directory without entering any name, but instead just looking for the keyword "43 N. Market" every time it appeared. That search produced the following list:

Isaac N ^c Million	Miss S Higgason Nannie	Miss Sallie O Piper
Miss Jennie Clemons	Adam Ohoff	William Rooney
Miss Susie Corbett	William Hunter	Miss Sophia O Shute
Albert E Dyson	Miss Georgie Johnson	Miss Rosa Sloan
Miss Emma Fay	Miss Johnson Nettie Johnson	George Taylor
Joseph Fox	Miss Sg Lynch Katie	Emile Triber
Harry Fuller	Miss Etta Looney	Mary Mies Ungerman
Joseph Fuller	Miss Lizzie McCabe	Edward Vaughn
John Givens, cooper	Miss Mary Melody	Miss Lizzie Vaughn
Miss Mary Glasgow	Barney Mette	John Weimer
Miss Minnie Hanna	William Mitchell	Mrs Emma White
Benjamin Higgason	Miss Sallie Mitchell	Candy Grubbs Kemker
Thomas Hubbel	Andrew Payne	

¹ *Nashville Directory 1885* (Nashville: Marshall, Bruce & Co., 1885), volume 21.



Confectionary establishments have a long history in Nashville. This photo shows a building on the public square housing two such companies, is from one of the earliest known Nashville photographs, ca. 1859.

(Tenn. State Library & Archives; THS Collection)

Aha! In addition to Mary Melody, this list included several names that also appeared on the back of the photo. The listing for each of these women included only the cryptic “works 43 N. Market”. But in checking on some of the men in the list, I found that their occupation was listed along with their work address. Albert Dyson was a foreman, Barney Mette was a clerk, Andrew Payne and John Givens were coopers, and Edward Vaughan was a baker. But eleven other men were all “candymakers.” Realizing that led me to take a closer look at the entry titled “Candy Grubbs-Kemker.” That turned out to be the business listing for the Grubbs-Kemker Candy and Cracker Company, located at 43 North Market St.

So this wasn’t a group of young ladies at a finishing school, after all. These were working-class girls gathered together and beautifully dressed for some special occasion. And Mary Melody wasn’t an older teacher – she was a teenager like the others but tall and gawky and, judging by her hair and hat, quite the individualist. On closer inspection I noticed that all of the girls in the picture are wearing corsages. So it doesn’t appear to have been a celebration just for one of them – like a wedding shower, but some sort of event that was special to them all.

Searching the Nashville newspaper database on Proquest at the Library and Archives, I was able to learn quite a bit about the company. They opened their doors as Grubbs, Woolwine & Kemker in January of 1879, with a sales room on Union Street where “a full stock of confectionery and fancy groceries” were offered, and fresh bread came out of the ovens at 11:00 every morning.² Over the next several years the company grew rapidly, and in the summer of 1882 they formed a corporation with capital stock of \$100,000.³ They operated out of a six-story building on Market Street, and were preparing to construct a new 4-story building in the rear of their main factory.⁴

The three principal partners in the firm were all young men. President Henry J. Kemker, an Illinois native, was just 30 when the business opened. He had previously worked as a salesman for George Wessell, a wealthy German-born confectioner who came to Nashville after the Civil War. Hartwell B. Grubbs was vice-president and manager of the company. He was just 26, but evidently very ambitious. In 1886 he left the company and set up a competing business, the H.B. Grubbs Cracker Manufacturing Co. A very successful businessman, by 1911 he was head of the

² “Grubbs, Woolwine and Kemker,” *Daily American* [Nashville] 30 Jan 1879, p. 4

³ “Another Corporation,” *Daily American* [Nashville] June 11, 1882, p.1

⁴ “Another Corporation,” *Daily American* [Nashville] June 11, 1882, p.1

Federal Biscuit Company in New York City, a \$30 million company. Serving as secretary and treasurer was W.D. Woolwine, the youngest of the group at just 24 years and a Virginian by birth. Grubbs left the firm in about 1886 to open a competing business; Woolwine and Kemker renamed their firm the Kemker-Woolwine Candy and Cracker Company.^{5 6}

In 1883 a reporter from the *Daily American* toured the Grubbs-Kemker factory. He observed:

The Grubbs-Kemker Company employ about a hundred hands, thirty-five or forty of whom are girls, who appear to be between the ages of fourteen and twenty, and seems to have been selected for their neatness, amiability and good looks. These are busy here and there and everywhere and give the rooms the appearance of parlors rather than work places.⁷

We may never know just what occasion brought nine of those girls together for this photograph, but a day's research certainly provided us with an interesting glimpse into their lives and work.



A Deadly Accident at the Candy Factory

Death of Eugene Puckett, age 16, in 1884

From the Nashville Daily American
Nov. 13, 1884

A FATAL FALL

Eugene Puckett Drops Seventy-six Feet
Through the Air

Testimony Before the Coroner's Jury
Yesterday – The Killing Declared
Accidental

Eugene Puckett, aged 16, a candy maker, fell from the elevator while it was at the sixth floor of the Grubbs-Kemker Candy & Cracker Company yesterday, to the cellar, and broke his neck. When *Mr. Henry Sneed*, the engineer of the company, found him, he was still breathing, but in five minutes he died without having regained consciousness.

Before Coroner W.M.G. Campbell and a jury empaneled by him yesterday, Albert E. Dyson, foreman of the men on the sixth floor . . . testified that for a year or more past deceased had been accustomed, immediately after the dinner hour was over, to take the elevator down to the

⁵ 1870 U.S. census, Davidson County, Tenn., 4th Ward Nashville, page 263 (stamped), family 581. G.H. Wessell household including Joseph Kempker age 22. Wessell, a confectioner, had \$30,000 in real estate and \$8000 in personal property. Also *Nashville Directory 1877* (Nashville: Marshall, Bruce & Co., 1877), volume 13.

⁶ 1880 U.S. Census, Davidson County, Tenn., Nashville, Enumeration Dist. 37, page 10, family 80. William Woolwine household. Also *Directory of Nashville, 1902* (Nashville: Marshall, Bruce & Co., 1902), volume 38, page 835.

⁷ "A Booming Business," *Daily American* [Nashville] 5 Aug. 1883, p. 4.

cellar and bring up a barrel of charcoal. . . . When deceased went on the elevator there was a barrel of sugar on, and witness rolled the barrel of charcoal on it; deceased pulled the rope and the elevator arose to the sixth floor; there he put the barrel of charcoal, which weighed some 60 pounds, off the elevator, and had taken hold of one end of the barrel of sugar, which weighed some 300 pounds, when witness hallooed to him to “stop” that he would come there and take the barrel off himself Adam Hoff, who was working near him, called out that “Eugene has



Early elevators, like the one shown here, were merely suspended platforms without walls. For Eugene Puckett, it was a death trap.

(www.history.com)

fallen down the elevator” . . . witness had repeatedly cautioned Eugene Puckett not to try to roll barrels of sugar off of the elevator, as he was not strong enough, and there were plenty of others on the floor who could do it . . . he believes that [Eugene] had disregarded his orders and tried to throw the barrel on the floor by turning it end over end; that while making this attempt his foot slipped and he fell between the elevator and south wall

ADAM HOFF

stated that after hearing Mr. Dyson halloo he turned around and saw Eugene Puckett hanging by the head and arms between the elevator platform and the south wall; witness went towards him and saw his head and arms disappear, and then knew he had fallen to the cellar; witness believed the distance to be about 75 feet.

HENRY SNEED,

the engineer, stated that he was busy taking ashes from under the furnace when Mr. Scott, the foreman on the floor above, called him and pointed to Puckett’s body lying at the bottom of the elevator shaft

W.B. YOUST,

who was engaged at work on the third floor, heard a noise in the elevator shaft, looked up and saw Puckett’s body descending sideways . . . falling feet foremost at an angle of about 45 degrees to the floor . . . looked as if the young man had slipped from behind the elevator.

FRITZ FREEDMAN

testified that he had put the barrel of sugar on the elevator and when he went back to take the elevator up the shaft, found it gone; he walked up stairs after it but was informed before he got there that the young man had fallen down the elevator shaft.

After hearing this testimony the jury found that “Eugene Puckett came to his death from an accidental fall through an elevator shaft in the Grubbs-Kemker Manufacturing Company’s business house on Market Street.”

Benjamin Davis Wilson

A Unique 19th Century Tennessean

by James T. Bueche

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Prologue

Tennessee sent many native sons into the Wild West during the 1800s, but none accomplished more than Benjamin Davis Wilson, who started life in 1811 in a humble Hickman County home. He belongs in the pantheon of Scots-Irish pathfinders moving the American frontier westward when making way from Tennessee through Mississippi, New Mexico and ultimately California. In a lifetime less than seventy years he excelled in many fields: frontiersman and trader; spirited public citizen; politician; militia man; agribusiness man in citrus, wheat, cattle and vineyards; mercantile entrepreneur; real estate investor, speculator and developer. Wilson experienced the competition of commerce as well as more dangerous combat with Choctaw, Chickasaw, Apache, Pueblo, Ute and Navajo natives. He was also the Presidential appointee as Commissioner for Indian Affairs in Southern California.

The story of Wilson's life includes tales of escape from seven near-death episodes, which surely speaks to his superb instincts for survival. In less tumultuous times he employed hundreds in his California enterprises, demonstrating a great capacity for leadership. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that Wilson was the grandfather of an American hero, the distinguished Five-Star General of the Army, George S. Patton.

Although the story of Wilson's Western experiences and business success has been chronicled, few sources exist that describe Wilson's formative years -- his life before arrival in California at age twenty-nine. *Observations on Early Days in California and New Mexico*, a memoir which Wilson dictated to a Bancroft Library researcher remains the primary source document. Without this, there would be no story. However, *Observations* depicts only heroic, engrossing elements of an eight-year sojourn in the Mexican territory of New Mexico. Meaningful coverage of his Tennessee and Mississippi experiences is lacking.

Dr. Doyce Nunis, University of Southern California biographer, responded in 2002,
I have been working on his biography for some years, but it is not publishable since I can find out little or nothing about his life prior to his appearance in California in 1841.



Benjamin Davis Wilson and wife, c. 1852
Raised in Tennessee, Wilson became a true
hero of the Wild West.

J.T. Bueche, a resident of La Jolla, California, is a 1955 Mechanical Engineering graduate of the University of Delaware. He pursued a career in technical sales and marketing. In retirement, he enjoys historical and genealogical research and writing. He is presently developing a more extensive article on Benjamin Wilson and his experiences in the west. He can be reached by email at jbueche@san.rr.com

Biographical material appears in two recent publications: *Don Benito Wilson*, by Nat B. Read published in 2008, and Midge Sherwood's *Days of Vintage, Years of Vision* (2007) concentrate on Wilson's life after arrival in California. The Huntington Library and Gardens, located on what was once Wilson's 128-acre Lake Vineyard estate, now in San Marino, California, maintains Wilson's papers. Despite access to these papers for more than a century Wilson's Tennessee and Mississippi adventures remain obscure.

This article reveals Wilson's early years in Tennessee and Mississippi. More than a decade of research among Mexican and American archival records; biographies of relatives, colleagues and combatants, and other sources provide original insight and facts to help create a new analysis..

The story of Benjamin Wilson remains unfamiliar to most Americans. Publicizing this stirring, All-American experience brings well-earned recognition to the intrepid Don Benito.



1818 Map of Tennessee by John Melish
Hickman County is shown extending to the Alabama state line
(Historical Map Collection (online), Tenn. State Library & Archives)

Tennessee Period

Prior to his death in 1878, Benjamin Wilson recapped his life to a transcriber from the Bancroft Library of Berkley, California. *Observations on Early Days in California and New Mexico*¹ briefly describes his adolescent years in Tennessee:

I, Benjamin David Wilson of Nashville, Tennessee, was born December 1, 1811. My father was born in a Fort in the Territory of Tennessee in 1772, in what is now Wilson County. He died when I was eight years old, having lost by bad speculation, his fortune, which left his family poor. We however were assisted to some education by our grandfather.

Wilson kept it simple describing his origin by the nearest large city. In fact, he was born fifty miles southwest of Nashville on his father or grandfather's farm ten miles north of Centerville on the Piney River in Hickman County.

While the family may have stopped briefly in Wilson County on their way west, records indicate that John Wilson was probably born at his father's residence in or around Washington County, North Carolina (later Tennessee). Benjamin Wilson's middle name was his mother's maiden name, Davis². David was likely a translation error by the Bancroft Library.

When the Wilson clan descended on what was then West Tennessee at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Indian warfare and statehood were recent events. These intrepid settlers from well-established Greene County in eastern Tennessee would have found civilization less advanced. The patriarch of the family, Grandfather Adam William Wilson, Sr. (1745-1824) was the son of Scottish-immigrant parents, Adam Wilson and Margaret McCullom. They, along with his sister, Hannah Wilson, are buried in Nelson Parish, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada. Adam himself had thirteen children, the majority of whom joined him in populating Hickman County. This table reflects how the family established roots by 1820.

1820 Census records, Hickman County³

Name	Age	Page #	# Residents
James Wilson	39	2	7
William Wilson	45	2	11
James Davis	51	3	4
Adam Wilson	75	10	4
Benjamin Wilson	34	19	6

Adam William Wilson Clan in 1820

Name	Age	County Residence	In Will
Polley	52	Greene	N
John	48	Hardin	Y
William B.	45	Hickman	N
Joseph R.	43	Hickman	Y
Eleanor	41	Hickman	N
James	39	Hickman	Y
Margaret	36	Hickman	Y
Benjamin	34	Hickman	N
Adam Jr.	32	Hickman	Y
Mary R.	29	n/a	N
Nancy	25	Hickman	Y
Lucretia	20	Hickman	Y

Adam purchased several Washington County land grants in 1782 from North Carolina and served on the first Grand Jury for Washington County in 1788. Adam with most of his clan spent more than a decade until the early 1800s in Washington County and Greene County, which was created out of Washington in 1783. Early Greene County census records do not exist but tax lists report Adam, John and William Wilson on the rolls⁴. Marriage records show that Adam's children Polley, William and Joseph married in Greene County⁵. But shortly after the turn of the century, Adam and his clan moved about 300 miles west, into the new land acquired from the Indians just beyond Nashville.

Grandfather Adam settled on the Piney River at the mouth of Mill Creek in Hickman County.

Near the mouth of Mill Creek, Adam Wilson cultivated the first crop of corn cultivated by a white man within the present limits of Hickman County. This was in 1806 and Wilson made no clearing, save the cutting away of the cane.⁶ Adam Wilson, from East Tennessee, was the first settler on Piney River, he clearing away the cane and undergrowth in 1806, and raised the first crop in the county⁷.

During 1804 and 1806, Adam invested in nearly 3,000 acres along the Piney in five transactions totaling \$3,280, a large sum at the time. Six months later, he sold one section⁸ to Joseph, 540 acres to James and 100 acres to John. By 1808, all six brothers and daughter Eleanor with her husband, James Davis, resided along the Piney River in close proximity to one another.

Real Estate Transactions - Wilson Clan^{9/10}

Date	Sell	Buy	\$	Acres	County	Deed Book	Page	Grant #	County Ref
2/20/1804	W P Anderson	Adam Willson	500	320	Dickson	A	65		65
8/20/1805	James Robertson	Adam Willson	700	640	Dickson			1899/1407	66
2/4/1806	Joseph Greer	Adam Willson	400	640	Dickson			1899	91
2/10/1806	Alexander Greer	Adam Willson	400	640	Dickson			1407	104
2/21/1806	James Robertson	Adam Willson	1,280	640	Dickson				89
8/23/1806	Adam Willson	John Willson	100	100	Dickson				105
8/23/1806	Adam Willson	Joseph Willson	600	640	Dickson				106
8/23/1806	Adam Willson	James Willson	500	540	Dickson				107
4/15/1808	James Wilson	Edward Rickey	200	140	Hickman	A	4,5		
2/10/1808	Adam Willson	Robert Bowen	1,280	640	Hickman	A	35-37		
7/18/1808	Joseph Wilson	Ben Wilson	320	320	Hickman	A	8,9,10		
8/3/1811	James Wilson	Town Vernon	0.00	25	Hickman	B	29-30		
7/28/1811	Adam Willson	James Davis	100	140	Hickman	B	31,32		

That eldest son John purchased just one hundred acres is an indication of his poor financial condition highlighted in *Observations*, "having lost by bad speculation, his fortune, which left his family poor." John later moved his family south to Hardin County sometime before 1820 and died there between April and July 1823. His son Benjamin Davis Wilson would have been eleven years old.

In his will¹¹ Adam bequeathed his remaining three plots of land, comprising two hundred acres, to his surviving wife and then divided between sons James and Adam Jr. Another sixty acres each were devised to sons Joseph and John. Three unmarried daughters, Margaret, Nancy and Lucretia, living on the plantation along with their brother Adam Jr received furniture, livestock and other personal property. Adam William Wilson, Sr., passed away between January and April of 1824.

Adam Wilson's Children

William Benjamin Wilson

William Benjamin was the politician of this clan, serving as the first appointed Justice of the Peace or Magistrate in Hickman County and Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for their inaugural session in 1808. Essentially the top governmental official responsible for all administrative and judicial functions of the County, he was elected Chairman by his peer Magistrates, a role his nephew, Benjamin Davis Wilson, performed fifty years later for Los Angeles County for three terms.

William located around 1805/6 on Beaver Dam Creek which flowed into the Piney River above Pinewood, a few miles upstream from his father's plantation. By the time of the Federal Census of 1820, William had moved with his expanding family onto part of his brother James' five hundred acres in Vernon. Of note was the birth of his daughter, Jane, "first white child" in Hickman County. One of nine siblings born to William Davis and Polly Henderson, Jane Wilson was born December 27, 1806.¹² William and Polly Henderson married on January 19, 1802 in Jefferson County (partly formed out of Greene)¹³.

Joseph Wilson

Each county was responsible for a standing regiment of militia. Officers selected by popular vote and Joseph Wilson was twice elected Major, first in 1808. That same year, Joseph sold half of his land on the Piney River to his brother Benjamin for six hundred dollars. He appears again on the 1840 US Census married with two children and next-door neighbor to Benjamin. Joseph married Abby Alexander on August 30, 1804 in Greene County, Tennessee,¹⁴ preceding their departure for Midwest Tennessee and the Piney River.

Eleanor Davis Wilson

Aunt Eleanor Wilson married James Davis after his arrival in Tennessee. Davis acquired property in 1810¹⁵ on both sides of the Piney River at what is now Pinewood with a gristmill and a cotton gin. Upon Eleanor and James' deaths in the 1840s, their nephew, Albert Wilson, took over until through further resale, the mills expanded and the community of Pinewood formed to provide housing for the workers. Eleanor, James and Albert Wilson are interred in the Russell Cemetery in Pinewood. James Davis, with his brother-in-law James Wilson, provided funds to support John Wilson's family after his death as recorded in Hardin County Court Minutes¹⁶.

James Wilson

James Wilson, although in his twenties, invested well when he selected property in the Seventh District that became Vernon, the first county seat of Hickman, located a few miles down the Piney River from his father's plantation. James was also appointed Magistrate of Hickman County by the State Legislature to the third term of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in 1811.

Benjamin Wilson

Benjamin purchased land furthest from the patriarch, Adam, possibly due to his vocation as whisky distiller and seller. His home was located on Leatherwood Creek in the second district closer to the Natchez Trace. Benjamin married Polly Ann Joslin and in 1808 purchased half of his brother Joseph's section so that now every child resided on or owned land near Adam Sr.

Adam Wilson, Jr.

Adam William Wilson Jr., the youngest of these brothers, resided with and helped Adam run the plantation along with James¹⁷, surviving two wives while raising ten children. Adam's first wife Anna Easley died in 1824 and was

interred in Hardin County. This Adam may have moved his young family south to Hardin to provide shelter for John Wilson's four orphaned children.

John Wilson

Meanwhile, the father of Benjamin Davis Wilson remained in the shadows while brothers, sister and cousins prospered and multiplied. The Wilsons succeeded in farming, ranching, politics, real estate, distilling and brewing in Hickman County, yet sources that reveal the many activities of this clan say little regarding the family of John and Ruth Davis Wilson. Hardin County court minutes shed greater light than Wilson's oral history.

Hardin County, Tennessee, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Minutes of Proceedings¹⁸

1823 July Term¹⁹ *Ordered by the Court that Willie B Wilson be appointed guardian of the infants heir of John Wilson, deceased, Green Wilson, Madison Wilson, Benjamin Wilson, Columbia Wilson, given bond with Adam Wilson security in the sum of one thousand dollars.* [This fixes the period of death of John G. Wilson between April and July 1823.]

1823 July Term²⁰ *a guardian bond from Willie? Wilson and Adam Wilson to County Court of Hardin County was duly acknowledged in open court and ordered to be certified for registration.*

1823 October Term²¹ *Willie? Wilson, guardian of minor heirs of John Wilson decd. declares into open court as follows, payment made Sept 26, 1823 this is to certify that I have or will the full amount of money from James Davis and James Wilson for children which I am appointed as guardian which is in the sum of one hundred and forty dollars.* [This record was signed by Wiley? Wilson, the oldest son of Ruth Davis Wilson and John Wilson probably born in Greene County, Tennessee in 1801. When appointed guardian he would have been twenty-two years old or ten years older than his brother Benjamin. The middle initial as signed is not clear, an R or a B but his middle name is Richie or Ritchie. In essence, it is an IOU or receipt from Wiley to his uncles and the Court. The Court Clerk continued writing his name as Willie throughout these minutes.]

1824 January Term²² *A Deed of conveyance from James Wilson and Jacob Humble to Adam Wilson for 200 acres land was duly proven in open court by John Reynolds and Joseph Wallace ___? ___? ___ thereto and ordered to be certified for registration.* [This refers to Adam Wilson, Jr. Adam Wilson senior died on his plantation in Hickman County between January and April 1824. Minutes also confirm Adam Jr. had moved from his father's plantation in Hickman and was residing with his family in Hardin County. Jacob Humble married Polly Ann, the widow of Uncle Benjamin, and acted with his wife's brother-in-law on behalf of the family.]

These court minutes bring to life Benjamin Davis Wilson's siblings, his age when orphaned (eleven), and prove the place where his family resided for some period. A stipend of one hundred and forty dollars, an amount two thousand, five hundred dollars today, could have been one of several installments made by concerned uncles and aunts. It is remarkable that these records survived the Civil War, as the Battle of Shiloh occurred thirty-five years later leveling much of Hardin County including the courthouse.

The records indicate that the children's father was the last parent to die. Reference to *infant heirs* and the fact that Benjamin was twelve suggests some of his siblings were younger. Wiley's service as guardian explains their close relationship in later life, when Benjamin invited Wiley to leave Mississippi and join him in California after the Civil War.

Sherwood's²³ description of Wilson during his East Coast trip in 1870 is helpful in understanding why he had so little to say about his early life when he was interviewed:

Whether or not Wilson also stopped off to see James Harvey Davis, his uncle, in Mississippi, is not known. If so, he did not mention it in his letters home. Nor did he dwell on his return to his birthplace in Nashville, Tennessee - when it came to his own personal background, Wilson was no more communicative than a Mountain Indian, and just as adept at covering his tracks. So far as he was concerned, his life began when he crossed the Mississippi River.

Sue²⁴ once explained that her father insisted upon being the beginning of a family, rather than the shirt-tail end of one, as so many were in the South.

Dictated five decades after leaving Tennessee prior to death at age sixty-seven, Wilson's oral history blended incomplete and sometimes self-serving memories. Perhaps this line by an eminent mystery author²⁵ best explains Wilson's recitation of early years... *our memory is the servant of our interests.*

Life was not easy in 1820 when the State created Hardin County ... no roads, bridges, yet plenty of wolves, mountain lion, bear and wild game. Court Minutes report frequent payments to citizens for bringing in animal scalps and pelts, proving the predator had been killed. Churches, schools, mills came later in the decade but life in Hardin County remained an arduous frontier existence.

Orphaned, left in the care of an older brother, relying on relatives to subsist in frontier country in uncertain living conditions surely colored Benjamin Wilson's memories while exerting an enormous influence on his appetite and need to prosper and succeed, as we shall see.

Mississippi Period

Benjamin D. Wilson gave a brief summary of his Mississippi sojourn in *Observations on Early Days in California and New Mexico*:

When I was about fifteen years of age [1826], I went into business for myself, at Yazoo City, on the Yazoo River above Vicksburg, where I kept a little trading house, to do business with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians. My health entirely broke down, and I was told by physicians I could not live in that country, must either leave or die. Then [1832] went up the Arkansas River to Fort Smith, an outer post then of the country.

The paragraph does little to enlighten, a modus operandi of Wilson when discussing life in Tennessee, Mississippi and New Mexico. What attracted Wilson to Yazoo city or Mississippi for that matter? How could a teenager subsisting on the charity of relatives afford to travel to Mississippi much less launch a trading post? Residents of Mississippi in early nineteenth century would know that the Choctaw Nation was in full retreat from the avaricious intentions of the United States Government. In fact, before Wilson arrived in Yazoo in 1826, Mississippi gained statehood and Yazoo County was no longer Choctaw territory. By the time of Wilson's departure, the First and Second Choctaw Removals to Oklahoma Indian lands were underway, this exodus resulting in the tragic *Trail of Tears*.

Locating records of his maternal uncle, Wiley Davis, lifts some mystery. In 1820 Davis resided south of Choctaw Territory in Warren County, Mississippi. The U.S. Census, enumerated in August of that year²⁶ indicates that Davis' family included a son, daughter, wife and relative. Two months later the Treaty of Doaks Stand was signed ceding five million acres of Choctaw Territory to the United States in exchange for land west of the Mississippi.

Mississippi Period Timeline

YEAR	ACRES	TREATY	COMMENTS
1801	2,700,000	Fort Adams	First Choctaw Cession to United States
1803	4,150,000	Mt Dexter	Cession from Natchez district to Tombigbee rivershed
1817			Mississippi admitted to the Union
1820			Wiley Davis residing in Warren, MS
1820	5,170,000	Doak's Stand	Choctaw exchange land in MS for parcel in Arkansas
1826			Wiley Davis awarded first land patents in Warren County
1826			B. D. Wilson arrives in Warren County
1830	10,500,000	Dancing Creek	Choctaw cede all territory east of the Mississippi River
1831			First Choctaw removal begins
1832			Second Choctaw removal begins
1832			B. D. Wilson departs Mississippi for New Mexico
1833			Third Choctaw removal begins

Like thousands of white Americans, Wiley Davis was poised to take advantage of the rich farmland now available. He purchased four land patents from the U.S. Government in July 1826. The patents were located in the Township designated 018N - 005E, and contained three contiguous parcels of land totaling 320 acres.²⁷ Today this property rests on the Warren/Yazoo County line in Warren County, though in the early 1820s that county border did not exist. Less than twenty-five miles from Yazoo City but actually closer to Vicksburg, Wilson in his *Observations* kept his story simple by referring to nearby towns recognizable to most people rather than his specific location.

The U S Census of 1830²⁸ identifies Wiley Davis residing in Yazoo with his wife, daughter, and son, plus one male fifteen to nineteen years old and three enslaved males in their twenties. The U S Census of 1820 does not identify such a male in the household. It is reasonable to assume Wilson was the fifteen to nineteen-year-old male listed in the Census. During his sojourn in Mississippi, Wilson assisted his uncle clearing and farming the new plantation, this labor-intensive occupation would require contribution of all five younger males living there. The land was prime Yazoo riverfront acreage and it is probable the teen-age Wilson spent free time boating, fishing and swimming the Yazoo, a great improvement over Hardin County even considering the rugged labor necessary on plantations in earlier 1800s.

Wiley Davis' Land Patents

Bureau of Land Management Land Office Records²⁹

ACCESSION	NAMES	DATE	DOC	MERIDEN	TWP	ALIQUOTS	SECTION	COUNTY
<u>MS0110 .444</u>	Davis, Wiley	7/20/1826	1928	Washington	018N-	<i>W½NW¼</i>	3	Warren
<u>MS0110 .446</u>	Davis, Wiley	7/20/1826	1930	Washington	018N-	<i>Lot/Trct 8</i>	4	Warren
<u>MS0110 .449</u>	Davis, Wiley	7/20/1826	1933	Washington	018N-	<i>½NW¼</i>	9	Warren
<u>MS0120 .050</u>	Davis, Wiley	7/20/1826	1995	Washington	018N-	<i>Lot/Trct 7</i>	4	Warren

That Benjamin Davis Wilson arrived in the Yazoo region the same summer that a Wiley Davis acquired 320 acres of virgin Yazoo River bottomland speaks of a plan to employ one's relative . . . the orphaned Tennessee teenager. Wiley Davis needed manual labor to clear this land and create a farm. Three slaves already resided with Davis and Benjamin would have been a valued addition to the family.

Four years prior to Wilson's arrival Choctaws were relocating further north and east to their remaining lands, from the first green shaded dogleg area below to the off-yellow dogleg area moving toward upper right, see map. There

were few, if any, Choctaw Indians available for trading activity. Whether the young Wilson started a trading house with the Choctaws as he stated in the *Observations* or if, in fact, he ever traded with Native Americans, has not been proven. We do know that in his next destination, New Mexico, he bartered and traded quite successfully with several Indian Nations. Why would Wilson mention Chickasaws whose lands were more than a hundred miles north of Yazoo? In fact, these Native Americans lived much closer to Wilson's home in Hardin County, Tennessee, than his new residence.

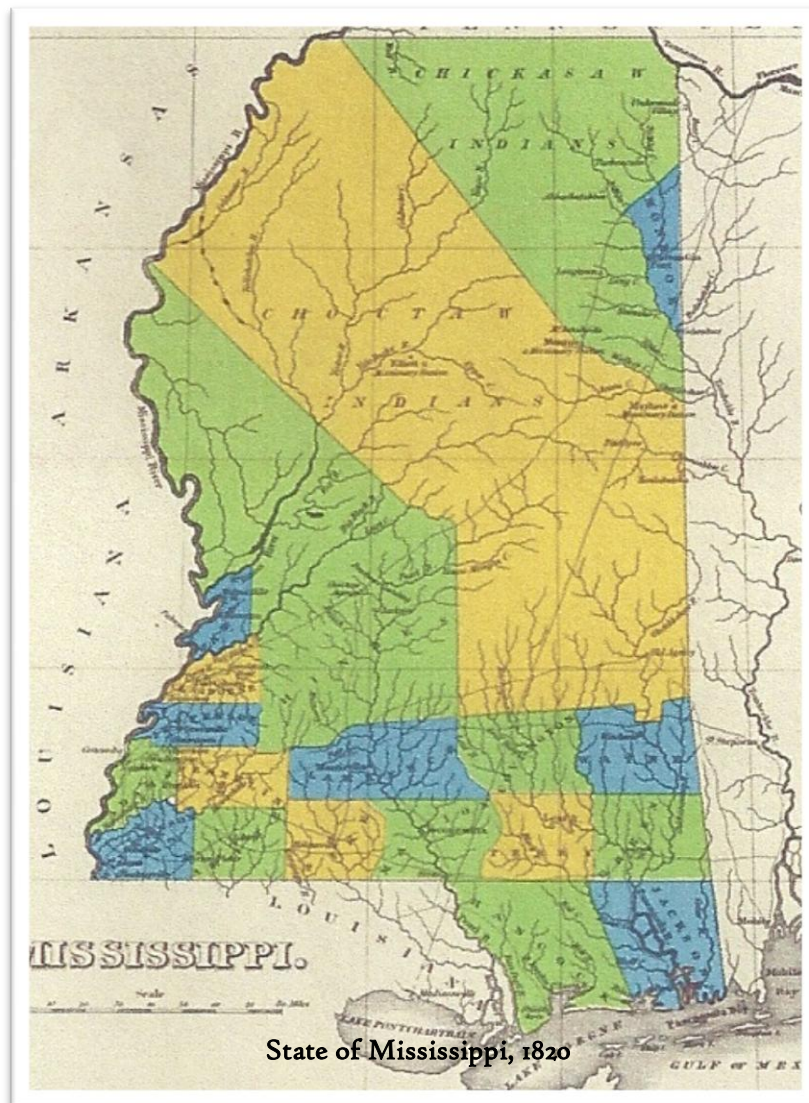
Just who Wiley Davis was leads us back to 'Benjamin's mother, Ruth Davis Wilson. We can only speculate about her life story as mother and wife. The given names of her children with John Wilson as found in the Hardin County court minutes were Wiley Wilson, Benjamin Wilson, Columbia Wilson, Green Wilson and Madison Wilson.

It is likely that Ruth Davis Wilson's first son Wiley received her father's name. Her second son received the given name of Benjamin from his father's family, and the middle name Davis to acknowledge his mother's family. The names of the younger children -- Columbia, Green and Madison -- indicate a different approach and may indicate that these children were born to a different mother. Hardin County minutes show Ruth predeceased her husband, John Wilson. It is possible that John remarried after the birth of Benjamin in 1811 and had three children

prior to his death in 1823 at fifty-six. As step-siblings, Wilson would not have the same feelings nor concern for them as he shows for brother Wiley in later life. In fact, the author is not aware of any communication by Benjamin Wilson with these siblings.

Benjamin's claim that he departed Mississippi because of his health seems unlikely. That a twenty-year-old Tennessean in the nineteenth century would be under a doctor's care and unable to carry on due to Mississippi climate is implausible. He reached maturity during this tenure with his uncle. It was a logical time for him to set out West to seek fame and fortune where, in New Mexico and California, he most admirably achieved both, as we shall see.

Benjamin Wilson could never have foreseen nor predicted the next fifty years. Arriving penniless in Santa Fe he gained employment with a copper mine located at the end of an arduous 10-day journey into Apache country. He stayed for 18 months, earning enough money to fund an expedition into Apache country with five fellow frontiersmen before settling in Santa Fe.



First as employee then as an entrepreneur acquiring store goods, he stocked muskets, powder and alcohol to barter with Native American tribes surrounding Santa Fe and Taos. Apache, Ute, Navaho and Pueblo Indians bartered mules, mustangs and plunder obtained raiding northern Mexican states of Chihuahua and Sonora.

In 1841, Wilson joined twenty Americans and some New Mexicans departing New Mexico in the first overland wagon train to Los Angeles, seeking a new start in a more stable Province of Mexico. With his New Mexican riches, Wilson climbed quickly into the top rung of society when he married a sixteen-year-old seniorita of California society. Wilson purchased, constructed and equipped a wheat, cattle ranch with vineyards on three thousand acres of what is now Riverside, California. His success in four decades in Southern California, detailed in biographies noted above, is remarkable.



**Benjamin Wilson's daughter, Ruth Wilson Patton, with her children
George and Nita, in 1892.**

(The Patton Saber, Winter 2007 www.generalpatton.org)



**General George S. Patton, Jr. (1885-1945)
Grandson of Benjamin D. Wilson**

Notes on the Mississippi Period

The Warren County borderline with Yazoo and Hinds Counties was finalized in the years following the 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand. In this Second Cession, the Choctaw ceded land wrapped around Warren County on the north and east. Warren County took advantage of this to expand to its present limits. During most if not all of the 1820s Wiley Davis' plantation was located in Yazoo County but after resolution of county borders, this property ended up in Warren County. For these reasons land patents and Census of 1830 show Wiley Davis in Yazoo. However, in the 1820 Census, enumerated in August 1820, he shows up in Warren County, the exact location not yet defined. The only way he could have resided in 1820 on the four land patents he purchased in 1826 would have been by squatting on Choctaw land, a common experience after 1820 in Mississippi.

The original survey of this property commenced January, 1823, Land Patents from the Jackson, MS office issued in July, 1826 for all townships designated by number 18. Northern townships in Warren County represent the final Choctaw land surveyed and sold. The entire Second Cession survey completed before county borders established

which accounts for a three-year gap between survey of his specific acquisition and issuance of respective Land Patent.

The List of the Purchasers of Public Lands at the various Land Offices shows a mean purchase price per acre around one dollar and twenty-five cents. Wiley Davis would have spent around four hundred dollars for these four Patents, about eight to ten thousand dollars today.

A Wiley Davis of Yazoo County purchased six land patents between 1826 and 1827 in Yazoo and Hinds Counties. A Wiley Davis of Holmes County purchased one hundred eighty-eight patents in seven Mississippi counties between 1840 and 1842. A Wiley Davis of Hinds County purchased five patents in Hinds County in 1824 and 1837, plus three in Coahoma County in 1840. Other researchers must sort out if more than one Davis acquired these patents. According to Federal and State Censi, just one Wiley Davis resided in Mississippi between 1800 and 1850.

Endnotes for “Benjamin Davis Wilson”

¹ Wilson, Benjamin Davis. *Observations on Early Days in California and New Mexico*. (Los Angeles: Historical Society of Southern California, 1877).

² Steel, Edith Shorb, interview by E Leontine Denson and CA Notary Public for City and County of San Francisco. 1930. *Mrs. Steel's Affidavit attesting to Benjamin Wilson's middle name as DAVIS* (October 24). Edith Shorb Steele was the daughter of J. de Barth Shorb, granddaughter of B D Wilson.

³ 1820 US Census; Hickman County, Tenn.

⁴ (Tennessee State Library and Archives c 1997-2014 Ancestry.com 2009)

⁵ *Tennessee Marriages to 1825*, Ancestry.com. database online, 1997.

⁶ Spence, Jerome D., and David L. Spence. *A History of Hickman County Tennessee*. (Nashville: Gospel Advocate Publishing Company, 1900).

⁷ *Hickman County History*. (Chicago and Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887).

⁸ One section equals 640 acres or one square mile.

⁹ *Dickson County, Tenn., Deeds, (1804–1806)*, Register of Deeds.

¹⁰ *Hickman County, Tenn., Deeds, (1808–1818)*, Register of Deeds.

¹¹ *Dickson County, Tenn., Wills*, Book A, p. 74-76. Last Will and Testament of Adam Wilson, 1822. County Court Clerk.

¹² Spence and Spence, 1900.

¹³ Dodd, Jordan, *Tennessee Marriages to 1825*.

¹⁴ (Dodd, Jordan, *Tennessee Marriages to 1825*.

¹⁵ Spence and Spence, 1900.

¹⁶ *Hardin County, Tenn., Court of Pleas and Quarter Session Minutes*, Book A (1820-1823), October Term 1823. County Court Clerk.

¹⁷ *Dickson County . . . Adam Wilson will, 1822*.

¹⁸ *Hardin County . . . Minutes*, July Term 1823.

¹⁹ *Hardin County . . . Minutes*, July Term 1823

²⁰ *Hardin County . . . Minutes*, July Term 1823

²¹ *Hardin County . . . Minutes*, Oct. Term 1823

²² *Hardin County . . . Minutes*, Jan. Term 1824

²³ Sherwood, Midge. *Days of Vintage, Years of Vision*, (San Marino: Orizaba Publications, 1982).

²⁴ Benjamin Davis Wilson's daughter

²⁵ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

²⁶ 1820 U.S. Census, Warren County, Miss. p. 120.

²⁷ *General Land Office Records*, "patent numbers 1928, 1930 and 1933 issued in 1826 to Wiley Davis of Yazoo County, signed by President John Q. Adams, online database of U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management.

²⁸ 1830 U.S. Census, Yazoo County, Miss., p. 292.

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J.T. Bueche Bio

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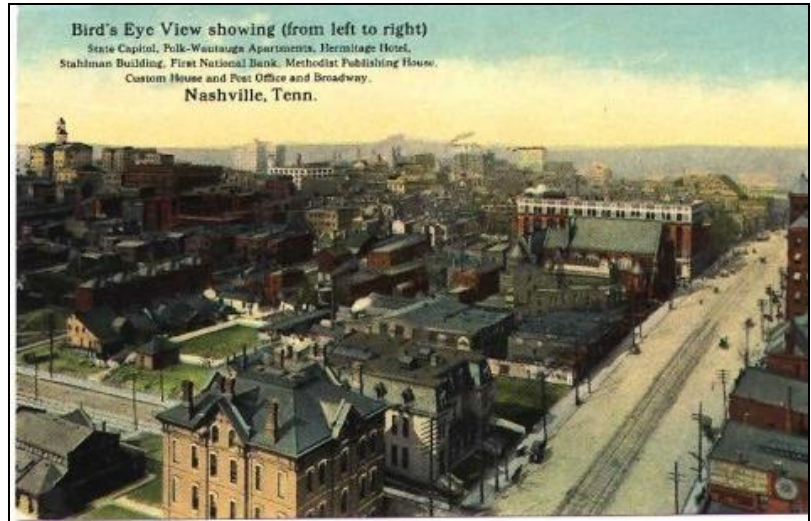
- 1955-1989 Positions in technical sales and marketing including, Vice President, Sales and Marketing of Solar Turbines Division, Caterpillar Company. San Diego, CA
- 1989-2001 - Owner - Power Systems Group, Power Generation Data Base and Consulting. La Jolla, CA

Early Nashville Photographers, 1853-1891 (part 3, concluded)

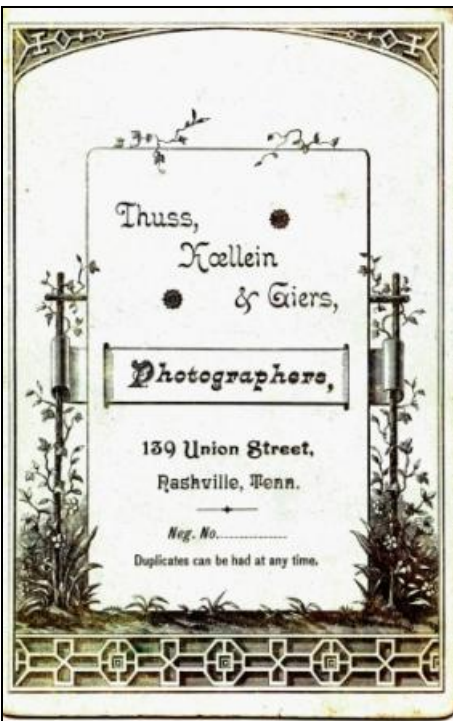
by Jay Richiuso

Much has been written about the well-known Nashville photographers, such as the Calverts, the Giers, the Thuss's, and several other such photographic artists. But this study reveals that there were a great number of other lesser known practitioners who worked along with, and for, the better known and more established photographers.

Genealogists are often confronted with family photographs that are difficult to date. Where the photographer is identified on the image case, this guide will be of help in narrowing the scope of years during which the photo was taken.



Nashville ca. 1890
(eastnashvilleblog.com)



Photographer W.J. Thuss came to Nashville about 1875. He was in business from 1883-1889 with Koellein & Giers
(Edward Barnard Collection, Vanderbilt University Archives)

Nashville's population in 1860 was just over 10,000. The transition from daguerreotype to photograph occurred around 1851 when Frederick Scott Archer announced the wet plate or collodion process, which he had developed in 1848. The changeover from daguerreotype to photograph in Nashville occurred between 1854 and 1855, as individuals started to be identified in the *Banner* and in city directories as photographers, rather than daguerreotypists.

This concluding list of photographers in Nashville, covering the years 1888 to 1891, is derived from research in the Nashville city and business directories, which begin in 1853. Names photographers are given, along with those of helpers such as "printers," "artists," "photo printer," etc.. Listed after an individual's name are these facts: occupation; work address or location; employer (if included); home address and/or location; and the page number of the directory on which the entry was found.

The first section is an alphabetical list of all identified daguerreotypists, photographers, their helpers and the dates they were active in Nashville. The following section provides business locations. Arranged chronologically, this list indicates where they were located, the years in business at a particular location, with whom they may have joined together in business, and identifies other individuals who worked as staff or students. There were a handful of photographers that could not be placed at

a particular location because the directory listing for them referred to them as “photographer” and provided only their home address or where they boarded.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF NASHVILLE PHOTOGRAPHERS with addresses and associated names 1888-1891

Nashville City Directory, 1888

- Baugh, Cadwell D.**, photographer, h Hazel nr Wharf Ave. (page 108).
Calvert Bros (E. & P. R. Calvert), Artists, 70 Cole Building (page 168).
Calvert Bros., Portrait Painters, Draughtsmen and Teachers of Art, 70 Cole Building, (page 168).
Calvert, Ebenezer, (Calvert Bros.), h Belmont opp Hawkins (page 168).
Calvert, Peter R., (Calvert Bros.), h Belmont opp Hawkins (page 168).
Corbitt, Edward F., photographer, bds Lewis nr Fain (page 208).
Corbitt, Walter D., photographer, h 1119 Church (page 209).
DeAnquinos, Alexander, photographer, 415 Church (page 235).
De Anquinos, Alex, Photographer, 413 and 415 Church Street, Nashville, Tenn., all Kinds of Work Known to the Art is done at this Gallery. Life-size Portraits a Specialty, and Within the Reach of All (page 235).
Edwards, William S., photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, bds 149 McLemore (page 264).
Frost, Charles D., photographer, wks 304 Union, h 524 N. College (page 299).
Fuller, Harry, photographer, wks 117 Public Square (page 301).
Giers, Otto B., (Thuss, Koellein, & Giers), h Chestnut cor Depot (page 311).
Gorff, Julius, photographer, wks 318 Union, h 1206 N. High (page 322).
Herstein, Jacob, photographer, 323½ Public Square, h 308 Fatherland; Photograph Gallery, W. D. Corbitt, manager, 304 Union (page 370).
Koellein, Emil, (Thuss, Koellein, & Giers), h 1231 N. High (page 444).
Lewis, Charles E., wks Poole Art Co., bds 926 Summer (page 460).
Mahon, William S., photographer, 117 Public Square (page 501).
Phillips, Frederick H., photographer, wks 304 Union, bds 404 Jefferson (page 588).
Poole Art Company, R. Poole, Pres. J. W. Braid, Sec’y., Photographers and Artists, 240 N. Cherry cor Union (page 595).
Poole Art Co., Photographic Artists, cor Cherry and Union Streets, Nashville, Tenn., Life Size Portraits in Ink and Color a Specialty (page 595).
Poole, Rodney, Pres. Poole Art Co., Sec’y. and Treas. Nashville Electric Time &A. Co., and Photographer, 240 N. Cherry, h 913 McGavock (page 595).
Robertson, George G., photographer, wks 240 N. Cherry, bds 203 Gowdey (page 625).
Root, Melville E., photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, h 16 Webster (page 631).
Russell, Andrew J., photographer and artist, American Building, h 937 S. College (page 637).
Schleier, Theodore M., photographer, 230½ N. Cherry, h 149 McLemore (page 647).
Taylor, Samuel A., photographer, wks 318 Union, h University nr Washington (page 708).
Thuss, Andrew J., photographer, 318 Union, bds 1211 N. Summer (page 720).
Thuss, Koellein, & Giers (W. G. Thuss, E. Koellein, and O. B. Giers), Photographers and Artists, 318 Union (page 720).
Thuss, William G. (Thuss, Koellein, & Giers), h 1300 Laural (page 720).
Warren, George E., photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, h 1315 N. Cherry (page 749).
Weisel, John W., photographer, N. Spruce nr Broad, bds The Nicholson (page 760).

Wuille, Miss Delia F., artist, Poole Art Co., bds 919 Woodland (page 795).
Wuille, Miss Minnie F., artist, Poole Art Co., bds 919 Woodland (page 795).

Nashville City Directory, 1889

Baugh, Cadwell D., photographer, h 69 Carroll (page 108).
Calvert Bros. (E. & P. R. Calvert), artists, 70 Cole Building (page 172).
Calvert Bros., Portrait Painters, Draughtsmen and Teachers of Art, 70 Cole Building (page 172).
Calvert, Ebenezer (Calvert Bros.), h Belmont opp Hawkins (page 173).
Calvert, Peter R. (Calvert Bros.), h Belmont nr Division (page 173).
Corbett, Edward F., photographer, wks 117 Public Square, h 36 Leigh (page 214).
Corbitt, Walter D., wks 304½ Union, h 1415 Hines (page 214).
Fuller, Harry O., photographer, wks 117 Public Square, bds 321 Russell (page 307).
Giers, Otto B. (Giers & Koellein), h 445 Chestnut (page 318).
Giers & Koellein (O. B. Giers & E. Koellein), photographers and artists, 318 Union (page 318).
Gorff, Julius, photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry (page 329).
Hearn, Rufus, photographer, h 409 S. High (page 372).
Hearn, Rufus E. (Reeves & Hearn), bds Van Sinderin nr N. Second (page 372).
Herstein, Jacob, photographer, 304½ Union, h 308 Fatherland (page 379).
Hughes, Frederick P., photographer, wks 607 Church, h Fairmont cor Deluge (page 406).



Female photographers, such as this unidentified woman, were not uncommon (ca. 1890)
(Raeder Lomax on Pinterest)

Koellein, Emil (Giers & Koellein), h 1231 N. High (page 454).
Lewis, Edward, photographer, wks 240 N. Cherry (page 470).
Mahon, William S., photographer, 117 Public Square (page 512).
Phillips, Frederick H., wks 304½ Union, bds 404 Jefferson (page 604).
Poole Art Company, corner Cherry & Union Sts. (page 38).
Poole Art Co., R. Poole pres, artists and photographers, N Cherry cor Union (page 610).
Poole Art Co., Photographic Artists, cor. Cherry and Union Streets, Life Size Portraits in Ink and Color a Specialty (page 610).
Poole R., pres Poole Art Co. and photographer, N. Cherry cor Union, h 909 McGavock (page 611).
Reeves, John, photographer, h 409 S. High (page 631).
Reeves & Hearn (W. Reeves & R. E. Hearn), photographers, 323½ Public Square (page 632).
Taylor, Samuel A., photographer, wks 318 Union, h 136 University (page 729).
Thuss, Andrew J. (W. G. & A. J. Thuss), h 1211 N. Summer (page 741).
Thuss, Mary Miss, photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, bds 1211 N. Summer (page 742).
Thuss, William G. (W. G. & A. J. Thuss), h 1300 Laurel (page 742).
Thuss, W. G. & A. J., photographers and artists, 230½ N. Cherry (page 742).
Warren, George, photographer, bds 1315 N. Cherry (page 771).

Wuille, Miss D., artist, 240 N. Cherry (page 820).
Wuille, Miss M., artist, 240 N. Cherry (page 820).

Nashville City Directory, 1890

Allen, George R., photographer, 323½ Public Square, h Vansinderen cor Josephine ave. (page 81).

Batsai, August, photographer, wks 240 N. Cherry, h 210 N. High (page 109).

Baugh, Cadwell B., photographer, h 69 Carroll (page 110).

Bruce, Jackson B., photographer, wks 606 Church (page 158).

Calvert Bros (E. & P. R. Calvert), Artists & Art Teachers, 70 Cole Building (page 176).

Calvert Brothers, Portrait Painters, Draughtsmen, and Teachers of Art, 70 Cole Building (page 176).

Calvert, Ebenezer (Calvert Bros.), h Belmont opp Hawkins (page 176). Also **Calvert, Peter R** (same).

Colby, William F., photographer, wks 415½ Church, bds 604 N. Cherry (page 208).

Corbett, Edward F., photographer, wks 117 Public Square, h 36 Green (page 219).

Emory, Edgar, photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry (page 282).

Forfey, Frank H., photographer, wks 240 N. Cherry, bds 819 Boscobel (page 307).

Fuller, Harry O., photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, bds 923 N. Cherry (page 317).

Giers, Otto B. (Giers & Koellein), h 445 Chestnut (page 329).

Giers & Koellein (O. B. Giers & E. Koellein), Photographers & Artists, 318 Union (page 329).

Gorff, Julius, photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, h 1206 N. High (page 341).

Hatton, Liberty L., photographer, bds 212 McLemore (page 381).

Hearn, Rufus E. (Reeves & Hearn), h Vansinderen nr Josephine ave. (page 385).

Herstein, Jacob, photographer, 304½ Union, h 308 Fatherland (page 391).

Hughes, Ellis, photographer, h 809 Ewing ave. (page 419).

Koellein, Emil (Giers & Koellein), h 1231 N. High (page 470).

Lewis, Edward, photographer, wks 240 N. Cherry, h W. Nashville (page 486).

Lowry, Leo, photographer, 508 Cedar, bds 506 Cedar (page 497).

Mahon, William S., photographer, 117 Public Square (page 528).

McWhinney, Goldston W., photographer, wks 606 Church, bds 127 N. High (page 525).

Parrish, Eldridge, photographer, bds 1107 S. market (page 607).

Phillips, Frederick H., photographer, 415½ Church, bds 404 Jefferson (page 619).

Poole, Rodney, Photographer & Artist, & Sec'y & Tres, N. Electric Time Co., N. Cherry cor Union, h 909 McGavock (page 627).

Poole, R., Photographic Artist, cor Cherry and Union Sts., Life-Size Portraits in Ink and Color a Specialty (p. 627).

Potter, James H., photographer, h 7 Jane (page 630).

Sadler, Mrs. Lula, artist, 318 Union, h 1024 S. market (page 675).

Schmidt, Miss Agnes C., retoucher, 230½ N. Cherry, bds 605 S. Spruce (page 682).

Smith, Miss C. Agnes, artist, 230½ N. Cherry, bds 605 S. Spruce (page 706).

Staples, William F., photographer, 606 Church, h 139 McLemore (page 723).

Staples, William Jr., photo printer, wks 606 Church, bds 139 McLemore (page 723).



Photographers ca. 1890 (unidentified)
(Kodak Collection, National Media Museum)

Taylor, Samuel A., photographer, wks 318 Union, h 136 University (page 746).
Thuss, Andrew J. (W. G. & A. J. Thuss), bds 1211 N. summer (page 759).
Thuss, Mary Miss, artist, 230½ N. Cherry, bds 1211 N. Summer (page 759).
Thuss, William G. (W. G. & A. J. Thuss), h Nolensville pike 4 miles (page 759).
Thuss, W. G. & A. J., Photographers & Artists, 230½ N. Cherry (page 759).
Wrye, Henry, photographer, h Fillmore nr Decatur (page 841).
Wuille, Miss Delia, artist, 240 N. Cherry, bds 212 N. High (page 841).
Wuille, Miss Minnie, artist, 240 N. Cherry, bds 212 N. High (page 841).

Nashville City Directory, 1891

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Calvert Bros. (E. & P. R. Calvert), artists, portrait painters, & art school, 70 Cole Building (page 188).
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Calvert, Peter R. (Calvert Bros.), h Sigler nr Belmont (page 188).
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Decker, John F., photographer & artist, 413-415 Church, h 1317 N. Cherry (page 270).
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Fuller, Harry O., photographer, wks 230½ N. Cherry, h 1321 N. High (page 349).
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Hastings, Frank S., photographer, wks 240½ N. Cherry, bds N. High nr Broad (page 422).
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Series Concluded

“The Price is Right” for Seniors: TSLA’s On-Line Genealogy Class

by Shirley Roach Thompson

One of the advantages of getting older is the benefit of discount programs available to senior citizens. Retail stores and restaurants offer many of these programs, which are very worthwhile if you are purchasing necessities, such as groceries, and enticing for things that you can use some of your discretionary income to purchase. Now even senior-citizen genealogists can find a bargain.

Jackson State Community College in Jackson, Tennessee, has teamed up with the expert staff at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville to offer a college class on-line titled “Introduction to Genealogy: Research Skills Using Tennessee Records.”¹ This is a fully accredited fourteen week long college class for those who wish to take it for credit. However, for those of us “seniors” just wanting to expand our knowledge of genealogy research, the option is available to audit the class affordably. The cost of this one class for credit would ordinarily be close to \$500² for most college students. However, those of us age sixty and older can audit the class for a fraction of that cost (just under \$50) and receive the same instruction as if we were taking the class for credit. The class is presented on-line, so it does not require any trip to the campus. The materials for the class are all also online, so there is no text book or additional supplies to purchase.

The following topics are covered:

From Quill and Ink to the Digital World

Tennessee Land Records

Vital Records and Newspapers

Deciphering and Analyzing Court Records

Effective Use of Census Records (2 weeks)

Preservation Primer

Records from the County Courthouse

Military Records (3 weeks)

In order to take the course, you have to apply for admission as a student. The application is done on-line, after which you must print and sign a signature page and fax it in along with a copy of your driver’s license. Once your registration is complete, the college will issue a Student ID number, which is a number you will need to write down and keep handy. After you have your Student ID number, you may fill out and send in the “Request to Audit a Course Form” for the Introduction to Genealogy class. Payment is made on-line with a credit card. This on-line application and registration process can be confusing so far as “Where to Click”, etc., but all it takes to get help is to call the admission office, and someone there will guide you through the on-line computer registration and payment process. I had to call more than once, and they were very gracious and stayed on the phone with me until I could find the right computer box to click on.

Once you are registered and have paid, taking the on-line class is the uncomplicated part. You will be given a “Net Logon” and will set up your own personal password. These two pieces of information will be what you will use each time you log in to work on your class. If you are comfortable doing genealogy research on the internet, you will be able to navigate the class with little frustration. I did have some minor trouble opening some of the files that are included in the class until I caught on as to how to do it. I should have called and asked for help early on, but

¹ For more information visit the Jackson State website at jscc.edu. The course number 81490, LIB 1001 01W.

just stumbled my way through until I got the hang of it. There is no reason to get frustrated with it – just call for help and it will be fine.

All the assignments for each week are posted in advance, and can be done at your own pace. Your homework, due each Sunday evening, is written in a Word document and submitted online. It is set up just like a ‘real’ college course with one class a week, but you can work ahead if you know your schedule will get busy. Submitting the homework on-line was no problem once you do it the first time and catch on. I found that the assigned reading and homework took me three to four hours a week to complete. Those auditing the class are not required to submit the homework, but when taking any class, full participation is important to get the most from the instruction.

The instructors are staff members at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. You may contact them as you need to through the Jackson State e-mail system. Even though I only audited the class, my homework was graded and returned to me with comments from the instructors, which were helpful and encouraging. The range of topics that were covered was very interesting. I learned a great number of things that I had never even known about before taking the class, and received excellent resource material and websites for further use in my own personal research.

An added benefit of becoming a student is that you have access to the Jackson State library resources, which include many internet on-line subscription services which you will be able to use free as part of your student status. This alone is worth the small cost of the class. I was able to spend time using several services, such as JSTOR, an online database with articles from hundreds of historical journals, which I probably would not have explored as thoroughly otherwise.

The “Introduction to Genealogy” class is termed an introductory class, and it is great for beginners but also good for those of us who are basically “self-taught” hobby genealogists. I hope many of you will take the class and feel the same. I know there are many distance learning courses in genealogy, and feel sure many of them are very worthwhile, but the “price is right” on this one and it’s Tennessee orientation makes it especially useful for those of us in the Volunteer State.

The screenshot displays the course page for 'Introduction to Genealogy - LIB-1001-01W' at Jackson State Community College. The page features a navigation bar with links like 'Getting Started', 'Course Home', and 'GoToClass'. Below the navigation bar, the course number '11502.201510' is listed. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'News', 'Class Content', and 'Library'. The 'News' section includes a welcome message and course details. The 'Class Content' section lists various topics such as 'Introduction', 'Digital Records', and 'Effective Use of Census Records'. The 'Library' section provides information about JSCC's online library services and a link to the library website.

Jackson State Community College
Introduction to Genealogy - LIB-1001-01W

Getting Started | Course Home | GoToClass | Communication | Academic Resources | Student Resources | Tools

Course # - 11502.201510

News
Genealogy 101
Welcome to
**Introduction to Genealogy:
Research Skills Using Tennessee Records**
Course Number LIB 1001-01W
Online Internet Course
3 Class Hours & 3 Credits

Class Content
Bookmarks Recently Visited
--Introduction
--Digital Records
--Effective Use of Census Records (part 1)
--Effective Use of Census Records (part 2)
--Vital Records and Newspapers
--Local Government Records
--Tennessee Land Records

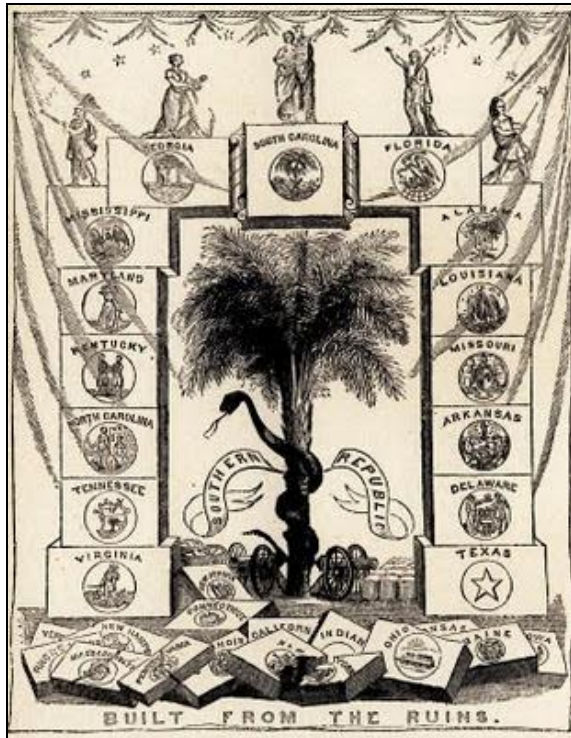
Library
JSCC's library offers many online services designed to help you find the information you need. Online students and on-campus students can use JSCC's online library services. Click on the library link <http://library.jsc.edu/> to access online library services.

eLearn Helpdesk Info.

Middle Tennessee Civil War Claims

From Wilson County

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*.

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

MAJOR A. PRICE

Price resided in Lebanon, Wilson County; age 73; claim filed in 1873; file consists of 58 pp.; claimed \$5,517 for wheat, blacksmith and wheelwright tools, cedar pickets, worm fencing, cordwood, six horses and four mules.

Commissioners' Remarks:

“Claimant is an old man born in 1800. He swears to his loyal sympathies, and to his opposition to secession. He was a contractor for carrying the mails of the Govt, and tried to carry them in 1861, but the Rebels took his stage horses and finally arrested him and put him on his good behavior. After our army arrived in Nashville he

was there for protection and was employed by proper authority to carry the mails, which he did to the best of his ability under the circumstances. As mail contractor he took the Iron Clad Oath. Two witnesses confirm claimant's statements and testify to his loyalty, and we see no reason to question it. His farm was some 20 miles from Nashville on the road to Lebanon, and in Nov. 1862 Gen. Crittenden's command encamped there for a week to ten days, when it is charged they took the supplies. The testimony however in support of the taking is meagre and unsatisfactory. One witness testifies that the wheat was in a granary and that the soldiers went there from time to time and took it off in sacks on their shoulders. And that is all[. F]or what it was used or by whose authority it was taken don't appear, and like the taking of the tools by soldiers, who

happened [to come] in[to] the shops, the taking seems properly chargeable to depredations. The taking of fences for firewood is proved. There was timber cut and used for firewood too, but how much or what is value don't appear in any definite and reliable shape. A witness says he saw five mules and two horses taken, but it don't appear there were any officers by, or what became of them or whether they were not returned. And another witness says that he did not see any horses or mules taken but he believes one mule was missing. This witness lived on the place. In view of the meagerness and uncertainty of the evidence we are unable to allow for horses and mules. We therefore allow only in full of claim \$917.25.

Notes:

Price says he has lived in Lebanon for 40 or 50 years and is a farmer, mail carrier and stage owner. "I was born near the line between Virginia and North Carolina, near the town of Danville ... in October 1800." Before the war he was a merchant as well as farmer, mail carrier and stage owner, but was compelled to quit the mercantile business. He lived in Lebanon throughout the war, except for times he had to go to Nashville to stay inside the Union lines and avoid danger from the Rebels. He furnished beds and food to U.S. soldiers and gave them information about the rebels. He could not always carry the mail on his route to Smithville, Alexandria and McMinnville because "sometimes the places were in the rebel lines and the mails could not be carried" there. "Passes and all the privileges granted to a loyal man were allowed me. I went north during the war to Louisville, Philadelphia and Washington...." In 1862 he went down from his home at Lebanon to his 700 acre farm at Silver Springs on the Lebanon Pike in order to take some stock to Nashville. While at the farm a rebel scouting party of Texas troops under Capt. Row arrested him and took him to Lebanon. The Texas troops treated him "very badly ... cursed, swore at and abused me as an Union[ist] and loyal man, but when I reached Lebanon among the influential citizens who knew me, I was treated very well." At Lebanon he was turned over on parole to U.S. Col. Bennett of Sumner County. "My stages were scattered throughout the country on mail routes and whenever the rebels could

they would stop the stages and take ... the horses, and in this way I lost a large number of horses...."

A letter from A.W. Price to Hon. Horace Maynard dated 14 Dec. 1874 is in the file. In it Price asks Maynard to assist in pressing his claim. "I am an old man and have been in the service of the U.S. Government all my life, and now in my old age I am almost strip[p]ed of every thing and am sadly in need of this amount due me from my country which I have always loved and been during all her trials true under all circumstances."

Witnesses:

- A.M. Witt, age 43, has lived in Lebanon 15 years. In Dec. 1862 he was living at Price's farm known as Silver Spring. It was just before the battle of Stone's River, and Gen. Crittenden was advancing on the Lebanon Pike toward Col. Price's farm. A great number of the command camped on and around the farm, the officers were at the house, and they stayed about ten days. The farm lay on both sides of the pike. He saw the rails burned at night as firewood, "and seemed to light up the heavens, so many fires were there burning. I remember looking out the window of my room and seeing them." This continued for ten days and nights. Witt's brother Robert procured guards to be posted around the house and garden, "but the same gave little or no protection."
- George Griffin, age 36, lived at Silver Springs on Col. Price's place during the entire war. He estimates 15,000 soldiers were camped on and around the place. Crittenden's headquarters was in the front yard. The wheat was in the granary under lock and key, amounting to 500 bushels. "It was carried off in bags and on the backs of the soldiers, each soldier going in and helping himself to what he wanted until all the wheat was taken." Soldiers went into the blacksmith shop and shod their horses and mules, and when they were finished they took the tools away with them. The small wood shop nearby was opened and soldiers rummaged in there and took away the wheelwright tools. "Even the work benches and floor of the shop were destroyed and torn up."

- W.S. Eatherly, age 32, Deputy County Surveyor of Wilson County. At Price's request he measured the amount of fencing destroyed by the army, which he estimates at 25,400 rails from rail fences and 737 poles and 22,100 rails from picket fences.
- Alexander Scovy, age 50, formerly the slave of Col. Stovy. Saw the soldiers burn the rails and cut timber on Col. Price's place.
- W.D. Fuqua, age 55, trader and dealer in tobacco, resides near Rome in Smith County. He has known claimant for 20 years or more and testifies to his loyalty. Other Union men of the area were Jordan Stokes and Orville Green.
- A.V.S. Lindsley, age 60, real estate agent, resides at Nashville. Has known claimant for 39 years. Lindsley was Secretary and Treasurer of the Lebanon and Nashville Turnpike during the war, and still is. He worked with Price to continue mail delivery when possible during the war.



**General Thomas Crittenden of Kentucky
made his headquarters in the yard of Major
Price's home in Wilson County.**

TURNER VAUGHAN

Vaughan resided in Laguado, Wilson County; age 68; claim filed in 1872; file consists of 75 pp.; claimed \$492 for blankets, dried fruit, oats, hay, corn and rye.

Commissioners' Remarks:

"The claimant is 68 years old. He swears that he voted against secession and adhered throughout to the Union. Two witnesses who were Union men and knew him well swear to his loyal conversation and reputation in

such a manner as produces conviction that they are sincere, earnest and truthful in their statements. The claimant testifies to the taking of the property charged by soldiers of Gen. Payne's command in the winter of 1863 & 4. He states that Gen. Payne told him he would get pay for them and that he entered them on his Memorandum Book at the time, and made out his account from those entries so made. Several witnesses testify that considerable quantities of forage were taken . . . from the claimant during that winter, but they do not [say] what quantities. Rejecting blankets and fruit as . . . depredation, we allow for grain and hay the sum of \$301."

Notes:

Vaughan has lived at Laguado all his life, and his plantation contains 200 acres. He voted against separation and secession. "I also

went to the polls to vote against Mr. Davis for President of the Confederate States but the polls were not open, and come near having a personal difficulty on the grounds that day because of my political sentiment." In addition to the items listed in his claim he lost "much other property besides, such as clothing, poultry, books" and rails. He was arrested by Gen. Payne's command and detained one night in 1863, but no charges were made." His nephews E.D, John and James Vaughn were in the rebel army. Another nephew, Clinton Copping, was in the federal army. Witnesses to the taking of his property were Lewis and Major Vaughan, B.C. Riffin and John Smith. He saw the property carried across the Cumberland River. There were 16 bed blankets and 8 sacks of dried apples and pears, among other items.

Paperwork from Vaughan's claim before the Driver Board is included in the file.



A letter to Hon. R.J. Meigs from Burrel Bender, written at Nashville 22 Dec. 1872, is in the file. Bender attests to Vaughan's loyalty and asks Meigs to assist with his claim. "He is an honorable man and you can rely on his statement." Endorsements on the back of the letter were made in January 1873 by Harry Smith and Jas. L. McKoin of Sumner County; Jordan Stokes of Nashville; and A.V.S. Lindsley of Nashville who states he has known Vaughan more than 30 years.

A letter from John H. Wager, Special Agent at McMinnville, to the Commissioner of Pension dated 28 Feb. 1874 states "It has been reported to me by Major Waters, State Internal Revenue Assessor, resident of McMinnville, Tenn. that Turner Vaughan ... who has a claim before the Claim Commission was a rebel."

A letter from Turner Vaughn at LaGuardo to Charles Benjamin of the Southern Claims Commission dated 11 Apr. 1876 is in the file. Vaughn mentions another claim he has pending before the government, for cattle taken valued at \$3,555, and says that \$25,000 would not compensate him for all he lost. "I have shown my fealty to the Gov. when it cost something to do it, and still am true. I never despaired of the Republic. My father Thos. Vaughan of Pittsylvania Co., Va., went thru the war of the Rev. and won a sword and I, his 7th son and last am his Rep. Away with secession its no remedy for any

wrong." He says that if the commissioners will grant his claim he will come to Philadelphia on July 4, 1876, to clasp hands with them.

Witnesses:

- B.C. Riggin, farmer, age 39, saw the property taken by Gen. Payne's troops in 1863 and 1864.
- John J. Smith, age 44, wheelwright, lives near Vaughan and saw the property taken.
- Louis Vaughan, colored, was living with Vaughan during the war and saw the property taken. "Vaughan had a fine [expanse?] of provender on his farm, and it was all taken by the U.S. Army. They also took Mr. Vaughn's clothing, books, furniture and etc."
- Major Vaughan, colored, age 33, farmer, lived on Vaughn's place when the property was taken. "They carried the articles to Cumberland River about two miles from the premises.... I am satisfied that they took them to Gallatin to their camp."
- John O. Cage, age 70, farmer, resides at Laguardo, has known claimant for 40 years, lived near him during the war. Testifies to claimant's loyalty. "He rendered himself very unpopular in that neighborhood where he lived with persons who were of a different political opinion."
- G.B. Wright, merchant, resides in Gallatin about six miles from Vaughan, has known claimant 12 years having met him about the time the war began. Witness was postmaster at Gallatin during the war "and knew all Union men in this section of the country."
- Allen states, "I was a rebel during the war and knew Turner Vaughan very well. I know he was a Union man because I heard him make a speech about the commencement of the war for the Union and against the secession. His reputation is and was during the war that of a Union man."
- W.F. Prosser, postmaster at Nashville, wrote a letter in support of Vaughn in 1873.



Every-Name Index

MTGS Journal

Volume XXVIII, 2014-2015

Indexed by Mary Lawrence

Introduction to the Index

We believe that every genealogical work requires a complete index, and to that end provide an every-name index in the fourth and final issue of each volume of the Journal. This index includes names, places and miscellaneous. Pagination of Volume XXVI began with page 1 in the Summer 2012 issue and continued through this issue. The following notes prepared during the indexing process will be helpful to the reader.

- Individuals identified in the records as *slaves/former slaves* are indexed with (slaves) entered after their name. Those without surnames are listed under *[Slave]* in the index.
- If the maiden name of a female is known, she is listed under both her married and maiden names.
- Names of Thompson family slaves are listed on a separate page.

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