

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OUR MEETINGS

Meetings are held the third Saturday of the month in Jan., Mar., May, July and Sept.

Meetings begin at 1:00.

There is no charge.

Members and visitors are always welcome.

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

Saturday, July 21st

1:00 p.m. at the
Nashville Public Library
615 Church St.

Join us for tours of two great local resources under one roof – the Nashville Room and the Metro Archives. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, August 11th

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Tenn. State Library & Archives
403 7th Ave. North

Conservation of Documents and Photographs

The professional conservation staff of the Library & Archives will provide a hands-on workshop at which you can preserve historical items you bring with you. Preregistration and payment of a fee is required.

Saturday, Sept. 15th

1:00 p.m. at the
Brentwood Library
8109 Concord Rd., Brentwood

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*

Volume XXXII, Number 1, Summer 2018

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~~Gale Williams Bamman~~
~~Dr. Mitzi Freeman~~
~~Debbie McConnel~~
~~Jay Richiuse~~
~~Shirley Wilson~~

From the Editor. . .

This issue will provide a good summer evening's worth of browsing and reading, I trust. It contains a variety of articles to help you learn about Middle Tennessee history and stimulate your mind with ideas for your genealogical research.

The troubling and fascinating history of enslaved persons sent to Liberia by their Middle Tennessee owners is revealed in this issue. Debbie McConnel has used records of the American Colonization Society to discover the names and some of the history of these often ill-fated colonists.

Most genealogists have good memories of trips to old family graveyards. The sense of history and connection to your ancestors found there makes for special moments. In this issue we have the story of the Gower cemetery in Davidson County, abandoned for many years but now rescued through the efforts of descendants and friends. The Gower story may provide a good model for others to follow in reclaiming a family cemetery.

A young author appearing for the first time in this issue is Heather Adkins, an archivist at the State Library and Archives. Her article on the Edwards family of Sumner County is interwoven with the history of a beautiful historic landmark.

These and other offerings in this issue of the Journal are offered for your pleasure and instruction. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact the authors directly, or via the editor.

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.

Printing arranged by Bruce Woodard, Brentwood, TN. Cover design by Dorothy Williams Potter. Indexed in the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI).

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Secret Service Agents in Murfreesboro, 1863

Report Of Persons and Articles employed and hired at *Murfreesboro*, Tenn.

RUNNING NUMBERS	NO. PAGE	NAMES OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES	DESIGNATION AND OCCUPATION	SERVICE DURING MONTH			RATE OF HIRE OR COMPENSATION.			DATE OF CONTRACT, AGREEMENT, OR ENTRY INTO SERVICE
				From	To	Days	Dollars	Cents	Days, Months, Voyage	
1		<i>D. W. Hargrett</i>	<i>Chief of Scouts</i>	1	31	31	5	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 10</i>
2		<i>A. E. Collins</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	30	30	2	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 15</i>
3		<i>E. W. Hargrett</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	1	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 22</i>
4		<i>J. P. Pugh</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	1	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 26</i>
5		<i>E. J. Pugh</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	1	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 26</i>
6		<i>W. M. Williams</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	3	3	2	94	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mar 31</i>
7		<i>J. H. Cook</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	6	00	<i>2 Trips</i>	<i>Apr 1</i>
8		<i>P. H. Harris</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	1	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Apr 10</i>
9		<i>W. H. Harris</i>	<i>Secret Service</i>	1	31	31	1	00	<i>Day</i>	<i>Apr 12</i>

Three documents found among military records at the National Archives reveal that the Union Army recruited agents to gather information in Middle Tennessee following the Battle of Stones' River. The lists are dated March, April and May of 1863 and show that the secret agents were recruited by order of Union General William Rosecrans.¹ This took place not long after the bloody battle at Murfreesboro, and the Union army was occupying the surrounding area. Because so many Confederate sympathizers filled the countryside, Rosecrans needed a reliable network of informants to help him identify plots against military authorities, as well as to help find caches of hidden food and livestock which could be requisitioned by the army.



Rosecrans himself had a brief moment in the sun following the inconclusive battle at Stone's River, when the Confederates under Braxton Bragg decided to withdraw from Middle Tennessee. He implemented martial law over the region from Nashville southward, including not only Murfreesboro but Tullahoma, Winchester, McMinnville, Shelbyville and beyond. It was during this time that he recruited the Secret Service agents. But that fall Rosecrans would march on the Confederates at Chattanooga and lose disastrously, being relieved of command by General Grant.

Rosecrans' adjutant, who signed this order to pay the agents, was fellow Ohioan David G. Swaim. While Rosecrans' background was in business, Swaim was a young lawyer who rose through the ranks during the Civil War and followed a military career thereafter. President

David Swaim of Ohio (1834-1897)
signed the order to pay the spies.

He later rose to high rank and
was implicated in a major
Washington, D.C. scandal.

General, 1818-1905, Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, U.S. National Archives R.G. 92, Entry

Rutherford B. Hayes appointed him Judge Advocate General (basically the head of the army's lawyers) in 1879. Through the next several administrations, he evidently became corrupt and was implicated in several scandals. He was suspended from office in 1884. Perhaps his dealings with secret agents during the Civil War led him to think and act deviously.

The head of the Secret Service at Murfreesboro was David W. Knight. He is found in the 1860 census in the vicinity of Nashville, and the record shows that he was a native of New York. At that time he was a 34-year-old farmer with modest holdings -- \$500 in real estate and \$1,500 in personal property.² His wife, whom he married in Nashville in 1855, was Margaret Demoss.³ In October 1863 Knight wrote a letter to Tennessee's Military Governor, Andrew Johnson, complaining about the depredations Confederate guerillas were making on his farm.⁴ He cited in particular the guerilla band led by Moses Royce, and asked Gov. Johnson to force Royce to make payment for stolen horses and provisions. Royce was a most unlikely Confederate guerilla -- he was a nephew of the Governor of Vermont, and former rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin. Nonetheless, Royce was arrested and imprisoned, and only saved from execution when Jefferson Davis threatened to execute Union prisoners in retaliation.⁵



REV. M. S. ROYCE.

A search of Tennessee Union Army service records turned up several of the secret service agents. The 1860 census and the index to Union Army pensioners were also consulted. Most of the men hired as secret service agents who could be identified were from East Tennessee counties, where much of the population was pro-Union. Notes from these searches are appended within the list below.

One wonders what happened to these men when Rosecrans' army marched off to Chattanooga. Did they go along, or did they melt back into the general population? The records show that at least some were in Chattanooga in the fall of 1863 when seven of these secret service agents joined the 6th Mounted Infantry. This unit was formed in October 1863 by General James Steedman; Daniel McWilliams, one of the agents, was selected as a captain. The soldiers of the 6th Mounted Infantry were engaged in pursuing Confederate guerilla bands in the Cumberland Mountains. The knowledge and experience of those who had done secret service work must have proved helpful. Near the close of the war they served in East Tennessee and north Georgia.⁶

**Report of Persons and Articles employed or hired at Murfreesboro,
March, [April and May] 1863, by order of Major General Rosecrans.
[Signed] D.G. Swaim, Asst. Adjutant General.**

Name	Occupation	Rate of Pay	Days Worked		
			March	April	May
Allison, [T.?] B.	Secret Service	\$25/trip		15	
Anderson, J.C.	Secret Service	\$3.00/day		11	
Anderson, J.P. [J.F.]	Secret Service	\$2.00/day			1
<i>A James F. Anderson, age 18, enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry in Pikeville in 1864. He was born in Bledsoe County. He and his widow received</i>					

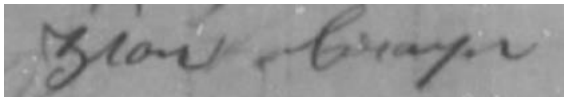
² Leroy Graf and Ralph Haskins, *Papers of Andrew Johnson* (Knoxville: Univ. of Tenn. Press, 1983), vol. 6, p.407.

³ Davidson County, Tenn., *Marriage records 1838-1864*, p.176, entry #2109, digital image at Ancestry.com

⁴ *Papers of Andrew Johnson*, v.6, p.407.

⁵ Sally Royce Wier, "Rev. Moses Strong Royce," *Confederate Veteran*, vol. 16 (1908), p.622, digital image at books.google.com.

⁶ *Tennesseans in the Civil War* (Nashville: Civil War Centennial Commission, 1964), vol. 1, p.358.

Name	Occupation	Rate of Pay	Days Worked		
			March	April	May
	<i>pensions.</i>				
Basham, J.M.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day		16	
Basham, Jas. M.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day			12
	<i>A James Basham of Marion County, age 33, enlisted in the 10th Tenn. Infantry in July 1863 and died in Nov. 1864 of disease in a Nashville military hospital.</i>				
[Bennett?, N?]	Secret Service	\$4.00/day			31
Bidwell, C.M.	Secret Service	[\$4.00?]/day	10	30	31
	<i>C.M. Bidwell appears in the 1860 census in Cheatham County as a 30-year-old farmer with a wife and small children. His real estate was valued at \$3,000 and his personal property at \$3,500.</i>				
Brown, S.L.	Secret Service	\$30/trip		13	
Collins, A.E.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day	17	30	30
Coop, J.G. [or J.T.?]	Secret Service	\$69 for two trips		30	31
	<i>Jeptha Cope, age 18, enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry in Chattanooga in 1865. He was born in Grundy County, and received a \$100 enlistment bounty. His mother received his pension.</i>				
Crayn, Zion	Secret Service	\$35/trip		[?]	
	<i>Zion Crayn enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry at Chattanooga in Aug. 1864. He was 33 years old, born in Greenville, S.C. He applied for a pension in 1891. This is his original signature, taken from his service record:</i>				
					
Drake, H.C.	Charge of Secret [Stable?]	\$1.00/day			14
Fisher, [G. or T.?]	Secret Service	\$1.00/day			15
Fisher, M.	Secret Service	\$1.00/day			15
Frierson, E	Clerk	\$1.00/day			31
Gailor, G.L. [or T.L.?]	Secret Service	\$4.00/day	8	25	
Hixson, H.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day			20
	<i>Huston Hixson, age 35, enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry in Chattanooga in 1864. He was born in Marion County. He received a pension.</i>				
Hooker, J.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day		13	
Hopper, F.M.	Laborer	\$.50/day			17
Humberd, Wm.	Secret Service	\$70/trip		30	
Hurd, G.W. [or T.W.?]	Secret Service	\$3.00/day		8	20
Jeffries, Martin	Secret Service	\$1.75/day	15	5	
	<i>A Martin Jeffries, age 32, appears in the 1860 census of Blount County in East Tenn.</i>				
John (Negro Boy)	Laborer	\$.40/day			14
Jones, Jno.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day		14	31
Knight, D.W.	Chief of Scouts	\$5.00/day	22	30	31
	<i>1860 census, Davidson County, farmer age 35, born New York. See article above.</i>				

Name	Occupation	Rate of Pay	Days Worked		
			March	April	May
Lane, Wm.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day		8	12
Leggett, J.M.	Secret Service	\$2.00/day		10	
McAdams, J.H.	Secret Service	\$30/trip		[15?]	
McWilliams, D.	Secret Service	\$2.94/day	2	30	3
	<i>Capt. Daniel McWilliams and Lieut. David McWilliams both enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry at Nashville in 1864. Daniel was 34 and David was 29. Both men received pensions. Daniel McWilliams appears in the 1860 census of Bledsoe County, as a 29-year-old farmer.</i>				
Melton, W.	Secret Service	\$25/trip	11		
	<i>A Wilkerson Melton, age 35, enlisted in the 4th Tenn. Mounted Infantry at Shelbyville in Sept. 1864. He was 35 years old and was born in Indiana. After his death in 1880, a minor child received a pension for his service.</i>				
Merritt, A.J.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day		19	31
Milstead, E.J.	Secret Service	\$2.94/day	1		
[Morn?], P.B.	Secret Service	\$3.00/day			16
Neely, W.A.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day			11
	<i>A William A. Neeley from Maury County, age 21, enlisted in the 12th Tenn. Cavalry in 1864, but deserted and was sent to Ft. Leavenworth. He applied for a pension in 1907 which was not granted.</i>				
Pike, James	Secret Service	\$21/trip		14	
Prigmore, E.L.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day	7	30	31
	<i>Ephriam L. Prigmore, age 30, enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry at Jasper, Tenn. in 1864. He was born in Marion County and was a farmer. His widow Darthula received a pension in 1891.</i>				
Pryor, J.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day	7	30	31
Reader, S.H.	Secret Service	\$30/trip		5	
Sherrel, J.W.	Secret Service	\$30/trip		15	
Smith, Jas. V.	Secret Service	\$3.00/day		19	20
Talbert, W.T.	Secret Service	\$2.50/day		16	
Weaver, G.H. [or T.H.]	Secret Service	\$1.00/day		5	
White, R.N.	Secret Service	\$5.00/day			20
	<i>Robert N. White, age 31, enlisted in the 6th Tenn. Mounted Infantry in Jasper, Tenn., in 1864. He is also listed as Robert H. He and his widow received pensions.</i>				
[Winnel?], N.	Secret Service	\$4.00/day		13	
Young, P.[T.]	Secret Service	\$4.00/day		[?]	31

Sources Consulted for Italicized Notes:

- 1850 U.S. census, Tennessee, digital images, *HeritageQuest.com*.
- *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served in Organizations from the State of Tennessee*, National Archives microfilm M395, digital images at *Fold3.com*.
- *General index to pension files, 1861-1934*, National Archives microfilm T288, digital images at *Fold3.com*.

Tennessee Slaves Freed and Sent to Liberia

by Debbie McConnelⁱ

The 18th century brought with it an increase in the number of free blacks in the United States. From 1790 to 1810 the population of free blacks in the southern states tripled, reaching about 167,000. While there were five enslaved persons for every free black, the free population was growing at a much greater rate.ⁱⁱ This caused concern among some white slave owners, who were concerned about runaways and uprisings. In the northern states, slavery was abolished gradually from the Revolution through 1830. In states where slavery remained legal, a benevolent master would occasionally set favored slaves free, others were allowed to buy their freedom, and still others ran away to find freedom. But the total number of enslaved people continued to grow.



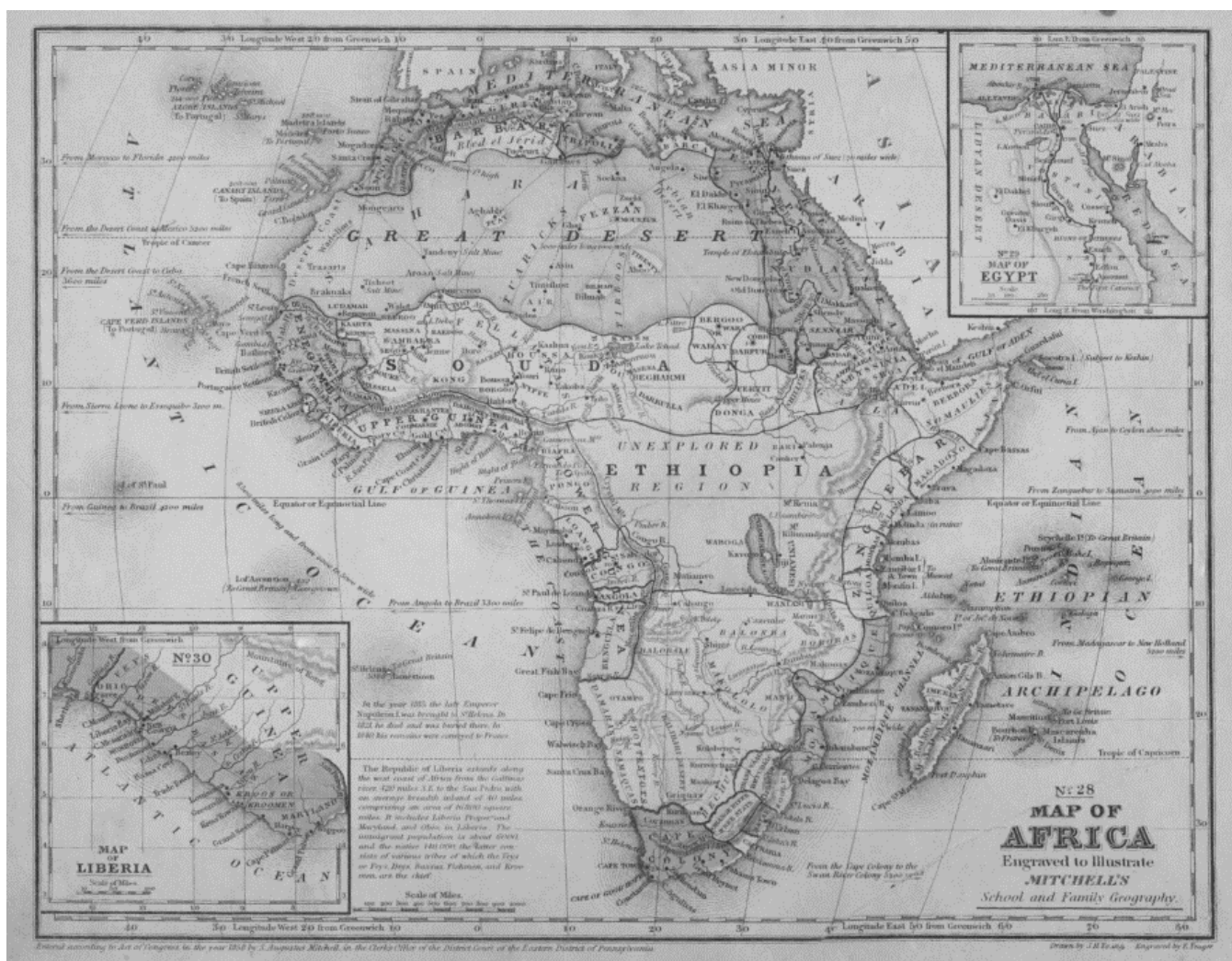
NEW YORK CITY.—COLORED REFUGEES FROM ARKANSAS AWAITING TRANSPORTATION TO LIBERIA AT THE MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHAPEL.—SEE PAGE 123.



Rev. Robert Finley 1772-1817

About 1800 a young Presbyterian minister, Robert Finley, was approached about the problem of assimilating recently freed blacks into American life. Finley, who affiliated with Princeton University, became very concerned with the issue, and concluded that free or slave, blacks would never be treated as equals in the United States.^{iiiiv} Along with other prominent men of the day, including Henry Clay, Francis Scott Key and Supreme Court Justice Bushrod Washington (nephew of the first President), Finley concocted an idea to create a colony in Africa where black people from the United States would find a refuge.^v These men assumed that since they were originally Africans, American blacks would welcome the chance to return to the land of their birth or ancestors, and that native Africans would welcome them with open arms. On these dubious foundations, the American Colonization Society was created.

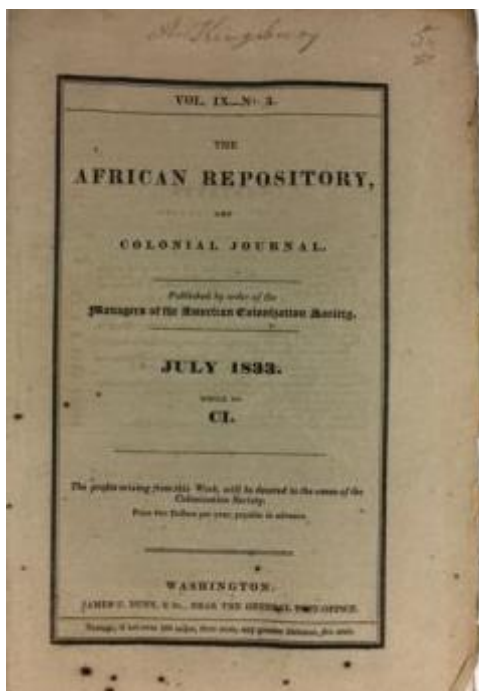
In 1816 Finley began publicizing his idea of forming a colony for free black Americans in Liberia. He found enthusiastic support among devout Christians. Most Evangelical denominations and Quakers who supported abolition were involved, as well as the legislatures of Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Ohio, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. The federal government contributed \$100,000. In that year his dream, the Colonization Society, was formally established in Washington. The goal of the Society was to aid black emigrants in relocating to Liberia, providing free passage and assistance for 6 months' living expenses. In Liberia the Society



Map of Africa published in Mitchell's School and Family Geography in 1857
Liberia is on the westernmost peninsula; and shown in the inset at bottom left.

provided each family with a dwelling house, small farm, and medical assistance. These were gifts and no repayment was expected. Later the Society ran low on funds and the slave owner was required to pay the cost of the trip. Unfortunately Finley died before the first ship sailed in 1822.

The Tennessee Colonization Society was formed in 1829 to promote the emigration of Tennessee slaves to Liberia. Josiah Polk of Maryland, an agent of the national society, was instrumental in recruiting members throughout Tennessee. Philip Lindsley, head of the University of Nashville and a native of New Jersey, was named President. The Society worked to persuade slave owners to free their slaves and send them to Liberia. Despite growing anti-slavery sentiment in the state, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a law in 1831 forbidding any free black person from entering the state, and requiring any emancipated slave to leave the state immediately.^{vi} In 1833 the Society secured a vote by the Tennessee General Assembly that the state would contribute \$10 for every freed slave sent to Africa, for a total expense to the state of up to \$500 a year. Following the passage of this legislation, the Tennessee Colonization Society disbanded, but important seeds had been planted among prosperous slaveholders such as Montgomery Bell and W.E. Kennedy; these would come to fruition in later years.^{vii}



The first ship from the United States to Africa to establish a Liberian colony was the *Elizabeth*, sailing in 1820 and carrying two U.S. government agents, an agent from the Society, and 80 emigrants (free blacks). Unfortunately, they arrived in a bad area at an unhealthy season, and all three agents and 24 emigrants died within a few weeks.^{viii}

Surely this tragedy resulted from poor planning and management by the leaders of the Colonization Society, the official journal published by the Society laid some of the blame on “carelessness, indolence, and insubordination” among the colonists themselves.^{ix}

Despite this disastrous beginning, colonization efforts continued. Among problems that arose was opposition from African tribal kings who did not want these freedmen in Liberia. Some of these native leaders were deeply involved in the profitable slave trade and did not want to see it disrupted.^x

In 1821 other agents went to Africa and with “much perseverance” were able to purchase a tract of land running for 36 miles along the coast. In 1834 more land was procured from Pamah, King of Cape

Palmas, Weah Boleo, King of Grahway and Baphro, King of Grand Cavally. The kings traded the land in return for goods, but the deal nearly collapsed when the kings discovered the rum they had counted on was not included in the payment!^{xi}

Supporters of the Liberia project had differing motives. Some, like Robert Finley, were purely humanitarian. Others were concerned about the threat that free black people posed in the South. And some were convinced that the black race was inferior and could never successfully adapt to white American culture.

There is evidence that, at least for some, Liberian colonization was a “good deed for a bad reason.” This was particularly true in the southeastern states, where plantation farmers were afraid that free blacks would cause their slaves to riot. An article in the *Nashville Union* in support of government funding for colonization stated “Tennessee at this time, has not a very large free black population, and we can, if we commence in time, get rid of them at but little expense . . . I know of no more advantageous method of disposing of the public money, since the presence of free negroes is often so injurious to our slave population. . . .”^{xii}

The Colonization Society became well known and was supported by such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and James Madison. Madison served as the national society president in the 1830s. Abraham Lincoln was familiar with the work; in 1862 he said “I am perfectly willing for these colored people to be sent to Liberia, provided they are willing to go.”^{xiii}

The *African Repository and Colonial Journal* published an account of a black Presbyterian minister who emigrated in 1829 and said that his last wish was to have his entire family brought over, and a statement by Tennessee’s Episcopal Bishop James Otey that blacks in his state were begging to go and declared “a thousand emigrants can be obtained in the state.”

But black Americans had differing opinions about the Liberia experiment. While some no doubt eagerly desired to go, others were more determined to stay in the United States. The Society was shocked that some who were offered the chance to emigrate declined to go. They preferred to stay in the country they knew among the people they knew, and fight for equality.

I found both places (New Georgia and Caldwell) prosperous and flourishing; each family occupying a house, and the grounds around in good cultivation . . . all cheerful and perfectly content with their situation. Not one emigrant expressed the desire to leave. [In Cape Palmas, I was] . . . greeted with much hospitality. Most perfect harmony prevails throughout the colony. Mostly engaged in agriculture, with great prosperity and rapid advancement.^{xiv}

Latimer listed the products of the Liberian settlements as sugar-cane, rice, corn, bananas, plantains, cassada, sweet potatoes, some cotton and tobacco, and all manner of vegetables. Coffee of the finest kind, he wrote, grew wild in the forest. He found their houses comfortable, the emigrants cheerful and delighted with their new country.

Historical records show a different picture. The Americo-Liberians were often subjected to sickness. Their death rate in 1841 was higher than any other country that recorded such data at that time. Many of the newly-arrived passengers died within 50 days of measles, diarrhea, and other diseases. Of 4,571 blacks who emigrated to Liberia between 1820 and 1843, only 1,819 were left by 1843.^{xv}

In an effort to identify Tennesseans who emigrated to Liberia, a dissertation by Selena R. Sanderfer of Vanderbilt University titled *For Land and Liberty: Black Territorial Separatism in the South* proved very helpful.^{xvi} Ms. Sanderfer created charts showing the dates of departure, the number of emigrants, their state of origin, and the name of the ship they used in transit to Liberia. For this work she consulted the annual volumes of the *African Repository and Colonial Journal*.

Using this information I searched issues of the Journal which are now available online to find more information about the passengers. For the purposes of this article only entries for emigrants from Middle Tennessee counties were abstracted. The information available varied from year to year and even from one ship to another, but almost all include the emigrant's name, age, county of residence, slave owner and the ship on which they departed. Some show additional information.

There were probably Tennessee emigrants on voyages before 1841, but this was the first journey identifying a Middle Tennessee county of origin. In this case, the entry does not identify the passengers of the ship by name. Nineteen passengers on this ship were from Lebanon, Tenn. They departed from New Orleans in June 1841, sailing to Monrovia. The *Journal* states they were healthy, good looking, industrious and well behaved. Among the emigrants were several "professors of religion" and a Methodist minister.^{xvii}

The second voyage on record that included blacks from Middle Tennessee was in 1852. Thirteen of these people were former slaves emancipated by Christopher Strong of Dixon [*sic*, Dickson] County. They sailed on the *Julia Ford* on 31 January 1852. The bark (a small sailing vessel with 3 or more masts) docked at Sinou and Monrovia, Liberia. The following information is from the passenger list.^{xviii}

	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	SLAVE
1	Harry Strong	40	Farmer	*
2	Richard Strong	24	Farmer	*
3	Wiley Strong	19	Farmer	*
4	Nelson Strong	26	Shoemaker	*
5	Henry Strong	16		*
6	Caty Strong	65		*
7	Isabella Strong	50		*

8	Fanny Strong	70	Cook	*
9	Rose Strong	33	Laundress	*
10	Sally Strong	21		*
11	Patrick Strong	2		*
12	Aaron Strong	3 months		*
13	Joseph Strong	30	Farmer	*

Also in 1852 two Jackson County slaves were emancipated by Valentine Gehart and sailed 31 December on the Zebra which was headed to Sinou and Monrovia, Liberia. The 1850 census shows “Voluntine Gearhart” in Jackson County as a 31-year-old tanner of modest means living with Anna Gearhart, age 72 (evidently his mother), and a child named Margaret. All three were born in Virginia. He does not appear in Jackson County in 1840 or 1860.^{xix} An older person of the same name (perhaps his father) obtained land grants in Kentucky in the 1830s.^{xx}

	Name	Age	Slave
1	Edmund Gahart	33	*
2	James Gahart	31	*

One of the largest group of Middle Tennessee slaves emancipated by their former owner, The Honorable W.E. Kennedy, a Maury County Judge. Being a religious and compassionate man the issue of slavery troubled him (although he owned many slaves). He had no spouse or children, and when he learned about the Colonial Society he began sending his slaves to Libereia. He provided additional funds to support each slave for a year.

They set sail from New Orleans on 31 December 1852. The bark was to sail to Sinou and Monrovia, but Cholera broke out. The Captain, mate, 3 seamen and 35 emigrants died. The list in the Journal only shows 1 of Kennedy’s slaves as dead.^{xxi} They had to dock at the Savanah River. He was determined they were exposed to the Cholera in New Orleans. Afterward Kennedy decided his slaves would go on the Savanah River to board their ships. This was a long difficult journey over land. The 1852 passenger list of Kennedy’s former slaves from Maury County are as follows:^{xxii}

	Name	Relationship	Age	Read/Write/Spell	Notes	Slave
1	Squire Kennedy		60			*
2	Zany Kennedy	Wife	59		Baptist	*
3	Eliza Kennedy	Dtr	38			*
4	Gabriel	Son	30	Read		*
5	Sarah T. Kennedy	Dtr	24	Read		*
6	Rufus A. Kennedy	Son	22	Read		*
7	Adley D. Kennedy	Son	20	Read		*
8	Rowena M.Kennedy	Dtr	18	Read, write, spell		*

9	Antoinette Kennedy	Dtr	15	Read, write, spell	*
10	Austin Ash		14	Read, write, spell	*
11	Coy Carver		12	Read	*
12	Rebecca W		29		*
13	Cynthia Kennedy		12		*
14	Eliza Kennedy	Dtr	7		*
15	Cornelia Kennedy	Dtr	5		*
16	Ellen Kennedy	Dtr	3		*
17	Mira Kennedy	Dtr	1		*
18	Marcus Kennedy		22	Read	*
19	Polly Kennedy		26		Methodist *
20	Nancy Kennedy		19	Read	*
21	Prince Kennedy		17	Spell	*
22	Laurence Kennedy		15		*
23	Mary Kennedy		13		*
24	Kemp Kennedy		11		*
25	Sarah A. Kennedy		10		*
26	Catherine Kennedy		8		*
27	William Armor		30		Purchased self
28	Henry Mitchell		52		Slave/free
29	Edward Foster		9		Slave/ free

*Number 9 Antoinette through number 12 Rebecca are listed as Elisa's children.

**Number 18 Marcus through number 26 Catherine are listed as siblings of Cynthia, who died on the voyage.

Later on the bark the *General Pierce* Kennedy sent others with the destination being Sinou, Liberia.
They are as follows:^{xxiii}

	Name	Relationship	Age	Slave
1	Richard Kennedy		43	*
2	Matilda Kennedy	Wife	32	*
3	George Kennedy	Son	18	*
4	Ann Maria Kennedy	Dtr	16	*
5	Richard Kennedy	Son	14	*
6	Nathaniel W. Kennedy	Son	12	*
7	Judy Kennedy	Dtr	11	*

8	Thomas Kennedy	Son	9	*
9	Rachel Kennedy		36	*
10	Emily Kennedy	Dtr	14	*
11	George W. Kennedy	Son	11	*
12	Anthony Kennedy	Son	10	*
13	Dallas Kennedy	Son	7	*
14	Felix Kennedy	Son	5	*
15	Avy Ann Kennedy	Dtr	3	*
16	George R. Kennedy	Son	1	*
17	Joseph Kennedy		27	*
18	Charity A. Kennedy		25	*
19	Bradley M. Kennedy		21	*
20	Margaretta Kennedy		10	*
21	Felix Kennedy		37	*
22	Harriet Kennedy	Wife	21	*
23	Martha E. Kennedy	Dtr	9	*
24	Aaron B. Kennedy	Son	8	*
25	Duncan F. Kennedy	Son	6	*
26	Mary F. Kennedy	Dtr	4	*
27	John L. Kennedy	Son	2	*
28	Wesley Kennedy		37	*
29	Cyrus Kennedy		35	*

In 1856 Kennedy also sent *Stafford Munroe Kennedy*, age 31, on the *Elvira Owen*.^{xxiv}

To Be Continued

ⁱ Debbie McConnel is a former staff member of the Tenn. State Library & Archives, and a frequent contributor to the Journal.

ⁱⁱ "Free African-American Population in the U.S. 1790-1860," *NCpedia*, (www.ncpedia.org/sites/default/files/census_stats_1790-1860.pdf).

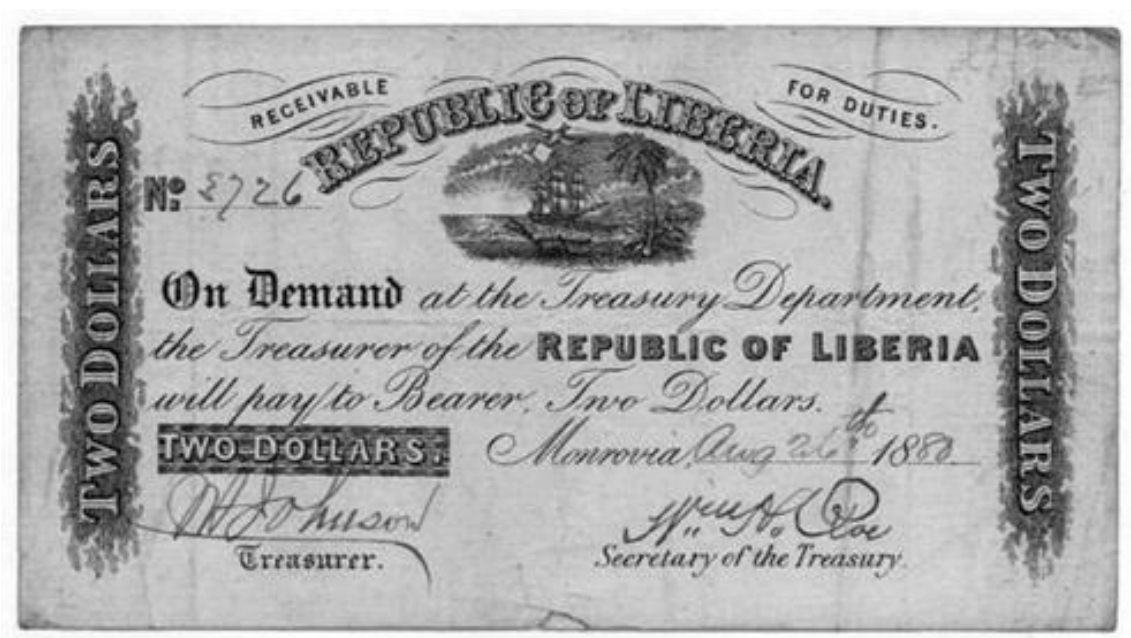
ⁱⁱⁱ *Guide to the Robert Findley Papers*, Presbyterian Historical Society (<https://www.history.pcusa.org/collections>).

^{iv} Craig Hollander, "Princeton and the Colonization Movement," *Princeton & Slavery*, (<https://slavery.princeton.edu>).

^v "Domestic [News] from the National Intelligencer," *Nashville Whig*, 29 Jan. 1817, p. 2

^{vi} "An act concerning persons of colour . . .," *Public Acts . . . of the 19th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee 1831*, (Nashville: Republican and Gazette, 1832), chapter CII, pp.121-122.

- vii "Tennessee Colonization Society," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, (www.tennesseehistory.org).
- viii "The American Colonization Society," *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, (Washington: Alexander and Barnard, 1825), vol. I, no. 1, p2 (digital image at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>).
- ix *Ibid*, p.2.
- x "Founding of Liberia, 1847," *Office of the Historian* [U.S. State Department], (history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/liberia).
- xi *Ibid*, p.4.
- xii "The Colonization of Free Blacks," *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, (Washington: Alexander and Barnard, 1825), vol. XV11, no. 3, p211 (digital image at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>).
- xiii Michael Burlingame, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), vol. 2, p.394.
- xiv "Commander W.K. Latimer's Opinion on the Liberian Colonies," *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, (1841, reprint by Kraus Reprint Co., NY, 1967), vol. XVII (3), p,199 (digital image at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>).
- xv Shick, Tom, "Behold the Promised Land. A quantative Analysis of Liberian Colonization from 1820 to 1843 with special reference to Mortality." *The Journal of African History*, v.12 (1) pp. 45-59.
- xvi Selena Standerfer "For Land and Liberty: Black Territorial Separatism in the South," (Dissertation, Vanderbilt University, 2010), (<https://etd.library.vanderbilt.edu/available/etd-07282010-142400/>).
- xvii "The Late Expedition for Liberia," *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, (Washington: Alexander and Barnard, 1841), vol. XVII, no. 12, p.177 (digital image at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>).
- xviii *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. XXVIII, no. 4, p.177.
- xix 1850 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Tenn., page 210 (stamped), family #714. Next listed is family #715 headed by William Gearhart age 40.
- xx *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. XXVII, no. 3, p.71.
- xxi Other sources indicate that many of his former slaves died.
- xxii *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. XXIX, no. 3, p.69.
- xxiii *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. XXX, no. 2, p.57.
- xxiv *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. XXX p.253.



The Edwards Family of Spring Haven

by Heather M. Adkins¹



Spring Haven, located near Hendersonville in Sumner County,
became the home of the Edwards family in 1855
(Photo by the author, 2018, with permission of current owner Kevin Hogan)

In Sumner County, nestled between a northward bend of the Cumberland River and Hendersonville's East Main Street, sits Spring Haven Mansion. Spring Haven's history is a story of Tennessee's own saga. The land on which the mansion now lies was part of a 1786 North Carolina purchase grant for 640 acres, bought by Henry Turney, one of the first settlers of Middle Tennessee.¹ From before statehood to today, the property has endured in varying forms through wars, economic depressions, and a consistent overturn of ownership. The following is an account of the Edwards family, which held ownership of Spring Haven for the longest period of time (1855-1904).

Joseph Edwards, of Davidson County, purchased the Spring Haven estate in 1855 from John Armfield, partner to Isaac Franklin in what may have been the most notorious slave trade business in the South. At that time, the plantation was known as Hard Times, so-named by John P. Wagon (owner 1835-1838) who built the original six-room dwelling during an economic depression. The name stuck until sometime after 1878, when, it is believed by local historians, the Edwards family changed the name to Brook Haven to reflect the presence of two springs on the property.² It was not until the 1920s that the name changed to Spring Haven.

In October 1855, Armfield advertised in the Nashville *Republican Banner* for the sale of land in Sumner County.³ The advertisements touted a tract of over three hundred acres bordered by the Nashville and Louisville Turnpike

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SUMNER LAND FOR SALE.

INTENDING to move to Cumberland mountains, I offer for sale my residence in Sumner county.  The tract contains over three hundred acres; bounded on one side by the Nashville and Louisville Turnpike, and is in sight of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, which is now being put under contract. Is situated seventeen miles from Nashville and eight from Gallatin. The Lands is all enclosed, is conveniently divided into fields and lots, with plenty of water all the year in nearly every one of them. The fences are nearly all new, are made of Rock, Cedar and Plank. The portion of the lands between the House and Cumberland river, is of fine quality.

The Dwelling, Kitchen, Smoke-house and Spring-house are all of brick, and are very well built, and conveniently arranged. The Servant's Houses, Wash-house, &c., are frame buildings, new, and in good order; also, Stables, Barn and Cow-houses.

The Spring is a very large one, near the House, and was never known to fail. There is also one of the best built Overshot Water Mills in the State, which is now running, and was built some eight months since. Apply on the premises.

JOHN ARMFIELD.

Oct. 19.—d&wma.

and the Cumberland River. The estate included a dwelling, kitchen, smoke house and spring house, all made of brick. It also included servants' houses and a wash house, as well as stables, barn, and cow pens. The main dwelling was situated near a large "never known to fail" spring and "one of the best built overshot water mills in the state," constructed eight months prior to the newspaper announcement. Although these advertisements ran into November, Sumner County deeds indicate the property was under negotiation of sale by the end of October.⁴ Joseph Edwards bought Armfield's property, consisting of 317 acres and all the dwellings and structures on the land, for \$15,896.25.

A native of Norfolk County, Virginia, Joseph Edwards (1815-1897)⁵ came to Tennessee in 1818. One of five children, he

was the son of Englishman Thomas Edwards (1765-1849) and Mary Bartee Edwards (1782-1857) of Virginia.⁶ The family settled in Rutherford County, where Thomas took up farming. Business advertisements in the *Republican Banner* place Joseph in Nashville as early as 1842. He was a partner of a grocer and commission merchant business known as John W. Walker & Edwards until July 1848, when they dissolved the partnership.⁷ Edwards then partnered in a new venture named Edwards & Harris, wholesale grocer and commission merchants, until its dissolution in 1855.⁸ Advertisements for "Jo. Edwards, wholesale grocer," continued in the *Republican Banner* through 1858 before it was succeeded by "Edwards, Gilkerson & Company" in 1859 and later by "Edwards, Harris & Co." in 1861.⁹

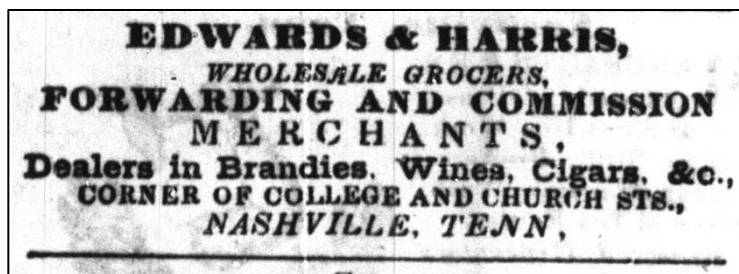
While living and working in Nashville, Joseph Edwards found a wife. On February 24, 1848, Joseph married Sarah Elizabeth Keenan (1829-1892), of Courtland, Alabama in a ceremony solemnized by Rev. Dr. J.T. Edgar of the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville.¹⁰ Sarah Keenan was born in Alabama on December 4, 1829, the first child of Thomas and Calphurnia C. Gray Keenan.¹¹ Little is known about Thomas Keenan. Calphurnia C. Gray (1807-1833)¹² was the daughter of Dr. Young A. Gray (1786-1834)¹³ and Elizabeth Dyer Gray Childress (1790-1859).¹⁴ Gray Family records exist in present day Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Colbert counties in northern Alabama.

The only daughter of Thomas and Calphurnia, records show Sarah Keenan had one brother, William G. Keenan (1832-1865). Exactly when Sarah and William came to Tennessee is unknown, although it can be assumed it occurred after the death of their mother in 1833 and before the marriage of Sarah to Joseph Edwards in 1848. William worked as a clerk and salesman for various grocers in Nashville, including his brother-in-law. He lived in the Edwards' home in Nashville until their move to Sumner County. William died January 26, 1865 of consumption and is buried in the Nashville City Cemetery.¹⁵

Joseph and Sarah wasted no time in starting a family of their own. Beginning in 1850, they parented four children: Sarah "Sallie" Ann Gray Edwards McCreery (1850-1928), William Harris Edwards (c. 1853-1918), Mary E. Edwards Foster (1860-1938), and Joseph Edwards (c. 1864 or 1868 -1934).¹⁶ Records of the First Presbyterian

Church indicate that Joseph, Sarah, and their two children Sallie and William were baptized on October 11, 1852.¹⁷ Mrs. Sarah E. Edward [sic] also appears on a list of communicants.¹⁸

Joseph purchased Spring Haven seven years into his marriage and after the birth of his two oldest children. His decision to move from Davidson to Sumner County was almost undoubtedly economically-motivated, largely influenced by the orchards that once existed on the property. Local tradition has it that a stone still house had been constructed circa 1820 to take advantage of the extensive peach orchards and other fruits suitable for making brandy.¹⁹ Armfield's 1855 advertisement did not specifically mention the still



Joseph Edwards advertisement in the *Republican Banner*

23 Oct. 1853

house, but the manufacture of brandy would be in keeping with Edwards' Nashville businesses, particularly Edwards & Harris, which sold the drink.²⁰ By 1880, four acres with 300 bearing apple trees were contained on the estate, though records do not specify the value of apples sold or consumed.²¹ The still house still stands today, converted into a residence on a neighboring property.

The orchards on the estate may have been reason enough to buy the property, but Spring Haven's proximity to the Nashville and Louisville Railroad, which ran through Sumner County between Nashville and Gallatin, may have been the final selling point. Historian Walter T. Durham observed: "Probably the most significant commercial development in the history of Sumner County prior to 1861 was the location and construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad main line through the county."²² Ground was broken for the line in May 1853, a mere two years before Edwards bought Spring Haven. Although a train would not run the Nashville-to-Gallatin leg until 1858, acquiring property surrounding the line would have been a sound investment. If Joseph Edwards was still in a grocer partnership in Nashville after his move to Sumner County or if he shipped goods elsewhere, acquiring Spring Haven would have partly supplied the business and provided convenient transportation of goods via the railway.

In political affairs, Joseph may have found Sumner County less convivial than Davidson. A Whig himself, he crossed the line into Democrat territory when he moved.²³ The Whig Party was particularly attractive to the business class, including merchants and commercial farmers (with which Joseph could be classified). A politically-charged atmosphere in Sumner County, however, witnessed a severe clash between Democrats and Whigs. The county could boast of strong proponents of the Whig party, such as Balie Peyton, a lawyer and U.S. Congressman, yet most Sumner residents unwaveringly voted Democrat, despite many of their Whig opponents winning statewide. The Compromise of 1850 would eventually fracture the Whig Party over the issue of slavery, leading to the party's decline in the mid-1850s. All would fall apart in 1861 when state Unionists, among them their nominee for Governor, Balie Peyton, were not quick enough to divert Tennessee from secession. Significantly, Joseph Edwards would identify as Democrat after the Civil War.

Whatever his motivation, Joseph settled into the life of a gentleman farmer in Sumner County. Spring Haven originally lay in the 7th Civil District when bought from Armfield, but after a redistricting of the county sometime in the 1870s, it sat in the 5th Civil District near Saundersville. The farm grew from 317 acres at the time of sale in 1855 to approximately 800 acres, valued at \$30,000, by 1860.²⁴ Although tobacco was the "king crop" in Sumner County, Edwards chose not to grow it. Small-grain crops and livestock-raising were also popular in the county.²⁵ Spring Haven's crops included wheat, buckwheat, barley, Indian corn, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes, and hay. Later the farm would also produce apples, honey, and beeswax. Within a decade, however, the size of the farm would be

cut down by nearly half—480 acres, valued at \$13,000.²⁶ This drastic change was probably due to financial collapse during the Civil War and the loss of slave labor after emancipation, the large acreage no longer sustainable due to increased expenses for labor.



**Joseph Edwards on the porch at Spring Haven, 1875.
The original hangs in the foyer at Spring Haven today
(courtesy of current owner Kent Hogan)**

While management of the farm fell to Joseph and his family, running the plantation required hired hands and laborers. Early in the family's tenure, Joseph owned a number of slaves: by 1860, twenty-two enslaved individuals, thirteen females and nine males between one month and thirty-five years of age, lived and worked at Spring Haven.²⁷ Twenty-five year old A. Stark, Jr. was employed as overseer and resided with the Edwards family.²⁸ After emancipation, the Edwards hired (usually black) servants. In 1870, Mary (age 50), Harriett (23), and Thomas Williams (11) worked at Spring Haven as a cook, home servant, and waiter respectively.²⁹ And in 1880, servants and cook Jim Harper (40), Walter Martin (20), and Kitty Shelton (40) dwelled with the Edwards.³⁰ Over the last half of the nineteenth century, there was a consistent presence on the farm of short-term hires, tradesmen, and day laborers.³¹

In addition to Spring Haven's downsizing due to loss of a slave labor force, it is possible that some of the land was destroyed during the Civil War. Tradition maintains that the main house sustained damage when a troop of Union soldiers were on the property, marching a captured Confederate soldier and prodding him with a bayonet. At that time, the story goes, a Southern general hiding in the house shot at one of the Union soldiers after witnessing the mistreatment of the prisoner. In response, the Union troop rode through the house and out the back door—breaking part of the stair rail in the process. The broken piece was later replaced, and today a mark is still visible where the new fixture was fitted.³² Though it cannot be confirmed, this account may be referring to a rescue mission launched near Saundersville by Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan, who freed citizen prisoners (Confederate sympathizers) captured by Federal Lieutenant Colonel Horace H. Heffren.³³ At the time, war was being waged by Morgan on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, which bordered the Spring Haven property. Sumner County was occupied by Federal troops from March 1862 until the end of the war, though the majority of Sumner County men served with Confederate troops.³⁴

Like many of his contemporaries in Sumner County during the nineteenth century, Joseph also bred horses.³⁵ “Perhaps the most exciting livestock industry was that of breeding, training, and trading thoroughbred race horses,” according to Walter Durham, “In this activity Sumner County, second to none in Tennessee, was nationally recognized.”³⁶ At its height in 1860, Spring Haven sustained forty horses, ten mules, twenty-three cows, twenty-five sheep, and fifty swine. Livestock numbers and value fluctuated over the next two decades, most notably growing to include sixty-five sheep and forty-six poultry by 1880.³⁷ At his death in 1897, Joseph owned at least twenty-six horses and ten cows, all of which were sold during the settlement of his estate.³⁸

Joseph Edwards wrote his will on April 19, 1897, and died shortly after. The will was then probated in the Sumner County Court on July 8, 1897, with his sons named executors.³⁹ Joseph’s death and the earlier death of his wife in 1892 signified the need for dispersal of their possessions. Joseph’s estate was inventoried, divided among his heirs, and submitted for probate in February of 1900.⁴⁰ In his will, Joseph directed that his land be divided equally among his children. The land he bought from John Armfield had shifted in size and shape over his forty-two years of ownership. Spring Haven was resurveyed by George W. Chipman and partitioned by the heirs’ selected commissioners, T.B. Wilson, O.B. Jenkins, and F.E. Mann.

The final partition called for the settlement of debts to creditors with parcels of land equal in value to those claims. The remaining land would be divided among Joseph’s four children. This distribution was the result of an agreement among the heirs to act as reimbursement for debts owed to Robina Foster Edwards (\$5560), William H. Edwards (\$2040), and Joseph Edwards, Jr (\$2253), creditors of Joseph Edwards, Sr.’s estate.⁴¹ Ultimately, William H. Edwards received what was called the “home tract”—132.20 acres in the 5th Civil District of Sumner County,

40.80 acres of which satisfied his father’s debt. William’s wife Robina received an adjacent parcel containing 113.20 acres to settle her claim, and Joseph, Jr. received 45 acres to satisfy debt, part of his total inherited 157.99 acres. William and Joseph, Jr. were held in trust for the land partitioned to their sisters, Mary E. Foster and Sallie E. McCreery. Mary and Sallie each received two parcels of land: 15.08 acres in the 5th Civil District of Sumner County and 198.82 in the 1st Civil District of Wilson County. Saundersville Ferry and the dwelling of the ferryman were situated on Mary’s Wilson County tract. The land partition was settled quickly and equitably among the heirs and their spouses by a third party, in order that court proceedings might be avoided.⁴² William and Robina combined their inherited tracts for sale in 1904, perhaps in preparation for their later move to California. Both signed the deed conveying Spring Haven and 245.6 acres (their inherited tracts consisting of 132.20 acres and 113.40 acres) to R.J. Lyles.⁴³ Lyles and his wife would own the property until 1908 before selling it.⁴⁴

As they grew, the children of Joseph and Sarah slowly uprooted the Edwards family from Sumner County and the farming lifestyle. Sallie Edwards (1850-1928) married John F. McCreery (1849-1921), a salesman originally from Dickson County, on January 28, 1874.⁴⁵ They had three children: John T. McCreery (1876-1942);⁴⁶ Sarah E. McCreery Graham (1881 - 1968);⁴⁷ and Joseph “Joe” E. McCreery (1889-1939).⁴⁸ They lived primarily in Nashville, where Sallie was a charter member of the Mary Frances Hughes Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.⁴⁹ She also participated with the Ladies’ Auxiliary to Nashville Council No. 102 United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT), her sons being members of the UCT as traveling shoe salesmen working for Richardson-Crockett Shoe Company in Nashville.⁵⁰ Daughter Sarah, a public school teacher, moved to Tampa, Florida with her lawyer husband William S. Graham (1861-1953).⁵¹ Sallie McCreery would later join Sarah and William in Florida after the death of her husband John in 1921.⁵² Sallie died in Tampa in 1928 and was buried in Nashville.⁵³

After Joseph and Sarah’s deaths in the 1890s, it appears that their youngest children with their families slowly migrated to Los Angeles, California. At the time, Los Angeles was a city rapidly undergoing industrial growth and expansion, particularly after the discovery of oil fields in the 1890s. William Harris Edwards (c. 1853 - 1918),⁵⁴ his wife Robina (1858-unknown), and their daughter Mary Bartee Edwards Whelan (1889-1970)⁵⁵ lived in precinct 13

of Los Angeles township by 1910.⁵⁶ Despite his regular school attendance in Sumner County and his upbringing on a relatively affluent farm, William worked as a teamster for a supply house while living in Los Angeles.⁵⁷ His profession there is perhaps a testament to the bustling city's economic and trade development. William died in 1918 and, according to church records, Robina and Mary moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico after William's death.⁵⁸ However, Robina is buried next William in Los Angeles County, California.⁵⁹

Mary E. Edwards Foster (1860-1938), her husband Joseph Woods Foster (1854-1938), and their daughter Julia Woods Foster (1885-1982)⁶⁰ moved to Los Angeles by 1920.⁶¹ Their son Thomas Keenan Foster (1889-1955) lived in Davidson and Sumner counties, Tennessee throughout his life.⁶² The Fosters are listed as residing in a Nashville house at 1401 Sigler Street until approximately 1903.⁶³ While in Nashville, Joseph Foster worked as a bookkeeper. In the 1910 U.S. Census for Sumner County, Joseph's occupation is listed as a farmer, Thomas as a traveling salesman, and Julia as a schoolteacher. However, after the move to California, Joseph is listed as a bookkeeper at a clothing store, and Julia as a secretary.⁶⁴ Joseph and Mary died in Los Angeles in 1938 and are buried in Nashville's Mount Olivet Cemetery.⁶⁵ After the death of her parents, Julia eventually moved back to Nashville, where she died in 1982 and was interred at Mount Olivet.⁶⁶

Also listed in Los Angeles in the 1920 U.S. Census was Joseph "Joe" Edwards (1863-1934), his wife Susie Garth Edwards (1870-1921),⁶⁷ son William (1896-unknown), daughter Virginia (1898-unknown), and daughter Jennette (c. 1901-1987).⁶⁸ An infant son, Joseph, Jr., was born and died in Davidson County, Tennessee (1911-1912).⁶⁹ In Nashville, Joseph Edwards had been a bookkeeper for the Foster-Parks Company in Nashville as early as 1905 (then known as Foster-Webb), though he had numerous bookkeeping positions in Nashville beginning around 1888.⁷⁰ He continued as a bookkeeper for a printing company in California, according to the 1920 census. Despite this, Joseph was still listed as working for Foster-Parks and living in Nashville on Gallatin Road up until his death in 1934. His daughter Jennette owned the Gallatin Road home after Joseph's death.

During their residency in Sumner County, the Edwards family maintained the longest ownership of Spring Haven and its surrounding acreage (1855-1904). During their tenure, the Edwards witnessed pivotal moments in state and national history: the Civil War and Reconstruction; President Lincoln's assassination and the presidency of Tennessean Andrew Johnson; an industrial boom in the South along with stunting economic depression; the Dred Scott decision (1857) and the passing of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments granting freedom and voting rights to African Americans; and the United States and Tennessee Centennial celebrations, just to name a few. The Edwards are representative of what many white, land-owning families of the South must have experienced during the latter half of the nineteenth century: turbulent political and economic upheavals, the temptation of migration, and choices to be made in the interim to survive in a changing world.

¹ Grant No. 98, Book G7, North Carolina/Tennessee Land Grants, Tenn. State Library and Archives [TSLA], Nashville.

² "Spring Haven History," copyright 2003, Spring Haven Mansion, (<http://www.springhavenmansion.com/spring-haven-history/>, Accessed 13 July 2016).

³ "Sumner Land for Sale," [Nashville] *Republican Banner*, October 20, 1855, p. 2. This advertisement repeated publication on October 24, 26, 31, and November 1, 3, 18, 1855.

⁴ Armfield to Edwards, Vol. 23, pgs. 251, 256, Sumner County Deeds, microfilm reel 114, TSLA.

⁵ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Joseph Edwards (22 Mar 1815–1 Jul 1897), Find A Grave Memorial no. [128343560](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128343560), citing Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Davidson County, Tenn. ; Maintained by sjs953 (contributor [46931676](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46931676)).

⁶ *Sumner County. History of Tennessee*. (Chicago and Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887), 53-54. Also cited in Shirley Wilson, "Spring Haven: The History of a Home," *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History* 5, No. 1 (Summer 1991), 65.

⁷ "Dissolution," [Nashville] *Republican Banner*, August 23, 1848, p. 1. This advertisement later repeated in conjunction with advertisements for Edwards & Harris.

⁸ *Ibid.*, September 12, 1855.

⁹ [Nashville] *Republican Banner*, August 30, 1859 and November 9, 1861.

¹⁰ Joseph Edwards to Sarah Elizabeth Keenan, Vol 3, p 13, Davidson County Marriages, microfilm reel 470, TSLA. Also, "Married," [Nashville] *Republican Banner*, February 28, 1848, p. 2. Minister and church in 1853-54 City Directory of Nashville, TSLA.

¹¹ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Sarah Keenan Edwards (4 Dec 1829–3 Feb 1892), Find A Grave Memorial no. [128343626](#), citing Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Davidson County, Tenn. ; Maintained by sjs953 (contributor [46931676](#)).

¹² Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Calphurnia C Keenon (23 Dec 1807–31 May 1833), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74984245](#), citing Oakwood Cemetery, Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by C. Wayne Austin (contributor [47030909](#)).

¹³ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Dr Young A Gray (13 Apr 1786–12 Feb 1834), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74984477](#), citing Oakwood Cemetery, Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by C. Wayne Austin (contributor [47030909](#)).

¹⁴ Elizabeth Childress, Probate Packet No. 553, Probate Court records, Lauderdale County; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018).

¹⁵ "Old City Cemetery Records, Nashville, 1822-1980," microfilm collection 659, TSLA.

¹⁶ U.S. Federal Census records in 1870 and 1880 indicate circa 1864; however, his Tenn. death certificate in 1934 indicates November 18, 1868. Joseph Edwards, Death Certificate #2452-1934, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.

¹⁷ (Transcribed) Records of the First and Downtown Presbyterian Churches in Nashville, Tenn., 1827-1996, Box 1 Folder 16, TSLA.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Box 1 Folder 23.

¹⁹ Walter T. Durham, James W. Thomas, and John F. Creasy, *A Celebration of Houses Built before 1900 in Sumner County, Tennessee* (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Historical Society and Sumner County Archives, 1995), 37. The authors go on to say "After use as a barn for about seventy-five years, the still house was converted into a vacation dwelling in 1950 (40)." If this is true, then it is possible the still house remained in use until about 1875.

²⁰ "Edwards & Harris, Wholesale Grocers..." [Nashville] *Republican Banner*, October 23, 1853.

²¹ 1880 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Fifth District, p. 10, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 28.

²² Walter T. Durham, *Old Sumner: A History of Sumner County, Tennessee From 1805 to 1861* (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Public Library Board, 1972), 418.

²³ "Previous to the war a Whig, he has since been a Democrat." *Sumner County. History of Tennessee*. (Chicago and Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887), 54.

²⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Seventh District, p. 21, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 10.

²⁵ Durham, *Old Sumner*, 281.

²⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Seventh District, p. 21, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 10. 1870 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Seventh District, p. 3, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 16. 1880 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Fifth District, p. 10, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 28.

²⁷ 1860 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., slave schedule, Seventh District, p. 44, number 17, Joseph Edwards, slave owner; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1286.

²⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., population schedule, Seventh District, p. 103, dwelling 708, family 708, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1275.

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- ²⁹ 1870 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., population schedule, Gallatin Post Office, p. 12, dwelling 73, family 74, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1566.
- ³⁰ 1880 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., population schedule, Fifth District, p. 25, enumeration district (ED) 212, dwelling 167, family 174, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1281.
- ³¹ The settlement of Joseph Edwards' estate from 1897 to 1900 involved the payment in hundreds of dollars to laborers and tradesmen. Joseph Edwards, Estate #4107, Estates (Loose Records), Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel A-5194; and Joseph Edwards, Inventory & Settlement Vol. 1895-1907, pgs. 259-262, Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel 331, TSLA.
- ³² "Spring Haven History," copyright 2003, Spring Haven Mansion, (<http://www.springhavenmansion.com/spring-haven-history/>, Accessed 13 July 2016).
- ³³ Walter T. Durham, *Rebellion Revisited: A History of Sumner County from 1861 to 1870* (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Museum Association, 1982), 94.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, ix-x.
- ³⁵ "Edwards J., Farmer and Breeder of Trotting Stock. P.O. Saundersville," Sumner County business notices on a map of Sumner County, 1878. D.G. Beers & Co., Map #1235, Map Collection, TSLA.
- ³⁶ Durham, *Rebellion Revisited*, 2.
- ³⁷ 1860 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Seventh District, p. 21, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 10. 1870 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Seventh District, p. 3, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 16. 1880 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., agricultural schedule, Fifth District, p. 10, Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T1135, roll 28.
- ³⁸ Joseph Edwards, Estate #4107, Estates (Loose Records), Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel A-5194, TSLA.
- ³⁹ Joseph Edwards, Wills Vol. 5, pgs. 150-151, Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel 91, TSLA.
- ⁴⁰ Joseph Edwards, Inventory & Settlement Vol. 1895-1907, pgs. 259-262, Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel 331, TSLA.
- ⁴¹ Joseph Edwards' estate details "cash borrowed" from Joseph Edwards, Jr., as well as a note on a trust deed that would become the responsibility of Robina Foster Edwards. These instances do not necessarily equal the total amount ultimately owed to Joseph Jr. and Robina, but they do represent significant portions of those claims. Joseph Edwards, Estate #4107, Estates (Loose Records), Sumner County Probate Records, microfilm reel A-5194, TSLA.
- ⁴² *Ibid.* Also Sumner County Deeds, Vol. 47, pgs. 486-491; 494-497; 521-523; 525-527, microfilm reel 122, TSLA.
- ⁴³ William and Robina Edwards to R.J. Lyles, Vol. 53, pgs. 520-522, Sumner County Deeds, microfilm reel 124, TSLA.
- ⁴⁴ A significant analysis of the deeded ownership of Spring Haven was conducted by Shirley Wilson in 1991. Mrs. Wilson is a genealogist and author of books on Sumner County records. Wilson, "Spring Haven," 65.
- ⁴⁵ Sally Edwards to John McCreery, Vol. Jun 1865 – Jan 1886, p. 169, Sumner County Marriages, microfilm reel 72, TSLA.
- ⁴⁶ John T. McCreery, Death Certificate #4683-1942, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.
- ⁴⁷ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Sarah McCreery Graham (10 Feb 1881–12 Jan 1968), Find A Grave Memorial no. [59708780](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59708780), citing Myrtle Hill Memorial Park, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, USA ; Maintained by Chihuahua Lover (contributor [47005680](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47005680)).
- ⁴⁸ Joe E. McCreery, Death Certificate #18971-1939, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.
- ⁴⁹ The General Felix K. Zollicoffer Chapter, No. 1430, Nashville, TN was chartered on October 22, 1912. It was previously known as the Mary Frances Hughes Chapter. "General Felix K. Zollicoffer – Chapter History, n.d.," Box 3 Folder 11, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Tennessee Division, TSLA.
- ⁵⁰ Various announcements, *Nashville Tennessean*, 1920s.
- ⁵¹ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for William Shelby Graham (10 Jul 1861–9 Jun 1953), Find A Grave Memorial no. [59708803](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59708803), citing Myrtle Hill Memorial Park, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, USA ; Maintained by Chihuahua Lover (contributor [47005680](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47005680)).
- ⁵² John F. McCreery, Death Certificate #206-1921, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.
- ⁵³ "Mrs. John F. McCreery Dies in Florida," *Nashville Tennessean*, August 6, 1928.

⁵⁴ Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Burial Record, Feb. 1918, Reserve Roll, Presbyterian Historical Society; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1907*; Accession Number: 14-0521 37C; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018).

⁵⁵ Mary Bartee Edwards, [Nashville] City Birth Records, 1887 May-1889 December, p. C-93, microfilm reel M-2, TSLA. Mary Bartee Whelan, Death Certificate #51075-1970, State of Texas Board of Health and Bureau of Vital Statistics; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 24 May 2018).

⁵⁶ 1910 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, population schedule, City of Los Angeles, enumeration district (ED) 58, sheet 5A, dwelling 109, family 128, William H. Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 83.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.* Also Unknown [assumed William H. Edwards] to Douglas Anderson, 15 December 1912, box 12 folder 14, James Douglas Anderson Papers, Tennessee Historical Society, TSLA. The writer mentions attending a "school house that stood by the road that lead down to Squire Douglas old place. Mr. Callendar taught this school...I went afterwards to Mrs. Elliott who taught in the old Cages Chapel," (3). Assumed William H. Edwards because he states his father bought Brook Haven/Hard Times from John Armfield, he names his older sister Sallie, and he states he sold the property to Robert J. Lyles.

⁵⁸ Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Burial Record, Feb. 1918, Reserve Roll, Presbyterian Historical Society; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1907*; Accession Number: 14-0521 37C; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018).

⁵⁹ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for William H. Edwards (unknown-unknown), Find A Grave Memorial no. [148655561](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148655561), citing Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Glendale), Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, USA ; Maintained by Steve and Linda Malkson (contributor [48608432](https://www.findagrave.com/contributor/48608432)); Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 April 2018), memorial page for Robina F. Edwards (unknown-unknown), Find A Grave Memorial no. [148655639](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148655639), citing Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Glendale), Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, USA ; Maintained by Steve and Linda Malkson (contributor [48608432](https://www.findagrave.com/contributor/48608432)).

⁶⁰ Julia Woods Foster, Delayed Certificate of Birth file no. 333977, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.

⁶¹ Death notice for Miss Jennette Edwards, *Nashville Tennessean*, November 13, 1987.

⁶² Death notice for Thomas Keenan Foster, *Nashville Tennessean*, November 12, 1955.

⁶³ J.W. Foster, 1895-1903, City Directories of Nashville, TSLA.

⁶⁴ 1910 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tenn., population schedule, City of Hendersonville, enumeration district (ED) 135, sheet 10B, family 212, Joseph W. Foster; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1522; 1920 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, population schedule, City of Los Angeles 467, enumeration district (ED) 136, sheet 1B, dwelling 18, family 20; Joe Foster; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T325, roll 105.

⁶⁵ Death notices for Joseph Woods Foster and Mary Edwards Foster, *Nashville Tennessean*, December 18, 1938.

⁶⁶ Death notice for Miss Julia Woods Foster, *Nashville Tennessean*, March 3, 1982.

⁶⁷ Susie Garth Edwards, Death Certificate #207-1921, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.

⁶⁸ 1920 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, population schedule, City of Los Angeles 466, enumeration district (ED) 136, sheet 8A, dwelling 10, family 10; Joseph Edwards; digital image, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 105.

⁶⁹ Joseph Edwards, Jr, Death Certificate #467-1912, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA.

⁷⁰ Joseph Edwards, Death Certificate #2452-1912, State of Tennessee Board of Health and Vital Statistics, TSLA; Joseph Edwards, 1888, City Directory of Nashville, TSLA.

A Widow's Portion: Dower Rights

Marriage and the Law in Tennessee

This series examines the laws and court cases which shaped marriage law and practice in Tennessee. It reveals not only what the law said, but the stories of the people who lives went awry in some way, landing them in court. Where the cases cited involved Middle Tennessee families, those stories are told here as well. For more information, see the introduction to the first article in the series, which appeared in volume XXXI, number 3, Winter 2018.

Introduction

The word 'dowry' refers to property a bride's father provides to her husband at their marriage. Dower, however, is a legal provision for widows to take property away from the marriage after a husband's death. For women in 19th century Tennessee who could not own property while they were married, the dower right was critical to help establish a life after widowhood.

Dower rights have been around from ancient times and are said to have been adopted in the Roman Empire based on earlier practices by the Germans. Essentially the right of a woman to some part in her husband's property, the dower was an important legal protection for women. Because it concerned property, dower was also misused by greedy creditors and desperate family members. Creditors often tried to ignore a widow's dower rights, and some families tried to protect their assets by claiming dower when it was not appropriate.

Dower passed into English Common Law, and was mentioned in the North Carolina statutes as early as 1715 in an act requiring the registration of deeds:

Provided also, that nothing in this act contained shall be construed, deemed or extended to bar any widow . . . from her right of dower to the said land.... (Chapter 38, Section 13ⁱ)

In 1784 North Carolina strengthened the claims of women for dower by passage of a new law ensuring that a widow was entitled to at least one-third of her husband's property. This one-third allowance set into law in 1784 has continued in force to the present day. The original law reads:

Chap. XXII (1784)

An act to regulate the descent of real estates, to do away entails, to make provision for widow, and to prevent frauds in the execution of last wills and testaments.

(Section 8) And whereas the dower allotted by law in lands for widows in the present unimproved state of this country, is a very inadequate provision for the support of such widows, and it is highly just and reasonable that those who by their prudence, economy and industry, have contributed to raise up an estate to their husbands, should be entitled to a share in it, *Be it therefore enacted by the authority foresaid*, That if any person shall die intestate, or shall make his last will and testament, and not therein make any express provision for his wife, by giving and devising unto her such part or parcel of his real or personal estate, or to some other for her use, as shall be fully satisfactory to her, such widow may signify her dissent thereto before the judges of the superior court, or in the court of the county wherein she resides, in open court, within six months after the probate of said will, and then and in that case she shall be entitled to dower in the following manner, to wit: One third part of all the lands and tenements, and hereditaments, of which her husband died seized or possessed.ⁱⁱ

The 1784 law goes on to stipulate that conveyances of land intended to defraud the widow of her dower are void, even if the sale is made to children of the marriage. It also specifies that the widow gets the home as part of her dower: “. . . the dwelling house in which the said husband shall have been accustomed most generally to dwell before his death, and commonly called the mansion-house, together with the office, out houses, buildings and other improvements....” Another important provision stated that the widow would be allowed one-third of the personal property (which included enslaved persons as well as livestock, farm equipment, crops and household furnishings) *unless* the husband left more than two children; in that case the personal property was split evenly among everyone, with the widow taking a child’s part.

In his digest of Tennessee law, Jonathan Return Meigs made special notice of one major change between the common law and this 1784 law of North Carolina. “At common law, the widow was entitled to dower of all the lands and tenements whereof the husband was seized [possessed] *at any time during the coverture* [marriage]. . . . The act of 1784 [limited the dower] to the land of which the husband *died* seized.”ⁱⁱⁱ



This distinction between common law and the North Carolina law under which Tennessee operated is a significant one. Prior to 1784, any time a husband sold property, his wife had to join in the sale and release her dower. But after the law was passed, dower rights took effect only at the husband’s death. This is why you will see the name of a wife on very early deeds, but not from 1784 until the late 1880s, when attorneys and court officials began inserting a “relinquishment of dower” clause into deeds. In 1913 that Tennessee became one of the last states to pass a married woman’s emancipation act, giving wives full control over property in their own right.^{iv}

The following cases heard by the Tennessee Supreme Court and reported in *Meigs Digest* show some of the interesting problems faced in disputes over dower rights.

**Marget Guise
and the
North Carolina Marriage Act
of 1784**

The first deed recorded in Nashville was from Christopher Guise and his wife Marget Guise who sold 700 acres on the Natchez Trace to Christopher Guise.

Marget Guise, by signing the deed, relinquished her dower right in the property.

Dated 2 Sept. 1784, this deed was written at the time North Carolina’s dower law was changing. By the following year, Christopher could sell his land without Marget’s consent.

(Davidson County Deed Book A, p. 1)

**The Widow Who Claimed Dower Twice:
Parham v. Parham, 1845**

The case of *Parham v. Parham*^v, which arose in Maury County, tested the doctrine of dower where a couple had separated and divided their property prior to a husband’s death. Here is the story.

Sarah Turner, the widow of Simon Turner, married William Parham in 1826. Each of them had an estate “and children from prior marriages. Before the marriage the couple agreed that the three slaves and other property Sarah brought to the marriage would, at either of their deaths, become the property of Sarah’s children David Turner and Martha Vaughn. This arrangement was not put in writing until 1828.

“The parties lived unhappily together until 1835, when they separated,” the court wrote in the opinion. They

signed a second written agreement by which William gave Sarah her property back. Sarah went to live with relatives in Marengo Co., Alabama. William died in 1839 in Maury County, and Sarah sued the estate for her dower rights. The administrators, Thomas J. Parham and Philip Jenkins, claimed she was not entitled to dower, because of the 1835 agreement.

William Parham had three children by his first marriage: Thomas J; John (a lunatic); and Sallie, wife of Philip Jenkins. Sarah stated that at his death William owned considerable property, including slaves Isaac, Moses, Tobe and a woman named Selve, plus others. According to Sarah he also had a farm of 200 acres on Carter's Creek which had previously belonged to Simon Turner, her first husband. Sarah claimed her one-third dower right to all this property.

Not surprisingly, William's children disagreed with their step-mother. Thomas Parham and his brother-in-law claimed that Sarah left William without any just reason or cause in 1832. They say the couple were "old" when they married (aged about 55 and 50!) and both already had grown children. Sarah's children were Martha Vaughan and David B. Turner. After Sarah left him, William agreed to articles of separation which gave to Sarah and her children the property she had brought into the marriage. According to the Parham's, Sarah accepted the same as full and final payment in lieu of dower or any other right to William's property. They were baffled as to why she would make a claim for dower, as the property she had been given already was worth more than what remained.

Sarah answered the Parham's cross-bill with a detailed account of several occasions when she felt threatened by her husband. He had once sharpened a knife in her presence, had been so angry at her that he picked up a chair and ran the servants out of the room, and on one



Alfred Osborn Pope Nicholson (1808-1876), of Franklin, who helped settle the Parham dispute, was later a U.S. Senator from Tenn.

occasion loaded a gun in her presence. He refused to pay the postage due on letters she received from her children, and would not let her send a servant to fetch a doctor when her son was ill.

Several witnesses were examined for more details. Rebecca Polk testified that Sarah stayed at her house after she left William. While she was there, both William and her son David came there and insisted she go back home, but she refused.

A young lawyer named A.O.P. Nicholson testified that his brother married a niece of Mrs. Parham and his mother lived near them, so he had grown to know the Parhams since 1827. He sometimes spent a day at their house. Mr. Parham was a "silent, distant man" but never seemed

displeased with his wife. Mrs. Parham was fond of the society of her friends and always kind and clever to her husband. Mrs. Parham ran up a bill of \$75 at the store of James S. Walker of Columbia., a brother-in-law of the witness. Nicholson and his law partner Samuel D. Frierson drew up the articles of separation for the Parhams, with David Turner acting as his mother's agent in the business.

R.H. Simmons, Samuel W. Akin, Henry Hadley and Claiborne Gee all testified as to the value of the slaves owned by the Parhams. Gee purchased three slaves from the estate of William Parham: Delilah (age 36), Morning (age 3) and Elmira (6 months). Thomas Parham testified

that Delilah had a child in the winter of 1839, and soon afterward Mr. Jenkins sold the child to pay a debt of \$50. He said that Moses and Isaac both died in 1843.

After reviewing all of the pleadings and testimony, the Supreme Court ruled that the 1835 agreement between a husband and wife was invalid. Because Sarah was still married (a *feme covert*) when the agreement was written, she could not legally become the owner of property – not even property given to her by her

husband. Rather than reversing the whole arrangement and forcing the one-third split, the Court said that Sarah could choose either to keep the property she already had, or she could return it to the estate and then take her widow's portion.

**Inventory of Slaves
in William Parham's Estate
Maury County, 1839**

Isaac, age 53 (died in 1843)
Nancy, age 14
Lesle, age 37 and child
Moses, 32 (died in 1843)
Bob, age 8
Mary, age 17
Gabe, age 30
Eliza, age 10
Phil, age 8
Patrick, age 4

Hannah "an old woman worth nothing 75 years old and has to be supported."

Affluent Wife, Impoverished Widow:

Combs v. Young (1833)^{vi}

A case originating in Giles County came to the Supreme Court in 1833. In this case the dower right was in jeopardy, but the Court decision strengthened the rights of women by interpreting the law generously.

Nathaniel Young died in or before 1827 leaving a widow and minor children. He operated a Tavern House in Pulaski on a lot which he had mortgaged to John Camp and Aaron V. Brown. From the time of Young's death until the suit was filed in the Circuit Court, about \$400 in rents and profits from the tavern had accumulated. James W. Combs and Thomas B. Haynie sued for those funds, claiming that since Young owed them money, the tavern's earnings should be theirs. The widow, Nancy (Paxton?) Young, and the guardians of her children asked the court to protect their income.^{vii}

John Dickey and William Conner were the guardians of minor heirs Caroline V, Robert, Nancy, Margaret and Felix Young. John Young and Charles C. Abernathy were executors of the estate.

Justice Catron delivered the opinion, which was favorable to Mrs. Young. He deplored North Carolina's 1784 marriage laws under which Tennessee was then operating, because that law had changed dower to apply not to all of the property owned during the marriage, but only to that portion of property remaining at the time of the husband's death. Catron wrote movingly that

"Widowhood and poverty in the state of Tennessee are associated in the mind . . . the affluent wife reduced in an hour to the impoverished widow . . . has few parallels in the ordinary misfortunes incident to human life."

The court's decision was that the widow's right to dower was superior to the rights of her husband's creditors – at least until the property was lost through legal action. Therefore, Mrs. Young and her children could retain the proceeds of the tavern until Camp and Brown completed suing the estate for non-payment of the mortgage. At that point the property would be sold at auction, and the Young's rights to the income would cease.

Broken Promises:

Hunter v. Foster, 1843^{viii}

James A. Hunter and his wife Martha C. were living in Albemarle Co., Virginia, when he made a deed of gift transferring a young slave girl named Harriet and other property over to his wife and their two children, Joseph W. and Ann C. Hunter. The reason for this transfer was not described, but it was common for husbands who were in debt to draft deeds like this in an effort to avoid having property claimed by their creditors. In Hunter's case, the deed included a cow and calf, a carryall wagon, a grindstone, a tanyard complete with tools and a stock of leather, and all the household and kitchen furnishings.

In 1839 the Hunters moved to Bledsoe County in East Tennessee and had the Virginia deed of gift registered again at their new location. Hunter made frequent purchases of supplies at the store owned by William Foster and Samuel W. Robeson. He was purchasing sugar, coffee, clothing and other supplies for his

family, and the merchants extended him credit on the basis of the property he owned, including the slave girl Harriet. By 1841 Hunter was deep in debt; the merchants sued him and won, and the Circuit Court ordered that Harriet be sold to satisfy the debt.

Martha Hunter filed a complaint against her husband and his creditors, saying that Harriet had been a gift from her father and that her husband's deed of gift placed the ownership in their hands, not his and not subject to his debts. The Supreme Court eventually ruled that property pledged to a wife and children but then sold during marriage is not subject to dower on the part of the wife. However, the deed of gift to the children was legal, and they had a claim on the property.

The Fearful Widow:

McLanahan v. McLanahan, 1845^{ix}

In January 1835 Matthew McLanahan deeded 256 acres of Rutherford County land known as Double Springs to his son Samuel R. for \$1800. Matthew died that spring leaving his widow, Sarah, minor children James R. and John B. McLanahan, and a family of older children and their spouses. After her husband's death, Sarah McLanahan sued Samuel, stating that he had persuaded Matthew to sign the deed while he was "was so enfeebled in mind as to be wholly incapable of entering into any legal contract as was notorious to all

his immediate acquaintances." She also alleged that Matthew was drunk when he signed the deed. The other children in the family joined Sarah in suing Samuel R. for the return of the property.

The deed to Samuel stipulated that he was to provide a home for his mother out of the proceeds of the land as long as she lived. Sarah was afraid he would eject her and her children at any time.

The Supreme Court ruled that the land had been set aside into a trust by Matthew McLanahan, and that Samuel was the trustee. However, they also ruled that Sarah had the dower right to 1/3 of the property, and that if she wanted to claim her third she could break the trust in order to do so.

Dower Rights Strengthened Over Time by Case Law

The following notes summarize three dower cases in which the husband died before taking full possession of the property. Although the circumstances differed, in the earliest case dower was denied. The next two show a softening of legal attitudes toward widows and their plight.

Benjamin Tipton, Sr., died in 1807 leaving Rebecca his widow. He held a pre-emption right to land in Blount County on which he had lived for 25 years before his death. He did not go through the process to pay his fees

and secure the land grant. After his death, Rebecca Tipton obtained an order from the County Court that her dower right should be taken into consideration when the land was surveyed. The survey was conducted and the part of the land on which her residence was located was set off as her dower right. Benjamin Tipton, Jr., son of the deceased, had the survey taken and paid the fees to complete the purchase process, securing a grant in 1808. Rebecca sued Benjamin Jr. for her dower right in those lands. The Superior Court overruled the Blount County Court and took away Rebecca's right to any part of the land. The court reasoned that since Benjamin Sr. had never received the grant, he did not die "seized and possessed" of the property, and dower could not be claimed. The court wrote: "Were we to allow dower in

The McLanahan Clan of Rutherford County

Matthew McLanahan, died 1835
Sarah, his widow

Their children:

- Samuel R. McLanahan
- Elizabeth, wife of Robert McQuilkin
(residents of Fayette Co., Tenn.)
- Mary, wife of Burwell Ward
- Jane, wife of George N. Taylor
- Matilda, wife of Simeon Taylor
- Harriet, wife of Edmund Arnold
- James R. McLanahan (about 18 in 1842)
- John B. McLanahan (a minor in 1842)

A somewhat similar case arose in Haywood County, West Tennessee. A Mr. Rutherford died in 1840, and three days later a suit pending against him came to trial. The court ordered Rutherford's land sold to pay the debt. The widow, Mary Rutherford, claimed a dower right in the land. The creditor, Mr. Read, claimed that Rutherford had already lost the land before he died, leaving the widow without right of dower. The Supreme Court ruled that, since the land had not yet been transferred to Read on the day

The Holdford Estate:
Apple v. Apple, 185 ^{xiii}

Sally Holdford lived to a ripe old age and passed away about 1855. Her heirs sold the house and the 150 acres which her husband had left to her. Her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (now Elizabeth Apple) claimed a dower right in that property and filed a lawsuit. Elizabeth's

Persons Names Dwelling	Acres Land	Value	Tax	School Land	Value	Tax	Ch. Lg	Value	Tax	Slaves 12.50	Value	Tax	Am. Lg	Value	Tax	Water Pipes	Tax	Adm. of the tax	Total Value	Total Tax
Wentworth Joseph	20	40	.	100	260	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	12.5	40.50	0
Heldford Sarahs	150	200	0.40.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	600	120.0	.	.	.	.	.	40.0	1.60.0	0
Heldford Mills	160	400	0.80.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30.0	80.0	0
Johnson Betty	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	12.5	50.0	0
Johnson Wesley	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	12.5	50.0	0
Jones Joseph	100	400	0.80.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30.0	80.0	0
Johnson Daniel	.	.	.	25	100	0.20.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	12.5	70.0	0
" "	.	.	.	25	25	0.05.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.25	05.0	0
" "	.	.	.	15	50	0.10.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.5	10.0	0
" "	.	.	.	30	30	0.06.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.5	6.0	0
" "	.	.	.	50	195	0.35.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9.75	39.0	0
Jackson James, Sr.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	12.5	50.0	0
Jackson James, Jun.	.	.	.	250	300	0.60.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15.0	60.0	0
Johnston Hubbard	225	800	1.60.0	50	200	0.40.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	62.5	2.50.0	0
Kaykendall Mathew	2014	270	0.54.0	30	30	0.06.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	50	15.0	60.0	0
	8394	2070	4.14.0	403	920	1.86.0	.	.	.	1	600	120.0	.	.	.	5	250.0	2.42.5	9.70.0	0

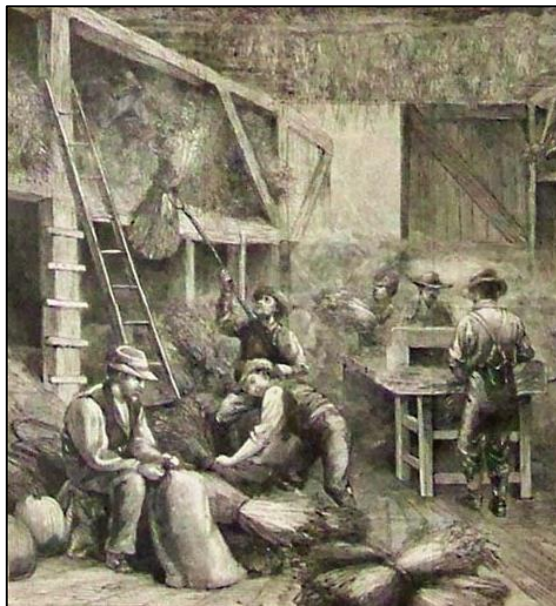
reasoning was that her first husband should have received that property when his mother died (according to his father's will), and that even though he was dead she had a claim on 1/3 of the property as a dower right.

The Supreme Court ruled that since Jonathan predeceased his mother, he had never had ownership of

the property and his widow had no right to dower in it. The case is helpful, though, because it provides a full transcript of the lower court record of the assignment of dower to Elizabeth, Jonathan's widow. The documents as shown here make clear the process that was used to establish dower rights.

Legal Process in a Determination of Dower Example from Jackson County, Tenn., 1838

Copies certified by Thomas H. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, in 1858
and appearing in the case file of *Apple v. Apple* cited above



Neighbors not related to the widow were appointed to inventory the farm and property and set aside the widow's dower.

Court Order to Lay off Dower

Writ of Dower

In the name of the State of Tennessee to the Sheriff of Jackson County, Greetings.

Whereas Jonithan Holeford departed this life intestate seized and possessed of two tracts of land . . . And whereas Elizabeth Holeford is the widow and relict of said Jonithan Holeford, dec'd, and Mary J., Sarah and Winney are his heirs at law . . . all of which appearing by the petition of said Elizabeth filed in the Circuit Court . . . You are therefore hereby commanded to summon five free holders of Jackson County unconnected with any of the parties interested either by consanguinity or affinity to allot and set off to said Elizabeth Holeford widow of said Jonithan her dower of the above described lands and report to the Circuit Court for Jackson County at the Courthouse in Gainesboro on the 3rd Monday of July next, and have you then and there this writ. James T. Quarls, Clerk of the said Court at office 3rd Monday of March 1838.

Sheriff's Report on Executing the Order

Issued 13 June 1838

Came to hand the same day issued, Mahu Young, Sheriff.

Executed on the 14 July 1838 J.M.C. McKinley, D[eputy] Sheriff did on the 14th of July 1838 according to order summons the within Jury free holders citizens of Jackson County unconnected to the parties to lay off and set apart to the widow of Jonithan Holeford deceased her dower in said Holefords land and which Jury did appear on the premises after duly sworn by me as the law directs proceeded to lay off said dower as the law prescribes and herein made their report. [signed] M.C. McKinley, D. Sh'ff

Report of the Jury of View

The undersigned being unconnected with the parties either by affinity or consanguinity and entirely disinterested having been summoned and duly sworn by the Sheriff of Jackson County as a Jury to allot and set off to Elizabeth Holeford her dower out of the real estate of Johnnithan Holeford her deceased husband and after having duly considered and fully understood the whole matter do hereby assign to the said Elizabeth Holeford for her dower the following described land with the erections and improvements thereon, to wit . . . [60 acres on Indian Creek beginning at the mouth of Still House Branch.] . . . which in our opinion constitutes one third of the real estate of said Johnnithan Holeford deceased. Given under our hands and seals this 14th July 1838

[signed] C.K. Scanland; M.C. Ferrell; Lawrence Byrne; Anthony Hogan; D.G. Shepherd

Decree of the Court

July Term 1838

In this cause it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court from the return of the Sheriff together with the report of the Jury summoned by the Sheriff to lay off the dower of the plaintiff in the real estate of said Johnnithan dec'd that said Jury have laid off and set apart the following described parcel of land as constituting one third part of said real estate to wit one tract of land in the County of Jackson . . . All which being seen and understood by the Court it is ordered adjudged and decreed by the Court that all the right title claim and interest which the said Johnnithan Holeford had at the time of his death in and to the above described tract of land both legal and equitable be vested in the said Elizabeth Holeford for and during her natural life together with all the appurtenances there unto belonging. And it is further decreed that said Elizabeth pay the costs of this proceeding and that execution issue.

ⁱ Thomas G. Bradford, *Public Acts of the General Assembly of North Carolina and Tennessee, enacted from 1715 to 1813, in force in Tennessee*. (Nashville: T.G. Bradford, 1815), p.41.

ⁱⁱ Bradford, p.167.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jonathan R. Meigs, *Digest of all the published decisions of the former Superior courts of law and equity, and of the present Supreme Court of errors and appeals, in the state of Tennessee* (Nashville: Bang and McKennie, 1848), p.438.

^{iv} "An act to remove disabilities of coverture from married women . . ." *Public Acts of the State of Tenn. Passed by the 58th General Assembly, 1913*, (Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Co., 1913), Chapter 26, p.59.

^v *Parham v. Parham*, Tenn. Supreme Court Reports, 25 Tenn. 287 (1845). Also *Parham v. Parham*, Tenn. Supreme Court Case Files, Record Group 191, Middle Tenn. box 387. Tenn. State Library & Archives.

^{vi} *Combs v. Young*, Tenn. Supreme Court Reports, 4 Yerg. 218 (1833).

^{vii} A family posting on Ancestry.com states that Nathaniel Young's wife was Nancy Paxton, and that he came to Tenn. from Spartanburg District, South Carolina. (www.ancestrylibrary.com/family-tree/person/tree/76970025/person/40355887255).

^{viii} *Hunter v. Foster*, Tenn. Supreme Court Reports, 23 Tenn. 211. Also *Hunter v. Foster*, Tenn. Supreme Court Case Files, Record Group 191, East Tenn. box 1148, Tenn. State Library & Archives.

^{ix} *McClanahan v. McClanahan*, 6 Hum. 99 (1845). Also *McClanahan v. McClanahan*, Tenn. Supreme Court Case Files, Record Group 191, Middle Tenn. box 387, Tenn. State Library & Archives.

^x *Tipton v. Haywood*, 5 Hayw. 278 (1818)

^{xi} *Williams v. Woods*, 1 Hum. 408 (1839)

^{xii} *Rutherford v. Read*, 6 Hum. 423 (1846)

^{xiii} *Apple v. Apple*, Tenn. Supreme Court Case Files, Record Group 191, Middle Tenn. box 265, Tenn. State Library & Archives.

^{xiv} John Holdford's will is copied into the court transcript, and mentions several tracts of land, 21 slaves and a distillery. His children were Martha, Jonathan, Nancy (wife of Wm. Marchbanks), Matthew, Solomon, Willis, Winney, Senthly and Jane.

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



Williamson County (concluded)

*Abstracted by Gale Williams Bamman
Certified Genealogist EmeritusSM Copyright © 2018*

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.

Williamson County (cont.)

McCutchen, ___[illegible]: Insane Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; duration of present attack, 10 years; total number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 26; inmate, Williamson Co. poor asylum, 5 years; discharged 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.234; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.8]
Pop.Sch.: Hettie McCutchen, age 36, black, female, servant, in household of Robt. McCutchen

Vaughn, Sarah: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.234; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.11]

McCutchen, Joe: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head; also epileptic. [s.d.3,e.d.234; see Pop.Sch.p.19,ln.32]

Clardy, Mary Ann: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth. [s.d.3,e.d.234; see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.30]

Cook, Henry: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form of disability, dementia; admitted 17 Jan.[?] 1878[8?]. **Also:** Insane Schedule; form of disease, dementia; total number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 40; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Clay, George: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; disability, crippled; admitted 16 July 1872[2?]. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form of disease, dementia; total number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 35; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.33] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, white, male, pauper, "physician"; in poor asylum.

Mayburn, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, fits; admitted 16 February 1879[9?]. **Also:** Insane Schedule; form of disease, epilepsy; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.49]

Pop.Sch.: Sally Mayburn, age 20, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Denton, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, insanity. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form of disease, epilepsy; inmate, "Tennessee," 3 years. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.1.] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Owen, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, insanity; admitted 12 Dec. 1879. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form, dementia; total number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, "can't find out"; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.12] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Bowden, Clerisa: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, old and infirm. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form, dementia; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.16] **Pop.Sch.:** age 75, black female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Warren, James: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; idiotic; admitted 4 June 1868[8?]. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; partly self-supporting; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, white, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Stephens, Margaret: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, fits; also idiotic. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting; large head; never an inmate of an institution; also epileptic. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.37] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Pickett, Mary: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; not able-bodied; supported at cost of county; idiotic. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting; large head; never an inmate of an institution; admitted to poor asylum April 1869. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.2] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Riolet[?], Ned: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, idiotic. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** Ned Riolet[?], age 40, black, male; pauper, in poor asylum.

Glass, Charles: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, fits. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; cause, fright of mother; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.6] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, black, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Perkins, Joseph: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, fits. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; not self-supporting; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.6] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, black, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Jones, Lewis: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; cause, afflicted at birth; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.7,ln.13]

Brown, Ella: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.21]

Brown, Claiborne: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.17]

Brown, Mary: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.18]



Cartwright, Thomas: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county; able-bodied; disability, sound; mother also in this institution. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; parents not deceased, not abandoned by parents; control of child surrendered to the institution; born in this institution; illegitimate; not separated from living mother; rescued from criminal surroundings [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.34] **Pop.Sch.:** age 6, white, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Josephine: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, sound; admitted 19 November 1878[8?]. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; father deceased; mother not deceased; child not abandoned; control of child surrendered to the institution; child born in this institution; illegitimate; not separated from living mother; rescued from criminal surroundings. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.46] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

The Williamson County Poor Farm

"Until 1829 the poor of Williamson County were farmed out to the lowest bidder and an allowance made for them" by the County Court. In that year the county purchased 60 acres and hired Mark Andrews to improve existing buildings and erect new structures. By 1886 the farm "contains 413 acres of good land, and has good buildings thereon and is managed with little expense to the county"

Goodspeed's History of Tennessee (1886)
Williamson County

Owen, Masie: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied; form of disability, sound. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; parents not deceased, child not abandoned; control of child surrendered to the institution; child born in this institution; date admitted Dec. 13, 1879; illegitimate; not separated from living mother; rescued from criminal surroundings. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.14] **Pop.Sch.:** Masie Owen, age 2, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Waller, Lulu: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, able-bodied; form of disability, sound. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; father not deceased; mother deceased; child abandoned by parents; born in this institution; parents surrendered control; not illegitimate; separated from mother; rescued from criminals surroundings. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 3, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Anderson, Susan: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, maimed. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.36] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, female, pauper, in poor house.

Vaughn, Catherine: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, insanity. **Also:** Insane Schedule; form, dementia; number of attacks, 1; age at first attack, 25; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.38] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Cartwright, Martha: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, able-bodied; epileptic; form of disability, sound; admitted, 25 November 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.39] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Cartwright, Mahala: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, crippled; admitted 25 November 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.40] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Delila: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, rickets. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch. p.10,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Polly: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form of disability, rickets. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch. p.10,ln.42] **Pop.Sch.:** age 55, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Matilda: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, rickets. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Martha: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, rickets. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.44] **Pop.Sch.:** age 46, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Smith, Bettie: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, rickets. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.45] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Bagsby, Judy: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form of disability, fits. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor

asylum; form of disease, epilepsy; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.47] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Hale, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, old age and infirm. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.48] **Pop.Sch.:** age 84, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Mitchell, Iby: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; old and infirm. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.10,ln.50] **Pop.Sch.:** age 84, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

McCollom, Sarah: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, old age; admitted 19 Jan. 1872. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.3] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Roberts, John: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, syphilis. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.7] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, black, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Green, George: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, old and infirm. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, black, male, pauper, in poor asylum.

Chapman, Lizzie: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form of disability, insanity. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form, dementia; inmate, "Tennessee," 3 years. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Andrews, Tennessee: Insane Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; form, dementia; inmate, Tennessee, 3 years. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 30, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.



Holland, Easter: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; not able-bodied; form, old and infirm; admitted 5 Nov. 1878[8?]. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.10] **Pop.Sch.:** Easter Holland, age 75, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Berry, Elizabeth: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; in county asylum; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; disability, insanity. **Also:** Insane Schedule; resident, poor asylum; form, dementia; confined; not restrained; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.233; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 30, black, female, pauper, in poor asylum.

Winstead, Watts: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co. [s.d.3,e.d.232; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.3]

Whitsette, Maggie: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co. [s.d.3,e.d.232; see Pop.Sch.p.33,ln.49]

Bennett, Gus: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; form, ____[illegible], ; cause not known; semi-blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.232; see Pop.Sch. p.4,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, black, male, son, in household of Jack Bennett.

Warren, Nancy ["Mary" penned above Nancy]: Insane Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; cause, typhoid fever; duration of present attack, 1 year; age at first attack, 17; requires an attendant. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.46,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** Mary Warren, age 17, white, female, in household of Thomas Howel.

Shaw, Susan: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; cause unknown; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.9]

Shaw, Rebecca: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.10]

Shaw, Richard: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.15]

Hughes, William: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; residence, Davidson Co., not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.22,ln.14]

Reese, Millie ["Ellen" penned above Millie]: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at age 25; cause, attack of neuralgia; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** Ellen Reese, age 35, black, female, head of household.

Fitzgerald, Pheby: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at age 52, cause, unknown; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.25, ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 24, black, female, boarder, in household of W. John Steel.

Barker, W.B.: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 45; cause, riding on plains of Texas; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.231; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, male, head of household.

Reese, Jenny: Insane Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; form, epileptic; age at first attack, 14; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.230; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 17, black, female, daughter, in household of York Reese.

Peach, Susan: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co. [s.d.3,e.d.230; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.11]

Reese, Pat__[illegible]: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 24;

cause, dust and lint from binding [?] __[illegible]. [s.d.3,e.d.230; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.49] **Pop.Sch.:** age 55, black, male, head of household.

Hammock, Nancy: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.40]

Hammock, Jane: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.41]

Hammock, Calla: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.8,ln.42]

Fox, Margret J.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; not self-supporting; afflicted at birth; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.35]

Hammock, A.T.: Idiots Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.28]

Ragsdale, Mary: Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; partly self-supporting; afflicted at birth; not semi-deaf; not semi-mute. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.6]

Alexander, Joseph: Blind Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 68; supposed cause, inflammation of eyes; totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:** age 76, black, male, head of household.

White, A. D.: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form of disability, consumption. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 47, white, male, brother, in household of Moses White.

Adams, Sapphira: Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Williamson Co.; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; form, old age. [s.d.3,e.d.229; see Pop.Sch.p.17,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 80, white, female, head of household [and sole person in household].

Williamson County concluded

The Gower Cemetery Restoration Project

by Marsha Fagnani, Chairperson



Views of the Gower Cemetery

Left, taken in 2016 before reclamation began (photo by Glenda Ireland.)

Right, a meeting at the cemetery in 2018 (photo by Becky Mangano.)

The Gower Cemetery on Gower Road is located in the still mostly rural community in West Nashville off River Road near Overall Creek. This historic pioneer family cemetery sits on a portion of land originally settled by Reverend William Gower (1776-1851) and his wife Charlotte Garland (1782-1860). William Gower was converted to the Methodist faith in 1803 by Lorenzo Dow, a famous Methodist itinerant who visited the Gower home on this land. William Gower established the first Gower's Chapel about 1805. It was the forerunner of the present Centenary United Methodist Church. William's mother, Obedience Blakely Gower (c1740-1816), was the first burial in April 1816.

This cemetery, 202 years later, is on less than a half acre of land located within a privately-owned parcel adjoining the Centenary United Methodist Church property. In March 2017 Metro Nashville Planning Commission/Mapping designated a new and separate parcel number for the Gower Cemetery which will help to protect it.

Throughout the years, various descendants, neighbors and organizations have made efforts to maintain this cemetery; however, when we began our project in early 2017 it was in a terrible state of overgrowth with reports of many tombstones in pieces on the ground.

Several descendants, in the Nashville area and from the West to East Coasts, thought -- what can we do to get the cemetery cleaned-up, restored, maintained and preserved? It was with the help of Fletch Coke -- friend, mentor and historian -- in late 2016 when this possibility was first explored. We revisited this in February 2017 with the help of Tim Walker, Executive Director, Metro Nashville Historical Commission, and our efforts to save the Gower Cemetery were officially underway. Metro Nashville Public Works did the initial clearing, which was a huge task, and continues to maintain the grounds while our work is in progress.

We started a social media Facebook group, Friends of Gower Cemetery, dedicated to this project. The heartfelt interest in supporting this endeavor has grown tremendously; from a few descendants to over 260 family members, related families and many others who care about the importance of historic preservation. In May 2017 we began a funds drive through the Metro Nashville Historical Commission's Foundation, 501(c)3, to cover the costs of the planned work. These donations are dedicated to the Gower Cemetery Restoration Project.

Most of the burials are the descendants of Abel Gower, Sr. (c1720-1780), a Captain in the North Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War, and of his son Abel Gower, Jr. (c1740-1780) and wife Obedience Blakely Gower.

This family was among the first settlers to arrive to the Bluffs in 1779-1780. Some arrived by land with General James Robertson's overland party; however, most family members (including women and children) made the four-month, nearly 1000-mile river journey in flatboats with the Colonel John Donelson's flotilla, arriving 24 April 1780. Reverend William Gower was a 3-1/2 year old child when arriving with his family and extended family.

Abel Gower, Sr. and Jr., along with several others, including John Robertson (c1745-1780), brother of General James Robertson, were killed in the fall of 1780, when they were attacked by combatant Native Americans who resented this encroachment. The attack was made on a party of settlers working under the leadership of the senior Gower. They were transporting harvested corn supplies by boat from the Stone's River Station at Clover Bottom. This incident, which occurred just a few months after the settlement began, is known as the Clover Bottom Massacre. It is unclear whether or not the bodies of Abel Sr., Abel Jr. and others were recovered, and if so, where their burial location may have been. Perhaps their graves are forever lost in history.



Meeting of the
Gower Cemetery Restoration
Project Members
at Centenary United Methodist Church,
Sept. 2017

Our goal is to not only restore and preserve the Gower Cemetery but also continue our extensive research on burials, the history of the land, the families who lived there, and the story of Gower's Chapel and the Centenary United Methodist Church. We will also ultimately update the Davidson County Cemetery Survey.

In March 2018 a plat map of the Gower Cemetery was located. Prepared about 1900 by descendant and local architect, Rev. James Elbert Woodward, Sr. (1867-1955). Rev. Woodward's research is deemed very reliable and included personal interviews with elder Gower family members then living. The map provides the names associated with 73 graves, including six enslaved African Americans. We also located the original Gower Family Bible, kept safe all of these years by descendant, Marty Baxter Reich. It includes two pages listing Gower and Gatlin family names and births, a separate page with names of 11 enslaved persons belonging to the Gowers, and one page which lists the ingredients for a medicinal recipe.

Although there are Tennessee laws expressly pertaining to cemeteries, we all know too well that many historic family cemeteries run the risk of becoming lost over time due to lack of upkeep and abandonment which opens the door to destruction and development. The only way to save and preserve this cemetery is to keep up with the grounds maintenance and have the archaeological and restorative work accomplished. It must then be maintained with continued attention.

Last spring, as we were starting this project, we became aware of the tragic story of the Rains family cemetery established by early Nashville pioneers. Despite a very successful restoration of historic tombstones and attractive grounds, that cemetery was legally declared “abandoned” and “terminated” as a cemetery. Developers dismantled the cemetery and removed the graves to another location. What once was a piece of Nashville history is now a vacant lot soon to be paved over. Our efforts to save the Gower Cemetery and others like it need to include greater awareness and changes to the laws relating to cemeteries in order to prevent property owners and developers from destroying historic sites. We must become more educated, proactive and diligent.

Dan Sumner Allen IV has been hired to oversee the restoration of the Gower Cemetery. Mr. Allen is a well-known and highly respected archaeologist in the Nashville area who specializes in historic preservation. Other plans include a site survey for boundaries, possible updates for the parcel, replacement of the existing barbed-wire/post fencing, tombstone replacements and memorial markers. All of this work is dependent on the costs involved and funds we are able to raise. We are planning to have a Metro Nashville Historical Commission Historical Marker placed at the site and are thankful to Historic Nashville, Inc. for generously donating the cost of this marker.

We are extremely honored to be part of this very important historical restoration project and will continue to document and photograph our progress. A sincere thank you my co-chairs Becky Mangano and Jana Stephenson, and to everyone involved so far including helpful people at these offices and institutions: Metro Nashville Historical Commission; Metro Nashville Archives; Centenary United Methodist Church; Tenn. State Library & Archives; Historic Nashville Inc.; Middle Tenn. Genealogical Society; Metro Nashville Public Works, and the Tennessee Methodist Conference Archives.

Readers can follow the story of this cemetery restoration on our Facebook page: Friends of Gower Cemetery, Nashville, Davidson County TN. You may also join our group of Gower genealogists on Facebook: Gower of Davidson County, TN and Connected Families

Woodward’s Map of Gower Cemetery Burials, 1900

Rev. J.E. Woodward, great grandson of Rev. William Gower, recorded the names of those buried at the Gower Cemetery. He obtained information from his grandfather, Lorenzo Dow Gower, before his death in 1892, and from his aunt, Mary E. (Gower) Robertson, who died in 1910. Lorenzo Dow Gower was 13 years old at the time of the death and burial of his grandmother Obedience Blakely Gower, the first person to be buried in the Gower family graveyard. Rev. Woodward prepared the Gower Cemetery plat map and he also wrote *The History of the Gower Family*, printed in 1920.

Rev. Woodward wrote:

Grave marked (A) is Obedience, Wife of Abel Gower, Jr. She died April 16, 1816. This was the beginning of the cemetery. This is the old family graveyard and is located 9 miles from Nashville on the old L.D. Gower farm near Centenary Church. The information given in locating these graves was given the writer by his grandfather L.D. Gower and his daughter Mary E. Robertson. Many of the graves are now unknown.”

The following burials are shown on the map, copies of which may be found at the Nashville Metro Archives and the Tenn. State Library & Archives. Those with tombstones located by a survey crew in 2000 are designated by an asterisk, and the dates from the stones have been added. Rev. Woodward used the abbreviation Col to indicate persons of African heritage.

1st Row

Nannie child of John Gower

John D. Gower

L.D. Gower, Jr.

*Susan L. Bradford (1844-1902)

Nancy J. Scott

W.R. Scott

Child of Robt. Stringfellow

2nd Row

Mayo Patterson Mayfield and Garland Families
(unknown number)

Child of Wm. Gatlin

Jeremiah Gower

Elisha Gower

Prudence Gower

3rd Row

Mayo Patterson Mayfield and Garland Families
(unknown number)

Dieliah Garland

Sallie Garland

4th Row

3 Children of Blake Gower

Child of Blake Gower

Peggy Gatlin

John M. Gatlin

*Nathan Gatlin (1782-1855)

Offie Gower

*Obedience Gatlin (1787-1866)

Blake Gower

William Stuart

5th Row

Jane child of L.D. Gower

Dow child of L.D. Gower

"Lee" child of L.D. Gower

Child of Jno. Russell

Nancy A. Woodward

Abel L. Gower

Willie child of Jno. Gower

Felix R. Gower

Mary Gower

Nancy L. Gower

*Lorenzo D. Gower (1803-1892)

*Mary E. Robertson (1828-1910)

6th Row

Obedience Blakely Gower (A)

Levenia Newsom

Elizabeth Russell

*James Russell (1762-1819)

Abel B. Gower

Nancy Gower

Andrew Gower

*Rev. Wm. Gower (1776-1851)

*Charlotte Gower (1786-1860)

Child of J. Wyatt

Wyatt Child

Wyatt Child

Wyatt Child

7th Row

Wm. Shuster

Tom (Col) Woodward

Charlie Woodward

Mary E. Woodward

Child of Wm. Woodward

Child of Wm. Woodward

Susan Alice Woodward

John Woodward

8th Row

William A. Gower

Child of Wm. Gower

9th Row

Louis (Col)

Mandy (Col)

Child of Henry Kimbro

*Henry Kimbro (1850-1890)

10th Row

Pheobe (Col)

Ike (Col)

Racell (Col)

Sullivan child

[Old Entrance]

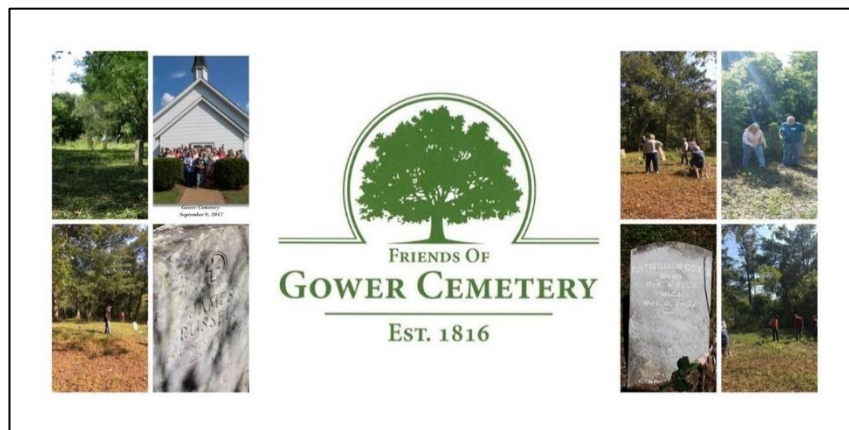
5 Plots for children of Nathan Gower

Nathan Gower

In addition to these graves noted by Rev. Woodward in 1900, these four graves from early in the 20th century are found in the cemetery today:

A.J. Johnson (1842-1910)
Lonnie H. Johnson (1907-1923)
Walter S. Johnson (1879-1924)
Ina Christine E. Johnson (1906-1927)

On April 21, 1969, Verla Stevens Hodges, Bellevue Community Historian, recorded the tombstone inscriptions in the Gower Cemetery. Nine family tombstones were located and recorded including Nancy L Gatlin, Born March 19, 1805 Died October 7, 1885, wife of Lorenzo Dow Gower. This tombstone was not located in the Davidson County Cemetery Survey on June 23, 2000. In 1969, Verla Stevens Hodges did not locate a tombstone for Lorenzo Dow Gower which was found and the inscription recorded during the 2000 Cemetery Survey.



Cemetery Conditions in Giles County in 1901

The semi-annual overhauling and cleaning of the rural graveyards in this county has begun. Some years ago the custom began to obtain that in each neighborhood all persons living in the vicinity or who had relatives buried in the neighborhood graveyard would . . . appoint a day certain to meet at the graveyard and clean it off and repair the shattered tombstones. This is done now twice a year, spring and fall, in every community except Pulaski. The Pulaski graveyard is a wilderness at all times and is never systematically cleaned off except by private parties although the cemetery company is a wealthy corporation.

There are many desolate and abandoned graveyards in the county [with new owners] who clear the land and plow up the graves and raise corn and cotton in the graveyard. The grand jury at the last term just passed the old John I. Butler graveyard near Aspen Hill, indicated a prominent citizen of the 21st District for this desecration . . .

At the old Butler graveyard were buried some of the first settlers, the ancestors of many of our people of today. Some years ago a horse barn was built over the grave of Col. Larkin Cleveland in the 16th District, and the gravestones were removed two miles to the Lane graveyard. Col. Cleveland came here from Georgia. He died in 1813. He was a Lieutenant in the Continental line and a Colonel of North Carolina militia during the revolution, and was wounded just before King's Mountain in the skirmish at Lovelady's Ford of the Catawba River.

From the *Nashville American* 13 May 1901

Why Being a Good Boy is Important

Kentucky Governor Joseph Desha's roots in Sumner County

Among the earliest pioneer settlers of Sumner County were Robert and Eleanor (Wheeler) Desha and their children. Natives of Pennsylvania, the Deshas moved south at the close of the Revolutionary War. They settled for a brief time in Kentucky, but were in Sumner County by 1788. The tax list of that year includes Robert Desha with 540 acres and three taxable slaves.

Two of the sons of Robert Desha were killed in battles with the Native Americans.¹ Despite the terror and privations of frontier living, the Desha children must have received a good education, as two of the surviving sons went on to considerable prominence. Robert Desha, the father, lived to be about 80 years old, remaining at his home on Desha Creek in Sumner County until his death in 1816.²



Joseph Desha (1768-1842),
Governor of Kentucky.

His parents and siblings lived in Sumner County

The oldest son was Joseph Desha. Born in Pennsylvania in 1768, he came to Tennessee with his parents as a teenager. He was too young to fight in the Revolution but went to Ohio to fight under Gen. Anthony Wayne in the Northwest Indian Wars.

He may have returned briefly to Tennessee, as he appears in the Sumner County tax lists as late as 1796, but various sources say he settled near the Ohio River in Mason County, Kentucky, in 1792. There he became politically active, serving in the state legislature starting in 1796. In 1807 was elected to represent his district in Congress, continuing for nearly 10 years. During Andrew Jackson's presidency Desha served as Governor of Kentucky.³

You might think that with his career soaring as it did, Desha would have had little cause to look back at the years of his youth in Tennessee. However, several letters found among the Desha Family Papers in the Library of Congress indicate that he did at one point in his career need the support of his old neighbors. Although most of the Desha papers deal with Joseph's career as an increasingly influential politician, a few reflect his Sumner County roots. They are transcribed here.

We the undersigned do hereby certify that we have been personally acquainted with Mr. Joseph Desha late of Sumner County, now an inhabitant of the State of Kentucky, from his early youth to the present period, and that to the best of our knowledge he has always supported an honest upright character and demeaned himself as an orderly & peaceable citizen whilst he resided in the County of Sumner aforesaid. Given under our hands in Sumner County this 6th day of March 1801.

David Wilson, J.P.

¹ Paul Clements, *Chronicles of the Cumberland Settlements* (Nashville: self-published, 2012), p.316

² Stray Leaves, (<http://www.ericjames.org/html2014/fam/fam80685.html>).

³ Biographical Directory of the American Congress (Alexandria, VA: CQ Staff Directories, 1997).

G.D. Blackmore

Tennessee [sic] State Sumner County

*I do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with Joseph Desha from the time he was about sixteen years old until he removed to Mason County Kentucky and have ever considered him to be a man of good repute as to sobriety candour and entegrety [sic].
Given under my hand this 4th day of March 1801.*

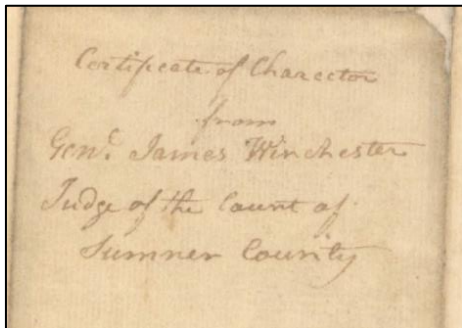
Wm. Hall

The bearer hereof, Col. Joseph Desha, having signified to me his intention to travel --, this is to Certify that I have been acquainted with him from his youth up to this time, and that he hath uniformly Supported a good Character, is remarkable for probity and punctuality in his Contracts, and by his Acquaintance is Considered a usefull and good Citizen.

Given under my hand in Sumner County this 7th day of March 1801

John Morgan, J.P.

To whom it may concern –



The bearer hereof, Col. Joseph Desha, having signified to me his intention to travell,

This is to Certify that I have been acquainted with him from his youth up to this time, and that he hath uniformly supported a good character, is remarkable for probity and punctuality in his contracts, and by his acquaintance is considered a usefull and good Citizen.

Given under my hand at Cragfont this 7th day of March 1801

J Winchester

To whom it may concern –



Why it seemed necessary for Desha to acquire these letters of reference from Tennessee is a mystery. By 1801 he had been serving in the Kentucky statehouse for several years, and must have established his credentials there firmly. The comment in General Winchester's letter that Desha planned to travel (repeated verbatim in Morgan's letter) could be literal, but is more likely a euphemism used to cover some political or legal situation.

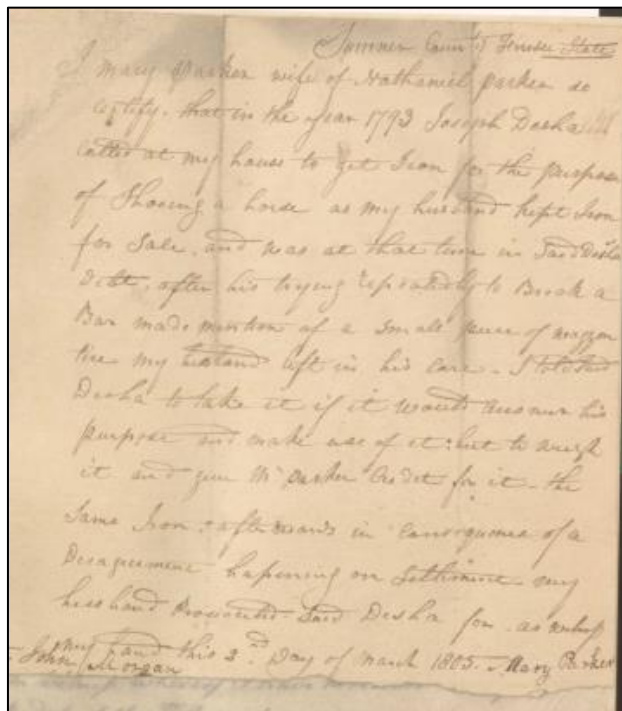
One other item from Sumner County appears in the Desha papers. It is a scrap of testimony signed by Mary Parker.

Sumner County, Tenessee [sic] State

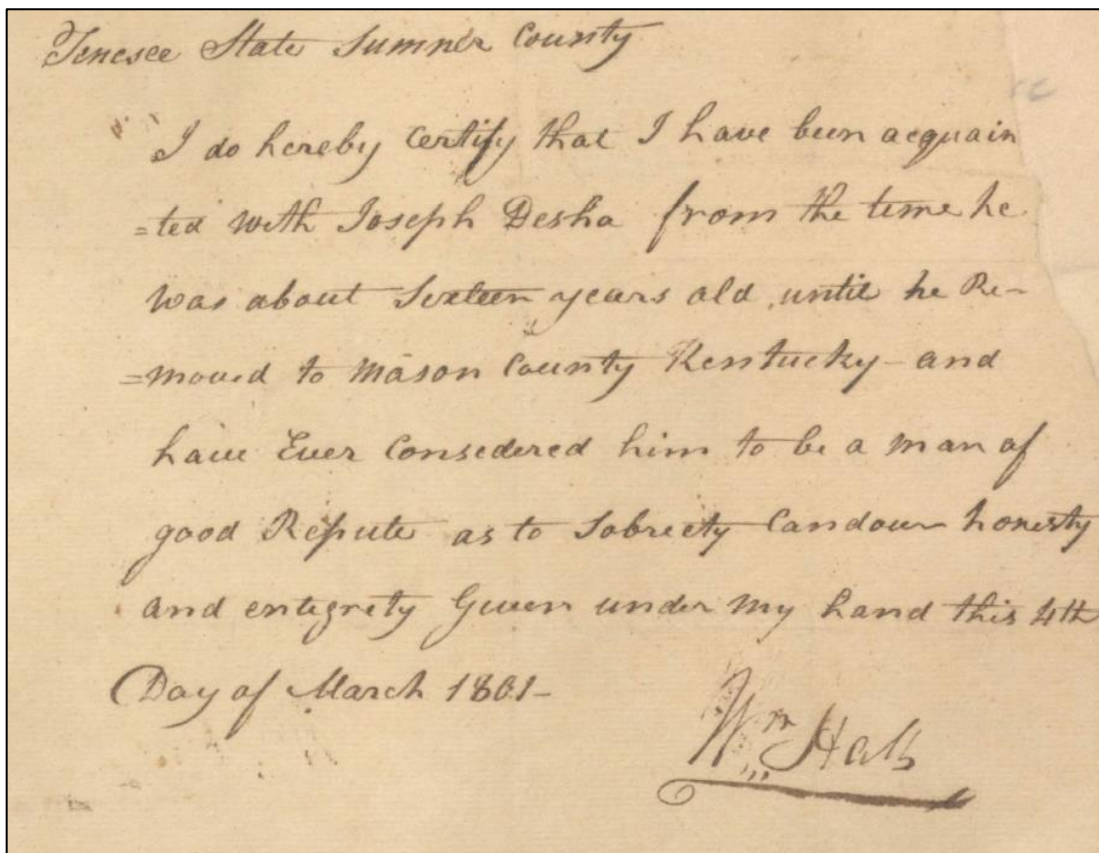
I Mary Parker, wife of Nathaniel Parker, do certify that in the year 1793 Joseph Desha called at my house to get Iron for the purpose of shoeing a horse, as my husband kept iron for sale and was at that time in said Desha's debt[. After his trying repeatedly to break a bar[, I] made mention of a small piece of wagon tire my husband left in his care. I told Desha to take it if it would answer his purpose and make use of it; but to weight it and give Mr. Parker credit for it[. T]he same Iron afterwards in consequence of a disagreement happening on Settlement – my husband prosecuted said Desha for – as witness my hand this 3rd Day of March 1805.

Test - John Morgan

[Signed] Mary Parker



Sumner County Tenessee State
I Mary Parker wife of Nathaniel Parker do
certify that in the year 1793 Joseph Desha
called at my house to get Iron for the purpose
of shoeing a horse as my husband kept Iron
for sale and was at that time in said Desha's
debt, after his trying repeatedly to break a
bar made mention of a small piece of wagon
tire my husband left in his care. I told
Desha to take it if it would answer his
purpose and make use of it; but to weight
it and give Mr. Parker credit for it. The
same Iron afterwards in consequence of a
disagreement happening on Settlement my
husband prosecuted said Desha for as witness
my hand this 3rd Day of March 1805. Mary Parker
John Morgan



Tenessee State Sumner County
I do hereby certify that I have been acquaint-
-ed with Joseph Desha from the time he
was about sixteen years old until he Re-
-moved to Mason County Kentucky and
have ever considered him to be a man of
good Reputation as to Sobriety Candor honesty
and integrity Given under my hand this 4th
Day of March 1801.
Wm Harts

Book Reviews *by Shirley Wilson*



Nashville's World War II Veterans: Volume 3 China, Burma and India and the Pacific theater by James B Jones, Jr., paperback, 2016, 370 pp.

The Veterans History Project was established by federal law in the year 2000.

It includes stories from veterans beginning in WW One. It partnered with The Special Collections division of the Nashville Public Library, the first public library in the country to do so. Materials were collected from local veterans and donated by families of deceased veterans.

Only a small portion of their stories is told in this book. It is hoped that the telling of these stories will provide a greater understanding of their sacrifices and experiences.

A History of Burley Tobacco in East Tennessee & Western North Carolina by Billy Yeargin with Christopher Bickers,

paperback, 2015, 159 pp., index, photographs.

The burley tobacco in Tennessee descends directly from the tobacco developed by Jamestown colonist, John Rolfe. The practices used by Tennessee's early tobacco growers were developed in the fields of central Virginia. Two Tennessee farmers brought burley tobacco to Greene County, Tennessee in 1887 and it would become the backbone of the economy in the region for over 100 years.

The book tells the story of how that happened and photographs of farmers, farms and tobacco co throughout the book enhance the story. The story of

burley tobacco is important to Tennessee genealogy in that so many families were engaged in its production.

In 2015 Macon County, northeast of Nashville was the leader in growing burley tobacco.

Some Descendants of Captain Thomas Harris ca 1586-1658 by Robert W. Witt, paperback, 2017, 295 pp. index. \$27 from www.HeritageBooks.com

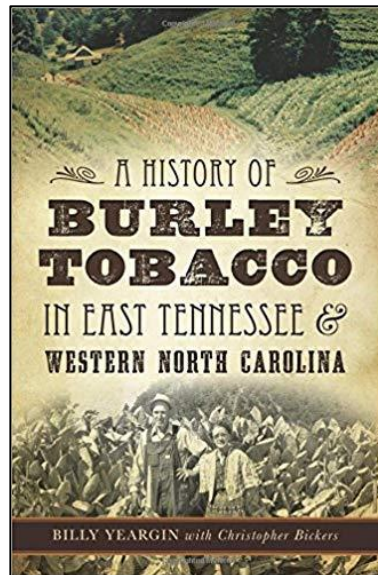
Robert was reportedly born in England about 1586, arrived in Virginia in 1611 and died in Henrico County, Virginia in 1658. The mother of his children, Mary and William, was named as Audrey Hoare, daughter of Thomas Hoare and Julyann Triplett.

Descendants moved westward settling in Tennessee in the counties of Giles, Hardin, Jefferson, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Perry, Sumner, and Weakley, to name a few.

There is a complete name index and a lot of good family information listed, but use the book with caution. Many of the sources listed are secondary and would be difficult if not impossible to retrieve. This can lead to problems when both the surname and the given names are common.

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: 2016-2017 Edition by Gary Mokotoff, paperback, 94 pp, illustrations, photographs.

Getting started in Jewish genealogy is not so much different than getting started in any specific type of genealogy. However, getting beyond the holocaust



presents more challenges than those caused by the many burned courthouses found in the USA.

Still, Germans were excellent record keepers and Nazis were German. Mokotoff focuses on records that are unique to the Jewish people, indicating that most resources can be found on the Internet.

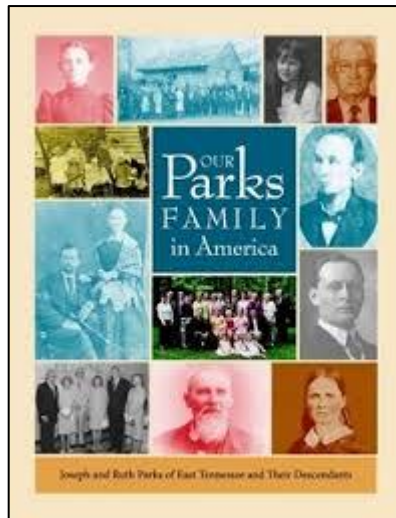
The book finishes with a case study of the Madoff family. If you are doing Jewish research, you will most certainly want to add this book to your collection of resource materials.

Our Parks Family in America by Janet Bliss Parks, hardcover, 1915, revised edition, 177 pp., illustrations, index, maps, and photographs.

Subtitled 'Joseph and Ruth Parks of East Tennessee and their Descendants, this is a beautiful and carefully constructed tribute to Joseph and Ruth Parks. It is filled with family photos, most of them in color, along with factual news articles and many other documents. This is to be the first of three books on this interesting family.

John Parks, whose wife's name is unknown, appears to be the original Irish immigrant. Not much is known about him except that he had a son Joseph. Joseph married Ruth and they had nine children. About 1788 they moved to Greene County, Tennessee. One of their children was John who seems to be the progenitor of this particular line.

Unquestionably designed for family members, researchers interested in the Parks and Snodgrass families will find it helpful. A full name and place index is a helpful addition.



Across the Plain: A History of Cross Plains, Tennessee 1778 – 1986 by Rita A. Read, hardcover, 133 pp. 1917 3rd printing, illustrations, index, photographs.

Cross Plains is a lovely country town that was settled very early in Tennessee's history and has remained a lovely country town, something most such towns have been unable to do.

It is located in eastern Robertson County and this book depicts its rich heritage with lots of wonderful photographs and illustrations. The community has continued to grow but the pace is slow and comfortable. The book was created for Tennessee's Homecoming 86 and is now in its third printing.

DNA USA by Bryan Sykes, hardcover, 2012, 369 pp., footnotes, illustrations, index.

If you've learned the basics of DNA as far as family genealogy is concerned and you are ready for more detailed information, this is the book for you.

Sykes, author of *The Seven Daughters of Eve*, among several others, has subtitled this book "A Genetic Portrait of America."

While it was published in 2012 and can't be considered "cutting edge" technology at this point, it is nevertheless, an extremely interesting and educational book. It will remove any doubts you may have about the importance of genetics to genealogy and it is an easy book to read and absorb, despite its technical aspect.

These books are all available at the the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Most can also be purchased on-line for your personal reading pleasure.

Have Your Book Reviewed

Books may be sent directly to Mrs. Shirley Wilson,
Book Review Editor, 106 Leeward Point, Hendersonville, TN
37075. All materials become property of the review editor to be
distributed to a local library or archive.