

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OUR MEETING PLACE

Meetings are held at the Brentwood Library
8109 Concord Rd., Brentwood 37027
Meetings begin at 1:00
Members and visitors are always welcome.

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

Saturday, July 15th

1:00 p.m. Brentwood Library

Middle Tennesseans in the Mexican War and Repatriating 1846 Casualties

Dr. Derek Frisby

Join us for a look into one of the most exciting periods in Middle Tenn. history, when young men marched to Texas in great numbers. The fascinating story of recently exhumed soldiers' graves and their possible return home will also be told.

Saturday, Sept. 16th

Genealogy in the Round

A Roadshow/Roundtable Meeting

Pick your table in join subject experts for a discussion of: Beginning Genealogy, Computers in Genealogy, Lineage Societies, Research and Records or DNA.

Saturday, Nov. 18th

8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MTGS Annual Seminar

Tracing Your FamilyHistory: DNA, Legal Records and more

Presented by Judy G. Russell

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

Virginia Watson at ginnyology@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee *Journal of Genealogy & History*

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Contributors in this issue

Gale Williams Bamman
Dr. Mitzi Freeman
Jim Long
John E. Norvell
Peggie Sides
Virginia Gooch Watson

From the Editor. . .

It's a common saying among genealogists that ancestors who got into trouble leave a much wider trail of records than those who lived quiet, law-abiding lives. Author Jim Long has provided us with the fascinating case of Joseph Britt, who seems to have been a compulsive horse thief over many years in several counties.

The settlement of the estate of William Stephenson, who died in 1806, provides a great example of the value of neighborhood searching. The family and neighborhood connections drawn into the case numbered nearly 100 people in Smith and Sumner counties. And in that pioneer era, that was a hefty percentage of the total number of residents near what would become Hartsville in Trousdale County.

This issue brings us to the final chapter in the story of the Allison Murders, as researched so ably by Dr. Mitzi Freeman. This sad saga is another case where the records reach far beyond family and county boundaries to involve ancestors in many different families.

Also closing out in this issue is the final installment of the 1892 report on mining disasters in Tennessee. This one includes many tragic stories and some painful insight into the poverty in which miners often lived.

Please keep in mind that the Journal is made better by the contribution of articles and tidbits from our members – send yours today!

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.

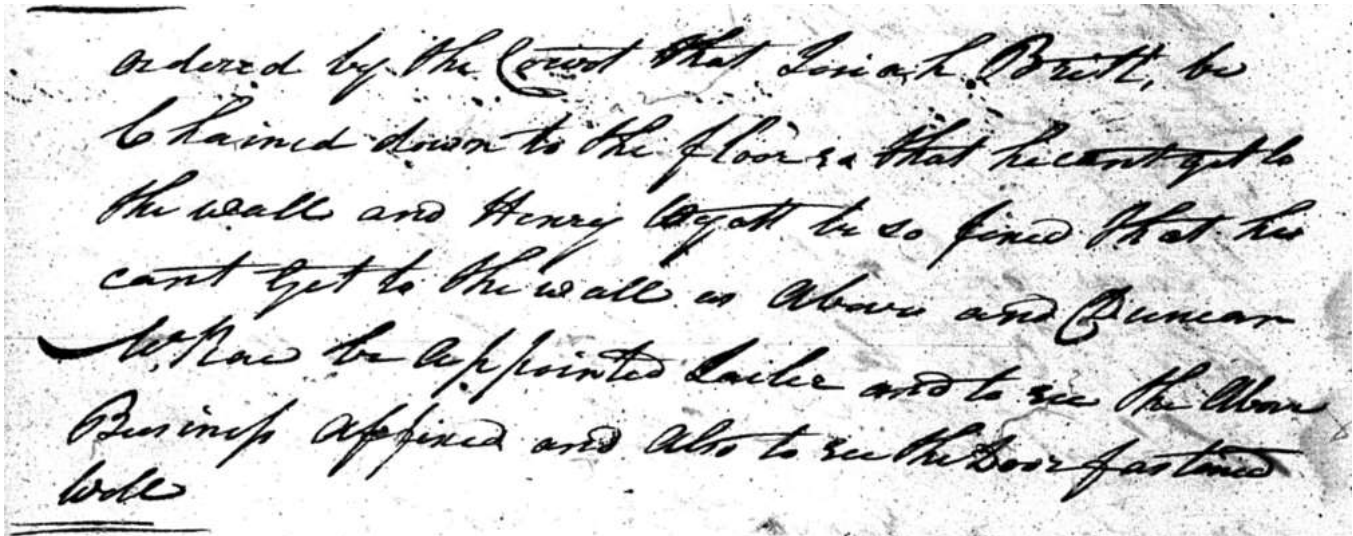
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Josiah Britt, Career Horse Thief?

by Jim Long

On February 5, 1811, the Justices of Stewart County Court meted out an unusual punishment against Josiah Britt and Henry Wyatt, who were being held in the Stewart County Jail:



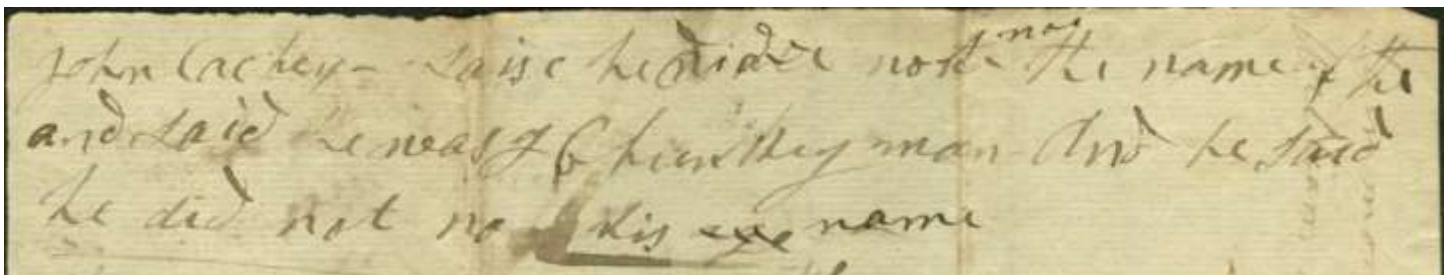
A photograph of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text is written on a piece of paper with some staining and is underlined at the bottom. The handwriting is somewhat slanted and difficult to read in places.

*Ordered by the Court that Josiah Britt, be
chained down to the floor so that he can't get to
the wall and Henry Wyatt be so fixed that he
cant get to the wall as above and Duncan
McRae be appointed Jailer and to see the above
Business Affixed and also to see the door fastened
well*

*"Ordered by the court that Josiah Britt be chained down to the floor so that he can't get to the wall, and Henry Wyatt be so fixed that he can't get to the wall as above, and Duncan McRae be appointed Jailer and to see the above business affixed, and also to see the door fastened well."*¹

Eleven days earlier, on January 25, 1811, Elizabeth Hudson had sworn out a complaint to the Stewart County Sheriff against Josiah Britt for stealing her horse, a brown bay mare, on November 20, 1810, the horse then believed to be in the possession of Henry Wyatt². When the Sheriff located Henry Wyatt for questioning, he claimed to have purchased the mare "of a traveling man whose name he was told was Britt." Later, however, he confessed to hiding the horse from the Sheriff's investigations, on behalf of Britt. Perhaps Wyatt had his suspicions about the true ownership of the horse!

John Lackey was summoned by the Stewart County Sheriff to give testimony about the suspect, Josiah Britt, and the Sheriff made the following notation on the back of the summons:



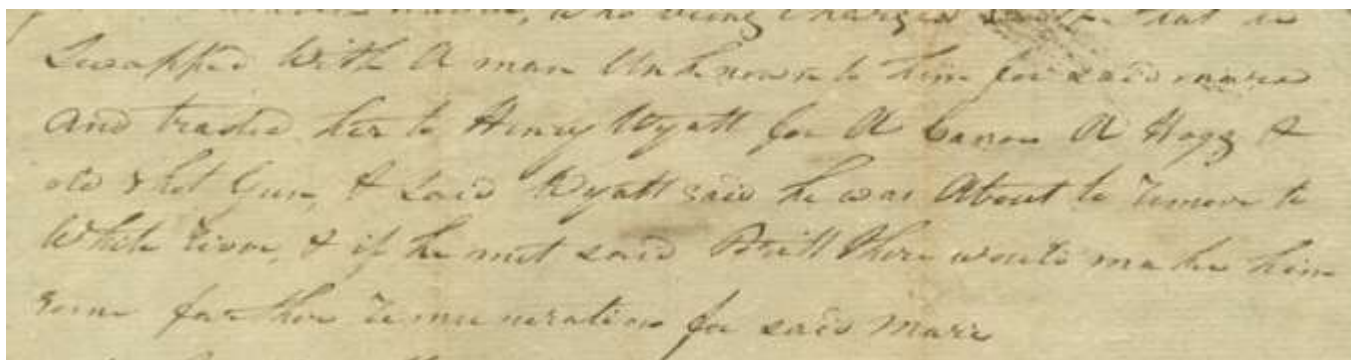
A photograph of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text is written on a piece of paper with some staining and is underlined at the bottom. The handwriting is somewhat slanted and difficult to read in places.

*John Lackey - said he did not know the name of the
and said he was of a chunky man and he said
he did not know his name*

*"John Lackey said he did not know the name of the [man] and said he was a chunky man. And he said he did not know his name."*³

Jim Long, MTGS board member and Webmaster, is a volunteer at the Stewart County Archives and has compiled 13 books of transcribed Stewart County records.

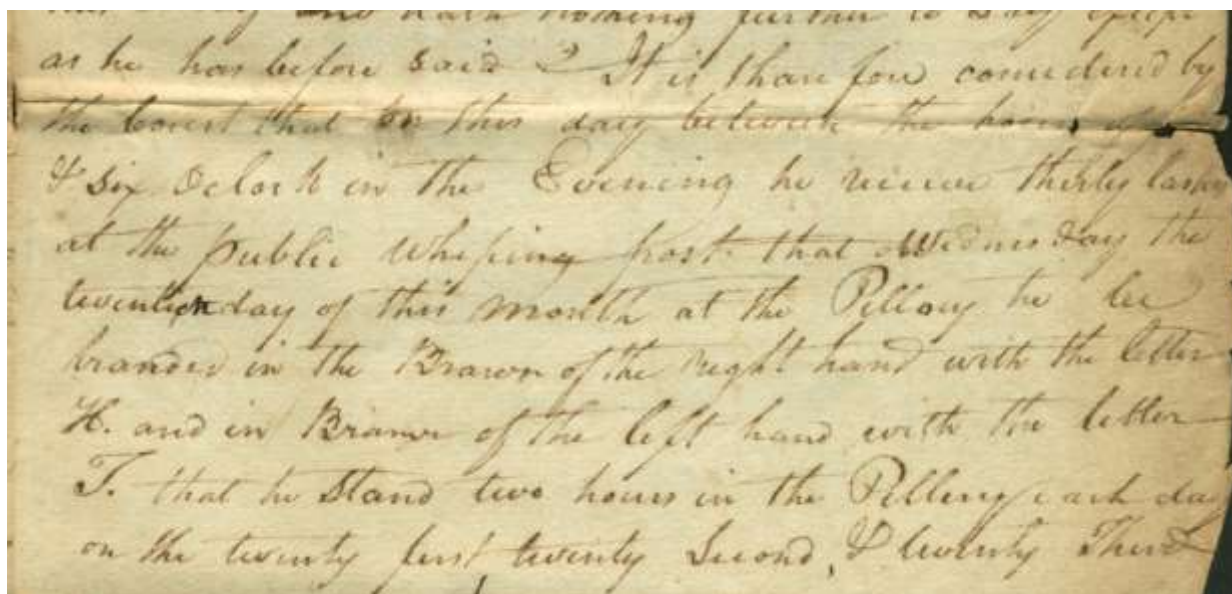
When the Stewart County Sheriff found and questioned Josiah Britt, he denied the theft, claiming that he had “swapped with a man unknown to him for said mare, and traded her to Henry Wyatt for a canoe, a hogg & old shot gun.” Britt further stated that Wyatt was preparing to remove to White River (possibly later Arkansas Territory) and that he would make further remunerations to him there if he met him.⁴



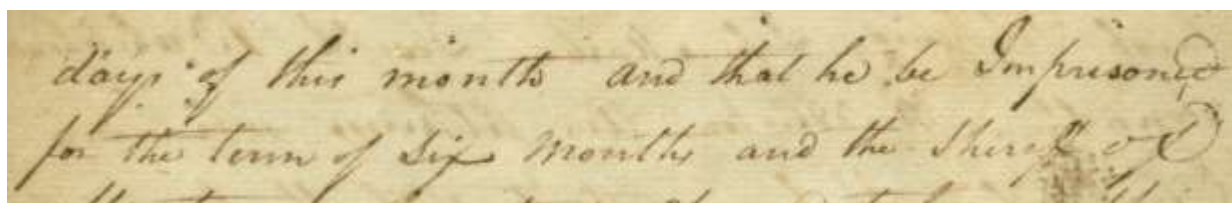
This image shows a handwritten document, likely a transcript of a court proceeding. The text is written in cursive and matches the quote provided in the text block above. It describes how Josiah Britt swapped a mare with an unknown man and traded it to Henry Wyatt for a canoe, a hog, and an old shot gun. It also mentions Wyatt's plans to move to White River and the promise of future remuneration.

Wyatt and Britt were in the Stewart County Jail from February 5 until March 28, 1811, when the Grand Jury indicted both of them: Britt for stealing the horse, and Wyatt for concealing it from the Sheriff. Henry Wyatt was soon found not guilty and was released.⁵ In May 1811, Duncan McRae was reimbursed by the Stewart County Court for his expenses in “ironing, guarding and finding provisions for Henry Wyatt and Josiah Britt while in the Jail of this county.”⁶

This was not Josiah Britt’s first conviction for horse-stealing: also in his Circuit Court case file at the Stewart County Archives is a transcript of a case heard in the Superior Court for Robertson District at Clarksville two years earlier, in June, 1809. Josiah Britt, laborer, of Dickson County, had been convicted of stealing a sorrel horse belonging to James Brown, and was put in the Montgomery County Jail. Four days after being jailed in Montgomery County, on June 10, 1809, Josiah Britt received this punishment:



This image shows a handwritten document detailing the punishment for Josiah Britt. The text is written in cursive and describes the conditions of his punishment, including public whipping and branding. It specifies that he was to stand in the pillory on the twenty first, twenty second, and twenty third days of the month.



This image shows the continuation of the handwritten document from the previous block. It specifies that Josiah Britt was to be imprisoned for the term of six months and that the Sheriff of the county was to be responsible for his care.

“It is therefore considered by the Court that on this day between the hours of five and six o'clock in the evening, he receive thirty lashes at the public whipping post; that Wednesday the twentieth day of this month at the Pillory he be branded in the Brawn of the right hand with the letter H, and in Brawn of the left hand with the letter T; that he stand two hours in the Pillory each day on the twenty first, twenty second & twenty third days of this month, and that he be Imprisoned for the term of six months.”⁷

The letters H and T branded on Josiah Britt's thumbs presumably stood for Horse Thief.

Josiah Britt's 1811 conviction may not even have been his second offense for horse stealing. Found in the 24 November 1806 edition of the *Weekly Raleigh Register* (NC) newspaper is this even earlier notice:

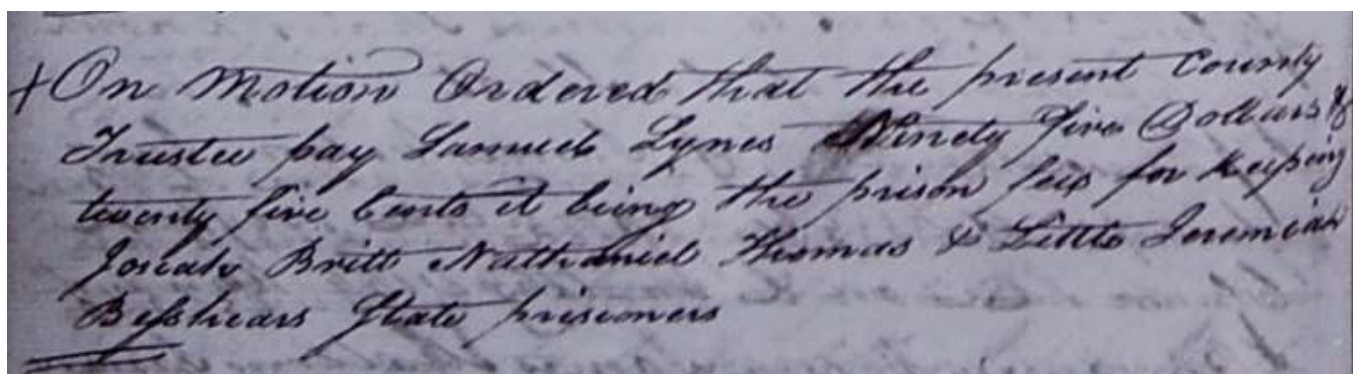
“STOLEN,
From the Subscriber on the 26th of
August last,
A Bright BAY HORSE, 4 years old last
Spring, about 5 feet 1 inch high; has on his
right shoulders, near his withers, a Roan
Spot nearly as big as a plate; his tail was
trimmed close and swabbed off at the
lower end. His gaits are trot and canter,
and when trotting dubs his hind feet. Had
on him a tolerable good Saddle, a spotted
saddle cloth, a girt and sirsingle – the pad
of the saddle is bound with red. The
man's name who is supposed to have
stolen the said horse is Josiah Britt. Said
Britt was raised in Bertie County, in or
about Windsor. He is a low, chunky man,
has dark hair, is supposed to be about 25
or 30 years of age. He had on short boots
with blunt toes, a pair of striped overalls,
a linen shirt, a dimity jacket, a homespun
mixed coat with a black cape, black
buttons and button-holes. Any person
who may bring me said man and horse, or
secure them, so that I get them, shall
receive a Reward of Forty Dollars, or for
either of them Twenty Dollars. From
William Hinnant, Sen.,
Near Smithfield, Johnston
county, NC. Nov. 1, 1806”⁸

n payment. A. WEATHERLY.
Guilford, Oct 11.

STOLEN,
From the Subscriber on the 26th of Au-
gust last,
A Bright BAY HORSE. 4 years
old last Spring, about 5 feet 1 inch
high; has on his right shoulders, near his
withers, a Roan Spot nearly as big as a
plate; his tail was trimmed close and
swabbed off at the lower end. His gaits
are trot and canter, and when trotting
dubs his hind feet. Had on him a tolera-
ble good Saddle, a spotted saddle cloth, a
girt and sirsingle—the pad of the saddle
is bound with red. The man's name who
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is Josiah Britt. Said Britt was raised in
Bertie county, in or about Windsor. He
is a low, chunky man, has dark hair, is
supposed to be about 25 or 30 years of age
He had on short boots with blunt toes, a
pair of striped overalls, a linen shirt, a
dimity jacket, a homespun mixed coat with
a black cape, black buttons and button-
holes. Any person who may bring me
said man and horse, or secure them, so that
I get them, shall receive a Reward of Forty
Dollars, or for either of them Twenty
Dollars, from WM HINNANT, sen.
Near Smithfield, Johnston
county, N.C. Nov. 1, 1806

TWO RUNAWAYS

Joseph Britt disappears from Stewart County records after his 1811 conviction there, but Montgomery County (TN) Court Minutes contain the following entry for July 19, 1814:



“On motion, ordered that the present County Trustee pay Samuel Lynes ninety five dollars & twenty five cents, it being the prison fees for keeping Josiah Britt, Nathaniel Thomas and Little Jeremiah Besshears, State prisoners.”⁹

Finding Josiah Britt

Circuit Court records for Montgomery County do not survive prior to the late 1800s, so further information about Josiah Britt’s 1814 conviction in Montgomery County is not available.

The 1806 Raleigh newspaper advertisement states that Josiah Britt was from Bertie County, NC. A marriage was recorded in Bertie County on 1 February 1797 between Josiah Britt and Priscilla Floyd.¹⁰ A Josiah Britt also appears in the 1800 census for Edgecombe Co., NC, aged 16-25 with a young wife and son.¹¹ These marriage and census records could be the same person as the 1806 ‘low, chunky’ 25-to-30-year-old horse thief.

At the same time as the 1806 Raleigh newspaper advertisement, a Josiah Britt appears in Robertson County, TN deed books. But this Josiah Britt appears to have been a successful and respectable sort, likely not our career horse thief.

A Josiah Britt appears in the 1807 poll tax list for Wilson County, TN, in Captain Joiner’s District¹². By paying a poll tax, we know that this Josiah Britt was over 21 years old, therefore of a comparable age to the Josiah in the 1800 Edgecombe County census. The Wilson Co. tax list, unfortunately, doesn’t tell us whether this Josiah Britt was a low, chunky man riding a bright bay horse when he came in to pay his taxes!

Josiah Britt’s whereabouts after his 1814 Montgomery County shenanigans are unknown. A thorough examination of jail records and criminal court proceedings is recommended to the reader.

End Notes:

1 – Stewart County, Tenn., *County Court Minutes 1810-1812*, page 29; Stewart County Archives.

2, 3, 4, 5, 7 – *State of Tenn. vs. Josiah Britt*, Stewart County, Tenn. Circuit Court case file, 1811; Stewart County Archives.

6 – Stewart County, Tenn., *County Court Minutes 1810-1812*, page 49; Stewart County Archives.

8 – *Weekly Raleigh Register* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 24 November 1806, digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

9 – Montgomery County, Tenn., *County Court Minutes 1813-1815*, page 164. Montgomery County records, microfilm reel 37, Tenn. State Library and Archives.

10 - North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Bertie County Marriage Bonds-Abstracts 1764-1867, page 8; digital image, *Ancestry.com*.

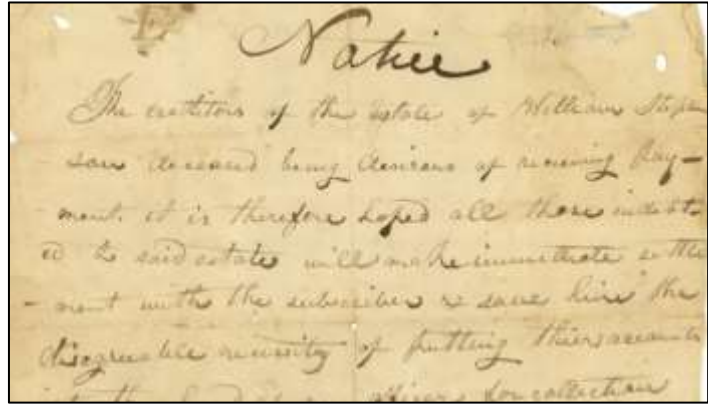
11 – 1800 U.S. Census, Edgecombe Co., North Carolina, Halifax District, page 184, Josiah Britt household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*.

12 – Partlow, Thomas. *Tax Lists of Wilson County, Tennessee, 1803-1807, with names in court records . . .* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), page 109.

William Stephenson's Estate Settlement, 1806

Land Dispute Involves Smith and Sumner County Pioneers

One of the earliest surviving case files from the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals (Third District) at Sparta in White County arose out of the settlement of the estate of William Stephenson.¹ The large file contains more than 400 pages of documents dating from 1805 to 1816. Although the case itself reveals genealogical facts about several families, it has value for an even greater number of descendants of the scores of pioneers who were involved in some tangential way. Neighbors and relatives who gave testimony, bought property at the estate sale or witnessed documents. Because the written record of this period is so scant, the Stephenson case allows us to document the presence of many early Tennesseans whose names may not appear elsewhere.



Manuscript copy of the notice of William Stephenson's estate settlement, 1806. Samuel Miller was paid for printing the notice.

The lawsuit was simple enough at its heart: a minor child sued the administrators of her father's estate, claiming they handled his property in a dishonest way and squandered her inheritance. But, as is often true, the devil was in the details. Because cash money was scarce, William Stephenson had dealt in notes of credit. These notes were passed around and transferred from person to person, creating a complex web of debts. Moreover, land was also the currency of this time and place. Stephenson was supposedly the owner of a large tract of land, but his ownership was complicated by conflicting claims, the practice of pledging of portions of the land to pay off other debts even before the land itself was paid for, and the difficulty of getting records from the land office in North Carolina. All of these problems created more activity in the lawsuit, and drew in more people, creating a trove of records which gratify the genealogist today.

The Family: Stephensons, Brandons and Irwins

We learn from the case file that William Stephenson (also spelled Stevenson and Steverson) lived on the line between Smith and Sumner counties. His wife was Esther, the daughter of William and Hannah Brandon. The Brandons lived in the same neighborhood. William and Esther had one child, Irene, who was at the heart of the case. William died on Saturday in the fall of 1806. After he died, Esther moved back to her father's home and Hugh B. Stephenson moved into William's former home. Hugh was probably William's brother, as one witness said that "one of his brothers" planned to move onto the place after the estate sale. John Stephenson also lived on that land; possibly John was there before William. There are also references to W. Hugh Stephenson and "old Mr. Stephenson" in an 1808 letter from James Oglesby, indicating there were two men named Hugh and one of them may have been the father or uncle of the other. A further complication appears in the deposition of Elisha Jones, taken in 1815 "at the house of

¹ *Irene Stephenson by her next friend John Ervine v. Wilson Yandle, John Carr, James Turpin, Jesse Turpin and Francis Marshall*, Tenn. Supreme Court Case Files, Record Group 191, Middle Tenn. box 2. Tenn. State Library & Archives. By Oct. 1814 King Carr was added to the list of defendants.

John Stephenson, son of John Stephenson.” The relationship between William, W. Hugh, Hugh B. and John is not stated in the file, but it is clear that they are part of the same family of Stephensons.

William Brandon was a Revolutionary War officer and pensioner. His pension file shows his birth in Rowan County, North Carolina on 13 May 1748. He came to Tennessee from that part of Rowan which became Iredell County, settling in Smith County about 1800. Brandon applied for a pension in August 1836 and died less than a month later. His surviving children pressed the pension claim, and their names were: Esther Irwin; Margaret Pike; Jane Starns, Sarah Pursley, William Brandon, John Brandon and Mary Irwin.² According to a descendant’s post on Rootsweb, his wife was Hannah Irwin.³ Certainly the Irwin, Brandon and Stephenson families were closely connected.

Esther Brandon was born ca. 1783 in Rowan County, and married William Stephenson some time before 1804, when their daughter Irene was born. Whether they met and married in North Carolina or Tennessee is unknown. We do not know the birthdate of William Stephenson or his age at death, but he left a widow aged about 23 and a daughter, Irene, about two years old.⁴

Sometime before Sept. 1813 the widow, Esther Brandon Stevenson, remarried to John Irwin (or Erwin). Irwin became Irene Stephenson’s “next friend” in pressing the case against William Stephenson’s administrators. Oddly, one of those administrators was his wife, Irene’s mother. Other records show that Esther and John Irwin had several children, including Matilda (born 1816) and a younger son known as A.A. Erwin.⁵

On 12 July 1826 in Sumner County Matthew Erwin took out a license to marry Irene Stephenson. His bondsmen were Elan A. Erwin and James Robb. According to Irene’s pension application file, they were married at Hartsville by Rev. John Wiseman. Irene’s half-siblings Matilda and A.A. Irwin were present at the ceremony. Matthew was a War of 1812 veteran and somewhat older than his wife. He gave his age as 74 when he filed for bounty land in 1855 (indicating birth in 1781), however in the 1860 census his age is shown as 61 (indicating birth in 1799).⁶ The latter date would make him only 15 years of age when discharged from the service in 1814, which is unlikely.

Matthew and Irene Erwin moved to McNairy County, Tenn., about 1850 and from there to Lawrence County, Missouri, where he died in 1861. The 1860 census shows that they owned two slaves. In her later years Irene lived with her daughter, Hettisha, Mrs. Henry Sears. She died 18 Jan. 1897 in Johnson County, Arkansas.⁷

William Stephenson’s Wheeling and Dealing

In 1803 William Stephenson made a deal with James Oglesby, agreeing that within two years he would either pay Oglesby \$600 or he would transfer 50 acres of land to him. What Stephenson got out of this deal is unclear, but he may have borrowed \$600, or livestock or goods worth that amount, from Oglesby. Stephenson died without ever making good on this debt. There is no indication that Stephenson actually owned any land in 1803, but Oglesby must have thought he could get some.

² Pension Application, 29 Aug. 1836, file S3082, William Brandon; Revolutionary War Pension Application Files; National Archives; digital images *Fold3.com*, pp. 4, 5 and 8.

³ “John Crain, son of Ambrose Crain of Georgia,” entry 30748, *Rootsweb World Family Tree*, by Randy Crain (rootsweb.com).

⁴ :“Elliott Family Tree,” entry 13417, *Rootsweb World Family Tree*, by Ruth Ann Elliot, gives Irene’s birth as 6 Sept. 1804 but cites no source for the information (rootsweb.com). In the Lawrence Co., Missouri census of 1860 she gave her age as 52. Lawrence Co MO, Greene Twp, #618, p.120 (hand) In her pension file, she stated in 1878 that she was 80 years old. I

⁵ Pension Application, 17 May 1878, certificate #24208, Irene Erwin, War of 1812 Pension Application Files; National Archives; digital images *Fold3.com*. Includes affidavits of siblings Matilda McMahon (1 Jan. 1879) and A.A. Erwin (12 Feb. 1879).

⁶ Pension Application of Irene Erwin. Includes bounty land application of Matthew Erwin (8 June 1855).

⁷ Pension Application of Irene Erwin.

James Turpin was a member of the original surveying party that founded Nashville. He was killed by Indians in 1780 and in 1783 a warrant for a 640 acre land grant for his services was issued.⁸ James Turpin left his sons Jesse and John as heirs. The Turpin brothers had tried to make arrangements to use the warrant to claim a specific tract of land on Goose Creek. Something had gone wrong in the paperwork, and in 1805 they still didn't have the grant document that would give them title to the land. Despite this uncertainty, Stephenson agreed to purchase the Turpins' rights to the property. Also for reasons unclear, William Stephenson was already living on the property at that time. To make it even more complicated, several other people also had their eyes on that property, or parts of it, and had filed conflicting claims.

In 1805 Jesse Turpin arrived at the home of William Donelson; he spent the night and in the morning William Stephenson arrived to meet with him. Donelson heard the two discuss the sale of the land warrant in return for a "blue strawberry roan horse" and a \$50 note.

Roan horses can be of any color, roan being a pattern rather than a color itself . . . Blue roan horses have a black base coat with white hairs fairly evenly distributed throughout the main body.

www.horse-genetics.com

Stephenson took the horse to the Turpins soon after the deal was made, but it became sick along the way with a disease called the Yellow Water. Later that day Turpin and Donelson set off for Nashville, Turpin riding his new horse. The next day the horse was poorly and Turpin decided to take it back to Donelson's where he could care for it. The horse died on the way back. Jesse Turpin believed he'd been cheated and declared the sale was off, but he did not take official steps to revoke the deed. Stephenson died without paying the \$50, leaving the deal in limbo.

Around the same time, William Stephenson gave his promissory note for \$225 or 60 acres of land (this very same land he sort-of bought from the Turpins), in return for a loan or purchase of something from John Stephenson. William never paid up, and at the time of his death John claimed 60 acres of the Turpin land.

William Stephenson told John Stephenson that his whole financial well-being rested on being able to get a title to the Turpin land. In John's words, William said "he would probably fall through" (become insolvent) if that transaction failed. With his affairs in this precarious state, and a new baby at home, William died in September of 1806.

Settling William Stephenson's Estate

Because he died without a will, it was necessary for the Smith County Court of Common Pleas to appoint an administrator for the Stephenson estate. Esther and her mother determined that their neighbor, Dr. William Yandle (or Yandell) would be the most trustworthy person to perform that function. On the day after the funeral, they sent Robert Payne to ask the doctor to come and help take an inventory of the personal property of the estate. Yandle came out of his house and spoke with Payne at the fence, and at first declined. He was aware of the precarious state of William Stephenson's finances, and he did not want to get involved. Payne told Yandle that the family wanted to conduct the inventory before the Brittain family arrived, as they would "make a fuss." (It's not clear how the Brittain family were connected, but this comment indicates they may have been related to William or Esther Stephenson.) Yandle finally agreed to assist. The inventory was taken on Sept. 16th with Payne and others identifying the items and Yandle making the written record. He listed the following items:

An Inventory of the Estate of William Stephenson Deceased made out September 16th 1806

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 mare & colt | 3 head of sheep | 1 waggon & hind gears |
| 1 cow & calf | 18 head of hogs | 3 falling axes |
| 1 two year old heffer | 13 ducks | 1 bed & furniture |

⁸ PREEMPTION GRANT. <http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/courtrecords.html>

3 Hayward 109, 123. Carthage. December 1816; 5 Hayward 261, Carthage. December 1818.
Case from Stewart Co.



The Country Auction

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 bedstead | 1 killing hoe | 2 hats |
| 1 cubord | 1 set of razors | 1 pair boots |
| 3 cups & 5 saucers | 1 strap & case | 1 pair spurs |
| 4 bowls | 1 razor | 1 jack plaine |
| 2 pitchers | 1 hand saw | 1 Piken Haywood's querys |
| 1 suggar dish | 1 ivory comb | 1 pair bridle reigns |
| 2 small servers | 1 old bell | 1 seekle |
| 1 bred basket | 1 pair cotton cards | 26 barels corn |
| 1 tea pot | 1 big wheel spindle | 1 parcel of flax |
| 1 glass tumbler | 2 cloath coats | 1 padlock |
| 2 salt sellers [<i>sic</i>] | 1 pair casemen overalls | 1 half set double trees |
| ½ dozen blue plates | 1 casemen jacket | 2 freson 4 lb wool |
| 6 tea spoons | 1 swan down jacket | 1 barel short corn |
| 4 large spoons | 1 home spun coat | 1 old razor & knife |
| 4 white plates | 1 pair home spun overalls | Small quantity walnut plank |
| 1 wash tub | 1 mosalus jacket | 400 feet poplar plank |
| 2 mens saddles | 1 pair striped overalls | 1 collard patch |
| 1 wowmans saddle | 1 striped jacket | 2 blind bridles |
| 1 pr fire dogs | 1 silk jacket | 1 small keg |
| 1 flax wheel | 1 cotton jacket | |
| 1 looking glass | 3 pr stockings | |

In addition to this property, the inventory included notes and bonds due the estate in the names of: William Cowan, John Stephenson, John Taylor, A. Brittain, James Nolan, Wm. Duty [Duly, Deely?]; Sam Gottard; and Jesse Turpin.

Once the inventory was complete, Esther was eager to hold an estate sale. Yandle advised against it, saying it was improper to do so until the court had appointed an administrator. But the widow was in a hurry, and was not willing to wait until the quarterly court convened in December. She wanted to sell the property so she could leave the place, and let one of William's brothers move into her house. On November 6th Esther held an estate sale. Yandle wanted nothing more to do with the estate by this time, and did not come to the sale. But when it was time to start and Esther realized he was not present, she held up the proceedings and sent for him. Yandle reluctantly came, but he made sure that all the transactions were made in Esther's name, not his. He knew someone had to help Esther, observing later that: "she could not write or calculate; she was imprudent and did not know how to handle business." The sale brought \$493 in cash and notes due.

Esther continued asking Dr. Yandle to administer her late husband's estate. He kept refusing and suggesting others for the job. He even went to see John Mills and asked if Mills would handle the business. Mills declined and asked him why the widow's father or some of his brothers did not do it. Yandle replied that the widow and her mother said Mr. Brandon was "subject to get drunk and was not capable to do such business, and they thought his brothers was not men of sense." Hugh Stephenson offered to step in, but the widow turned him down. In the end, Yandle capitulated. On December 1, 1806, the Smith County Court appointed William Yandle and Esther Stephenson co-administrators of William Stephenson's estate.

Sale of the Turpin Land

Esther Stephenson was determined to get the matter of the Turpin land settled. Yandle advised her to wait, but she insisted on suing the Turpins in order to force a sheriff's sale of the property. In December 1807 the Court of Common Pleas decided in Esther's favor, valued the land at \$1,890, and ordered a sale. Esther's idea was to purchase the land herself and pay for it with the proceeds of the estate sale. Yandle warned her that the estate was in debt to James Oglesby and others, and she could not count on all the money from the sale. He also pointed out that there were conflicting claims for parts of the land. But Esther was determined. At the sale, Yandle asked Hugh Stephenson to reason with Esther and advise her against bidding more than the value of her warrant (the value of the horse and \$50 William had originally agreed to pay for the land). But when Hugh tried to speak to Esther about the matter, her father became angry and urged her to bid the full value of the land. Esther was bidding against John Carr, who had already purchased two other claims to the same piece of property and was trying to get a clear title.

Esther bought the land, but later learned that she had only purchased the part that lay in Sumner County. The Smith County land had to be sold separately by that sheriff. Once Esther had the land, James Oglesby immediately sued her for the \$600 William Stephenson owed him. She couldn't pay for the land she's bought, and the two sheriffs each had to hold another sale. In these later sales, the land went very cheap (probably because everyone now knew there were conflicting claims). John Carr and William Yandle ended up purchasing for very little the land Esther had risked so much for.

Yandle said later that he bid on the land because he realized the Stephenson estate was going to be insolvent, and he was afraid that as co-administrator he would personally become responsible for Esther's debts. He even went so far as to sue Esther in 1809 for the amount she owed the estate, for a few items she had purchased at the estate sale. Esther grew to believe that Yandle, Oglesby and Carr had all colluded to cheat her out of her property. In the name of her daughter, Jane, she sued them. A long and bitter series of depositions and trials followed, and appears to have involved nearly everyone in the neighborhood in one way or another.

After Yandle and Carr purchased the land, they sold it to Francis Marshall. Witnesses Henry Featherstone said that the greater part of the land was hilly and broken, and "I believe has the poison on it that kills the horses and cattle." Josiah Marshall, who owned part of the land by 1814, said the land was "very much broken with spurs of knobs and water marks through it & I believe it has what is called the Goose Creek poison on it." Carr and Yandle also sold to Marshall an adjoining tract of 24 acres that had a good spring and a "distillery seat" on it.

In the end, the Supreme Court ignored all the minor issues and focused on one key point: Irene Stephenson, a minor, had never had a guardian appointed to look after her interest in the estate of her father. Because she was his only blood heir, the actions taken by Esther and Yandle should have been done with the advice and consent of Irene's legal guardian. Because there was no guardian, all the transactions related to the sale of the land were declared null and void. Further, because Turpin had accepted the blue roan horse from William Stephenson, (and Yandle later paid Turpin the \$50 which was still due), that sale was valid. Irene was the owner of the Turpin land; Esther's unwise

purchase was as if it had never happened; Carr and Yandle owned no part of the Turpin's claim despite all their buying and selling.⁹

Following is a list of the people mentioned in this extensive case file, with a brief description of their involvement.

| | |
|---|--|
| Alexander, Richard Yandle asked him to administer the Stephenson estate, but he declined; testified in Sumner Co. in 1814. | Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1813, 1814. |
| Allen, Grant Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808; called to testify in 1814, but no deposition in file. | Bowen, John H. William Stephenson's estate paid him for legal services in 1808; partner in Bowen & Beck; shown both as John C and John H. Deposition taken in Washington, D.C. in 1814. |
| Allen, John & Robert William Stephenson's estate paid them for an outstanding debt in 1806. | Bradley, John Justice of the Peace; swore out warrants against William Hickerson in 1814. Probably in Smith Co. |
| Allen, Robert Clerk in Smith Co. who copied lower court records for the Supreme Court in 1812; called to testify but no deposition in file. | Brandon, Hannah Mother of Esther Stephenson; in 1806 she went to see Yandle to ask him to administer her son-in-law's estate, according to W.P. Lawrence deposition. |
| Baker, John Testified in 1814 regarding William Hickerson's insolvency. | Brandon, William Father of Esther Stephenson; attended sale of Turpin land in 1806 with Esther. |
| Banks, Thomas Juror, Smith Co., 1808. | Brittain, A. His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806 in 1806. |
| Barr, John Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1814. | Brittain [also Britton], Richard In 1800, owned property adjoining the land on Goose Creek entered by the Turpins; assisted with inventorying the property prior to Stephenson's estate sale; the estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806; in 1807 he bought a claim on 60 acres of William Stephenson's land from John Stephenson. |
| Barr, Mr. Possibly a chain carrier, somehow involved with the 1796 survey of the disputed land, referenced in John Payton's deposition. | Britten, Mr. Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806. |
| Barry, Redmond D. Served "as attorney in fact" for John Hickerson in 1811; in 1813 he took Yandle's place in asking questions during Jesse Wharton's deposition. | Brothers, Mr. Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806. |
| Beck, Mr. Bowen & Beck did legal work for the Turpins in 1808. | Burford, Daniel Register of Deeds, Smith Co.; he charged the estate \$1 to write a deed in 1807. |
| Benford[?], Daniel H. Juror, Smith Co., 1808. | Carr, John One of the defendants in the case; prior to 1804 he purchased 200 acre grant from David Berry's attorney William Hall; later purchased King Carr's share of the Turpin land from Robert Hamilton, and the Turpins made their deed to him, the Turpin land overlapped the Berry land; purchased James Oglesby's claim to part of the same land, which Oglesby obtained by suing Stephenson estate; purchased Stephenson's IOU to the Turpins. |
| Berry, David Was granted 200 (or 400?) acres which he sold by his attorney William Hall to John Carr prior to 1804; this land overlapped the Turpin grant. | Carr, Richard Witnessed deed from Stephenson to Oglesby in 1804. |
| Birch, William Assigned his military grant for 228 acres to Joseph Williams sometime before 1796. | Carr [also Karr, Kerr], King Surveyed the land claimed by Turpins; was due 1/3 of the land or 220 acres for his services; sold his claim to Robert Hamilton. |
| Black, James William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806. | |
| Black, S[arah?] P. Purchased poplar plank for \$493 at Stephenson estate sale in 1806. | |
| Blythe, Samuel K. | |

⁹ Haywood, John. *Reports of cases argued and adjudged in the Court of Errors and Appeals of the State of Tennessee, from the year 1816 to 1817*. Vol. 3. (Knoxville: Heiskell & Brown, 1818) p.103-107.

Subpoena issued in Sumner Co. for him in 1811; deposition in file but not dated. According to John Payton, Carr was part of the 1796 survey team in the Goose Creek area.

Cawden, William

Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Chamberland, William

William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Chamberlin, William

Juror, Smith Co. in 1808.

Cowan, William

His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806.

Dale, Adam

Depositions were taken at his house in Smith Co. in 1814; he carried depositions from Wilson Co. to Supreme Court at Carthage, 1814.

Dixon, C.

Carried depositions from Smith Co. to Supreme Court at Carthage, 1814.

Donelson (also Donaldson), William

Lived about 10 miles from Nashville Jesse Turpin and William Stephenson met at his house in 1805 and transacted the sale of Turpin's land; witnessed sale from Turpins to Stephenson; William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806. He and Turpin appear to have been connected, as Turpin stayed at his home, rode to Nashville with him, and it was Donelson who wrote to Turpin asking him to come back from Kentucky to settle with Yandle; in 1818 James Turpin postponed a hearing because Donelson's testimony was needed; James said he had stopped by Donelson's house on the way to court to get him, but Donelson had gone into Cherokee territory in search of a runaway slave; Donelson testified in Sumner Co. in 1814.

Donoho, Charles

Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co.; William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806; depositions were taken at his house in 1814.

Donoho, Francis

Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Dorris, Thomas

William Stephenson's estate paid him \$5 for going to Kentucky to notify the Turpin brothers that they needed to come to Tennessee and settle with the estate..

Dorris, William

Testified in 1813 that in 1806 he had gone with William Stephenson to William Donelson's place where they met Jesse Turpin, he witnessed sale from Turpins to Stephenson; Jesse Turpin entrusted him with Stephenson's note for \$50; the document was lost but Turpins came to Carthage about 1808 and got Dorris to swear to its contents; in 1813 Samuel Galloway recalled meeting William and Anny Stephenson at Dorris' house about 1806; of Sumner Co.

Douglas, William H.

Sheriff Hall of Sumner Co. asked him to "cry the land" following the court's decision against the Turpins in 1808; testified in 1813 and 1814.

Duty [Duly, Deely?], William

His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806.

Eubanks, William

He purchased a note for corn from James Oglesby in 1810; corn was grown by Elisha Jones, who testified in 1815.

Evitts, Moses

Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Faizzen, John

Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Featherston, Charles

Testified in 1814 that he lives 22 miles from Carthage; Yandle was at his house in Feb. 1809 when Esther bought the Turpin land.

Featherstone, Henry

Testified in Smith Co. in 1814 that he went with Yandle, James Carr and Francis Marshall to view the land in dispute; Marshall offered to buy it and the deed was written at Featherstone's house.

Ford, Zachariah

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., 1808.

Forrester, George

Juror, Smith Co. , 1808.

Frazor, William

Testified in Sumner Co. in 1814 that William Stevenson passed Frazor's house in the fall of 1805, and they discussed his blue roan horse that was either ill or tired.

Galloway, Samuel

Testified in 1813 in Sumner Co. that he had met with William Stephenson in 1806. Stephenson was on his way to meet Turpin about buying the land on Goose Creek where Stephenson was already living; sometime later he saw William and Anny Stephenson at Dorris' house, and William told witness he was going to Col. Donaldson's on the same business. William returned to Dorris' house the same day without the blue roane horse. Two days later Jesse Turpin spent the night at Galloway's house and said the horse had died and he had been cheated.

Galt, Samuel

Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Gillespie [Gilespy], Richard G.

Lived with Dr. Yandle and studied "Physik" under him in 1806; he wrote out most of the notes for people who bought on credit at the Stephenson estate sale; testified in Sumner Co. in 1814.

Givan, William

Justice of the Peace for Smith Co., took depositions in 1814.

Gordon, John

Called to testify in 1816 but no deposition in file. Smith Co.

Gottard, Sam

His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806.

Greer, Andrew
Justice of the Peace in Smith Co.; William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806; testified regarding William Hickerson's insolvency in 1814; depositions taken at his home in 1814.

Grundy, Mr.
In 1818 was employed by John Carr as attorney, but was sick and could not come to court.

Hall, E.S.P.[?]
Justice of the Peace in Davidson County, 1811.

Hall, William
Served as attorney for David Berry in land transaction pre-1804; High Sheriff of Sumner Co. in 1806 when the Turpin land was sold at auction; testified in 1813.

Hamilton, John C.
Lawyer on behalf of the Stephenson estate for James Oglesby's suit; supported Yandle by advising the widow against suing the Turpins.

Hamilton, Robert
Purchased King Carr's share of the Turpin land in 1801; he sold the same to John Carr in 1803; testified in Sumner Co. in 1814.

Hart, James
Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1814.

Hass, Henry
Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Haynie, William
Testified regarding William Hickerson's insolvency; said he had seen four warrants sworn out against Hickerson by John Bradley, Esq.

Hazen, Asa
Depositions were taken at his home in Carthage in 1814.

Henderson, B.H.
Provided legal advice to Yandle about managing the Stephenson estate; witnessed John Hickerson's bond in 1811.

Henderson, Bennett
William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Herring, Redden Blount
Yandle hired him to go to North Carolina and get the land grant document for the Turpin land; he was paid \$4 for making the trip ca. 1807.

Hibbits, James
Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., 1808; Hugh Stephenson's deposition was taken at Hibbits' home in 1813.

Hickerson, John
Signed as security for John Irwin in suit against Yandle in 1811; Yandle claimed that Hickerson was deeply in debt and had said that he would default and leave the country if Irwin lost the suit; Andrew Greer confirmed this, and said Hickerson refused to be a security unless William Brittain would join him; Wm. Kearley testified that Hickerson was going to sell his land in Smith Co. to Giles Holt and give the money to his friend Somersett to hide;

William Haynie and John Baker also testified about Hickerson's insolvency in 1813.

Hogan, A.S.
Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., 1808.

Hoit, James
William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Holt, Giles
In 1810 Elisha Jones hired Holt to measure his corn crop of James Oglesby's land; said to be planning to purchase land of William Hickerson in Smith Co. in 1814.

Hood, James
William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Houston, Robert
Justice of the Peace for Knox Co., depositions taken at his home in Knox Co. in 1814.

Howard, James
Testified in 1814 that he did not serve as a deputy for Sheriff Hall of Sumner Co., and that neither Yandle nor Carr asked Howard to prevent the widow Stephenson from bidding on the Turpin land.

Howell, Josiah
Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., 1808.

Irwin, Alexander
Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Irwin (also Erwin), John
Married Esther, widow of William Stephenson. Was Irene Stephenson's "next friend" in suit.

Johnson, Joseph
Justice of the Peace in Wilson Co.; took deposition in 1814.

Jones, Elisha
Testified in Sumner Co. in 1815 that in 1810 he rented the "plantation" where James Oglesby formerly lived near Hugh Stephenson on Goose Creek.

Kearley, William
Testified regarding William Hickerson's insolvency in 1814.

Kennedy, Alexander
Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Lawrence (also Laurence), William P.
Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., took deposition; also testified in 1814 that he had advised Yandle not to take on the administration of Stephenson's estate, as it was at risk of insolvency.

Lawson, Moses
William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Lyon, Henry
Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Marshall, Francis
Purchased part of the Turpin land from Yandle and John Carr in 1810 (land formerly owned by Wm. Birch); said he did not know the title to the Turpin land was in dispute; was one of the

defendants in Irene's suit; filed his answer in 1812; lived in Sumner Co.

Marshall, Josiah

Testified in Sumner Co. in 1814 that he was present when Francis Marshall bought the land in dispute; Josiah owned part of the land and lived there along with Francis.

Martin, Brice

His land adjoined David Berry's grant, which overlapped the Turpin's grant.

Martin, John L.

Testified in Smith Co. in 1814; was present when Esther Stephenson presented the account of the estate inventory and sale, with her security Frances Patterson; was present at the sale of the Turpin land and saw William Payne bidding against Esther; Martin advised Oglesby to take the land in payment of his claim.

Martin, William

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808. Called to testify in 1814, but no deposition in file.

Matlock, George

Received payment from Stephenson estate in 1808; executed a subpoena on John L. Martin in Smith Co.; was called to testify in 1816 but no deposition in file.

McWherter, George M.

Testified in Wilson Co. in 1814 that he attended the estate sale, and when Yandle did not arrive Esther Stephenson asked McWherter to keep a record of the sale; Esther's father later asked him to trace the lines of the Turpin property, he did this and it took a full day; in 1807 John Stephenson and Richard Britton asked him to write a contract between them regarding land.

Miller, Samuel

Paid for printing notice of Stephenson estate in 1806.

Mills, John

Testified in 1814 that William Yandle had asked him to administer the Yandle estate

Mitchel, John

Innkeeper in Gallatin; witnessed sale from Turpins to Stephenson in 1805; depositions were taken at his home in 1813.

Montgomery, William

Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1813, 1814.

Moore, William

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co., took depositions in 1813.

Morgan, Charles

Deputy sheriff, Sumner Co. in 1814

Murray, Thomas

Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., 1814.

Newman, John

Purchased a wagon at the estate sale in 1806, but could not get anyone to sign as security on his note; mentioned in Hugh Stephenson's deposition.

Nolan, James

His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806.

Norris, George

Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Nowland, Mr.

Paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Oglesby, Elisha

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co.; testified in 1814 and provided as evidence a letter from James Oglesby to Yandle dated July 1808.

Oglesby, James

In 1803 Stephenson pledged to pay him \$600; purchased part of Turpin land; one of the defendants in Irene's suit; lived in Smith Co. in 1814.

Oglesby, Daniel

Witnessed James Oglesby's deed in 1803.

Osborne [Osburn], Noble

His land adjoined Stephenson's in 1803.

Overton, Archibald

Clerk of Supreme Court at Carthage 1808-1816; also served as juror in Smith Co. in 1808.

Parker, Thomas

Robert Payne went to his house the day after William Stephenson's funeral.

Patterson, Francis

Served as security for Esther Stephenson as administratrix of estate in 1806, according to J.L. Martin deposition.

Patterson, John

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808.

Payne, Robert

Testified in 1813 that after William Stephenson's funeral, he went home from the burying ground with widow Esther and her mother. They asked him to go to Yandle and persuade him to serve as administrator of the estate; he went by Yandle's house on his way to Thomas Parker's; testified in Sumner Co. 1813 and 1814.

Payne, William

At the Turpin land auction in 1808, he was bidding against Esther Stephenson, according to J.L. Martin deposition.

Payton, --

Referred to in an 1808 letter as having transferred his ownership of land to "Old Mr. Stephenson."

Payton, John

Payton testified in 1814 in Sumner Co. that he had served as locator and surveyor for the land on Goose Creek under dispute. He located it in the name of Col. Joseph Williams of North Carolina in 1796. King Carr and Payton were among a group of men who were "making out a connected plat of the the lands in that neighborhood, and surveying all the old country," about 1797, and Carr knew that Williams' claim was on that land; King Carr also knew where David Berry's claim was. Hugh Stephenson testified that in about 1806 James Oglesby had gone to Carthage to see Payton and others about the land William Stephenson had pledged to sell him. Payton testified that in 1808 Yandle made two trips to Gallatin to see him, trying to get Payton to make a deed to Stephenson so that Yandle could convey the land to Oglesby; because Pursley and Barr would not comply, Payton refused.

Pursley, David

Was a chain carrier for the 1796 survey of the land in dispute; testified in Smith Co. in 1814.

Richmond, James

Justice of the Peace in Wilson Co., took deposition in 1814.

Roberts, Robert W.

Justice of the Peace for Smith Co., took depositions in 1814.

Rowland, John

Sold two horses to John Carr ca. 1808; Carr traded them to James Oglesby for his claim on the Stephenson estate; Yandle purchased part of Oglesby's claim by trading a horse and a new rifle; the agreement between Oglesby, Carr and Yandle was prepared at his house in 1808; they left the document with Rowland, but Mrs. Rowland later gave it to Yandle; he testified in Sumner Co. in 1814

Sanders, James

Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1813.

Shaw, Basil

Justice of the peace in Smith Co. in 1809; attorney for James Oglesby in his suit against the Stephenson estate; represented Esther Stephenson when she purchased the Turpin land and again when Yandle sued her for payment on the items she purchased at her husband's estate sale; depositions were taken at his house in 1814.

Simpson, James

Auctioneer at Stephenson estate sale in 1806; was paid with a pair of andirons.

Simpson, Elijah

Justice of the Peace in Sumner Co., took depositions in 1815.

Sloane, Archibald

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808.

Smith, William

William Stephenson's estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Stephenson, Anny

Samuel Galloway recalled in 1813 that he had met William and Anny Stephenson at William Dorris' house about 1806; Wm. Frazor testified that William Stephenson and a young female relative stopped at his house.

Stephenson, Esther

Widow of William Stephenson. See narrative above.

Stephenson, Hugh B.

He discussed the sick blue roan with William Stephenson after it died; William told Hugh that if he lost the Turpin land, he would be insolvent; Hugh offered to administer William Stephenson's estate, but the widow and her mother wanted Yandle to do it; he assisted with the estate inventory in 1806; paid William Stephenson's estate for an outstanding debt; lived at William Stephenson's home after the estate sale; testified in Smith Co. 1813 and 1814.

Stephenson, Irene

Heir of William Stephenson. See narrative above.

Stephenson, John

Was a chain-carrier for King Carr when he made the survey for the Turpins; in his 1814 deposition he said he knew Carr "laid the

Turpins' warrant" on land already claimed by others. Lived on land adjoining William Stephenson, owned half of the spring. William Stephenson borrowed \$225 from John and mortgaged 60 acres of the land to him in 1806; John later traded that note to Richard Brittain. John was involved in land deal with John Carr and James Oglesby in 1808. Paid Stephenson estate for an amount due in 1808.

Stephenson, W. Hugh

Delivered a letter to James Oglesby from Wilson Yandle in 1808. Paid Stephenson estate for an outstanding debt.

Stephenson, William

Father of Irene and husband of Hannah; died in 1804. See narrative above.

Stubblefield, Armstead

Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Tatum, Howell

Major Tatum and William Donelson discussed the Turpin land transaction; they agreed that Jesse Turpin knew his claim was not valid due to prior claims.

Taylor, John

His IOU to William Stephenson was among the papers of the estate in 1806.

Tooley, H.

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808.

Tooley, Henry

Justice of the Peace in Smith Co. in 1808.

Trigg, William

Innkeeper in Gallatin; depositions were taken at his inn in 1814.

Turpin, James

Father of Jesse and John Turpin, received a preemption grant of 640 acres as an early settler in 1783. Died prior to 1800.

Turpin, John (or James?)

Filed an entry in 1800 for land inherited from his father, with brother Jesse; lived in Madison Co. Kentucky in 1805 when his brother sold land to Stephenson; about 1806 Jesse Turpin told Samuel Galloway that his brother lived in Madison Co. Kentucky and he had not seen him in a long time; came to Carthage from Kentucky in 1808 to settle with Yandle. Two documents give his name as James Turpin; the first is a statement made in June 1815 that his brother Jesse had died in March; the second is a record of his swearing in open court in 1818 that William Donelson's testimony is material to the case.

Turpin, Jesse

In 1800, filed an entry for with brother John for 640 acres on Goose Creek (their father's grant); sold this land to Stephenson in 1805 and spent the night at the home of William Donelson; lived at Turpins' Ferry in Kentucky 1806-1808; came to Carthage from Kentucky in 1808 to settle with Yandle; lived in Stewart Co. Tenn. in 1809 when his personal property including feather beds, livestock, guns, etc. was sold after Stephenson estate sued him and he could not pay; went to Carthage to try and prevent the sale but he was poor and knew no one there who would stand his security or act as his attorney; was deposed in Davidson Co. in 1811; in 1813 (Turpin, Jesse, cont.) John Walker described him as "a small square bilt man." In 1815 the court determined that Jesse Turpin was dead

and summoned his daughter Polly Shaw (“one of his heirs”) and her husband Andrew Shaw to attend court in Carthage.

Ventress, David

William Stephenson’s estate paid him for an outstanding debt in 1806.

Walker, John

Testified in 1813 that in 1805-1806 a young man on his way to Nashville from William Donelson’s stopped at witness’ house asking for help with a sick horse which soon died. Witness had since lost his eyesight and could not identify Jesse Turpin, but believes it was he.

Walker, Matthew P.

Depositions were taken at his home in Davidson Co. in 1813.

Walton, Isaac

Justice of the Peace in Sumner County in 1805 and 1814; depositions taken at his home in 1813 and 1814.

Walton, Mr.

Had a [black]smith’s shop on Mansker’s Creek, where Samuel Galloway talked with William Stephenson in 1806.

Walton, William

Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Wharton, Jesse

Testified in Sumner Co. in 1813 that Yandle and the widow came to him in 1806 for legal advice regarding settlement of the estate. Testified again in Washington, D.C., at home of John Claxton in Oct. 1814.

White, James

Commissioned to take depositions along with Robert Houston, 1814.

Whitehead[?], Marcus

Called to testify in 1816 but no deposition in file.

Whiteside, Mr.

In 1818 was employed by John Carr as attorney, but was sick and could not attend court.

Williams, John

Owned land adjoining the Turpins’ grant ca. 1800; testified in Knox Co. in 1815 that he had advised Yandle to buy the Turpin property himself, to avoid getting snared in the debts of the Stephenson estate.

Williams, Joseph

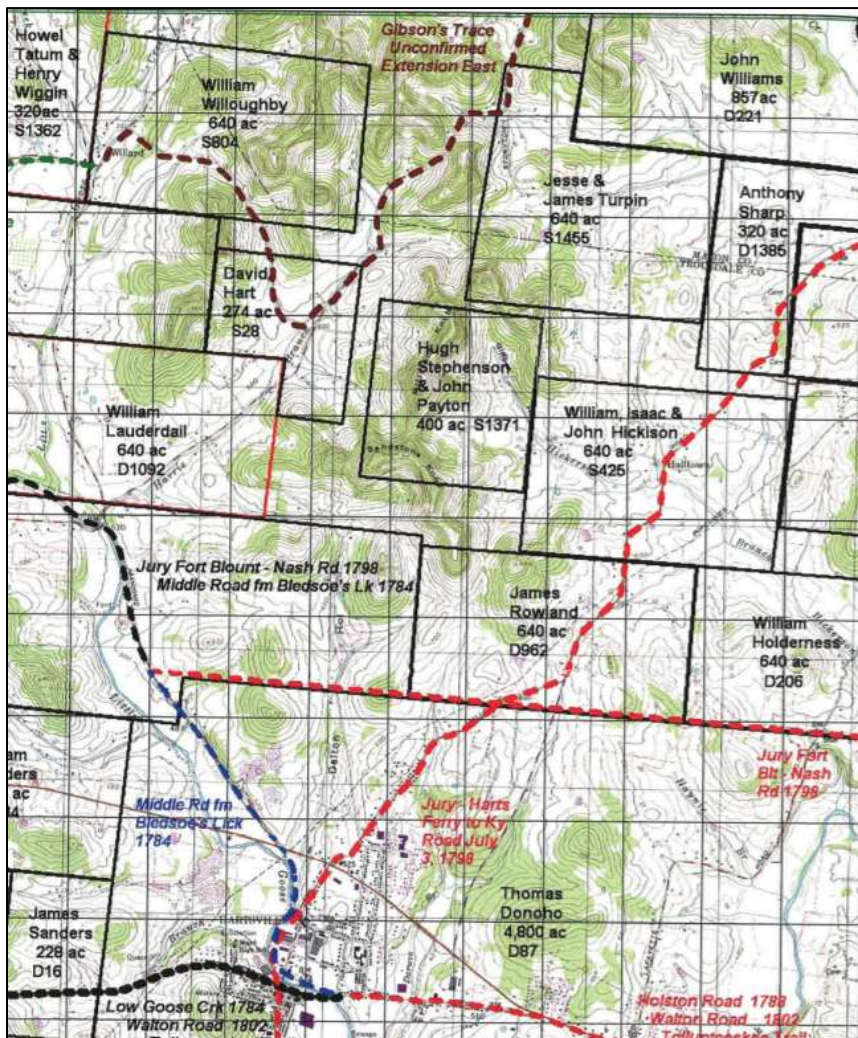
Purchased 228 acres from William Birch in 1796; the land overlapped Turpin’s land. Sold it to Yandell and John Carr prior to 1810.

Williams, Sampson

Juror, Smith Co., 1808.

Yandle (also Yandell), William

Defendant in the case; physician; see narrative.



Map of the Turpin brothers' land survey, around which the Stephenson court case swirled. Note the almost-adjoining survey for Hugh Stephenson and John Payton. Other grantees shown on this page also appear in the Stephenson case file.

Reprinted from the incomparable atlas *Founding of the Cumberland Settlements* by Doug Drake, Jack Masters and Bill Puryear (Gallatin, Tenn.: Warioto Press, 2009).

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

Wayne County

Abstracted by Gale Williams Bamman
Certified Genealogist EmeritusSM Copyright © 2017



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
- County and district where enumerated in population schedule
- County of residence when at home

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/or 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 included.

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 but supported partly or fully at county cost were referred to 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 reply to "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 do 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.

Wayne County

Brewer, Henry J.: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; hereditary; duration of present attack, 4 [not stated]; not confined, not restrained; inmate, Nashville Lunatic Asylum, 1 year. [s.d.4,e.d.171,see Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age 56, white, male, head of household.

Blackwell, Sallie: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.171; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, mother-in-law, in household of Herbert Weaver.

Brewer, John J.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; self-supporting; supposed cause, congestive fever; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.171; see Pop.Sch.p.9;ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 55, white, male, head of household.

Stuts[?], Polly: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.171; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.38] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, wife, in household of Sandy W. Stuts[?].

Kelly, Harriett M.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.171; see Pop.Sch.p.13, ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, white, daughter, in household of Samuel S. Kelly.

Wilson, Sarah A.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.171; see Pop.Sch.p.19,ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, wife, in household of Pinckney Wilson.

Brewer, Hiram: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.170; see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** age 49, white, male, head of household.

Whitten, J. T.: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; deranged; inmate, asylum at Nashville, 2 [not stated]. [s.d.4,e.d.170; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.38] **Pop.Sch.:** age 27, white, male, in household of John Whitten.

Holt, N. M.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 18; supposed cause, epilepsy; medium head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.170; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.44]

Berry, Elizabeth: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.170; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.33] **Pop.Sch.:** age 61, mother, in household of David Berry.

Blasengam,Wm.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.170; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.44] **Pop.Sch.:** age 94, white, head of household.

Cummings, J. K.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; supposed cause, epilepsy; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.169; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.22]

Henson, J. R.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; afflicted at birth; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.169; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.25]

Morrow, Sarah A.: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; mania; duration of present attack, 3 months; number of attacks, 2; age at first attack, 34; not confined, not restrained; inmate, Nashville asylum, 18 mos.[?illegible]; discharged, [date illegible]. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female, head of household.

Banks, Jerry: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; inherited; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.28]

Shull, Edward T.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; supposed cause, mother's fright while pregnant; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.35]

Newborn, William E.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; supposed cause, mother's fright while pregnant; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.18]

Bryant, Peter L.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 57, white, male, head of household.

Roberts, Francis E.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 4; malaria fever. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.33]

Martin, Benjamin: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 42; semi-blind, semi-deaf; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.50]

Melson, James H.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; dumb from birth; semi-deaf; never an

inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.39]

Cook, Carl: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.168; see Pop.Sch.p.18,ln.23]

Brown, Anna: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 81; form, weakness, totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.167; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.16] **Pop.Sch.:** age 88, white, mother, in household of Sarah Wilson.

Porter, Thomas L.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 55; form, ulceration; supposed cause, inflammation; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.167; see Pop.Sch.p.21, ln.22] **Pop.Sch.:** age 69, white, brother, in household of William R. Porter.

Robinson, Henry: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; paralyzed, 8 years; age at first attack, 16. [s.d.4,e.d. 166; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.38] **Pop.Sch.:** age 24, mulatto, male, in household of John R. Craig.

Edwards, George F: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.48]

Bush, John: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.30]

Nutt, Mary C.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.15]

Jackson, Susan E.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; supposed cause, scarlet fever; natural head, [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.27]

Dobbs, Lizia A.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.44]

Edwards, Mattie E.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.26]

Jackson, James: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.46]

Crow, Fanny: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at age 50; supposed



Early photo of a Poor House and Prison Farm in North Carolina

cause, neuralgia; totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, mother-in-law, in household of John C. Morgan.

Frazier, Esther L.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 20; supposed cause, neuralgia; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.6] **Pop.Sch.:** age 23, white, wife, in household of Thomas Frazier.

May, Cathrine: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 30; supposed cause, scrofula; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age 47, white, aunt, in household of Jacob B. Burns.

Shaw, Ella F.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at age 10; supposed cause, scrofula; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, white, daughter, in household of William J. Shaw.

Brewer, Dora: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; totally blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.18,ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** Idora A. Brewer, age 9, white, daughter, in household of Rhyley Brewer.

Carrell, Sarah J.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at age 14; supposed cause, scrofula; semi-blind. [s.d.4,e.d.166; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.1] **Pop.Sch.:** age 23, white, female, in household of William E. Carrell.

Cole, Franklin: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; mania; duration of present attack, 4 mos.; number of attacks, 2; age at first attack, 36; not confined, not restrained; not in an institution “until now”; at Nashville, 1 mo. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 37, white, male, in household of N. E. Cole.

Griggs, M__ [illegible] **A.:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; inherited and fright; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.9]

Walker, A. P.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; inherited, and fright; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.44]

Grimes, Mrs. Anna: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 62, white, mother, in household of W. S. Grimes.

Morrow, E. W.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; nervous affection; admitted 9 April 1877. **Also:** Insane Schedule; dementia; number of attacks, 1; confined; not restrained. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, white, male, pauper in poor house.

Whitton, James: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; able-bodied; insanity; admitted 1880. **Also:** Insane Schedule; dementia; duration of present attack, about 10 yrs.; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 15; confined, not restrained; inmate at Nashville, Tenn., __ [illegible] years; discharged 1879. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.22] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, white, male, pauper in poor house. **Brown, Nancy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; old age; admitted March [year illegible]. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.23] **Pop.Sch.:** age 81, white, female, pauper in poor house.

Donoho, Nancy: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; able-bodied; insanity; admitted 26 January 1877. **Also:** Insane Schedule; dementia; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, __ [illegible]; not confined, not restrained; inmate in institution: poor house. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, female, pauper in poor house.

Evans, Rena: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, palsied & old age; admitted 26 January 1877. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.25] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, female, pauper in poor house.

Boyd, Jane: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, crippled; admitted July 1877. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.26] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, white, female, pauper in poor house.

Brown, Lucy: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; able-bodied; idiot; admitted December 1878. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.27] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, female, pauper in poor house.

Morris, Jo: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; old age; admitted April 1880. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 77, black, male, pauper in poor house.

Ricketts, Susan: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; old age; admitted 1877. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.29] **Pop.Sch.:** age 95, black, female, pauper in poor house.

Laferty, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; crippled; admitted March 1877. [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age __ [illegible], black, female, pauper in poor house.

Laferty, Richard: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. poor asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; child; born in this institution, there since birth. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; [s.d.4,e.d.165; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.31] **Pop.Sch.:** age 1, black, male, pauper in poor house.

Copeland, W. L.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 10; supposed cause, struck in eye; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.164; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.37] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, white, son, in household of C. Copeland.

Howard, John: Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial. [s.d.4,e.d.164; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age,

46, white, prisoner, in household of E. D. McGlanery, sherriff.

Johnson, John: Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial. [s.d.4,e.d.164; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.33] **Pop.Sch.:** age 22, black, male, prisoner, in household of E. D. McGlanery, sherriff.

Brown, Thos. P.: Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial. [s.d.4,e.d.164; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.36] **Pop.Sch.:** age 26, white, male, prisoner, in household of E. D. McGlanery, sherriff.

Whitehead, Polly:

Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; dementia; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 37; requires attendant; never an inmate of an institution.

[s.d.4,e.d.163; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.7.]

Pop.Sch.: age 38, white, wife, in household of William Whitehead.

Beaty, Benjamin:

Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; medium head; never

an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.163; see Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.50]

Chappell, Ben: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.163; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.21]

Lockridge, Thos.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.163; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.23]

Phillips, Milly: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co. [s.d.4,e.d.163; see Pop.Sch.p.7,ln.17]

Thompson, Jesse L.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; [s.d.4,e.d.163 see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 36, white, male, head of household.

Pearch[?], Sallie: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 46; not confined, not restrained; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.162; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 49, white, female, in household of Needam Pearch[?].

Webb, Alfred: Insane Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; dementia; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 49; not confined, not restrained; never in an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.164; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age 62, white, husband, in household of Elisabeth J. Webb.



Unidentified Jail

Willbanks, Alexander F.: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; “has been entirely deaf and dumb all his life”; inmate, Knoxville Deaf and Dumb School, for four years; discharged, June 1864. [s.d.4,e.d.162, see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.15]

Weaver, William: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; paralyzed. [s.d.4,e.d.1n.61; see

Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.22]

Pop.Sch.: age 7, white, son, in household of Noah Weaver.

Rutledge, Elizabeth: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; neuralgia and old age. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 95, white, mother-in-law, in household of Noah Weaver.

Grayham, Jiney: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; sick headache & old age. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.2,ln.45] **Pop.Sch.:** age 63, white, wife, in household of ___[illegible] Grayham.

Ray, Rachael: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; old age. **Also:** Blind Schedule; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 60; supposed cause, pain and old age. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see

Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.17] **Pop.Sch.:** age 52, white, mother, in household of Eaton Ray.

McBride, Isham: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied. **Also:** Blind Schedule; self-supporting; supposed cause, ___ [illegible] and exposure. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 35, black, male, head of household.

Flippo, Mildred: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; lying in. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, daughter, in household of John C. Russ.

Churchwell, Susan J.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; lying in. [s.d.4,e.d.161;p.15,ln.37] **Pop.Sch.:** age 21, white, wife, in household of John Churchwell.

Creasy, Louisa: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; lying in. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.48] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, wife, in household of John J. Creasy.

Shipman, Rebecca A.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; idiotic. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:** age 26, white, daughter, in household of Abigail Corban.

Shipman, Sydney M.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; idiotic; **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth;

natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.42] **Pop.Sch.:** age 23, white, son, in household of Abigail Corban.

Shipman, Caroline: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; able-bodied; idiotic. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 21, white, daughter, in household of Abigail Corban.

Turnbo, Thomas H.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; consumption. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 34, white, "wife's brother," in household of Andrew W. Steel.

Turnbo, Sally: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; chronic diarrhea. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.20] **Pop.Sch.:** age 53, white, wife, in household of William Turnbo.

Hill, Moses: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; chronic. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.19,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 59, white, head of household.

Steel, Bathsheba: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Wayne Co.; not able-bodied; kidney and ___ [illegible] disease. [s.d.4,e.d.161; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.14] **Pop.Sch.:** age 33, white, daughter, in household of Benahah Steel.

End of Wayne County

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

ANDERSON

Need family of Fidelia Wharton **Anderson**, born 1834 TN. Her father's name is unknown. Her mother Elizabeth was born 1804 VA. Fidelia married three times: 1) Smith Co. TN, William **Cody**; 2) Haywood Co. TN, Reddick **Pender**; 3) Haywood Co., Henry A. **Cox**; 4) Haywood Co., P.C. **Owen**. Fidelia died Jan. 1900 Haywood Co.

WALL

Need parents of Clement **Wall**, b. 1777 NC, m. Margaret -X- (1775-1843). Clement was in Guilford Co. NC in 1800. By 1804 he was in Williamson Co. TN (tax list) in the Flat Creek area. In the early 1830s he removed to Fayette Co. TN, where Margaret died. He then moved to Marshall Co. MS where he died in 1854.

Please contact Mrs. Joanne Cullom Moore, P.O. Box 98, Frenchman's Bayou, Arkansas, 72338

30th Anniversary History of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc.

by Virginia Gooch Watson

The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc. (MTGS) was born 30 years ago by a group of family history researchers who wanted to meet periodically to compare their genealogical research, learn new research skills, and to promote genealogy in the 40 Middle Tennessee counties. The first meeting was held 25 April 1987 at the Tennessee State Library & Archives and the business included the selection of our name, election of officers and the first Board of Directors, the adoption of by-laws, the decision to begin a quarterly newsletter (which rolled off the press in the summer of 1987), and filing for non-profit status which was granted later that year.

Members of the first Board were Tim Burgess, Irene Griffey, Mary Glenn Hearne and Byron Sistler. The first president, Rev. Isham G. Harris, served from April to August 1987 at which time, the first Vice-President, Shirley Wilson, assumed the President's duties and Irene Griffey became Vice President.

In February 1988, the Board felt greater emphasis should be placed on the publication of genealogical materials. The newsletter was expanded to a quarterly journal titled "Middle Tennessee Genealogy" with Irene Griffey as editor. Subsequent editors included Barbara Sistler, George F. Watson and Dorothy Williams Potter who in 1995 gave it a new look and name – "The Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History" which title it still continues. Dorothy served until 2002 when Charles A. (Chuck) Sherrill became editor and continues to hold that position. The Journal has blossomed over the years becoming an award-winning quarterly of genealogical and historical interest. A Charter of Incorporation was issued to MTGS 8 March 1988 with 57 charter members of which there are only 7 that are still members. They are:

Gale Williams Bamman

Jack R. Cowherd

Jill Hastings-Johnson

Joan Wells Pruett

Anne Green Townes

Virginia Gooch Watson

Shirley Wilson



Virginia Gooch Watson

It should be noted that Gale Williams Bamman holds the status of *Board Certified Genealogist* longer than any other living associate in the U.S. and has been awarded *Emeritus* status from the Board of Certified Genealogists.

The First November all-day Seminar was held in November of 1988 and has become an annual event alternating each year with nationally known genealogists and local genealogists as speakers. Attendance has continued to grow each year with the largest of about 220 in 2015.

As an official Tennessee Bicentennial event, MTGS sponsored the National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States in 1996 which attracted 2,000 genealogists and increased our membership to over 800. MTGS co-sponsored a nationally televised series of programs on genealogical research later that year. In 2005, MTGS again was the local host for the National Genealogical Society with a smaller but enthusiastic crowd of over 1,000. Today we have 255 members of which 23 are libraries and/or archives in many other states.

Our first Web Master, Katheryne Cowan, who began in the 1990s, created an informative web site that continues today with Jim Long who became Web Master in June

2012. The site publicizes our meetings and workshops, current news, announcements, our items for sale as well as an index of all article titles and a full surname index for our journals.

In 2006, an email newsletter, "MTGS Messenger" began with T. Vance Little as editor; he was followed by Martha Gerdeman who served ten years as the Messenger's editor. The newsletter serves as a meeting reminder with announcements of current news of historical and genealogical interest.

In 2007 "MTGS: Twenty Years of Journals 1987 – 2007" was published on CD. At about that same time, a project was developed to collect family Bible records

digitally. Bob Dennison compiled the DVD in 2008, containing 243 Bibles with over 11,480 names fully searchable and hyperlinked to the scanned pages. Both of these items are sold at meetings and can be ordered from our website.

Today MTGS continues by-monthly meetings with speakers on genealogy and Tennessee history topics, workshops in the summer, the annual November seminar and other related programs. Many members teach separate genealogical classes as well as speak to groups in the 40 Middle Tennessee counties. MTGS is also a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Past Presidents of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. Isham G. Harris | Spring-August 1987 |
| Shirley Wilson | August 1987 – May 1989 |
| Mary Glenn Hearn | May 1989 – May 1991 |
| Patricia Gilliam Hastings | May 1991 – May 1993 |
| Byron Sistler | May 1993 – May 1995 |
| Mary Glenn Hearn | May 1995 – May 1997 |
| Charles A. Sherrill | May 1997 – May 1998 |
| Juanita Patton | May 1998 – May 2000 |
| Patricia Gilliam Hastings | May 2000 – May 2002 |
| Mary Sue Smith | May 2002 – May 2004 |
| Martha Gerdeman | May 2004 – May 2006 |
| Virginia Gooch Watson | May 2006 – May 2008 |
| Laine Sutherland | May 2008 – May 2010 |
| Sue Hairston Edwards | May 2010 – May 2012 |
| Kathryn Hopkins | May 2012 – May 2014 |
| Jim Long | May 2014 – May 2016 |
| Kay Gregath | May 2016 -- present |



To The Honorable...

Petitions to the State Legislature

by Peggie Sides

Smith County Petition 1826 On Behalf of Tilmon Bethel

Based on Petition Number 41,
Legislative Records of 1826
Record Group 60, Tennessee State Library & Archives

**Petition of sundry citizens of Smith County, praying that
Tilmon Bethel be authorized to hawk and peddle without paying for license.**

November 14th 1826

We your humble petitioners of Smith County whose names are underneath assigned ever prayeth etc We petition the honorable body of the assembly of the State of Tennessee now in session at Nashville that you would grant unto Tilmon Bethel the priviledge of selling goods in the County of Smith or peddling any where within the State without paying county fines. We pray this on account of his having the misfortune of getting his leg broke & having a family to maintain & not being able to do it by work & as some of your honorable body knows his situation we conclude by ever praying yours etc.

James Evans
Cantrell Betheld
William Dale
Walter Evans
Thomas Evans Esq
J. R. Daugherty

Moses Allen
Charles Watson
Samuel Garrison
Jael Coffee
Thos W. Duncan

Clerks' notation on the outside of the petition:
H of Rept Nov. 20 1826 Read & laid on table
Tho. J. Campbell C[ler]k

More About Tillman Bethel

- Tilmon Bethel is buried in the Salem Baptist Church Cemetery in Liberty, DeKalb County. His tombstone shows that he was born Dec. 5, 1788 and died Mar. 9, 1865. (FindaGrave.com)
- According to a family member he was the son of Sampson Bethel and Mary Cantrell. He married in Smith County on Sept. 2, 1813 to Sarah Daugherty, and had a large family of children. . (Rootsweb.com)
- The 1860 census indicates he was a physician with \$4,000 in property. (DeKalb Co., 2nd Dist., family 202)

The Clark Brick Mausoleum

by John E. Norvell

The City Cemetery of Nashville is a historic treasure house. I first visited it in 1970 when I was looking for the grave of my Great-great-grandfather Lt. Lipscomb Norvell, a Revolutionary War soldier. He and several of his children are buried there. One of them is Mary Norvell Walker, mother of William Walker, the American soldier of fortune who became dictator of Nicaragua in 1857.¹ Over the years I returned whenever I was in the Nashville area, and recently came to see the restoration efforts underway to save the historic graves of Nashville's leaders.

On my most recent visit, Fletch Coke, a board member of the Nashville City Cemetery Association, gave me a very detailed look at the work being done. As we finished our walk, she showed me an odd brick mausoleum. It has a crenelated top over the door and a stone marker that simply said:

"Smith C. Clark
Born in Ithica, [sic.] N. Y.
Sept. 12, 1833
Died in Nashville Tenn.
Feb. 8, 1863"²



Clark Mausoleum
Nashville City Cemetery

Mrs. Coke was very interested in this as it seemed there was little information about the persons buried there. I told her I would look into this mystery.

The first place I looked was the records of the City Cemetery. They showed that a man named Abraham Clark purchased the lot, which measured 20 x 20 feet, on March 4, 1863. It was identified as Lot 1 in Section 21. The cemetery Interment Book added the following information on who was buried there:

2-9-1863 Smith C. Clark 30 Years - Oak & Rock Ave.

1-9-1864 Mortiman [Mortimer] Clark 34 Years - Oak Ave.

5-9-1864 Abraham Clark 28 Years - Oak Ave.³

John E. Norvell is a retired Air Force Lt Colonel, decorated air combat veteran of the Vietnam War, and former Asst. Professor of American and Military History at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has written for the *Washington Post*, the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History*, and for several newspapers and journals. He can be reached by email at Jenorv66@aol.com

1. For more information on Lt. Lipscomb Norvell, see John E. Norvell, "How Tennessee Adventurer William Walker became Dictator of Nicaragua in 1857: the Norvell family origins of the Grey-Eyed Man of Destiny, *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History*, Vol XXV, No.4, Spring 2012, pp 149-155.

2. Inscription Clark Tomb, City Cemetery, Nashville, http://thenashvillecitycemetery.org/210009_clark.htm, May 2017.

3. Ibid.



Using then this very brief information, I pieced together the background of the Clark Family of Ithaca New York.

A search of the 1840 and 1850 censuses for Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York lists Smith Clark, who was born about 1802, and was most likely the father of the Clarks buried in Nashville.⁴

This Smith Clark has been named in other genealogical records as Smith Condit Clark, the son of David C. Clark and Susannah Condit Clark.⁵ He married first Rebecca Van Houten, the mother of the men in the mausoleum; she died before 1846 when he remarried.⁶

The 1846 *Ithaca Daily Chronicle* reports: "Married - On Sunday evening 9th inst. by William Lian, Esq. Mr Smith C. Clark, widower, to Mrs. Sally Ann Dexter, widow, all of this village."⁷ It is the second wife, Sally Ann Dexter Clark, whom he married in 1846, who is listed in the 1850 census along with a son Mortimer. Also listed in the 1850 census is Benjamin F. Dexter, the son of Sally Ann Dexter Clark and the unknown Dexter father.⁸ The other son listed above in the cemetery record -- Abraham Clark -- was not in Ithaca but appears to have been working elsewhere, which was not uncommon in those days. He is listed as a 13-year-old in the 1850 Cortland census in the household of hotel-keeper William Copeland. No occupation is given for Abraham, but the other boarders were lawyers, students and craftsmen.⁹ Cortland was about 21 miles north east of Ithaca.

Further evidence that this is the family of the Clarks buried in Nashville is found in the 1840 Ithaca census which shows Smith C. Clark and four young sons in the record. The mother of these sons was previously identified in another genealogical record as Rebecca Van Houten, whom Smith Clark married in 1821. She was deceased before 1846 when the elder Smith remarried.

The elder Smith Clark was dead by 1860, when his widow Sally Ann Dexter Clark is living with Benjamin Clark in Owego, Tioga New York, which is about 18 miles south east of Ithaca.¹⁰ Benjamin Clark appears to be the 4th son listed in the 1840 census. Benjamin remained in New York, and was living in Owego, Tioga County as late as 1910

4. 1840 U.S. census, Tompkins Co., NY, Ithaca, p.4, Smith Clark household, digital image, Ancestry.com **Error! Main Document Only.**; 1850 U.S. census, Tompkins Co., NY, Ithaca, p.483, family 592, Smith C. Clark household, digital image, Ancestry.com.

5. Notes for Smith Condit Clark, www.westfieldnjhistory.com/reclark/nti04085.htm

6. Smith C Clark, New Jersey Marriage Records, November 1823, Number: 001301980, digital image, Ancestry.com.

7. Notes for Smith Condit Clark, www.westfieldnjhistory.com/reclark/nti04085.htm

8. 1850 U.S. census, Tompkins Co., NY, Ithaca, p.483, family 592, Smith C. Clark household, digital image, Ancestry.com.

9. 1850 U.S. census, Cortland Co., NY, Cortlandville, p. 358, family 459, William Copeland household, digital image, Ancestry.com.

10. 1860 U.S. census Tioga Co., NY Owego, p. 146, family 1132, Benjamin Clark household, digital image, Ancestry.com.

when he is listed in the federal census.¹¹

The 1860 Owego census also lists Benjamin F. Dexter in the Clark household as well as Mary J. Clark, a child of the elder Smith C. Clark and Sally Anne Dexter Clark born about 1848 and listed in the Ithaca Census in 1850. This Benjamin F. Dexter joined the Union Army in Company H, New York 3rd Infantry Regiment on 14 May 1861 in Owego, New York and was mustered out on 21 May 1863 at Albany, New York.¹²

Little information can be found at this point how the three brothers appeared in Nashville in the 1860s. They do not appear in military records or available newspapers in Nashville. None of them left a will. How they got to Tennessee and what they were doing will remain a mystery for the time being. What we can be fairly confident of is that they were all from the Ithaca New York area and it appears that they all were brothers who died within 18 months of one another.

Book Reviews *by Shirley Wilson*



Accomack County, Virginia, Court Order Abstracts 1773-1777 by JoAnn Riley McKey, paperback, 2017, 294 pp. complete name index. \$29.,50 ;plus postage from Heritage Books.com 5810 Ruatan Street, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740.

Those of you who are familiar with Tennessee's court docket books and its minute books will find Virginia's court order books somewhere in between as far as genealogical and historical content.

That said, there is an amazing amount of material in this book with a terrific every name index for finding what is there.

Wills were probated and wife's mentioned, guardians were appointed for orphans or they were bound out to learn a trade, road juries were listed, ordinaries were licensed, people sued each other, slaves were emancipated, and drunks were placed in stocks. It is life as it was in Accomack County during the American Revolution.

If you have ancestors in this county, you won't want to miss this book.



11. 1880 U.S. census, Tioga Co., NY, Owego. P 279, family 593, Benjamin Clark household, digital image, Ancestry.com; 1910 U.S. census, Tioga Co., NY, Owego, p 16, family 422, Arnold Haller household, digital image, Ancestry.com.

12. U.S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865, Benjamin Dexter, 3rd NY Volunteers, digital image, Ancestry.com.

The Plight of Tennessee Coal Miners

From the Inspector's Report of 1892

by Peggie Sides

This is the fifth article in a series

The following information is taken from a small volume titled, *Second Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor and Inspector of Mines to His Excellency Governor John P. Buchanan, Transmitted Jan. 2, 1893.*

Although more mines were located in East Tennessee than in Middle, men from all over the state traveled to the area to find work in the mines.

For more detail, see the introductory article in this series, found in volume XXX, number 1 (July 2016).

THE STANDARD COAL & COKE COMPANY

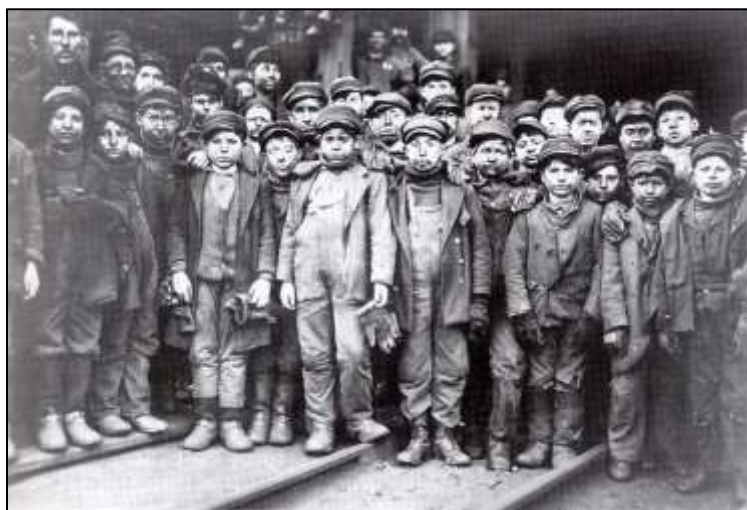
Standard Mines, Newcomb, Tenn.

May 11, 1891—Wm. Lester, a miner employed in this mine, was injured by an accident, losing an arm and a leg.

May 12, 1891—The mine was inspected, and it was found that Lester had been working in the main entry, about fifteen feet from the Scott Edwards entry, in the place where the Mine Boss was ordered to remove a loose part of the roof at the last inspection, and which had not been seen to. He was preparing to turn a side entry to the left, and had only been at work fifteen minutes, when a slab of slate weighing 1,200 to 1,500 pounds, fell out from above the vein of coal, catching him on the rails beneath, and, when rescued by two of his fellow workmen, it was found that the right leg and left arm were so crushed and torn as to require amputation, which was performed by Drs. Newman and McClintock. The president of the company, two days after, wrote the Governor, explaining "that when miners performed this kind of work, it was done by job contract, and the miner became his own proprietor; that the operator provides all the timber to hand necessary to prop with to make the surroundings safe, and the miner is to put in as many props as, in his judgment, will make a safe condition." This explanation did not alter the fact that if this loose piece of slate had been removed when it was ordered to be done, this accident would not have happened.

Lester was a married man, 36 years old. Had a wife and six children. He survived the sufferings, and now lives at Newcomb, working for this company.

December 3, 1891—H. Gans was injured by a fall of slate. He was driving an air-way with a fellow workman.



Children Working in a Coal Mine

Tennessee law allowed children 12 and up to work in the mines, but younger boys were often allowed in.

They asked to have a loose piece of slate pulled down. The men who do this work went to the place to pull the slate down, told them to come out on the entry while they pulled the slate down. Both said "No, we will work on." By this time the slate was ready to fall. Gans ran out, and the slate fell on him, injuring him on the head severely, but he recovered. No one to blame for this injury but himself.

March 30, 1892—Guissippe Levrage, a miner, while working in a room, was injured by a fall of slate, being badly bruised; but he recovered in due time. He was an Italian, aged 25.

THE WOOLDRIDGE JELICO COAL COMPANY

Wooldridge Mines, Newcomb, Tenn.

January ---, 1891—Henry Barberry, a miner, while crossing the main entry, was injured by a fall of slate,

Peggie Sides is a professional genealogist and long-time member of MTGS. She can be reached by email at psides@att.net.

crushing his sides and hips. He brought suit against the company, and it is reported that the suit was compromised by the company paying \$300.

March 2, 1891, ----, a driver, was injured by slate falling in on him. The bones in the left hand were broken, and some of them had to be taken out afterwards.

March 6, 1891—John Canfield, a miner, was killed while working in Room 28 on B entry. Two of his sons were in the room at the time, one of them only nine years old, when a portion of slate from the roof fell in, part of it falling on the eldest son, bruising and holding him until he was released by his fellow-workmen. The youngest escaped without injury. Canfield was a married man, leaving a wife and four children.

James Taylor, aged 11 years, was working as a trapper. Mine Boss was ordered to keep him out of the mine.

December 3, 1891—The main entry at the double parting had a fall-in. No person was injured, but they had to blast the rock that dropped in order to liberate the mules. The men crawled out over the fall.

August 17, 1892—James Green, a miner while working in room 20, was injured by a fall of slate, from which he died within an hour and a half. Following is the report of the coroner's jury:

Witness R. T. Green—"I heard Jasper Green halloo. I went to his room, with Henry Stine. The slate was off when we got there, and deceased was lying upon gob. About one and a half tons fell on deceased. He appeared to be hurt bad. Said he was killed. He was hurt on left side. Died in one hour from time he was hurt. Plenty of timbers and props in the room. Joe Greaff, Bank Boss. Deceased was about seventeen years old, and was not a practical miner. I am no relation to deceased. I am employed as a miner. Have been a coal-digger for five years. Deceased was killed in Wooldridge Mines, which is in Campbell County, Tennessee.

R. T. Green (his X mark)

Witness Jasper Green—"James Green was my brother. Come here on the 10th of this month. He is seventeen years old. I sounded top; thought it was safe. When slate fell it struck him on left side. There was about a ton fell on him. My brother lived about one hour and a half. Slate fell across the face of room. Deceased was killed

in Wooldridge Mines, about 7 o'clock this morning, 17th day of August, 1892. [signed] Jasper Green

State of Tennessee, Campbell County

An inquisition holden 17th day of August, 1892, at Wooldridge mines, in the Sate and county aforesaid, on the body of Jas. Green, then and there lying dead. The jurors, whose names are hereunto subscribed, on their oaths do say they find, that the cause of death was occasioned by unavoidable accident, for which no one is responsible. This August

17th, 1892.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Jurors: F. A. McClintock | Lewis Perkins |
| W. H. Cantrell | Eli Gaylor |
| R. L. Parrott | Wm. Robbins |
| A.H. Roster | |

Elias Douglass, J. P. holding Inquest.

THE PINE MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY

Pine Mountain Mine, Newcomb, Tenn.

September 1, 1891—William Katz, a miner, while at work in this mine was injured by a fall of slate.

September 5, 1891—At the time of the accident, Katz was sitting on a stump mining coal, when a portion of slate fell out of the roof on him, breaking his left leg at the thigh, causing a severe wound on the right leg, and injuring his back. He had one prop in position within six feet of the coal. He had asked the driver for props, but the driver had gone in two or three times without taking any props in to him, and he did not have any thought that the piece would fall out. He was disabled for three months. His doctor bill being \$65.

January 12, 1892—Green Burket, a miner, while working in this mine was killed by a horse-back falling on him. A horse-back, weighing about 3 tons, had fallen on him from the roof over the roadway, killing him instantly. Burket was 23 years old, single, born in Knox County, and had worked in mining four years. The operator should provide miners with props of different length. Only two lengths are provided—4 feet and 4 ½ feet. Miners have asked for other lengths, but no attention is given to the demand. The following is the report of Coroner's jury and testimony of witnesses:

State of Tennessee, Campbell County

An inquisition holden the 12th day January, 1892, at the residence of George Wright, near Newcomb, upon the

Not one pane of glass was found in the 50 houses . . . A more dispirited class of people I never saw.

body of Green Burket, then and there lying dead. The jurors, whose names are hereunto subscribed, on their oaths, do say that they find that he was

killed by an accidental fall of slate (commonly known among coal miners as a 'horse-back') in Rodeheaver & Jenkins' coal mine, near Newcomb, Tennessee. The proof shows that deceased had been previously warned by the mine or pit Boss, John R. Wright, and others, of the danger of this particular piece of slate. We, therefore, fail to find any negligence on the part of the mine owners or their servants, but rather, from the proof, we are of opinion that, if there was any negligence, it was wholly on part of the deceased. This January 13th, 1892. Jurors:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A.H. Rosier | W. P. Kelly |
| A. J. Smith | J. D. Wheeler |
| I. F. Nunnally | E. E. Jones |
| Andrew Douglass | |

Elias Douglass, J. P. holding Inquest.

H. M. Wright—Deposes as follows: I saw deceased about 6:30 this morning on his way to work. I am a miner in said mine. Went into deceased room with Ed Fine about 8:30 o'clock. He was covered with slate all but one hand. I went out and let the other men know. I came back and helped move the slate off of him and found he was dead. Then we brought him to G. W. Wright's house, where he now lies. His name is Green Burket. I have known him for six or seven years. My idea is, he was on roadway waiting for a car. Further, this deponent saith not. H. W. Wright.

THE PINE MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY

East Jellico Mine, Newcomb, Tenn.

November 27, 1891—N. C. Cross, a miner employed in this mine, was injured by a fall of slate, and his son's leg broken.

December 5, 1891—It was found that Cross, who had been working at mining about four months, started to turn a room on the main entry, had worked three days, and became uneasy about the top. On the 27th, when going to the mine, he told his little boy, aged nine years, to go with him to the mine and carry a large pick, so that he could pull the slate down. Upon arriving at the room he sat down to put some oil in his lamp, and while in this

attitude was struck by four or five hundred pounds of slate, which rendered him insensible, and breaking the boy's left leg above the knee. The boy called for help and both were released. Cross was badly injured in the head, breast, and hands. He is thirty-four years old. He states that the Mine Boss did not come to his place and examine it each morning. He did not know it was against the law to take the boy in the mine.

THE FALLS BRANCH JELICO COAL COMPANY

Campbell County, Falls Branch Mine, Oswego, Tenn.

November 27, 1891—Charles Malloy, a miner, while working in room No. 6, was injured by a fall of horse-back. Malloy and the man working with him were aware that the piece was loose, and had placed props under both ends of it, and were leaving a part of the coal to support it; but it fell in, and Malloy was badly bruised through the hips and back. He afterwards recovered.

THE FALLS BRANCH JELICO COAL COMPANY

Mingo Mountain Mine No. 2
Thomas Pruden, Mine Boss.

June 13, 1891—Samuel Simpson, a miner, while working in this mine was injured by a fall of slate. He died three days afterwards.

June 23, 1891—The mine was inspected, and it was found that without any warning, a loose portion of slate weighing about a ton, fell on him, crushing his skull. Simpson was a married man, and left a wife and four children. Worked at mining ten years, and for this company three months.

THE RELIANCE COAL AND COKE COMPANY.

Claiborne County, Reliance Mine, Hartranft, Tenn.

June 22, 1891—John Lancaster, a miner, while working in room No. 4, was injured by a fall of slate. He acknowledged that he should have had his props up nearer to the face of the coal, but wanted to get one more car of coal before putting in props. A portion of slate, weighing from 1,500 to 1,800 pounds, fell out from top, on the car, and part of it on him, injuring his back severely, but he recovered afterwards.

May 11, 1892—Jas. W. Gordon, a miner employed in this mine, was killed by a fall of rock-slate.

May 12, 1892—The mine was inspected, and it was found that Gordon had informed the Mine Boss that his

room was not safe, and he was told not to work in it until it was safe. He returned to the room, and about 3 P. M. the Mine Boss went in the room and told him to put in a prop. Gordon replied that he would as soon as he had broken up a piece of slate he was then working on. The Mine Boss turned to get a prop, when the slate fell on Gordon from the top, breaking his neck and left leg, and crushing his head. Under the slate was found a prop. It seems as if he was preparing to set this prop. Gordon was a native of Canada, fifty-five years old; married man; left a wife and eight children; had worked at mining for seventeen years, and had been employed by this company about one month. Following is the report of the Coroner's jury:

Middlesborough, Ky., June 1, 1892.

Geo. W. Ford, Esq., Commissioner Labor:
Dear Sir—I held an inquest on the body of Jas. W. Gordon, the following verdict was found:

That Jas. W. Gordon came to his death by a fall of slate, which was caused by his own neglect and carelessness, and that we exonerate all other parties from blame.

J. A. Robinson, Foreman

IRON MINES

Welker Mine Roane County

May, 1891—Samuel Ladd, while working at this mine, had a leg broken above the knee. Two doctors set the limb. The bandages used to keep the leg full length were placed about the instep and heel. It is reported they were allowed to remain there until they had cut into the bone. Gangrene set in, and the leg had to be amputated above the ankle.

Roane Iron Company Mine Welker Mines, Roane County.

September 25, 1892—Jesse L. Justice, a miner, while working in this tunnel, was killed by the ore falling on him—crushing his life out almost instantly. When his remains were taken to his home the shock to his wife was so great as to dethrone her reason, and she died within a few hours. They were buried in the same grave. The company never notified the Commissioner of Labor of this accident.

THE BROWN MINING COMPANY McElwee Mine, Emory Gap, Roane County

This company have a number of houses they rent to their employees from \$5 to \$6 a month. In a village, where some of the miners live, called Browntown, there are fifty of the houses. They are wooden structures, built of planks and boards, without plastering on the inside, and, when the mines were inspected in May, 1892, not one pane of glass was found in the fifty houses. Daylight is admitted through openings cut in the sides of the buildings.

John Canfield, a miner, was killed while working . . . Two of his sons were in the room at the time, one of them only nine years old, when a portion of slate from the roof fell in . . .

At this inspection not one shed or out-house was found in the village. The miners living here had been out of employment for some time by the works being closed, and a more dispirited class of people I never saw.

THE TENNESSEE COAL, IRON AND RAILROAD COMPANY

Inman Mine, Inman, Marion County.

January 18, 1892—Pat Daugherty had his foot cut off by being caught in the machinery at the crusher, caused by being away from his post of duty, and in a hurry trying to reach the drum.

February 25, 1892—George Armstrong had his arm cut off by the machinery at the crusher.

March 15, 1892—William Page, a colored convict, had his leg broken by a fall of slate in a room, neglecting to remain out until the propman had propped the roof.

July 20, 1892—Wm. Homock, a foreman was seriously injured by an explosion in the mine.

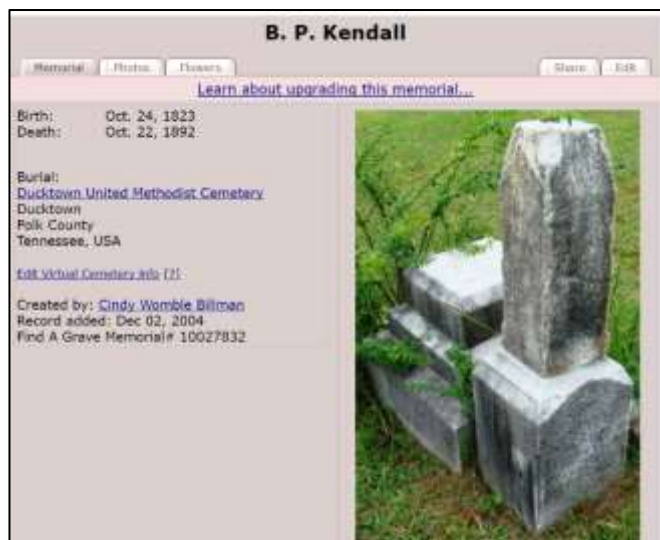
Pinkney-Wright Mine Lawrence Co., Pinkney, Tenn. J. Craig McLanahan, Proprietor.

In 1890, Wm. Hunt, aged 14, was killed by falling into a washer.

Buck Wittenberry had a bank car run over him the same year, killing him.

COPPER MINES

Polk County, in the south-eastern part of the State, has several companies engaged in producing copper. The mines are located from one to three miles from



**Tombstone of B.P. Kendall at Ducktown, Tenn.
He was killed by being pulled into machinery when his
clothes caught on a cog wheel at a Copper Mine.**
(Findagrave.com)

Ducktown, in an elevated basin, 1,856 feet above sea-level, and nearly 1,000 feet above the great valley of East Tennessee.

Copper was first discovered in this region in 1843 by a Mr. Semmons while prospecting for gold. The yellowish particles he thought were gold proved to be red copper ore.

October 21, 1892—B. P. Kendall was injured at this mine by part of his clothes catching in the machinery and throwing his legs into a cog-wheel. He died the next day. Aged 60, and born in Georgia.

LEAD MINES

Occasional deposits of this mineral have been found in several places in East Tennessee, particularly in Carter, Washington, Union, Monroe, and Bradley Counties. In the latter county a lead mine was opened in 1851, known as the Hambright mine, but it was not worked to any extent until during the war, when the Confederate government worked the mine in 1861, 1862, and 1863, erecting works at a cost of \$25,000, and employing about 100 men. At that time the lead was found in pockets, each deposit yielding from half a ton to a ton.

Kevin Cason, left, librarian at the Tenn. State Library & Archives, receives the MTGS Journal Award for his 2015 article *Taxation in Tennessee 1796-1880*. Chuck Sherrill, right, presented the award.

WOOLEN MILLS

Knoxville Woolen Mills, Knoxville, Tenn.

1891, Houston Roach, while employed in this mill, had his right fore-finger crushed by machinery; finger was amputated close to the hand.

April 7, 1891, J. A. Fisher, while at work, was caught by the elevator, in attempting to get on it while in motion. His arm, chest, and head were injured, and jaw broken.

August 16, 1891, Wm. Jett fell through the elevator, sustaining painful injuries.

The company did not report either of the above accidents. They say in their report that they do not keep a record of accidents.

COTTON MILLS

Tennessee Cotton Mills, Nashville, Tenn.

December 21, 1892—An accident occurred in the cloth-room of this cotton factory. The steam had been turned on, and, becoming too hot, in some unaccountable manner, the cylinder-head, or drying wheel, at one end of the room, exploded. Miss Maggie Copeland received the full force of the steam in her face, together with small iron fragments from the cylinder. A boy standing close by also had his face slightly burned by steam.

1892 Report Concluded



The Allison Murders in Putnam County (part 5)

by Dr. Mitzi P. Freeman¹

Continued from the Spring 2017 issue (vol. XXX, no. 4)

Introduction

On 30 June 1877, a jury found Jo and Teek Brassell guilty of Murder in the First Degree for the murder of Russell Allison in November 1875. The judge sentenced them to be hanged on 9 August 1877 in Putnam County. The defense attorneys immediately requested that the case be brought to the Tennessee Supreme Court. It was another nine months before Jo and Teek met their destiny.

The Escape of Dol Bates

The day of Russell Allison's murder, Bates and Johnson returned to their homes in DeKalb County. Initially, their participation in the crime was unknown to the authorities. Their role was discovered only after Johnson, attempting to avoid charges for an unrelated crime, confessed to being present at the scene of the murder. He turned State's Evidence to avoid charges in either crime. A warrant was immediately issued for Bates arrest. He was captured in January 1876 by Sheriff Doss and sent to the Nashville Jail.

While awaiting his case to come to trial, Bates attempted to escape several times. His first attempt occurred while he was out on bail. After his release, he returned to his home in Alexandria where he remained for a week. He kept a close eye on legal wrangling of the Brassells. By the time that Bates was scheduled to appear in Court on 18 March 1878, the Brassells had completely exhausted all legal avenues for clemency. Fearing the same punishment, Bates fled. After failing to appear in Court, Judge McConnell issued a warrant for his arrest.

While on the run, he stole a mule and rode it to Gallatin. He sold it shortly thereafter. Boarding a train, he traveled to Louisville, Kentucky. From there, he boarded a boat and traveled to Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. He eventually made his way to Indianapolis, Indiana where he stayed for a while.

After contemplating the mess that he had gotten himself into, he decided to return to Tennessee and meet his fate. He later told a reporter: "On account of my mind being so troubled and so weary; I had feeling that cannot be described, and made up my mind to return and stand a trial, feeling that I could be cleared."ⁱ

He arrived back in Gallatin on 19 April 1878 and walked to his home in Alexandria. After spending a day and a night at home, he changed his mind and left to visit some relatives in Mississippi. He stopped at Thomas Chapman's farm in Liberty and stole his tender footed bay mare. Riding this mare, he traveled to Culpepper where he stopped to rest in the woods near the Woodbury and Murfreesboro Turnpike. Bates hitched the mare to a tree and lay down to rest. He kept his double-barrel shotgun under his arm as he slept.

Nearby, three young men were out in the woods hunting when they accidentally stumbled upon Bates sleeping. Fearing that he was a horse thief, they went and contacted Lewis Jetton, who was a member of the Vigilance Committee in Cannon County. Jetton and the three young men returned to where Bates was sleeping and demanded to know who he was. He informed them that his name was "Wilson," which he later claimed to be a joke. He was immediately arrested on suspicion of being a horse thief and taken to Woodbury.ⁱⁱ

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**Dol Bates was captured and taken to Woodbury in Cannon County.
This courthouse, built in 1838, was there at the time.**

As the party of men reached the Public Square in Woodbury, several members in the crowd cried out “*That’s Dol Bates!*”ⁱⁱⁱ After confirming his identity, he was placed in the custody of Sheriff James H. Mitchell of Cannon County and escorted back to jail. When the sheriff searched Bates, he found nothing on him except four empty whiskey bottles. Dirty and disheveled, Bates had been captured wearing a pair of blue pants, a gray-lined duster, and a collarless shirt. His clothes had not been washed in weeks.

Sheriff Doss and Deputy Sheriff Robert Botts arrived by wagon in Woodbury to escort Bates back to Alexandria and then back to the Nashville jail. They handcuffed Bates and tethered his handcuffs to the wagon. Doss tied the knot so

tightly that it was feared that he might have to later use a knife to free Bates.

While in the custody, Bates attempted another escape. He first tried to bribe Doss with \$500 [\$12,100 today] and a deed for 300 acres of land. When that attempt failed, he tried to free himself from his restraints and jump from the wagon. In another attempt while Botts was driving the wagon and Doss lay sleeping in the bed of the wagon, Bates manipulated his hands until they were nearly free. When Botts realized what Bates was doing, he cried out to Doss to awaken him. Bates, attempting to allay his fears, whispered “There is no necessity for calling him; there is no danger.” However, Botts continued to yell until Doss awoke.^{iv}

Bates escaped again in July 1878 when US Deputy Marshal John T. Armstrong escorted him from Nashville to Smithville for a court appearance. Armstrong had been specifically chosen for this duty, because he was well known for his ability to control his prisoners. After he and Bates left, other officials realized that Armstrong had taken no guards with him. They immediately dispatched George W. Hathaway and John Blackburn to aid Armstrong during the transfer.

As they traveled back to DeKalb County, Armstrong and Bates were in a buggy in front; and Hathaway and Blackburn followed in a Jersey behind. Bates was handcuffed to Armstrong. Hathaway and Blackburn later stated that in preparation for travel, Armstrong had adamantly refused to allow them to assist with Bates in any way. While en route, Armstrong made it difficult for Hathaway and Blackburn to keep pace with the buggy. They stopped in Alexandria for dinner. When it came time to leave, Armstrong drove off with Bates leaving Hathaway and Blackburn behind. Hathaway then drove at full speed trying to catch up with the buggy but failed to do so. By the time they reached Liberty, Bates had successfully escaped.

Armstrong and Bates had arrived in Liberty at Armstrong’s brother-in-law’s stable between 2:00am - 3:00am on the morning of 10 July. Needing to unharness the mule, Armstrong removed the handcuff from his own wrist and placed it on Bates’ free wrist – both wrists were now cuffed together. He removed the harness from the mule and carried it into the stable, while leaving Bates behind to hold the mule. As Armstrong disappeared behind the crib door, Bates simply walked off. Several people in the town saw him escape, but no one made any effort to stop him. Armstrong failed to raise any type of alarm or to make any effort to apprehend him. A few days later, Armstrong was indicted “for corruptly and voluntarily allowing the escape.”^v

Once free, Bates ran to James H. Overall's mill. He spotted an old axe in a woodpile and used it to break the handcuffs. He then headed toward Smithville and hid out of sight near a public road. When he spotted his father heading to court, he called out to him. Bates Sr. expressed surprise at seeing his son free from authorities. Bates told his father to go see the Judge and tell him that he would turn himself in if the Judge would agree to give him bond.

Sheriff Doss was again commissioned to apprehend Bates. When he heard of the conversation between Bates and his father, he used this information to his advantage. He began "working" with Bates' family and friends; promising them that if Bates would turn himself in, he would be allowed to give bond and would receive the minimal punishment for his latest escape.

Bates' attorney, William B. Corley, made an arrangement with Judge McConnell where Bates would be allowed to give bond immediately. Once this information was relayed to Bates, he approached Sheriff Doss and voluntarily gave himself up. He was immediately arrested without being allowed to post bond. The Sheriff had lied to him.

Both Bates and his attorney were angry about the turn of events. While Doss was busy tying a rope around Bates hands, Bates' attorney attempted to distract the sheriff. Bates jumped up and started to strike Doss with a stick. Doss quickly drew his pistol and pointed it at Bates. Bates promptly took his seat, and the attorney left in a hurry.^{vi}

After Bates returned to the Nashville Jail, a reporter from *the Daily American* visited him on the 19 July 1878 and requested his version of his escape from Armstrong. At first, Bates refused to comment. Then he said that he would write out something if the reporter returned in a couple of hours. When the reporter returned, Bates gave him the following handwritten story.

DOL'S STORY OF HIS ESCAPE

After leaving this place I arrived at Liberty about two or three o'clock A.M., I should judge on the night of the 10th. I was handcuffed to Capt. Armstrong. Having to unharness the mule, he found it difficult to get around while being handcuffed to me, so he took the handcuff off of his wrist and put both on me; then he took the harness off of the mule and I went ahead of him into the stable, followed closely by Capt. Armstrong. The night was pretty dark, the moon having just gone down. Capt. Armstrong was only three or four feet from me. I took advantage of the situation, the darkness, and my being handcuffed along, and ran right away from him. I went from there to Overall's mills, and I saw an old ax in a woodpile, and I broke the handcuffs off. I then went toward Smithville and remained near the public road all day, where I could see everybody pass, and I saw my father on his way to attend the court at Smithville. He was surprised to see me, and I told him to go to Smithville and see the Judge and tell him I would give myself up, if he would let me give bond. I never heard anything more about the bond for two or three days; then my attorney, W. B. Corley, Esq., made arrangements with Judge McConnell to allow me to give bond immediately, and this is what caused me to surrender myself. I was not captured. I came to Smithville of my own accord. I presented myself to Sheriff M. F. Doss, of DeKalb county, and I told him that I came to surrender, and that my bondsmen were there. He refused to take the bond and hurried me here without any explanation. I surrendered on the 17th of the month. I have been more than anxious for a trial, for I can easily prove that

DOL BATES' ESCAPE.

A Confiding Officer Hoodwinked by the Accomplice of the Brassell Brothers.

A gentleman who arrived here last night from Smithville, DeKalb county, says that Dol Bates, the accomplice of the Brassell brothers in the Allison murder, escaped from J. T. Armstrong, who had him in custody, at Liberty. Armstrong drove up to a stable, unhitched a mule from his buggy and told Bates to hold the mule until he went into the stable and got some oats. Bates, as might have been expected, readily assented to this proposition. Armstrong had scarcely gone inside the stable before Bates slipped the bridle off the mule's head and ran away and escaped. Armstrong made no attempt to pursue Bates. A good many persons witnessed the murderer's escape. Bates had been handcuffed, but the American's informant did not learn whether he still had them on or had slipped them off his wrists.

The court at Smithville, the witnesses, the attorneys on both sides, and a large crowd of spectators were patiently awaiting the coming of Armstrong and Bates, yesterday morning. It was expected that it would prove to be an unusually exciting trial, as the attorneys for the prosecution had declared, the day previous, that they had dug up enough proof to hang Bates, and that he was absolutely certain to share the fate of the Brassell brothers. The testimony against Bates had been accumulating ever since the execution of the Brassells.

Nashville Daily American
July 12, 1878

I am not guilty of the charge. I never would have made my escape, nor would I have attempted to do so, but I have been treated most shamefully by these Sheriffs.

Doss asked me to say something in his favor when I arrived here, as to his kind and gentle treatment toward me while en route to this place. All that I can say is, that I would not treat a dog as he treated me. I must say that he treated me most shamefully, insulting me on every occasion, and using his position to make me as miserable as possible. I did not wish to make my escape, but I could not stand the treatment that I received at their hands, and consequently I ran away. I gave myself up thinking that I would be put in hands that would use me more like a human being. I do not do this to create any sympathy; all I do this for is to make a true statement in regard to my escape and my surrender to the Sheriff.

Yours truly,
W. B. Bates

N. B. - This Sheriff M. F. Doss, is a candidate for Circuit Court Clerk at the next election, and he has ill used me, thinking that he will gain more votes by it.

W. B. B.”^{vii}

Jailer Yarbrough and Deputy Morrow refuted Bates’ claim of mistreatment by Sheriff Doss by saying “Mr. Doss has served three terms as Sheriff of DeKalb county – as long as he can legally serve – and has always conducted himself in a manner highly satisfactory to the people of that county.”^{viii}

Bates’ Trials

THE FIRST TRIAL

Bates remained incarcerated at the Nashville jail until his case came to trial on 8 November 1878. He plead not guilty. Many of the same witnesses appeared in this trial as appeared in the Brassell trial.

The defense subpoenaed Jim Brassell to testify that Bates had stayed the night at his house and had not gone to the Allison/Isbell home. Jim adamantly refused to testify, because he feared arrest or assassination. He was eventually jailed for his refusal to testify.

The case was handed to the jury on Saturday 9 November, and they returned Monday morning with a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Bates showed little emotion when the verdict was read.

In court the next day, Bates’ attorney requested new trial based on the actions of one of the jurors. The attorneys produced several depositions, which stated that juror Bennett S. Turner had discussed the case with other people. In each conversation, Turner condemned Bates and expressed his belief that Bates was guilty. In addition, it was shown that Turner had separated himself from the other jurors and was unaccompanied by an officer of the law on at least one occasion.^{ix} The Judge granted a new trial set for March 1879. Bates was denied bail and returned to the Nashville jail.

THE SECOND TRIAL

The second trial began Monday, 10 March 1879. This trial preceded much in the same way as the earlier trial with all the same witnesses called.

The case was handed to the jury on Saturday, and on Monday they returned with another guilty verdict, but this time it was in the second degree. Bates was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor in the Tennessee State Prison. The judge concluded the trial by saying that Bates could appeal his sentence to the Supreme Court in Nashville.

SUPREME COURT

On 18 January 1880, the Supreme Court upheld Bates' conviction and prison sentence. He was, then, transferred to the Tennessee State Penitentiary to begin serving his prison sentence.^x

Prison and Pardon

PRISON

On 20 January 1880, the Tennessee State Penitentiary received Dol Bates as Prisoner #3619. He was 32 years old and described to be 5'

11 1/4" tall, weighing 162 lbs., with grey eyes, dark hair, and a dark complexion. He had a scar on the inside of his right ankle. He was born in Tennessee, married, and by trade a mechanic. He had a moderate education and expressed no religious preferences.^{xi}

He solemnly affirmed to his mother, on her deathbed, that he was innocent.

Letter to the Governor

During his incarceration, a significant event took place and would ultimately play an important role in Bates' pardon. The prison caught fire on 6 December 1881. The fire started in the machine shop when a convict accidentally dropped a blazing coal into a blackening tub. The blaze engulfed the machine shop and spread rapidly through the prison. Panic and pandemonium broke out among the prisoners. Instead of using the confusion as an opportunity for escape, most prisoners helped officials put out the blaze by forming long lines and passing water buckets up and down the lines. Of the 728 prisoners incarcerated, only six escaped. All were later captured.^{xii}

Rather than making his escape, Bates rendered aid to the injured and helped to put out the fire. Warden Thomas Waters later commended his efforts in a letter to Governor Albert Marks. He wrote "I especially noticed the conduct of W. B. alias Dol Bates a convict from DeKalb County from the fact that I had known him for years. I can say there was not a better convict within the walls. He could have easily made his escape the day of the fire in Dec 81 - but upon the contrary he came and tendered his services to me and the other officials and rendered efficient service."^{xiii}

PARDON

By late 1882, Bates had been in state prison for nearly three years. His lawyers, family and friends began a campaign to encourage the Governor of Tennessee to issue him a pardon. He had several influential friends who attempted to intercede on his behalf.

In 1882, Governor Alvin Hawkins received the following letters.

- **28 November 1882, Dowlletown, TN: Captain Ezekiel Bass**, former Captain in the 5th Tennessee Cavalry USA, wrote to say that he had known Bates all his life, and he was a good boy. He did not believe that Bates was guilty of the crime and was requesting that he get a reprieve.
- **30 November 1882, Smithville, TN: Judge Wingate T. Robinson**, County Judge for DeKalb County and former 1st Lieutenant in the 5th Tennessee Cavalry USA, wrote to say that the public sentiment of the people was unanimously in favor of Bates receiving a pardon. Bates' elderly father had spent all his money to provide lawyers for his son and was now dependent on his neighbors for his support. He believed that Bates would make a good citizen.
- **04 December 1882, Alexandria, TN: Colonel William Brickly Stokes**, former Tennessee Representative to United States Congress (1859-1861) and former Colonel of the 5th Tennessee Cavalry USA, wrote to say that he had done some personal investigation in the Allison Murders and was satisfied that Bates was not with the Brassells the night of the murder. Stokes included a petition with 126 signatures from citizens of DeKalb County, who wished to see Bates receive a pardon. Having known Dobson Johnson since he was an infant, Stokes opinion of him was that he was a "low down worthless creature." He closed by saying that he felt Bates had suffered enough.

In 1883, William Brimage Bate (no relation to Dol Bates) became the new Governor of Tennessee. The quest to pardon Bates continued through his term.

- **29 June 1883, Washington, DC: Colonel Thomas Waters**, former Warden of the Tennessee Penitentiary and former Major of the 4th Tennessee Mounted Infantry USA, wrote that while he was the Warden, he had the opportunity to observe Bates as a prisoner. He remarked, “there was not a better convict within the walls.”
- **29 May 1884, Smithville, TN: Bethel Magness Webb** from the law firm Gribble, Webb & Ayant had been the first lawyer employed by the State to prosecute Bates. After being on the case for some time, he resigned; because he felt that Bates was being wrongly prosecuted. Bates’ conviction was based solely on Johnson’s testimony. He felt that Johnson was a “worthless unreliable scoundrel” and that the other witness’s testimonies were “rickety & unsatisfactory at least to his mind.” Bates father was quite old and was in need of his son’s help. Webb closed by saying that he hoped the Governor would consider his application and pardon him.
- **17 June 1885, Smithville, TN:** The men who served on the jury in Bates’ second trial signed a petition asking the Governor to pardon Bates.
- **18 January 1886, Nashville, TN: F. S. Harris**, Warden of Tennessee Penitentiary, wrote to say that Bates had served nearly six years. A new “Good Time Law” was recently passed but had yet to take effect. This new law would entitle Bates to be released on 19 October 1886. He regretted that Bates had been incarcerated so long.
- **19 January 1886, Lebanon, TN: Robert Emmett Thompson**, a renowned Criminal Defense Attorney, wrote that he had received a letter from Dol Bates, who said that his prison time would be up if he were allowed to use the Good Time allocation.
- **02 September 1886, Nashville, TN: Andrew J. Hooper**, Warden of the Tennessee Penitentiary, and **F. H. Cass**, Deputy Warden, recommended Bates for pardon based on his excellent conduct during his incarceration.
- **1886, DeKalb County, TN: Sixteen members of the DeKalb County Bar Association** signed a petition saying that since Bates had served a considerable portion of his ten-year sentence, had good character prior to the murders, and since his father now needed his help, they requested that the Governor give him a pardon.

In addition to these personal letters, there were eight separate petitions sent to Governor Bate asking him to pardon Bates. They cited Bates good character prior to the murders and the dire financial and personal circumstances of his father.

Bates’ wife, Sarah, wrote Governor Bate the following letter.

Alexandria, Tenn, 28 Feb 1885

To His Excellency, W. B. Bate, Gov. of Tennessee

Honored Sir,

Feeling confident that you are a great, good, and merciful man or you would not have been placed in so high a position, I make bold to write to you in Behalf of my husband, W. B. or Doll Bates as he is sometimes called. He has been in the State Prison at Nashville for about six years. His sentence was for

*"By continued work in wind and rain
when no shelter was offered, my health
gave way; I am but the wreck of my
former self; having given my best years,
my health, my energies, my all to the
State."*

Dol Bates' petition for pardon

ten years, for a crime of which he solemnly affirmed to his mother on her deathbed that he was innocent. His Father spent all his property which was considerable, in feeing lawyers to defend his son, and now he is a poor lonely, desolate, old man. I have been a hireling ever since my husband was sentenced, and in my loneliness and poverty it seemed to me that even were he guilty six of the best years of his

manhood and the wrecking of his health is sufficient atonement. I have no one to help me none and my husband was always kind and good to me. I implore you in the name of that mercy which "Droppeth as the gentle dew from Heaven" that you pardon him now and reunite our little family. I believe that Dol will make a good citizen if released. God pardoned. Should man be more exacting?

I beseech your Excellence that for the sake of Him who came and suffered and died on earth that the vilest wretch might be pardoned, do pardon and release my husband. In the thoughtlessness of youth he may have done wrong but I do not believe that he was guilty of the charge against him. He writes that his health is failing by the confinement of so many years. Pardon him, the prayers of myself and all his friends shall arise to Heaven for blessings on your head. Enclose I send a postal. Please write me a few words in answer.

Very Respectfully,
Sarah Bates^{xiv}

Bates wrote Governor Bates several letters begging for a pardon. One of them reads as follows:

Nashville Penitentiary, September 1st 1886

His Excellency, Wm B. Bate, Governor of Tennessee

Honorable Sir:

My apology for the trespass upon your valuable time is the urgency of the case, and if I seem to indulge in too lengthy an epistle, I beg your Excellency to consider that a question of almost Life and Death a question outweighing any other earthly affair is herein laid before you, with the earnest and sincere prayer that your Excellency as such consider my appeal.

Over nine years of confinement in Prison, of which seven years were served in this Institution have brought me to a state of mind which only those can understand who had a similar experience and not deserving to burden your Excellency with the merits of my case if any – I beg to appeal personally to the Chief Magistrate, as the only being to in which the power is visited to give me relief, and begging such points to bear which I trust your Excellency will consider good and valid reasons on which to grant my request for freedom:

Fully cognizant of the fact, that mentions conduct, and trust never betrayed under circumstance when trust is often a great temptation, are matters that come unto serious and weighty consideration with the Executive in applications for clemency - these I claim, not with the view of merit to myself, but as an inducement for investigation by your Excellency.

In the seven years confined here, no harsh word has ever been necessary to me, I have held every office of trust which is tenable by a prisoner, I have worked faithfully and laboriously for the interest of the

Lessees and without a single exception have, I believe the good will of everyone connected with the Institution.

After the fire in the prison when a long term of servitude was yet before me, I attended the sick outside the walls with every opportunity to betray the trust, I helped building the shops. While hundreds of men were idle in the wings and I have never by word or action shown any disposition to complain or grow weary!

Does your Excellency not think that some compensation is due me for all this and that the example I set for others to wait patiently, work faithfully and endure silently is worthy of the Executive's consideration?

By continued work in wind and rain when no shelter was offered, my health gave way; I am but the wreck of my former self; having given my best years, my health, my energies, my all to the State and now when but a short time to serve, I ask your Excellency to temper Justice and Mercy and grant me liberty for the sake of an aged Father who is on the verge of insanity because of the misfortune of his son!

Words are but poor substitution for feelings, but your Excellency may well imagine how a soul separated from all earthly ties, deprived for nine long and weary years of liberty, and waiting from day to day for a reward conscientiously labored for all these years __ longs to see the day when this yoke will be unchained and with a heart full of gratitude and a determination to amend for the past and do good in this work, enters once more into life __ born again and made new by sad experience!

My appeal to your Excellency is made on the strength of these points cooperated by all who know and observe me, and I trust that pity and justice, the charity and benevolence which entered do largely in the administration of your Excellency, will cause you to grant my prayer and restore me to society, wife and father a better citizen, a more devoted husband and a dutiful son.

Permit me to sign
Your Excellency's obedient Servant
W. B. Bates^{xv}

On Christmas Day 1886, Bates finally received the pardon he so desperately wanted. He returned to DeKalb County to his wife and to his elderly father. He had served seven years of his ten-year sentence.

Life After Prison

After becoming a free man, he and his wife remained in DeKalb County only a short time before moving to Elkmont, Limestone County, Alabama. They lived there for two years before deciding to try their luck out west. They settled in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas for about two years and then moved to Thurber, Erath County, Texas, remaining there about nine years.

Finally, they moved to Jarilla Junction, Otero County, New Mexico. Bates worked in the mines as miner for the rest of his years. He and his wife never had any children. He was never in trouble with the law again.

Bates died of acute indigestion on 8 June 1922 and was buried in the Alamogordo Cemetery in Alamogordo, New Mexico. His obituary appeared in the 16 June 1922 issue of the *Alamogordo Cloudcrofter*.

DEATH OF WM. B. BATES - The death of W. B. Bates occurred at his home at Orogrande suddenly last Thursday. The body was brought to this city for interment Friday, Rev. A. N. Porter conducting the funeral services at Geren & Hammond undertaking parlors.

William Bell Bates was a native of Tennessee, and had resided at Orogrande since 1899, and at the time of his death was 75 years of age. For many years he had been engaged in mining operation. Mr. Bates during the reconstruction period served with the Federal forces. He was a man of kind disposition, and had many friends who were greatly shocked to learn of his demise. He is survived by his wife, and also a brother, who lives in Tennessee.



Epilogue

After the public hanging of Jo and Teek Brassell on Billy Goat Hill in Cookeville on 27 March 1878, Putnam County slowly returned to normal. After the conclusion of Bates' second trial in March 1879, DeKalb County made its slow progress back to normal. The interest in both cases died down, and those intimately involved in the tragedy returned to their lives.

JOSEPH C. ALLISON - After the murder of his two older brothers, Joe continued to live with his stepmother, Angie, and her second husband, James Isbell. Sometime in the late fall of 1878 or early winter of 1879, Joe became seriously ill with a lung ailment. Throughout his illness, Angie tenderly took care of him. In her testimony at Bates' Trial in March 1879, Angie stated that Joe was near death. He lingered until November 1879. At the time of his death, he was only 20 years old and had never married. The location of his grave is unknown. He is probably buried in an unmarked grave in the Rhea Cemetery in Putnam County near his parents and his brothers.

ANGELINE (BEASLEY) ALLISON ISBELL - After the murders, Angie continued to live in the Allison/Isbell home. She nursed both her stepson Joe and her second husband James Isbell throughout their illnesses. James died on 26 April 1880. On 4 April 1891, Angie sold the house and lands to James H. Lee.^{xvi} Where she lived after she sold the Allison lands is unknown. In her Last Will & Testament dated 24 November 1892, she made several bequests to family members, including her brother and members of the Allison and Isbell families.

According to the Allison Family Bible, Angie died in November 1892 putting the date of her death between 24 November - 30 November 1892. It is unknown where she is buried. Possibilities include an unmarked grave in the Rhea Cemetery near her first husband, in the Cookeville City Cemetery near her second husband, or in the Beasley Family Cemetery near her brother.

AMANDA PIPPIN - Not much is known about Mandy after the shooting. She continued to live with Angie until after the 1880 census. She never married and died on 6 February 1888. She is buried near her family in the Whitson Cemetery in Putnam County.

ARCHIBALD BRYANT - Arch married Mary Frances Bryant about 1876, and they raised a family of thirteen children. Arch died 7 January 1913 and is buried in the Bryant Cemetery in Putnam County.

LEANN (MAXWELL) ALLISON - After the murder of her husband, Leann never re-married. She continued to live and raise her children on the land that she and her husband owned. She died 22 October 1915 and was buried next to her husband in the Rhea Family Cemetery in Putnam County.

JAMES REUBEN BRASSELL - Despite many rumors of his arrest after the public hanging of his brothers, Jim was never charged or tried for any crime relative to the Allison murders. Jim and his wife raised a family of ten children. He stayed out of trouble until the spring 1898.

On Sunday 3 April 1898, Jim and his two sons Claude and Clay murdered Giles Bradford Jr. They were tried three separate times. In the final trial, Jim and Clay received two years in the Tennessee Penitentiary while Claude received six years.

Jim died 30 March 1926 and was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Putnam County.

DOBSON YEARGAN JOHNSON - Dobson Johnson was directly credited for helping to bring the Brassells to justice and for helping to break up the High Curtis Gang. He testified in the Brassells' trial, in both of Bates' trials, and in the Curtis trials held in Smith County. In return for his testimony, he was never charged with any crime related to the murders of the Allison Brothers or to the activities of the Curtis Gang.

A spectator at the Brassells' trial described Johnson's demeanor on the witness stand as follows "While on the witness stand, in the Brassell case, he told what was believed to be a frank, straightforward story. He is a man of such phlegmatic temperament that all the sarcasm the defending lawyer could bring to bear did not excite him in the least."^{xvii} As the Defense Attorney peppered him with questions, Johnson calmly admitted that he had been present at the Allison/Isbell home on the night of Russ's murder, been present at the New Middleton Store on the night the Curtis Gang robbed the store, and that the boots he was currently wearing were stolen from that store. He gamely informed the court that he was wearing a size 10 on one foot and a size 11 on the other.

In 1886, Johnson applied for a pension from the Federal Government for his alleged service in the Union Army. The Pension Board denied his request, because they could not find his name on the military rolls. Although two comrades sent affidavits to the Pension Board on Johnson's behalf, the Federal Government never approved his application.

By 1900, Johnson and his wife had eleven children, eight of which were still living. Mary, his wife, died between 1900 and 1904. In 1904, he married a widow named Emma. Johnson died 21 October 1911. Although it is unknown where he is buried, he is probably buried in an unmarked grave near his family in the Dismal Cemetery in DeKalb County.

Notes

ⁱ "Dol Bates Wanderings – How He Happened to Wind Up in the Davidson County Jail – Where He Has Been Since His Disappearance." *Daily American [Nashville, TN]* 21 Apr 1878: 1, hereinafter cited as "Dol Bates Wanderings."

ⁱⁱ "Dol Bates Captured – The Accomplice of the Brassell Brothers Overhauled in Cannon County." *Daily American*, 20 Apr 1878: 4., hereinafter cited as "Dol Bates Captured."

ⁱⁱⁱ "Dol Bates Wanderings."

^{iv} Ibid.

^v "DOL BATES'S ESCAPE – Suspicious Conduct of the Officer Who Let Him Get Loose – Indicted for Complicity in the Affair." *Daily American*, 14 July 1878: 3.

^{vi} "Bates Recaptured – How It Was Done – In Jail Here Again." *Daily American [Nashville, TN]* 19 Jul 1878: 4.

^{vii} "A Mixed Business." *Daily American [Nashville, TN]* 20 Apr 1878: 4.

^{viii} "Dol Bates Captured."

^{ix} "Dol Bates." *Fayetteville Observer* [Fayetteville, TN] 05 Dec 1878. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85033395/1878-12-05/ed-1/seq-2/>>

^x *State vs W. B. Bates, alias Dol Bates*, Tennessee Supreme Court Case Files. Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, TN. Box 56.

^{xi} *Prison Records, State of Tennessee 1831-1992. Vol. 51, Convict Records: State Penitentiary, Nashville, TN Book B 1877-1882. Record Group 25. Roll #15. Prisoner #3619.*

^{xii} "THE PENITENTIARY FIRE - One of the Largest Manufacturing Establishments in the South Destroyed." *Daily American* [Nashville, TN] 6 Dec 1881: 4.

^{xiii} *Governor William Brimage Bate (1826-1905) Papers 1883-1887* (1964): Tennessee State Library and Archives, Microform, Roll #5. Application for Pardon – W. B. Alias Doll Bates.

^{xiv} Ibid.

^{xv} Ibid.

^{xvi} Angeline Isbell to James H. Lee, *Putnam County, Tennessee Deed Book P*, Page 542.

^{xvii} "Testifying in Stolen Boots." *Daily American [Nashville, TN]* 23 Apr 1878: 4.

**BYLAWS of the
MIDDLE TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**
as approved by the membership _____

ARTICLE I.

Name.

The name of this non-profit Society, organized June 1, 1987, [chartered March 10, 1988] shall be Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc. This is a 501 (c) (3) organization, as that term is defined in this section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1985.

ARTICLE II.

Objectives.

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

ARTICLE III.

Membership and Dues.

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

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

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

ARTICLE IV.

Officers.

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

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

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

SECTION 4. No Officer shall hold more than one office at a time or be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, except the Treasurer, who can serve for five consecutive terms.

SECTION 5.

A. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President who shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of the term.

B. If a vacancy should occur during the year in any office or directorship other than Presidency, the vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6.

A. The President shall: (1) Preside at all meetings of the society and Board of Directors. (2) Appoint all standing Committee Chairpersons and such other committees as authorized by the Society or Board of

Directors, to serve during the term of the President. (3) Be an ex-officio member on all committees except the Nominating Committee. (4) Appoint a member to serve as Parliamentarian. (5) Perform other duties as pertain to the office of President.

B. The Vice President shall: (1) Be an active aid to the President. (2) In the event of the absence or inability of the President to perform his/her duties, the Vice President shall perform the duties of and have the authority and privileges of the President. (3) The Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the Program Committee.

C. The Recording Secretary shall: 1. Take minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors; keep a permanent, continuous record of all activities of the Society; make a report of the written record at each meeting. (2) Notify members of delinquency of dues after the Mail and Membership Master has provided the list of delinquent members. (3) Be responsible for filling orders for back issues of the MTGS Journal, CDs and DVDs. (4) Perform other duties as pertain to this office.

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

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

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

ARTICLE V.

Board of Directors.

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

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

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

SECTION 4. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to develop a policy for answering requests directed to the Society.

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

SECTION 6. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Journal Editor whose responsibility is to serve as Editor of the society quarterly publication. The Journal Editor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Mail and Membership Master whose duties shall be: (1) To maintain an accurate list of members, along with such information as mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, expiration dates of membership, and other pertinent information; (2) To notify mailing service of any additions or deletions from the mailing list, making sure that the mailing service has a current and correct

membership list along with correct addresses; and (3) to maintain a post office box and periodically collect mail addressed to the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society from that box and process such mail or forward it to the appropriate officer, director or member of the Society. The Mail and Membership Master shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

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

SECTION 9. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Social Media Administrator whose duties shall be: (1) To maintain a social media presence on platforms as directed by the Board, providing information about current meetings and events; (2) the Social Media Administrator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 10. The Board of Directors shall appoint a newsletter editor of the bi-monthly newsletter, the MTGS MESSENGER, whose duties shall be: (1) To write the newsletter with the bi-monthly program, forthcoming workshops, special interest groups and projects, the annual November seminar, and notices of activities of other genealogical groups within our 40 counties that MTGS serves and other items of interest to the membership; (2) The Newsletter Editor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 11. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Publicity Chairman whose duties are to send all notices of meetings, workshops, seminars and other meetings to the Chairman's contact list of newspapers, historical/genealogical organizations and other venues. This Publicity Chairman shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors;

SECTION 12. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Workshop Coordinator whose duties are to coordinate and execute genealogical workshops and classes to be offered at different venues and times but would not include the annual November seminar. The Workshop Coordinator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 13. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Chair of the Annual November Seminar Committee to plan and implement the annual November seminar. The Chair of the Annual November Seminar shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI Membership Meetings.

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE VII Committees.

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

SECTION 2. Duties of Standing Committees.

A. **The Program Committee** shall: (1) Arrange a program for presentation at each of the regular membership meetings of the Society. (2) Any seminars sponsored by the Society shall come under the direction of this

committee.

B. The Annual Seminar Committee shall: (1) be responsible for planning and implementation of the annual November seminar. (2) present a proposed program of speakers and topics for approval at the January Board meeting.

C. The Collections and Archives Committee shall: (1) Receive and process any genealogical information received by the Society in a form directed by the Board of Directors so as to preserve and make such information accessible to the public.

D. The Public Relations and Membership Committee shall: (1) Actively seek new members for the Society. (2) Publicize information pertaining to the Society as directed by the Board of Directors.

E. The Publications Committee shall: (1) Prepare materials, other than the quarterly journal, for publication as approved by the Board of Directors. (2) Assist the Editor of the quarterly as needed. (3) Provide input to the board relating to publication matters.

ARTICLE VIII.

Parliamentary Authority.

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

ARTICLE IX.

Amendment of Bylaws.

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

ARTICLE X.

Dissolution of the Society.

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

ARTICLE XI.

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

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

SECTION 3. The Society and Society Officers shall, to the best of their knowledge, follow all guidelines and laws regarding privacy of the society members and their personal data. Any list of member's names, addresses, telephone and/or cell phone numbers, Fax numbers, E-mail addresses, website information or any other communication address shall absolutely not be sold for financial gain to benefit the Society and/or the seller.

By-Laws Committee 2016-2017

Paul White, Chairman
Sue Edwards
Joe Nave

Dorothy Williams Potter
Chuck Sherrill
Virginia Gooch Watson