

The MIDDLE TENNESSEE Journal of Genealogy & History



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Volume XVI, Number 3
Winter 2003

**Middle
Tennessee
Counties**

Bedford
Cannon
Cheatham
Clay
Coffee
Davidson
DeKalb
Dickson
Fentress
Franklin
Giles
Grundy
Hickman
Houston
Humphreys
Jackson
Lawrence
Lewis
Lincoln
Macon
Marshall
Maury
Montgomery
Moore
Overton
Perry
Pickett
Putnam
Robertson
Rutherford
Smith
Stewart
Sumner
Trousdale
VanBuren
Warren
Wayne
White
Williamson
Wilson

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All meetings
(unless otherwise noted)
1:00 P.M.

at

Green Hills Branch Library
3701 Benham Avenue
off Hillsboro Pike and Glen Echo Rd.
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Check our website for any changes
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January 18, 2003

Genealogical Tales and Treasures an open forum

All who have a genealogical tale, truth
or artifact to share are welcome. Share
your tales, show your treasures!

March 15, 2003

Family History Centers: Doorway to a World of Data Tom and Liz Allman

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History Center branch facilities and
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May 17, 2003

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the Anderson Genealogical Collection of
5,000 books and 2,700 microfilms
covering the U.S. and Europe.

MTGS meets on the third Saturday of
January, March, May, July, September
and November, unless otherwise
announced.

Middle Tennessee *Journal of Genealogy & History*

Volume XVI, Number 3, Winter 2003

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**Middle Tennessee Journal
of Genealogy & History**

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Nancy Adgent Morgan	Betsy Ragsdale
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FROM THE EDITOR . . .

I hope this issue of the Journal will bring something of interest for everyone. Thanks to all who have submitted articles and ideas! In this issue are several articles related to World War I, one about John Mitchell from Overton County and the other about Bert Roller of Pulaski. Both include letters from the young men, which I think makes them especially interesting.

A new series starting in this article is the 1812 Davidson County list of taxable inhabitants. I hope many of you will find ancestors listed there. The list is presented in its original order by militia company, which helps you see who lived in the neighborhood of your ancestor.

Excerpts from the diary of John Trotwood Moore are also presented here. This diary caused some editorial consternation, because it contains several disturbing passages where Moore's racism is expressed in frank terms. After consulting with several advisors, we determined to run the article but to excise the worst of these passages. Not wanting to offend readers, but also desiring to present history truthfully, this seemed to be the best solution. Even with these passages omitted, Moore's strong character comes through clearly and makes for good reading.

As always, I encourage you to submit articles, ideas and material for the *Journal*. I am always glad to hear from the readers.

Chuck Sherrill

bookish59@cs.com

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A Tennessean in World War I

John A. Mitchell of Overton County

By Deborah McConnel

World War I began in 1914 when a Serbian rebel assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. The Austrians were looking for a good reason to attack Serbia, and this incident provided the opportunity they needed. Because of alliances formed in the past, soon many other countries were involved. The major force on Austria's side was Germany. Coming to Serbia's rescue were France, Italy and Russia. Germany invaded Belgium, which was a neutral country, therefore bringing Belgium as well as England into the war.

President Woodrow Wilson kept the United States out of the War as long as possible. Due to several actions by Germany, including the sinking of American ships, war was declared April 6, 1917. The country had a big job ahead of it because there were not nearly enough Regular Army soldiers. The National Guard units from each state were called in and federalized into U.S. Divisions. But there were still not enough soldiers. The draft was instigated June 5, 1917. Local boards were appointed in each county to register men between the ages of 21 and 31.

Many men from the Cumberland Plateau, along with others from Tennessee and the Carolinas were placed in the 30th Division, called the "Old Hickory" Division in honor of Andrew Jackson. They were trained at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, near Greenville.

The 30th Division, although fighting in numerous battles, is best remembered for the battle on September 29, 1918 when they helped break the infamous Hindenburg Line near the St. Quentin Canal approaching the town of Bellicourt, France. The Hindenburg Line was considered impregnable, and many historians agree that this defeat was the beginning of the end for Germany. Many Tennesseans were injured or killed in this battle.

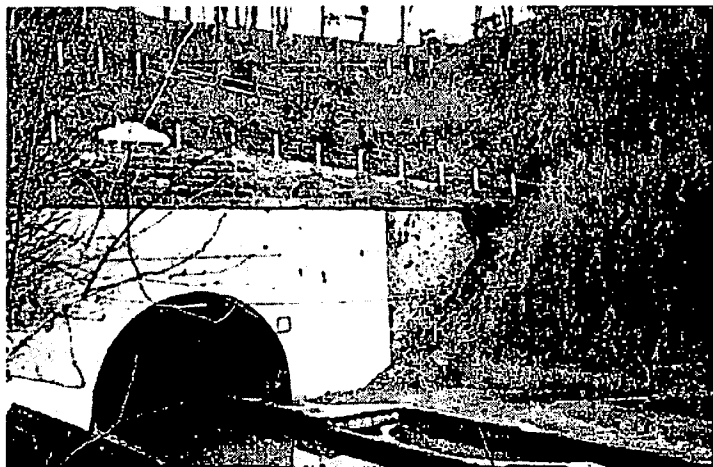


John Adrian Mitchell

1st Lieutenant John A. Mitchell was a World War I soldier from Livingston, Overton County, Tennessee. Born John Adrian Mitchell in Overton County June 7, 1895, he was one of ten children born to Richard Laken Mitchell (1860-1942) and Lucinda Idera Terry (1866-1924), both Overton County natives. John's paternal grandparents were Robert L. Mitchell (1835-1912) and his wife Celina. The grandfather, a Confederate veteran, was born in 1835 in White County, Tennessee, and the family was well established in Overton County by the time of the Civil War. The Overton County Mitchells paid more than average attention to education, and sent John to the Livingston Academy for his high-school years. Before the war interrupted his plans, he was a student at Transylvania University in Kentucky and the University of Tennessee.

On July 23, 1917, with the war in Europe already underway, John Mitchell enlisted in the 2nd Tennessee Infantry of the National Guard. It was made up of nine hundred men from Tennessee, and was soon part of the wartime movement to federalize National Guard units across the country. John, along with other Tennessee Guardsmen, were assigned to the 119th Infantry, part of the Army's 30th Division. On August 5, 1917, John Mitchell officially entered into U.S. Army service at the rank of Second Lieutenant.

The 119th shipped out for Europe and before arriving at the port of Liverpool, England, a German U-boat was sighted, creating great excitement. The German vessel submerged and the convoy continued without incident, but



St. Quentin Canal where the 30th division crossed the Hindenburg Line.

it made a big impression on the young men destined for battle. The 119th Infantry, along with most of the 30th Division, became part of the American II Corps which was attached to the British Army. In early July John and his fellow Tennesseans were assigned to a quiet sector of Belgium, where they received training in trench warfare. By mid August they were actively engaged in the British Ypres-Lys offensive. In early September, the 30th division was transported to the St. Pol area of France for rest and training in preparation for the Somme Offensive of 1918.

The rest and training period was all too brief. On the night of September 27, John was among the soldiers of the 119th as they took up positions on the line to kick off the attack scheduled for early the next morning. At daybreak the 119th attacked heavily defended positions along the Hindenburg line near Bellicourt, France. British Mark V tanks were in support of the 30th Division during the attack. It was for the rescue of a commander of one of these tanks that Lieutenant Mitchell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The citation read:

Hearing cries of distress from a disabled tank, he, assisted by another soldier, advanced in the face of terrific machine-gun fire and shell fire to the spot. Notwithstanding the fact that the tank was subject to point-blank fire of artillery, he succeeded in rescuing the badly wounded tank commander and removing him to a place of safety.

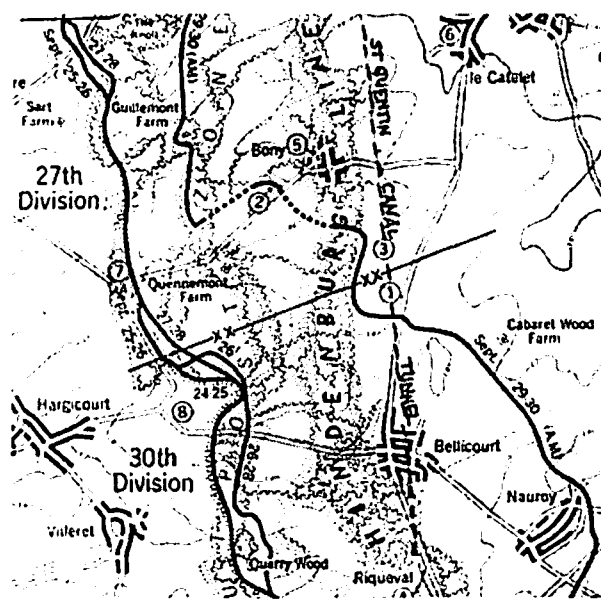
Mitchell led his troops into combat twice following the initial attack of the Somme Offensive. They remained in combat for nearly a month, until the night of October 19, 1918. On that night the 119th, along with the other infantry brigades of the Division, was finally discharged from the trenches and allowed to leave the front. They would not see combat again during the First World War.

While in France John Mitchell wrote to his parents. One of his letters, written before the Somme Offensive, was published in the October 9, 1918 issue of "The Golden Age" newspaper in Livingston. In the first part of the letter he inquires about the health of home folks, and tells his mother not to worry about him. He continues:

... I'm anxious to get back to the outfit and see all the boys. I'm anxious to know how they are getting along, and too when I get back I'd likely have a lot of good mail and that's very important to me.

Teach the children to be good and have a good time and learn a lot at school. And tell Professor Garrett that there's one John Adrion Mitchell in France who is expecting great things of L.A. [Livingston Academy] and am sending my best wishes for a better year than ever before, however, I'm afraid he'll not be able to turn out another graduating class like the 1916 class—tell him this for me. I guess it will tickle him, however I believe its true. Every boy out of that class but two are in France. And one of them by name Barker Zachry seems to be serving his country at home, the other one Chas. (Baby) Judd I don't know where he is but he's a good one alright...

I hope things will wind up over here before long and I think its probable within a year for old Jerry can't stand it long and we are just beginning to hit our stride now, he has only had a taste of Uncle Sammie's boys.



Map showing the Hindenburg Line where the 30th Division fought

I've found me a nurse and she's a real Yankee, she'll take care of me if I am wounded. I was down to see her last night and we went to the movies, there happened to be some pictures at the Y.M.C.A.... Don't worry about me because One who is stronger than we will look after me, because we are in the right and we can't lose....

*Your boy,
John A. Mitchell*

The "Golden Age" also carried another letter John wrote from France, written after his release from the front lines. It appears in the November 29, 1918 issue, and includes some descriptive language about his wartime experiences:

... Well I have been there and back. I guess you read about the Tennessee, New York state, North and South Carolina troops in the papers the day after we did it. We have been in a drive that crossed the Hindenburg line, and this paper that I'm writing on is some that I picked up in a big dugout in the Hindenburg line.

I think the closest shave that I got was when a machine gun bullet split my pistol handle and shot the button of my pistol holster. I tell you it was wonderful. I wish I could be with you and tell you about it, but is hard to describe. The higher commander congratulated the Division and seemed to think that we had done pretty well.... If you remember in the paper dated about September 30 of the taking of a village by the name of Bellicourt you may be interested to know that I helped take it. You might find it on a map of France too.

In April 1919 Lieutenant Mitchell returned to the United States along with many other men from Tennessee. John eventually resumed his studies and graduated from U.T. with a law degree. He established a very successful law practice in Cookeville, Tennessee, but was once again detoured by fate when he was called to active duty for forty-four months during the Second World War. Mitchell retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel. During his legal career he served as a Circuit Court judge, District Attorney of the 5th Judicial Circuit, and Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

John Mitchell and his wife Mattline Barnes had two children, John Alexander and Ethel Barnes Mitchell. At the end of his long military and legal career, John died in Cookeville on 3 August 1982. He is buried in the Cookeville Cemetery. ■

Photos courtesy of Col. Jim Kennedy, U.S. Army, and Michael Kelly
of Bartlett's Battlefield Journeys in Grimsby, England.

Map credit: "American Armies and Battlefields in Europe," (U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1938), p. 374.

Property Rights – Both Real and Personal

By T. Vance Little

And so you say, "Property is property; what difference does it make whether it is real or personal and who cares, anyway?" You may be right. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference in our everyday lives, but it makes a BIG difference in our everyday genealogical research.

Historical Background

The distinction between real and person property grew out our Common Law heritage. The Common Law is the law that our ancestors brought to America with them. It dates back to William the Conqueror. England was a fine piece of land, and William the Conqueror after his conquest figured he owned it all. He was the king and head of state. If he didn't own it, who did? That's right, nobody.

He set about divvying up the land among his generals and officers. He granted (or deeded) it to them and *their heirs forever*. He meant just what he said. It was to stay in the same family forever or until the line of descent ran out, at which time it would revert to the king. All of which made king, who was the personification of the state, the ultimate giver and taker of land. Funny that the laws are still the same today. The state (the modern day version of the king) allows us to own land and formulates the laws governing ownership of land. When our line runs out, the land returns to the state by a process called *escheat*. We see it on the evening news every day or so where people are listed who have *unclaimed property* in the hands of the Treasurer of the State of Tennessee. It is *escheated property*.

In England the land stayed in the hands of the original grantees' families and was passed down from generation to generation to the oldest son, a process called *primogeniture*. It was many years before the law

recognized a person's right to own land and to sell it during his lifetime or to will it at his death. A complex set of property laws emerged. These laws were brought to America and remain intact in all states (save Louisiana) except where changed by statutory laws.

Definitions of Real and Personal Property

There are only two kinds of property. They are real and personal. It is easy to distinguish between them. Real property is the land and anything permanently attached to it. Personal property is everything else. That's simple enough. But what about timber. It's permanently attached to the land. So, it's real. What happens when you cut a tree? The tree becomes personal property. The same for a house, an air conditioner, or carpeting. Well, maybe it is not so simple to distinguish real property from personal property after all.

Two Versions of the Lord's Prayer

The English Common Law placed great value on property and fiercely protected property rights. An example of the English Common Law's reverence for real property can be seen in the two versions of the Lord's prayer. The English churches and derivatives therefrom say, "Forgive us our *trespasses*." While the Presbyterian (Scottish) churches say, "Forgive us our debts." Trespass is a real property crime; whereas paying their debts was more important to the Scottish Presbyterians.

Two sets of laws grew up, one governing real property and one governing personal property. Most law schools still offer separate courses in the subjects.

Wills vs. Testaments

We are familiar with the expression *my last will and testament*. Wonder what the difference is between a will and a testament. You guessed it. One refers to real

property, and the other refers to personal property. There was never any restriction on a person's right to dispose of his personal property as he saw fit. He could give it away during his lifetime by gift, or he could leave a written instrument saying who was to get his gold, silver, cattle, horses, and laptop at death. Such a written instrument was called a *testament*. After generations of wrangling over human and property rights the law came to recognize a person's right to direct who was to get his real property at his death by a written instrument. That written instrument was called a *will*. Together they became *last will and testament*.

Give, Devise, and Bequeath

Another expression that we have all heard and seen is *give, devise and bequeath*. We all know what *give* means, but what about *devise* and *bequeath*? Here again, *devise* refers to real property only. *Bequeath* refers to personal property only. You cannot have a *bequest* of real property, nor can you have a *devise* of personal property. The law no longer recognizes this distinction, but it was vital to the English Common Law and early American Colonial law.

Heirs and Next of Kin

Did you ever wonder what the difference was between *heirs* and *next of kin*? Not really huh? Well, we'll tell you anyway. *Heirs* took personal property, and *next of kin* took real property. Real property always followed the blood line, hence the term *next of kin*. An heir might not be related by blood. The spouse was such a person. In a moment, we will tell you how the Common Law dealt with that situation.

Importance of the Blood Line

As we have already said, William the Conqueror meant what he said about land staying in the same family. Land always followed the blood line. At first it went to the eldest son, later to all sons equally, and finally to both sons and daughters equally, still following the blood line. In early Common Law it was a big no-no for land to go to the spouse. He or she was not of the right blood line. Consequently, he or she never inherited an outright interest in property. He or she

took a *life estate* instead of an outright interest in the property.

Property Interests

The two major interests in real property are *fee simple* and *life estate*. A *fee simple* interest in property is an outright interest or absolute ownership. A *life estate* is what it says — a lifetime interest in the property. We have all seen wills that said, "I leave my estate to my wife for her lifetime and at her death to my children." The wife had the land only as long as she lived. At her death it went to the children. That is the reason that many times in your research you will find that there is not a final distribution of a man's estate until the later death of his wife.

Marital Interests in Property

And then there are *marital interests* in property. Those are property interests that are brought about by the marriage relationship. The wife took a *dower* interest in her husband's property. And the husband took a *curtesy* interest in his wife's property. Both were life estates only. Remember that the law forbade the spouse from taking an outright interest in the real property. Why? We repeat that she was not of the right blood line. In later years, the law recognized a man's right to leave his property to anyone he wished, including his spouse.

Seisin

Now, to something a little more complicated. It is *seisin*, which is a term that roughly means ownership. The English Common Law was adamant that there could never in this whole wide world be any piece of real property that is not owned by someone at all times. It flatly stated that there could never be a *gap in seisin* in respect to real property. The principle did not apply to personal property. In other words, there might be a time when ownership of personal property was suspended for a period of time. This legal concept produced some interesting results.

It allowed a person's personal property to pass into the hands of his executor or administrator, who might use

the money to pay the person's debts and administrative expenses before paying the personal property into the hands of the heirs. Indeed, there was a *gap in seisin* in that the ownership of that personal property was suspended until the administrative process was completed. Not so, in respect to real estate. It passed into the hands of the *next of kin* immediately at death. It did not go through the hands of the executor or administrator. It was not subject to being liquidated to pay debts. It was what you call a *non-probate asset*. That is the reason that you do not find real estate listed on estate inventories in your research. It did not go through the estate. The law accorded preferential treatment for real estate, such as freedom from claims of creditors. Oh, yes, it was possible to subject real estate to estate debts, but it took a special court action to do so. It did not happen automatically. This is still the law in Tennessee today.

Descent and Distribution

Which brings to mind another couple of terms - *descent* and *distribution*. You may have heard of the *laws of descent and distribution*. These are the laws that say who gets a person's property if he should die without a will. There are two words. So, one must

apply to real property, and the other must apply to personal property. You're right, but which is which? *Descent* refers to real property, because, as we have seen above, real property descends immediately to the next of kin at a person's death. So, *descent* is a real property term. *Distribution*, on the other hand, is a personal property term. It is *distributed* to the heirs at the termination of an estate, that is, after debts and administrative expenses have been paid.

Revision of Tennessee Probate Law

There was a major revision in Tennessee probate law in 1976. This writer was on the committee that recommended those revisions. At that time many of the distinctions between real and personal property were abolished. At the same time, many other distinctions were NOT abolished. Tennessee law, thus, to some extent still bows to the Common Law in giving preferential treatment to real property.

And remember that personal property has nothing to do with the term *household and personal effects*. Such items are personal property, but not just because they are *personal effects*. They are personal property because they are not real property. ■

The Batts Family Bible

Contributed by T. Vance Little

The
HOLY BIBLE
Containing the
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS,
together with the
APOCRYPHA:
Translated out of the Original Tongues,
and With the Former Translations Diligently compared
and revised.
To which is appended,

A Concordance, the Psalms of David in Metre [sic],
An index, tables, and other useful matters
The text conformable to the Standard of the American
Bible society.
[Remainder illegible]

Philadelphia:
Published by John E. Potter,
No. 617 Sansom Street
1859

MARRIAGES

William W. Batts and Louisa Draughan was [sic] Married [sic] in the yeare [sic] of our Lord February the 1, 1838
Oscar L. Batts and Francis [sic] Jane Jackson were married in Cedar Hill
Graydon L. Morris and Rebecca Louise Batts were married in Franklin, Ky. July 21, 1931
William Oscar Batts and Beulah Francis [sic] Featherston were married in Cedar Hill
William R. Conley and Georgie May Batts were married St. Mary's in Nashville May 23, 1923
William Oscar Batts and Alla Home were married [blank]

BIRTHS

William W. Batts Son of Jeremiah Batts was born the 16 April 1807.
Louisa Batts daughter of Robert Draughn was borne [sic] the 22 December 1822
Lourana Batts daughter of William & Louisa Batts was born October the 29 1838
Robert William Batts son of William & Louisa was born May the 28 1841
James Monroe Batts Son of William & Louisa was born September the 30 1842
William Rily Batts Son of William & Louisa was born the 24 March 1844
Thomas Jefferson Son of William & Louisa was born May the 10 1846
Mary Willmuth [sic] daughter of William & Louisa was born October the 22 1847
Martha Elizabeth Batts daughter of William & Louisa was born January the 12, 1849
Euphasid [sic] Batts daughter of William & Louisa was born February the 16 1851
Oscar Loveless[?] Batts Son of William & Louisa was born August the 27 1855
Arthur Lafayette Batts Son of William & Louisa was born October the 27, 1861
Jeremiah Ritey[?] Batts was born July 2, 1865
Oscar Llewelyn Batts was born August 27, 1856
Francis [sic] Jane Batts was born December 4, 1865
Wm Oscar Batts Son of O. L. & F. J. Batts was Born Nov 27, 1880
Georgie May Batts Daughter of O. L. & F. J. Batts was Born March 10, 1889
Rebecca Louise Batts was Born Sept 7, 1897
William Oscar Batts Born July 21, 1918

DEATHS

Robert William Batts Died September the 10 1846	Thomas J. Batts Died Feb. 18, 1910
Euphrasid [different from above spelling] Batts died November the 2, 1861	Jeremiah Riley Batts Died June 14, 1919
William Rily [sic] Batts Died Jan. 20, 1865	Willmuth Batts Newton died Jan. 18, 1920
Lourana Batts Died Feb. 5, 1867	Oscar L. Batts Died October 5, 1920
Martha E. Batts Died June 18, 1874	Arthur Lafayette Batts Died April 1946
Louisa Batts Died Apr. 23, 1877	Frances Jane Batts Died Sept. 19, 1941
Wm W. Batts Died Aug. 20, 1879 age 72 years, 4 months, 4 days	Georgie May Batts Conley Died Aug. 19, 1951
J. M. Batts died Apr. 30, 1878	Beulah F. Batts died June 16, 1954
	William O. Batts died August 21, 1997 ■

Note:

The family of William W. Batts is found in the Robertson County 1850 census (page 63). William was a 43-year-old farmer with \$1200 in real estate. Everyone in his household was born in Tennessee. This included Louisa age 27, Lourana age 12, James M. age 8, William R. age 6, Thomas J. age 4 and Mary W. age 3. The next household was that of Jeremiah Batts, Sr., age 73, a farmer with \$600 in real estate, born in North Carolina. Jeremiah was blind. Living with him was Elizabeth Batts, age 70, also born in North Carolina.



To The Honorable... **Petitions to the State Legislature**

DeKalb County Toll Road Protest

*Based on Petition Number 161,
Legislative Records of 1843¹*

It is common knowledge that Tennessee was a crossroads for western migration in the antebellum period, but we often forget that the roads our ancestors trod were muddy, rutted and often impassable in bad weather. The issue of "internal improvements" was important to westerners (and Tennesseans were considered westerners in those days) and was a plank in Andrew Jackson's presidential platform. Foremost among those improvements in Tennessee was a system of turnpike roads, which the state helped fund through companies of local investors and stockholders.

The toll road which ran through DeKalb County was known as the Lebanon and Sparta Turnpike. It ran through the town of Smithville, and residents of the outlying areas found it necessary to pay a toll to go to business in the town. They felt this toll was an oppressive tax, and an infringement on their liberties. The petition below, signed by 49 residents of the county, represents their effort to circumvent paying the toll. They addressed the petition to The Honorable Daniel Coggin, who served as the Representative from DeKalb County from 1843 to 1845. Coggin was a Smithville lawyer and later served as the county's Register of Deeds.¹ Legislative records do not indicate that the effort was successful.

The *Tennessee Gazetteer* published in 1834 shows that Stage Route number 8 ran from Knoxville to Nashville through Sparta. The stops between Sparta and Lebanon were: Allen's Ferry (at mile marker 121); Liberty (at mile marker 138); Alexandria (at mile marker 146); and Lebanon (at mile marker 162).² It followed a route similar to today's state route 70. Smithville is not listed on this route because it did not yet exist.

Thomas Webb's history of DeKalb County gives some background about the road:

Jesse Allen established a ferry on the Caney Fork at the mouth of Eagle Creek as early as 1813.... By the 1820s there was regular stagecoach service on this route through Liberty and Alexandria to Nashville... In December 1837 a company was incorporated to build a new turnpike from Lebanon toward Sparta. Covered bridges were built at Liberty and Dowelltown....³

The town of Smithville was formed by legislative decree in 1838, established as the county seat of the new county of DeKalb. Land for the town was donated by Bernard Richardson, and the county offices were erected there.⁴ It quickly became a center of activity, and the traffic it generated was probably a boon to the stockholders of the Lebanon and Sparta Turnpike Company. Eventually, Smithville eclipsed the old town of Liberty as the principal town in DeKalb County.

At the time this petition was making its way through the legislature, a number of other issues related to the new county of DeKalb were also being considered. These met with more success than did the toll road complaint. The published Acts of the Tennessee General Assembly show that in December 1843 an act was passed to incorporate Smithville. On January 16, 1844 an act to establish the county of Hanover in West Tennessee was passed (although this was later rescinded) with a rider attached which provided for an Academy in DeKalb County. Additionally, on January 25, an office of the Chancery Court was established at Smithville. This was a political plum desired by most counties because of the extra business court days generated for a town's merchants, and the selection of little Smithville as a site for the court is an indication of some political clout.⁵

During the 1830s and 1840s many turnpike companies sprang up in Tennessee. Each one was comprised of stockholders, mostly local businessmen, who invested in the toll road as a money-making venture. These companies had to be chartered by the state government, which passed acts permitting them to sell stock in the venture. A letter in the files of the State Archives shows that the Lebanon and Sparta Turnpike Company's officers got in some hot water in 1841, when they sold more stock than they were authorized to do.⁶

This letter, dated Oct. 25, 1841, explains that the officers found it necessary to do more grading on the road than they had expected, and their costs exceeded the original estimates. They sold additional stock certificates, bringing the total capital to \$173,000, without gaining the necessary legal permissions. The letter was signed by these officers: Nicholas Smith, Moses Fite, John Hearn, W.T. Waters, Jacob Fite, Thomas Duncan and James Goodner. The tolls complained about by the petitioners may have been the result of these financial difficulties.

Petition from DeKalb County 1843
Protesting Toll Payments on the Turnpike

Address: Alexandria, Ten.
 Dec. 20th
 Maj. Daniel Coggin
 Member in the Legislative Branches
 Nashville, Tennessee

Notations: No. 177. Petition from sundry citizens of DeKalb County remonstrating
 against paying toll on the Turnpike road in said county & going to and
 from church & muster.

Read and laid on the table 22 Dec. 1843.

To the Honorable Legislature now in Session, Nashville, Tennessee.

We the undersigned citizens of DeKalb County pray your honorable body to pass a law to exonerate us from paying toll at the gates of the Turn Pike road, when going to and from Churches, and when going to and from our Ridgmental musters, and all others; likewise all jurors going to and from court. And also, from paying at those gates when going to and from the Mills; as we really feel ourselves oppressed by all the above taxes, saying nothing about our liberties being infringed upon.

We humbly hope your honorable body will hear our petition and grant our request. And we shall every pray, & etc.

William Dale

David Griffith

Robert S. Dale

Elias Griffith
 William McMillian
 John Vantrease, Jr.
 Henry Haas, Jr.
 A. W. Walker
 Thomas S. Bennett
 Aaron Tinkisy[?]
 Richard S. Bennett
 William Vannata
 J.T. Pickett
 David Jinkins
 Thomas W. West
 Samuel Vanata
 Martin Hughs
 William P. West
 Gibson R. West

James W. Philips
 James D. Grindstaff
 Regen Showhill
 William Griffith
 William Wright
 Benjamin Garrison
 George W. Bennett
 John Griffith
 Joshua W. Pickett
 Andrew Pickett
 Wm.[?] B. Wright
 Thomas Simpson
 John Wilson
 Joseph Underwood
 Wm. D. Gatton
 Henry Garrison

Ransom Jenkins
 John Hill
 Robert Yeargin
 Isaac Jones
 James Malone
 Leonard Lambrson
 Mathew Griffin
 John W[?] Bayn[?]
 Electr[?] ((X)) Pass
 James Hollenworth
 B. Blades
 William Pistole
 Joel Pistol
 Jeheu Fanata

Notes:

¹ McBride, Robert and Dan M. Robinson. *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, volume 1. (Nashville: Tenn. State Library and Archives, Tenn. Historical Commission, 1975.)

² Morris, Eastin. *Tennessee Gazeteer*. (Nashville: W. Hasell Hunt & Co., 1834.)

³ Webb, Thomas G. *DeKalb County*. (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1986.)

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ State of Tennessee, General Assembly, *Public acts passed at the first session of the twenty-first General Assembly... 1835-6* (Nashville: Nye & Co., 1836), chapter 63, section 4.

⁶ *Record Group 5, Internal Improvments*. (Tennessee State Library and Archives microfilm publication, R.G. 5, reel #1, box 4, folder 21.)

QUERY

JOHNSON/McCORMACK

Looking for descendants of Benjamin JOHNSON/JOHNSTON who married Mary McCORMACK in Lincoln Co KY 9 Feb 1801.

Benjamin died ca 1815 in Lincoln Co KY. Mary married Sterling ABERNATHY in Giles Co TN ca 1819.

1820 Giles Co census shows 1 male under 10; 1 male 26-45 (Sterling); 1 female under 10; 2 females 10-16; 1 female 26-45 (Mary).

Children are from Mary's first marriage. First child of second marriage was in 1820.

LaJuan DeBarbieris/813 Holton/Bellaire TX 77401-2812/713-665-6598/lajuan@mindspring.com

Finding Tennesseans in World War I on the Web

By Debbie McConnel

Tennesseans in World War 1

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/tenninww1>

This site is a compilation of information about service men, the homefront, and military records of Tennesseans. Pictures as well as stories of various soldiers are highlighted. It includes information on how to arrange a tour of the battlefields and how to find records for Tennessee servicemen. If you have information and/or a photograph of a Tennessean who fought in World War 1, please feel free to submit it to: debbiemc@comcast.net As long as there is space on the page I am interested in adding to it.

Tennesseans in World War I on the GenWeb

<http://www.tngenweb.org/worldwar1/>

The GenWeb site includes information about Tennessee servicemen in WWI, biographies of soldiers, and links to other helpful sites. They welcome information submitted by descendants of WWI Tennessee servicemen.

Military Records at Rootsweb

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.com/~northing/usa/wars/WWI.html>

This site includes a few Tennessee WWI references, but its most significant value is that it has links for most sites that contain information related to WWI in general. Just a few examples are links to finding draft registration cards; information on WWI aviation; and a link to the National Archives Records Center, etc.

Tennessee's World War I Questionnaires

<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/ww1quest.htm>

In an effort to preserve the history of Tennesseans in World War 1, questionnaires were sent to all living servicemen. 4,453 returned the questionnaire, which unfortunately represents only 5% of the state's servicemen. The introduction page tells the history of gathering these records, information provided, and how to order a questionnaire. There is a name index for the convenience of locating a soldier. (Record Group 239, Tennessee State Library & Archives)

Tennessee's Gold Star Records

<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/goldstar.htm>

This site explains and indexes Tennessee Gold Star Records (Record Group 53, Tennessee State Library & Archives). The Gold Star Records were collected to honor servicemen who died in World War 1. They were filled out in the 1920's by the serviceman's family. Not all families participated. Information on how to obtain a Gold Star record is located in the introduction.

Tennessee's World War 1 Rosters

<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/ww1intro.htm>

The index on this site separates the records first by county, and then alphabetically within each county. This is a transcription of Record Group 36, Tennessee State Library & Archives. This is a direct transcription of the most comprehensive listing of Tennesseans in WWI available. The introduction includes information on how the records were acquired and information on how to order a copy of a serviceman's record. ■

Bert Roller Letters

Contributed by Jane R. Sights

Bert Roller (1893-1934) had a distinguished career as Professor of English at George Peabody College for Teachers. He was born in Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee; one of eight children. He studied his oldest sister's college text books and was intensely interested in a college degree. For all his short life he wanted to write and to teach literature. World War I interrupted his courtship with Helen Lovell Denney, whose grandfather Capt. Jim Lovell piloted a fleet of steam-boats and was a rival to Capt. Tom Ryman. Bert and Helen met at Peabody College. Before he enlisted and went off to train for war in France they became engaged.

Helen Denney (1896-1980) kept all of his letters and a journal in a box under the stairs. These were discovered and now comprise the basis of a book. The original letters are at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. They have been transcribed by a niece, Jane R. Sights who has contributed this introduction.¹



Patriotic World War I Poster

These first letters were written from Camp Sevier in Greenville, South Carolina, where the troops were trained, first on wooden cannons because they had no other.

Monday Night [Oct.22, 1917]

Dear Helen,

Great night tonight. Our tent stoves have come. We have gone so long without seeing a fire, coatless and freezing, that nothing could now equal the pleasure of a fire in the tent. We are all gathered around it. We are to get a corn popper and some corn in town Wednesday.

Our captain told us tonight that there was no chance to leave here until February, at least.

Love,
Bert

Oct. 29, 1917. Mon.

3 months in camp. Sing of life with medley of joy and sorrow, moonlight caressing the dark woods, heights of love and passion, long days of monotonous drifting.

In tent now with rain gently falling and leaves slipping down the sides, dropping off finally, like life ending and falling into chaos.²

Oct. 31, 1917. Wed.

We read over a gay café table of the first Americans entering the trenches. A stillness came over us, but soon disappeared. We are thinking grim thoughts but laugh at them as Pope did his consumption.³

Life has never seemed so beautiful as on these warm autumn days when we train for death. No sorrow, no night. No humiliations. With God where music begins.⁴

Tuesday Morning [November 13, 1917]

Dear Helen,

I came over to the hospital yesterday. The ambulance, a rattling cart, like the carts of French Revolution times, brought us down on the dreariest day I have seen in some time. It rained and the sky was ashen, not a rift of brightness about it. But here,

it's all right. I awoke to the sunlight on the hills and the frost like snow.

Dressed in loose bathrobes (our clothes are locked up) we are all sitting around the big stoves in our ward. The doctor has just examined me, but did not say when he would operate.⁵ There are plenty of magazines here, I have some cigars and expect to enjoy the experience.

There is a fearful epidemic of measles here. Half of the regiment is quarantined and I heard that there were 1200 cases in the hospital. Several die every day from it. Luckily, I had it as a kid.

We DO need sweaters. They have neither given us winter underwear, blouses, coats or sweaters. In all the cold weather, most of us had to go in short sleeves and will have to for some time now. That's what is sending us all to the hospital and many of us to our deaths.

Men leave the battery every day and some of them never come back.

Love,
Bert

Saturday, November 17, 1917

Dear Helen

I am leaving the hospital today, but will not begin work for some time. Feel fine. The operation was horrible – a nightmare of anguish, but feel new and fresh now.

As to the sweaters, etc. from home, we have not seen a single one. The papers have something in them about the Nashville women sending us things, one

time nearly two hundred sweaters were sent, they said to Col. Lea.⁶ BUT NO ONE HAS RECEIVED OR EVEN SEEN ANY. We did not even get the comfort bags sent us. It's a joke over all the camp. If the women want to help us, let them support the Red Cross of the Army "Y." I have never seen such

efficiency, such readiness, such sacrifice as they exhibit. Unless they send the articles to us individually, we never receive them.

Love.
Bert ■



Notes:

¹ Col and Mrs. Albert P. Sights, 4505 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205

² *Roller Diary*, Tenn. State Library and Archives.

³ Alexander Pope (1688-1744) English poet.

⁴ *Roller Diary*, Tenn. State Library and Archives.

⁵ The operation was on his nose, an old baseball injury. Perhaps they thought it important knowing that gas masks could save his life.

⁶ Luke Lea (1879-1945) of Nashville commanded the 114th Field Artillery, a volunteer regiment which distinguished itself in France.

NOTICE

Was committed to the Jail of Smith County, Tenn., on the 26th Sept., 1847, a runaway Negro named Lafayette, who says he belongs to James Sheppard, of Jackson County, Tenn. Said Lafayette is about 5 feet 9 inches high, dark complexion, about 35 years old; the owner will come forward prove property and pay charges or he will be dealt with as the law directs. James M. Nance, Jailor, Smith County, Tennessee..

(From the *Carthage Casket*, Oct. 1, 1847)

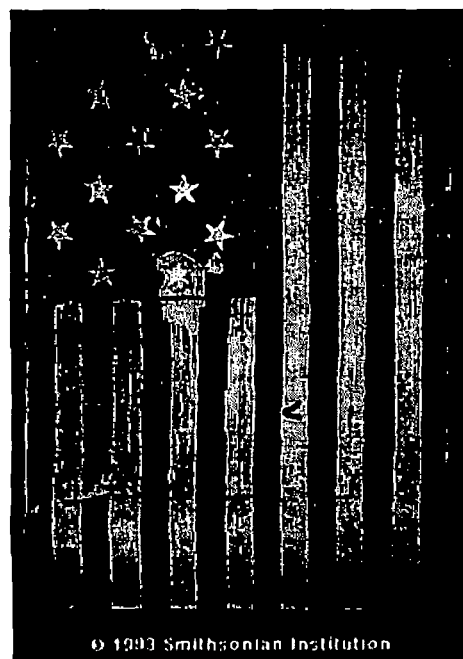
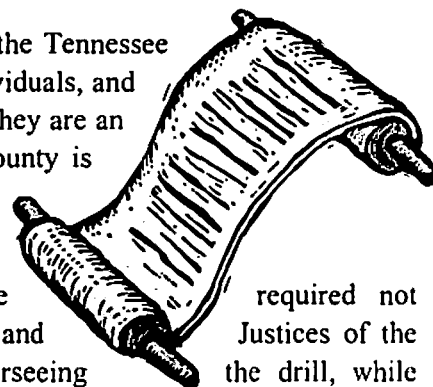
Davidson County Tax List 1812

An Enumeration of Free Taxable Inhabitants

In November 1811 the Tennessee legislature ordered that the Justices of the Peace in every county submit a list of the names of the "free taxable inhabitants" living in their district. In effect, this created a census of free white males between the ages of 21 years old and 50. Older men were exempt from paying a poll tax (also called a head tax) at that time.¹ The reason for this census is not clear, but may have been related to fears that an army would soon be needed to help in the coming war between Britain and the United States.

Many of the lists submitted under this law have survived and are on file at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Although they provide only the names of the individuals, and no information about their ages, property ownership or other personal details, they are an important part of the historical record. The following list from Davidson County is especially helpful for genealogists because there is no 1810 census for the county.

The list is divided into militia companies. In this period all free white men were only to pay a poll tax but also to report for military drill periodically. Captains and Peace were appointed over each district. The Captains were responsible for overseeing the Justices kept records and were the foundation of the local court system. The militia district boundaries are not known, but it is safe to assume that men listed in the same district were fairly near neighbors to one another. Those sharing the same surname and living in the same district are likely to have been relatives.



With some study of local history and other records, one can use this list to determine the approximate area of the neighborhood in which an ancestor lived. A look at Captain William Criel/Creel's neighborhood, for instance, reveals Andrew Jackson and a large group of Donelson men. Certainly this militia district covered that part of Davidson County now known as Donelson and Hermitage.

More can also be learned of the men in the lists by studying records of the War of 1812, as some of the men who commanded militia companies in Davidson County later became officers in the state troops serving under Andrew Jackson. For example, Captains John Barnhart and William Mullin, shown on this list, both later served in the war as part of Colonel William Metcalf's West Tennessee Militia.² Tennesseans did not get seriously involved in the War of 1812 until the actions against the Creek Indians began in 1814, eventually leading some of the troops south to the Battle of New Orleans.

The Davidson County list begins with this inscription, signed by Andrew Ewing as clerk of court and by James Mulherin as presiding Justice of the Peace on Aug. 13, 1812.

¹ (For more information about the tax laws of Tennessee, see *Taxation and Politics: Tennessee's Poll Tax Laws* by Ann Alley, which appeared in this journal, volume XI, number 2, fall 1997.)

² Sistler, Byron and Samuel. *Tennesseans in the War of 1812*. (Nashville: Sistler & Assoc., 1992, pp 2, 26.)

"Agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly of this State passed at Knoxville November 11th 1811 for taking an enumeration of the Free Taxable Inhabitants of this State. The following is the Names and Number taken in the County of Davidson by the Justices of the Peace and Returned to me as Clerk of said County Court, To Wit" Signed by Andrew Ewing, Clerk, and James Mulherin, presiding Justice of the Peace, on Aug. 13, 1812

Capt. Kincaid's Company	Johnston, Charles	Strong, John	Dickinson, Jacob Sr.
Barnes, Benjamin	Johnston, Isaac	Thompson, Eaphraim	Douglass, Hugh
Barnes, Jordon	Johnston, John Jr.	Thompson, Frederick	Folkes, Thomas
Battle, Isaac	Johnston, John Sr.	Thompson, Robert	Frazier, Daniel
Blair [Blan?], Arthur	Johnston, Thomas	Thompson, Samuel	Frazier, James
Blakely, James	Jordon, River	Waldron, William	Frazier, John
Blakely, Wm.	Kelly, Mordica	Watkins, Joseph	Frazier, Moses
Blan [Blair?], Arthur	Kincaid, (Capt.)	White, Thomas L.	Goghill, Smallwood
Brewer, Elisha	Kincaid, James	Whites, Nelson	Goodrich, Edmond
Brumfield, Elisha	Lastley, Peter	Whitley, Marcus	Hampton, Anthony
Burton, David	Lastley, William	Williams, Jonathan	Hanks, Richard
Burton, Hutchins	Laughlin, James	Wilson, Joseph E.	Harney, Thomas
Carper, Adam	Laurence, James	Wolf, George W.	Harris, William
Clemons, Curtis	Laurence, Lem	Wolf, Philip	Henderson, John
Coldwell, Robert	Lockhart, Hugh	Wright, John M.	Herren, Lemuel
Collins, Thomas	Lockhart, John		Herrin, Elisha
Cox, Ruben	McCain, John	Capt. Butler's Company	Hickerson?, Abner
Cross, Samuel	McCrory, John	Adams, Robert	Hickson?, Abner
Darrickson, Joseph	McFaddin, Candour	Allen, Robert	Hill, William
Darrickson, Josiah	McFaddin, Guy	Beck, John	Hudson, Thomas Jr.
Davidson, William	McFarlan, John	Blakemore, William	Hunt, Philip
Drake, William	McKinney, Samuel	Butler, (Capt.)	Hutson, Thomas Sr.
Ensley, Enoch	Mitchel, Daniel	Butler, Dennis S.	Ingram, Ralph
Fly, Jesse	Moore, Joseph	Butler, Isaac	Jackson, Henry
Fly, John	Morton, Jacob	Cartright, David	Johnston, Meredith
Fly, John D.	Morton, Jesse	Cartright, Jacob	Maclin, Willis
Gambrel, Milton	Morton, John	Cartright, Robert	McConel, Mathew
Gibbs, Miles	Nance, Wm. H.	Childress, Nathaniel G.	Melville, Thomas A.
Gibson, William	Noe, Aquilla	Clay, Larkin	Menees, John
Goodman, Michael	Ogelvie, Wm.	Cocke, John W.	Mitchel, James
Goodrich, Caleb	Oliver, Enoch	Cole, John	Nanny, Amos
Goodrich, John	Owens, Elijah	Cole, Pilmore	Neely, Samuel
Goodrich, William	Owens, William	Cole, William	Neely, William
Goodwin, James	Peay, Elias	Cooper, Benjamin	Neely, William Sr.
Gray, Benajah	Roach, Stephen	Cornelius, Edmond	O'Briant, William
Gray, Bernard (JP)	Saunders, James	Cornelius, James	Parham, Ephraim
Guthrie, Henry	Scott, Isaac (man of color)	Craighead, David	Perry, James
Hails, Linton	Seat, Hartwell	Craighead, Thomas B.	Perry, Thomas
Harley, James	Seats, Littleton	Cunningham, Enoch	Pierce, Benton
Harper, John	Seawell, Benjamin	Den, John	Powel, Nathan
Hays, James	Seawell, Thomas	Dennis, Daniel	Puckett, John
Hays, Samuel	Shelton, Godfrey	Dennis, James	Ralph, Ingram
Horace, William	Slaniell?, Nathan	Dennis, John	Raymond, Nicholas
Johns, Jesse	Slobough, John	Dickerson, Thomas	Robinson, William P.

Rucker, Ambrose
 Rucker, Edmund
 Rucker, Rubin
 Saunders, Edward
 Saunders, John
 Scruggs, Gross
 Scruggs, Thomas
 Scruggs, Walfield
 Sims, Wythe
 Sumner, Jacob
 Tarver, William
 Terrell, James
 Trotter, William
 Walker, Alexander
 Walker, Alexander (JP)
 Walker, Ennis
 Walker, John
 Walker, John A.
 Walker, Mathew P.
 Walker, Philip
 Warwick, Anthony
 White, Arthur
 White, Lewis
 Williams, Elisha
 Williams, Simon
 Williams, Wilson
 Wisnor, William
 Wray, Samuel
 Wray, William

Capt. Boyd' Company

Barr, John
 Boyd, Richard
 Boyd, Richard (Capt.)
 Charter, John
 Charter, William
 Clark, Leven
 Cloyd, Philip
 Crowder, Thomas
 Davis, John
 Demoss, James Sr.
 Demoss, James Sr.
 Demoss, Lewis
 Demoss, Thomas
 Dunn, Benjamin
 Dunn, Lewis
 Dupree, James
 Epperson, Anderson
 Evans, Robert
 Forehand, John
 Fowler, Mason
 Franklin, Aron
 Gabriel, Israel
 Garland, Elisha

Goodwin, John
 Gower, William
 Granshaw, J[osiah]
 Greer, Isaac
 Hardgrave, Francis
 Hart, Philip
 Harwood, John
 Harwood, William
 Hault, Jacob
 Hobbs, Stephen
 Hobbs, William
 Horton, Josiah
 Horton, Josiah (JP)
 Hutton, Charles Jr.
 Hutton, Charles Sr.
 Hutton, Samuel
 Ivey, Frederick
 Ivey, John
 Jones, John
 Lofton, Thomas
 Loyd, Lewis
 McCutton, Duncan
 McGahah, Abner
 McGaugh, John
 McGaugh, Robert
 McQuerry, Micajah
 Miller, Simpson
 Miller, William
 Moody, Phillip
 Myers, John
 Newsom, Francis
 Newsom, William
 Nicholson, Elisha
 Night, Moses
 Night, William
 Nusam, Eldridge
 Owens, Henry
 Patton, Alexander
 Patton, Mathew
 Pew, John
 Phipps, Richardson
 Pinkston, James
 Pinkston, Meshack
 Porch, Thomas
 Reaves, Burwell
 Reaves, James
 Reaves, Timothy
 Reaves, William
 Robertson Elijah
 Simpson, Robert
 Sizemore, William
 Smith, Guy
 Smith, John
 Sturdivan, Benjamin

Taylor, John
 Walker, Archibald
 Weaver, Peter
 Webb, Daniel
 Whitfield, Harrison
 Whitfield, John
 Whitfield, Wilkins
 Whitson, George
 Wilks, Benjamin
 Wilks, John
 Woodward, Jesse
 Work, Alexander
 Work, Andrew
 Wren, David
 Wren, William

Capt. Williamson's Company

Alford, Nelson
 Baldridge, Andrew
 Baldridge, Daniel
 Baldridge, Frances
 Barnes, James Jr.
 Barnes, James Sr.
 Barnes, Jesse
 Barnes, Joel
 Beasley, Charles
 Bell, David
 Bell, James
 Bell, John
 Bell, Nathaniel
 Bell, Robert
 Bell, Samuel Esq.
 Bell, Thomas
 Benefield, James
 Bibb, William
 Blackman, Bennet
 Blirton, Henry
 Briley, John
 Brown, Robert
 Brumley, Cornelius
 Cherry, William
 Clanton, Drury
 Clinton, David
 Clinton, Richard
 Cottrell, Pryor
 Cottrell, Thomas
 Curry, Isaac
 Davis, Absalom
 Davis, John
 Davis, Sterling
 Dixon, James
 Eakin, David
 Edmondson, Robert

Erwin, William B.
 Ewing, Edley
 Fitzhugh, Ezekiel
 Fitzhugh, John
 Grant, William
 Grinder, John
 Ham?, William
 Hays, Balam
 Haywood, John
 Herbert, Nathaniel
 Hogan, John
 Hollingsworth, Joseph
 Hope, Adam
 Hope, John
 Hope, Samuel
 Hope, Thomas
 Hughs, John
 Hurt, Floyd
 Key, William W.
 Leak, James
 Lightfoot, Thomas
 Linch, Hugh
 Linch, James
 Linch, John
 Linton, George
 Linton, John
 McCandless, William
 McClelland, George
 McCutchen, James
 McKean, James
 McKean, John
 McNees, Samuel C.
 Meredith, S.
 Montgomery, Samuel
 Newsom, James
 Newton, Robert
 Newton, William
 Ogilvie, Harris
 Oliver, John
 Ostein, George
 Owen, Frederick Jr.
 Owen, Joshua
 Owen, Peter
 Owen, Robert
 Owens, Frederick
 Pate, Jesse
 Perkins, William
 Philips, Samuel
 Pigg, James
 Plummer, Henry
 Ragland, William
 Rains, John Jr.
 Ramsey, William
 Ramsey, William Sr.

Reaves, Edmond
 Reeves, Robert C.
 Riley, Benjamin
 Sanders, James
 Seabourn, Benjamin
 Slobough, William
 Smith, Peyton
 Stobaugh, Adam
 Stobaugh, John
 Thompson, William
 Turbeville, Benjamin (2)
 Turbeville, James
 Turbeville, Willis
 Waller, Thomas
 Watson, David
 Watson, John
 Williams, David
 Williams, Nimrod
 Williamson, Jos. (Capt.)
 Williamson, Joseph N.
 Williamson, Richard
 Williamson, Thos. (JP)
 Wright, James
 Wright, James
 Wright, James Sr.
 Wyche, Nathaniel

Capt. Hail's Company

Abel, James
 Allen, Geo. S. (JP)
 Allen, George S.
 Aydelotte, Jasper
 Baker, James
 Barr, John
 Benningfield, James
 Benningfield, John
 Benningfield, Robert
 Boyd, William
 Campbell, John
 Cham[p?], Goldsberry
 Champ, Richard
 Champ, William
 Clark, Leven
 Coldwell, Robert
 Cox, Jesse
 Demond, John
 Dennis, Henry
 Dennis, Samuel
 Doudge, Enoch
 Dozier, Peter
 Duncan, John
 Duran, James
 Duran, Manning
 Feland, James

Feland, William
 Francis, William
 Garland, Elisha Jr.
 Garland, Jesse
 Grimes, Philip
 Grimes, William Jr.
 Grimes, William Sr.
 Gully, Enoch
 Hail [Hall?], Nicholas
 Hail, (Capt.)
 Hail, George
 Hail, Meshack
 Hall [Hail?], Nicholas
 Hill, William
 Hooper, Jesse
 Hooper, Thomas
 Hughs, William
 Hutton, Charles B.
 Hutton, Charles Jr.
 Hutton, Charles Sr.
 Hutton, Samuel
 Kellem, Custus
 Kellum, Jesse
 Land, Jesse
 Levy, Henry
 Levy, William
 Lovell, James
 Lovell, John M.
 Lovell, Robert
 McDaniel, Alexander W.
 McQuerry, Micajah
 Miles, Samuel
 Neely, Joseph
 Nicholson, Elisha
 Pack, Benjamin D.
 Pack, Benjamin Sr.
 Richardson, John
 Richardson, Kennedy
 Roseberry, William
 Russel, James Sr.
 Russell, James Jr.
 Russell, Thomas
 Russell, William
 Sanders, Joshua
 Spick, Michael
 Stuart, Peter B.
 Sugg, Josiah
 Tipton, Edward
 Warren, Nathaniel
 Watkins, Isaac
 Watkins, William
 Westbrook, Thomas
 Woodard, Jesse
 Work, Alexander

Capt. Thomas' Company

Allen, Drury M.
 Allen, John A.
 Allen, Samuel
 Austin, James
 Bernard, George
 Bernard, Thomas
 Bibb, William
 Birthwright, Williamson
 Blair, John
 Blair, Samuel
 Briant, Shederick
 Brown, Nathaniel
 Buchanan, David
 Buchanan, Jno. (white head)
 Buchanon, James
 Buchanon, John
 Burns, Aneylin
 Butler, John S.
 Camp, John
 Camp, Thomas
 Cannon, William
 Carrol, Jesse
 Carter, James
 Carter, James Sr.
 Carter, John
 Carter, John Sr.
 Carter, William L.
 Cason, Seth
 Casper, Edmond
 Cassleman, Joseph
 Chalton, George W.
 Clopton, Anthony
 Compton, Richard
 Cornelia, John
 Drury, John
 East, Edward A.
 East, Tarlton
 Edmondson, Andrew
 Edmondson, John Sr.
 Edmondson, Robert
 Erwin, John
 Exum, James
 Feuqua, Joshua
 Feuqua, Peter
 Feuqua, Thomas
 Flournoy, Silas
 Goodrich, John
 Graves, Henry
 Graves, John
 Grizzard, Jeremiah
 Hail, Sherrod

Hall, Archibald
 Hall, Charles M.
 Hall, John B.
 Hall, John C.
 Hall, William
 Harrison, Zachariah
 Hays, Andrew
 Hays, Henry
 Hays, Zacheriah
 Hoggatt, John
 Keeling, George
 Keeling, Leonard
 Lass, Benjamin
 Lee, James
 Love, James
 Matlock, William
 McBride, James
 McFerrin, James
 McFerrin, John
 McMurry, Samuel
 McMurry, William
 McNeese, Allen
 McNeese, Hull
 McNeese, John
 Mulherin, James
 Mulherin, Jas. (JP)
 Mulherrin, Charles
 Murphey, William
 Napier, John
 Noel, Zacheriah
 Nolebay, Richard
 Owen, Edmond Jr.
 Owen, Edmund Sr.
 Owen, Henry
 Pennington, Graves
 Priestly, James
 Pullin, Archibald
 Quarles, William
 Roberts, Jeremiah
 Roberts, John
 Sample, James
 Sample, Robert
 Sample, Robert Jr.
 Sandifer, Abraham
 Scott, Samuel
 Sheppard, John
 Smith, Richard
 Snyder, Michael
 Thomas, Jesse W. (Capt.)
 Thomas, John
 Tindal, John
 Tradewell, Daniel
 White, Henry
 Williams, Samuel

Wood, Robert	Hodge, James	Corbett, John	Roberts, William
Capt. Mullins' Company	Holder, Solomon	Crantz, Thomas	Solus, Henry
Anderson, Joel	Howlet, William	Cromer, Henry	Stephens, Jephtha
Armstrong, William	Inman, Ezekiel	Cummins, David	Taylor, Daniel W.
Barker, John Jr.	Inman, Samuel	Cutler, Jesse	Thompson, Jason
Barker, John Sr.	Johns, John	Deaderick, George M.	Thompson, Laurence
Barker, Laban	Johnston, John	Dickson, William	Thompson, Thomas
Barker, Wilson	Kerney, Augustin	Dunn, Michael C.	Thompson, Thomas Sr.
Beeton, Asa	Kingston, Richard	Eastes, Laban	Thornburgh, Thomas
Beeton, George	Kirkpatrick, Henry	Edwards, Sampson	Topp, John
Betts, Jonathan	Lezenby, Alexander	Everett, John	Turley, Sampson
Betts, William	Lezenby, Robert	Everett, Thomas	Vick, Joseph
Black, David	Maxwell, James	Foster, Robert C.	Wade, Austin M.
Bowles, John	McBride, Joseph	Garrett, John	Waugh, John
Boyd, John	Montgomery, William	Green, Joseph	Wharton, William
Boyd, Robert	Mullen, William	Hagan, Jonathan	Whitsitt, James
Bradshaw, John C.	Mullins, Wm. (Capt.)	Hall, Clement	Wilcox, Thomas
Bumpass, William	Nichols, John	Ham, Samuel	Williams, John
Caffrey, Peter	Page, Robert	Hardy, Hensley	Williams, Solomon
Cassleman, Abraham	Roseberry, Robert	Harlin, Thomas	
Cassleman, Benjamin Sr.	Shelton, William	Hays, David	Capt. Cloyd's Company
Cobler, Harris	Shute, John	Hays, William	Balentine, David
Cobler, Hensley Jr.	Singletary, David	Herd, Stephen	Boyles, Barnabas
Cobler, Hensley Sr.	Singletary, John	Hopper, Frederick Sr.	Boyles, John
Compton, Henry	Smith, Edmond	Hopper, James	Caltharp, Clayton
Compton, Richard	Sneed, William	Hopper, Joseph	Caltharp, Norrel
Compton, William	Tatum, Howel	Hopper, Thomas	Cleaves, John
Compton, William Sr.	Thomas, Robert	Horn, Jabez	Cloyd, (Capt.)
Connelly, Andrew	Thompson, Jacob	Hubbert, Richard	Cloyd, David
Connelly, Peter	Thompson, Ozbourn	Kebble, Walter	Dickinson, Jacob
Craig, Alexander	Thompson, Robert	Kingston, Richard	Eadens, William
David, Black	Thompson, Robert (JP)	Krantz, John	Fowler, Moses
Davis, James	Vaughan, Johnston	Lewis, Joel	Fryer, Martin
Davis, William	Waits, Elias	Lewis, Joel (JP)	Gilbert, John
Dellahunty, John	West, George	Lewis, William T.	Gill, James
Donnelly, James	William, Nathan	Maniffee, Jonas Jr.	Harris, Newsom
Donnelly, John	Williams, Edmond	Maniffee, Jonas Sr.	Holmes, Abijah
Dunham, Daniel	Williams, James	Maniffee, Thomas	Holmes, John
Dunham, John	Williams, Robert	Marks, William	Holt, Robert
Dycus, Joshua		Menus, James	Hooper, Absalom Jr.
Elmore, George	Capt. Barnheart's	Metcalf, Ilai	Hooper, Absalom Sr.
Emelton, William	Company	Moore, John	Hooper, Nimrod
Emerton, Thomas	Adair, Thomas	Neal, William	Hunter, David
Erwin, Joseph	Asley, Nathaniel	Oden, Thomas	Iredell, John Sr.
Gillum, James	Barnhart, John	Osmore, William	James, William
Goodman, John	Barnheart, (Capt.)	Parkman, William	Johnston, Jeffrey
Greer, Benjamin	Blair, John	Perry, Littleton	Jones, Aquilla
Greer, Martin	Briant, William	Person, Benjamin P.	Lucas, John
Griffin, William	Brown, George	Phenix, Henry	Marshall, James
Hardgrave, Francis	Campbell, Michael	Porterfield, James	McCallister, James
Harding, John	Carmack, Aquilla	Rains, John Sr.	McCaslin, John Jr.
Hodge, Francis	Childs, John	Rains, William	McCaslin, John Sr.
Hodge, George	Cobler, Francis	Ray, John	Morris, Lemuel
	Cobler, John	Ridley, George	Morris, Samuel

Morris, Thomas
 Moses, James
 Motherall, James
 Motherall, John
 Philips, Joseph
 Puckett, Douglass
 Ralston, David
 Ralston, George
 Ralston, John
 Read, Alexander
 Scruggs, Drury
 Scruggs, Langhorn
 Scruggs, Theophilus
 Shannon, Saml. (JP)
 Shaw, William
 Shever, Thomas
 Taylor, Frances
 Taylor, George
 Taylor, Samuel
 Walker, David
 Wharton, George
 Wharton, Saml. L.
 Woodard, Daniel
 Woodard, Edward
 Woodard, Pitt

**Company of E.S. Hall, J.P.
 (Captain not named)**

Ahead, Jonas
 Allen, John
 Allen, William
 Anderson, John
 Anderson, John
 Anderson, Samuel
 Anderson, Wm. P.
 Armstrong, Robert
 Baird, John
 Baits, Moses
 Bedford, John R.
 Bedford, William H.
 Begley, Patrick
 Bell, George
 Bell, John T.
 Benning, James
 Benoit, Earnest
 Berry, John G.
 Betts, John
 Blackfore, Will
 Bosworth, Collin
 Bosworth, W.
 Boyd, William L.
 Bradberry, James
 Bradford, Benjamin J.
 Bradford, Thomas G.

Brooks, Moses T.
 Brouson, Thomas
 Brumson, Joseph
 Bryner, Daniel
 Burns, Solomon
 Bush, J[a]mes
 Cameron, Andrew
 Camp, James
 Cantrell, Stephen
 Carrol, William
 Cary, Thomas
 Casady, Charles
 Childress, Thomas
 Christian, Christopher
 Claiborne, Thomas
 Claybrook, Levy
 Clopton, Mathew
 Coleman, Joseph
 Condon James
 Connelly, James
 Connelly, William
 Cooke, William W.
 Cooper, Henry
 Crupper, William
 Crutcher, James
 Crutcher, Thomas
 Crutchloe, James
 Cummins, David
 Curry, Isaiah
 Curry, Robert B.
 Daughy, Henry
 Davis, Isaac
 Davis, Young
 Day, Aron
 Deaderick, David
 Deaderick, Thomas
 Deatherage, John
 Deatherage, Thomas
 Demumbrun, Timothy
 Demumbrun, Timothy Jr.
 Dew?, William
 Dewell, Archibald
 Dickerson, Elisha
 Dickey, Peter
 Dickinson, John
 Downs, James P.
 Eakin, Moses
 Easten, Thomas
 Eastin, William
 Elam, Samuel
 Elliston, Joseph T.
 Engleman, Joseph
 Erwin, David
 Erwin, James

Esdale, David
 Ewin, Henry
 Ewing, Andrew
 Ewing, John L.
 Falwell, John
 Fisher, Frederick
 Fletcher, Thomas H.
 Foster, Anthony
 Foster, Anthony Jr.
 Frazier, John
 Frazier, Samuel
 Garrett, George
 Garrett, Thomas
 Geary, Archa
 Geary, Archibald
 George, L--drick?
 Gibson, John
 Goode, Saml.
 Gray, James
 Green, Eldridge
 Gross, Henry
 Grundy, Felix
 Gwathmey, John B.
 Gwin, John
 Hall, E.S. (JP)
 Hall, Elihu S.
 Hancock, John
 Hankins, Thomas
 Hanna, James
 Hannum, Washington L.
 Hardy, Thomas
 Haskell, Joshua
 Haskins, Thomas
 Hatchett, Banister
 Hays, David
 Hays, Oliver B.
 Hewlett, George
 Hickerson, Charles
 Hicks, James G.
 Higgins, Banay
 Hill, Thomas
 Hiter, John
 Hobbs, Collin S.
 Hobbs, Edward D.
 Horn, Jacob
 Hynes, Andrew
 Iredale, William
 Jackson, James
 Jackson, John
 Johnston, Littleton
 Kent, William
 Kingsley, Alpha
 Kingston, Paul
 Kirkman, Thomas Jr.

Kirkman, Thomas Sr.
 Lientz, William
 Lytle, William
 Macintosh, Daniel
 Maddox, Ellis
 Magness, David
 Magness, Jonathan
 Manning, Samuel
 Marshall, Elihu
 Marston?, Charles
 Martin, George
 Martin, Robert
 Masterson, Thomas
 Maxey, George
 May, Francis
 McBean, Daniel
 McCaffrey, John
 McCarrehan, Charles
 McCoy, William
 McFarland, Robert
 McGavock, David
 McGavock, Jacob
 McGavock, James
 McGavock, John
 McGavock, Randal
 McKennan, Bernard
 McLemore, John C.
 McNairy, Boyd
 McQuillin, Robert
 Meanly, Beverly H.
 Milton, James
 Mitchel, Andrew
 Montgomery, Lemuel P.
 Moore, David
 Moore, Mathew
 Morgan, George
 Morgan, William
 Morris, Lester
 Mosley, Jephtha
 Mosley, Thomas
 Myers, Peter
 Neilson, Charles B.
 Nemo, Ulsey G.
 Newnan, John
 Nichol, Josiah
 Nichols, John
 Norville, Joshua
 Owen, William
 Ozbourn, Albert
 Park, Joseph
 Parker, Leonard
 Parker, Leonard
 Patton, Thomas
 Patton, William

Paxton, Isaac
 Pence, John
 Pick, Nathaniel
 Pilcher, Joshua
 Pirkins, George
 Porter, Alexander
 Porter, James
 Porter, Joseph
 Porter, Thomas
 Poyzen, George
 Price, John
 Price, Robert
 Priest, John
 Prince, Ceaser
 Pritchett, Ephriam
 Probart, William Y.
 Pryor, Nicholas B.
 Ramsey, Thomas
 Rapier, Richard
 Read, Thomas J.
 Ren, Martin
 Renfro, Mark R.
 Renfro, Robert
 Richard, Samuel
 Richard, William
 Richardson, Alexander
 Richardson, Allen
 Roan, James
 Robertson, Duncan
 Robertson, Felix
 Robertson, McNairy
 Roper, William
 Roworth, Edward
 Rutherford, William
 Sayers, Foster
 Scott, Andrew D.
 Scott, Archibald
 Scott, Robert
 Searcy, Bennet
 Searcy, Robert
 Seawell, John B.
 Seay, Samuel
 Seay, William
 Shackleford, Thomas
 Shaw, Terrence
 Shiller, Isaac
 Sittler, Isaac
 Sittler, James W.
 Sloan, W.
 Smiley, Robert
 Smith, John H.
 Smith, John P.
 Smith, William
 Snow, David C.

Sommerville, John
 Squire, Ezekiel
 Stainback, Robert
 Stobaugh, Henry
 Stothart, Robert
 Stout, Samuel
 Sumner, Jacob
 Tait, William
 Talbott, Clayton
 Talbott, Eli
 Tandsherd, John
 Tannehill, Wilkins
 Thomas, Philip
 Turner, Lemuel T.
 Tyree, Richard
 Vanbuskirk, Cornelius
 Vaulx, James
 Walker, Edward
 Wall, Richard D.
 Wallace, Joseph
 Wallace, Moses
 Wallace, William
 Ward, Fleming
 Ward, Joseph
 Watkins, Philip
 Watkins, William
 Weatherall James
 White, Benjamin
 White, Daniel
 Whiteside, Jenkins
 Wilkerson, Angues
 Willet, Thomas
 Williams, Cais
 Williams, Ethelred
 Williams, James
 Williamson, John S.
 Williamson, Thomas
 Williamson, Thomas
 Wilson, John
 Wood, Joseph
 Wood, William
 Wyand, Henry
 Yateman, [Mr.]
 Yeatman, Thomas
 Young, John
 Zigler, John

Capt. Henry's Company
 Allen, John
 Allen, John Jr.
 Allen, Thomas
 Allen, Wm.
 Allen, Zach.
 Allison, Hugh

Allison, James
 Bay, William
 Blount, Isaac
 Boon, Bryant
 Boyd, Andrew
 Brannon, Wm.
 Brown, Henry
 Brown, Henry
 Bryan, Henry
 Bryan, Samuel
 Bryan, William
 Byers, William
 Carrell, Samuel
 Cartright, John
 Cartright, Vincent
 Casselman, Abraham
 Conner, James
 Conner, James
 Council, Rodrick
 Cowden, Henry
 Davey, Richard
 David, John H.
 Davis, Seth
 Davy, John
 Davy, Joseph
 Demoss, James
 Demoss, Lewis
 Dillahunty, Silas
 Dillahunty, Thos. (JP)
 Dillahunty, William
 Edney, Leven
 Edney, Newton
 Ellis, Wm.
 Ellis, Wm.
 Forehand, Allen
 Gilliam, Nathl.
 Gillum, Thomas
 Goodwin, John
 Gracey, John
 Gracy, Newell
 Greer, Berry
 Greer, George
 Greer, Isaac
 Greer, William
 Griffin, James
 Gwin, David
 Gwin, Isam
 Harding, John
 Hart, Richard
 Helbourn, William
 Henry, (Capt.)
 Henry, Wm.
 Inman, Lazerus
 Jackson, John

Jackson, Thomas
 Jones, Daniel
 Jones, Isaac
 Jones, Jarvis Jr.
 Jones, John
 Jones, Lemuel
 Jones, Timothy
 Kennedy, John
 Kennedy, Robert
 Kennedy, Robert
 Kenry, James
 Koonce, George
 Koonce, James
 Latham, William
 Linton, Alson
 Little, Isaac
 Maclin, Robert
 Marlin, James
 Marlin, John
 Martin, James
 Martin, John
 Mays, Samuel
 McCollum, Levy
 McCollum, William
 McDaniel, Rinchy
 Mitchel, Hardy
 Nusam, William
 Orton, John
 Orton, Samuel
 Pritchett, Benjamin
 Pritchett, Benjamin
 Richardson, Daniel
 Richardson, Mason
 Roach, William
 Roads, Elisha
 Sawyers, Dempsey
 Sawyers, Samuel
 Sawyers, Samuel
 Shannon, Robert
 Shelton, William H.
 Smith, Samuel
 Spence, Elisha
 Stephens, Bartholomew
 Stroan, John
 Taylor, Abraham
 Tennison, Mathew

 Tennison, Samuel
 Westbrook, Thomas
 Williams, Leoderick
 Williams, Thomas
 Winstead, Samuel
 Winstead, William

Capt. Liles' Company

Allen, James
 Allen, William
 Barrow, Mathew
 Bell, Hugh F.
 Bell, William
 Bell, William R.
 Bosley, Beal
 Chandler, Isaac
 Chandler, William
 Clark, Solomon
 Connelly, John
 Craighead, John B.
 Creel, Micajah
 Crutchlow, Henry
 Cunningham, Robert
 Curtis, Washington
 David, James
 Haggerty, George
 Harwell, Jackson
 Hewitt, Caleb
 Hewitt, Robert
 Hewitt, Robert (JP)
 Horton, Josiah
 Johnston, John
 Jordon, Drury (2)
 Kingston, Richard;
 Lile, Henry
 Liles, (Capt.)
 Mathis, Philip
 McGaughey, Abner
 Mullen, Joshua
 Newell, John
 Newell, Mark
 Newell, Samuel
 Philips, Benjamin
 Powel, William
 Ressummer, Philip A.
 Robertson, James
 Robertson, Jonathan F.
 Robertson, Wm. B.
 Scovey, John
 Seale, Anthony
 Seale, Jarvis
 Seale, William
 Shute, Philip

Simmington, John D.
 Stringfellow, Willis
 Totty, William
 Walker, Archibald
 Waters, Zacheriah
 Watson, James
 Williams, Elisha

Williams, James H.
 Williams, John
 Williams, Nathan
 Williamson, John

Capt. Morris' Company

Abernatha, Laban
 Bennett, Nathan
 Boon, William
 Cagle, Jacob
 Chesser, Hosea
 Criddle, John
 Curtis, William
 Dawson, Willis
 Dowlin, Harris
 Drake, John Jr.
 Drake, John Sr.
 Drake, Jonathan
 Ellis, Jerry
 Everett, James
 Everett, Jesse
 Everett, Simon
 Farmbrough, Stuart
 Fox, James
 Gilbert, Thomas
 Gilbert, William
 Gower, William E.
 Harrington, Peter
 Heaton, Robert
 Heaton, Thomas
 Hickman, Thos.
 Hickman, William
 How?, Samuel
 Hust, Elijah
 Hust, William

Hyde, Benjamin
 Hyde, Edmond
 Jones, Shaderick
 Jordon, Benjamin
 Jordon, Meredith
 Jordon, Williamson V.
 Kennedy, Enoch
 Kennedy, Isaac
 Lady, Henry
 Lennox?, Samuel

Leonax [Lennox?], Samuel
 Lowrey, Nelson
 Lusk, James
 Lutgert, John
 Martin, James
 Mayfield, Isaac
 McElroy, John

Mitchel, William
 Morris, Dempsey
 Morris, Dempsey (Capt.)
 Morris, Micajah
 Nelson, William
 Nicholson, John J.
 Noblet, Abraham
 Pace, Also?
 Parker, Thomas
 Peebles, Cordy C.
 Pierce, Jerre
 Pierce, Jesse
 Pierce, John
 Pierce, Thomas
 Reaves, Daniel
 Reaves, Elijah
 Reaves, Elisha
 Reaves, James
 Roland, Balam
 Roland, Jordon
 Roland, William
 Ross, Daniel
 Rush, Joseph
 Simpkins, Joseph
 Simpkins, Thomas Jr.
 Simpkins, Thomas Sr.
 Smith, Ezekiel
 Smith, Jesse
 Smith, Samuel
 Smith, Thomas
 Sykes, Joshua
 Sykes, Terrell
 Turner, William
 Vincent, Michael
 Waggoner, Michael
 Walker, William
 Walls, Thomas
 Waters, George
 Waters, William
 Williams, Lewis
 Woodson, Joseph ■

(To be continued...)

**COUNTIES
 in TENNESSEE
 in 1812**

Anderson
 Bedford
 Bledsoe
 Blount
 Campbell
 Carter
 Claiborne
 Cocke
 Davidson
 Dickson
 Franklin
 Giles
 Grainger
 Greene
 Hawkins
 Hickman
 Humphreys
 Jackson
 Jefferson
 Knox
 Lincoln
 Maury
 Montgomery
 Overton
 Rhea
 Roane
 Robertson
 Rutherford
 Sevier
 Smith
 Steward
 Sullivan
 Sumner
 Warren
 Washington
 White
 Williamson
 Wilson

Excerpts from the Diary of John Trotwood Moore

Tennessee Historian and Political Observer

John Trotwood Moore served as the Director of Tennessee's State Library and Archives from 1919 until his death in 1929. His abiding interest in collecting Tennessee history is evidenced in projects he developed, including the Civil War questionnaires which have been such a boon to genealogists. Moore deserves credit for leading the State Library to develop richest store of historical records in Tennessee. After Moore's death his widow, Mary Daniel Moore, became the State Librarian. Under her long administration the genealogical collections of the State Library were greatly expanded. Between them, John and Mary Moore can be credited with laying the foundations for the excellent research library we benefit from today.



Moore was quite a Renaissance man. Educated as a lawyer, he was a poet, novelist, editor, philosopher and horse-breeder as well as an historian. He was born in Marion, Alabama, in 1858, to a family of some affluence, and came to Tennessee in 1885, purchasing a horse farm near Columbia. He became involved in journalism by writing a column about horses for the *Chicago Horse Review*, and in 1904 established his own literary magazine entitled *Trotwood's Monthly*. He was the author of numerous poems and short stories, along with several full-length novels, of which *The Bishop of Cottontown* was the most successful.¹

Among the papers of John Trotwood Moore housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives is a series of diaries. The last one was begun when he was 56 and continues until shortly before his death five years later. Well-connected in both social and political circles, Moore had the opportunity to meet many of the leading men of his day. His diary records personal meetings with William Jennings Bryan, Gov. Austin Peay and President Calvin Coolidge all in 1924 alone. The diary records his private musings and critical comments about people and issues. It shows a man who was annoyed with many of the social conventions of his day, detested progress, yearned for the "Old South," and despised minorities and Republicans (except, apparently, Lincoln).

A dark side of Moore is also revealed in his diary. In several places he descends into racist diatribe, criticizing African-Americans, Jews, and Catholics, among others. In order not to offend readers of the *Journal* some of these comments have been excluded from the article. Painful as some of his writing is when read today, the diary reveals the tensions that many older Southerners experienced as southern sectionalism and its prejudices lost ground in America.

These extracts from Moore's diary were provided to the *Journal* by Edward Harcourt, a British scholar who has conducted extensive research in Tennessee. Mr. Harcourt's interest was in Moore's "historical memory" and his views on issues of the 1920s. These selections provide an interesting commentary on figures from Washington to Coolidge and can help us better understand how people of Moore's generation and background, including perhaps some of our ancestors, thought.

1/2/1924

... two fine looking women pulled my leg for 2 expensive tickets to a so-called Confederate concert. When I think of these hold ups and see the workings of the inefficient Pension Dept. of this state I feel like paraphrasing Mdm. de Stael². 'O Confederacy, how many frauds are committed in thy name!'



William Jennings Bryan

1/24/1924

Thursday – Cold & rainy. Went with Gov. and Mrs. Peay³ to hear W. J. Bryan⁴. The Commoner has aged greatly since I saw him last some 15 years ago, but he is a grand old man, filling a great niche, i.e., holding us to the old land marks in morals, religion & politics!

He is a man of a tremendous moral purpose but of a reactionary and common place intellect. If he were not honest he'd be the greatest living demagog [sic], and is half that now in spite of himself. He played on his audience in religion just as he'd play with those in politics and both he & his crowd enjoyed it though he got no where combating evolution. It is good for him to do it, good for the world for some one to hold them until increased intelligence shows them there is no conflict between evolution and God – only a small mind ever found such a conflict. When he visited me several years ago, Gen. Sherwood⁵, of Ohio (now 89 & oldest Member of Congress living, a Col. at Franklin battle) told me a man told him that Bryan had lost \$250 the night before because he talked a half hour in his sleep! Somehow they kind of feel that way about him. Anyway he has reduced the art of public talking to science.

2/1/24

At office. Loaned Mr. S. Confed. soldier \$10. This reminds me that last week Col. John Hickman⁶ was supposed to be dead of pneumonia and I was called to write his obituary. I did and then he got well of course.

Its always that way with me. Woodrow Wilson reported dying today. Fate is not kind in their dying to many great men. If he had died when first stricken he would have been a martyr and equal to Lincoln. Lincoln's martyrdom is 4/5 of his fame. Wilson is the greatest Idealist who ever held Executive power. The fools who think they have killed his greatest vision know nothing of history and the strength of a great vision. Wilson's League against war is sure to prevail and his own niche may yet be with Socrates & Christ.

2/6/24

Ceremony at Capitol square – Ex service men fire salute at Jackson statue at 12:30 for Wilson in bitter sleeting snow. What a fizzle Wilson would have made in Jackson's age & place – would Jackson have fizzled in 1914? Not much – He would have been in the war 2 years sooner – and at Versailles there would have been a Treaty based on common sense. Could Jackson ever have conceived of a League of Nations – I doubt it – His view was to keep away from Europe and out of its affairs and everything, then – but now –

2/11/24

Services yesterday in auditorium for Wilson. This world has had enough of WW. – now let him rest. This Teapot Dome scandal in the Republican household sounds like old times, Grant for instance. Big investments and money being their God they run as



Woodrow Wilson

naturally to grafting & thieving as a ... wolf to sheep stealing. Harding was a kind man but weak. He died at a good hour for him. His Cabinet was full of thieves all selected by him. He would have been thoroughly repudiated had he lived. I hope Coolidge will inherit

his defeat along with his sins. Compare Grant and Harding's admin ... with Cleveland's & Wilson's.

2/12/24

Lincoln's birthday – Southerner that I am (so was Lincoln) I am glad to say I assisted in indicating the sentiment & framing the bill that made his birthday a state holiday.

2/22/24

Washington birthday – W. I guess must be a little too big for me, never greatly drawn to him, not human enough, too much of an old English baron. Yet I agree with Theodore Roosevelt who said he was no genius but possessed that something that seemed to make him stand out greater than all men of his time (now canonization has got him).

2/29/24

Leap year day. It will be 4 years if I write this again – if ever. 69 years old – can I make it? The only hope I have is to stay young – keep away from old people – keep poetic and romantic. . . . Can I get to 69? My father went to 75 & died holding court at Greensboro, Ala., Apr. 1904. He was born 3-14-1829. He died of a blood clot on brain. My aunt Sarah Wilkinson was buried a few days before from same cause. My father was the last of 8 or 9 children (3 boys) & the depression he had at the funeral seemed to hasten his own end. My uncle Adam Tooley (Moore) died about 15 years before aged about 65 (pneumonia). My uncle Wooten Alfred (Moore) died of Bright's disease aged about 55. My g.grandfather Wooten Moore (born in N.C. 1776) died at his plantation near Marion, Ala., from same cause as my father about 1854/5. My great g.grandfather John Moore, the Hatter, died in Chatham Co., N.C., between 1845 & 55. (I found in Raleigh a deed he made in 1845.) Since my grandfather Wooten Moore was about his 5th or 6th child out of 13, he must have married 1780-84, making him born about 1760. He therefore lived to be at least 80 years old. We are what our ancestors make us. Can I make it?

3/14/24

The Teapot Dome is boiling at W[ashington] D.C. Belknap, Credit Mobilier, Pacific RR & Freedman Bureau is its equal in corruption in high places.⁷ The Republican Party born of lies & hate and blood has reaped the harvest it sowed – corruption. Behind it always has been malefaction of great wealth, gathered at the expense of the plain people which [illegible] and the illegitimate traffic in it is the cause of their fall. Harding whom a few months ago all had a good word for had better be dead than alive today & Coolidge of whom we expected strong things show weakness, indecisions, and willingness to be led – He also is doomed.

4/1/24

The crooked and unspeakable Dougherty has been forced to resign.⁸ The G.O.P. (Grand Old Pie-eaters) have always been a corrupt party. Born by the accident [of] war & rebellion (tho' a just one) they have used their mother as a prostitute, their sire as a privateer. As the greatest of American lawyers of 50 years ago said of them: when they abandoned the standard of a harlot and flocked to the banner of a thief, they changed their leaders but not their principles. Imagine the places filled by Washington, Jackson, Hamilton, Jefferson Davis (Secy of War) & Roosevelt (Navy) being filled by such thieves & petty grafters as Fall, Forbes, Dougherty & Denby.⁹ The plain people, workingmen, farmers, mechanics, school teachers and ex service men must assert themselves and take charge of their country or it is lost – worse than lost – lost like a harlot – all unconscious of its infamy.

May 29-30, 1924

Cold – raw – Went to baseball game (30). Decoration Day – I declined to deliver the speech this year – Read Prof. Chancellor's book on Warren G. Harding, which confirms all I prophesied about him & his brief & ignoble career.¹⁰ Ignoble in that he appointed thieves (which he knew them to be) to put in his cabinet. What a pitiable spectacle he'd make were he alive today.

June 2, 1924

Monday – decided not to go to Memphis U.C.V. reunion.¹¹ I care less & less for crowds & travel. Then too I overdo myself with inspiration which is love of the South – damn the rest of them – I have lived too much.

June 3, 1924

Tuesday U.C.V. at Memphis but I did not care to go. Had the Lost Cause on me ever since I can remember anything and willing for it to stay lost since it was all for the best. But the sacrifice & valor of those who defended it will never be lost.

June 5 & 6, 1924

Went to Chattanooga & was there ... two days. Met with Bro. Geo. Pogue & helped him with a Lodge of K.L.O.C. He has a beautiful pure blood Anglo Saxon ritual – no ... foreigner in it – that's why I like it. Met a number of nice people there, Cagswell, Red Slater who edits a KKK paper in Tullahoma, Mayor & Mrs. Hardy, etc. Returned Friday noon & traveled with W.J. Bryan – a grand old man who still has hopes. I can see that maybe the lightning will strike him in N.Y. June 24. Bryan is a good man & true with a shortage somewhere in his upper deck which keeps him from seeing around the corner of things, plenty of courage but where it seldom counts. Yea, but we all love him for the enemies he has made.

June 8, 1924

Sunday – and all at once a plum hot summer day – awful! Went to Vandy chapel to hear Rev. Hutchinson preach but failed to hear him – so wasted my time except though perhaps it did me good just to be there. It is good to sit in a church & be with its people even if you hear nothing for religion at least is not a thing you hear but feel. Drove my car very nicely today on my first try out.

June 10, 1924

Went to Vand[erbilt] Chapel today to see Merrill graduate.¹² I was in hopes he might escape the red tape

going by that name of graduation because it means he has taken the other fellow's medicine instead of making his own. College education is ruining the creative mind – the whole thing is a game or show or shallow formula something like the Catholic Church, carrying a diploma with a gilt seal on it – a sesame that opens fictitious gates as well. Son didn't do much – just did get in – so there is some hope for him yet.

June 11, 1924

Hot as Hades – drove my car home tonight. C. L. Morris, a Yankee soldier from Plymouth, Ind., came to see me. Fine old man – gave me some valuable papers & gave \$50 to a Confederate monument at Dover – a fine spirit.

June 21 – July 3, 1924

Attended the Democratic Convention in N.Y. The first ballot for Presidential nomination brought on a crisis not unlike that of 1860. McAdoo clearly the only candidate with a progressive democratic platform & the only candidate except Smith with a fighting virile following, had been combined against by all the sinister influences of the whiskey element & the Catholic Church within the party.¹² Today, July 6, they have not yet beat him but I fear they will & if so he will be hopelessly divided & beaten in Nov. Even if he is nominated it looks now to be hopeless.

July 7th & 8

They battered McAdoo out last night & nominated a very splendidly equipped Wall Street lawyer. This means the Democratic party has deserted Wilson and his progressive principles. It means farmer & labor will organize & everlastingly beat them both for revolutions do not go backward.

Sept. 15-20 1924

Week of State Fair. I went Friday 19 but soon became tired of seeing the things I'd been seeing & creating for 25 yrs, so came away after 3 hrs. Saw same pens of chickens, same old fat hogs, & big raw boned barn eating Holsteins, same beautiful Jerseys, same

Jackasses, horses, mules & hard looking hard working half ignorant & bigoted but honest hill billies. When they get to own a farm & think they should be called Ridge[?] Williams. It is discouraging to see these people looking this way and knowing but a fraction of what they are & what it all means – life. And yet I know they looked more ignorant than these when they went to King's Mountain & New Orleans. I know there is a lot in them that does not show – deep down in pedigree blood line & breeding – but great Father in Heaven will they ever find it all themselves – straighten up their backs, get plumb good & clean, quite spitting & chewing the weed, stop looking around gaping & wondering & live up to their race & breed? These are the folks I am now selling their own history to – at present they know nothing of it nor care not a damn! There's the rub – and it may rub them out.

October 4-5-6, 1924

Hot and same old thing – all talk -- nothing doing. Mrs. Donelson gave me six signatures of Jackson's today. Lizzie the cook left us without warning yesterday & for no cause save that she did not like Chas., another negro on the place – This is the sad thing about a negro: being civil & kind to them is only another way of falling them from grace.

Oct. 11, 1924

Politics in full run with same old lies . . . too many people vote in these U.S. who haven't got sense enough. The only hope of this or any other half ignorant & half educated people is an educational propensity qualification. If all the people in the U.S. were really to get busy & vote we'd have something close akin to Bolshevism – at least revolution.

Oct. 21, 1924

Off for Washington today to see the President in re making a National monument of the Lewis monument.

Oct. 22-28, 1924

Reached W[ashington] on the 22nd & put up at Cosmos Club. Mr. Cox & I went to White House

Thursday & saw the President who was easily persuaded to do honor to M. Lewis – said Lewis expedition about saved the Union. The impression the President made was not conducive to hero worship. A quiet nice little man, negative, cautious, self conscious, timid & with an inferiority complex – he sits in a chair much too big for him. Moreover he signs (for those who exploit him) on the dotted line. He is everything which the predatory interests of the country could wish as he will always do their bidding and



Calvin Coolidge

has enough air of respectability with a Puritan background to be their only offset for the utter debacle of

corruption they inherited from Harding.... One comes away from Coolidge not angry but with pity & sadness – pity for the nice little man who does not know what it all means & sadness to think the Republic is brought down to this – that A[ndrew] J[ackson] ever sat in that chair! God save the chair! It is a big old fashioned arm chair & little Collie sits in its on a big dictionary & the family Bible & then barely is able to get his nose over the table!

Nov. 4-5, 1924

Coolidge the machine politician won as I thought but thank the Lord, even as I thought & knew, Tennessee staid true to Austin Peay the most outstanding Governor the State has ever had.... Peay's victory is the greatest ever won by any Gov. in the history of the State because so much of future good & progress of the state was at stake. It has given me fresh hope that the state will come again & be again the home of a future son of A.J. (not the sire – his like will never be seen again).

Dec. 25, 1924

This is my 66th Christmas and I feel the cold more than any of them. I dare not say just how cold it is but when the chickens will not come down from their perch you may know it is real cold. I fed them bountifully this pm – this a.m. I wrote a sonnet to Gov. Peay who is one of our really big men. Reminds me of the old time courageous governors of Tennessee.

66 Christmases and yet I cannot remember any of them distinctly. Surely I should but I can not. I remember vaguely those with the old Christmas trees in the Siloam Baptist Church at Marion or in Howard College with the Judson girls and Howard boys. I remember the gloomy one the day after Florence died,¹⁵ but I do not remember what should have been a bright one, Dec. 25, 1900, the year I married Mary Daniel, gentlest and most lovable of women, nor the Christmas after my son was born in 1903, not after the twins were born at the little cottage on 28th Ave. Nashville, Dec. 1907. Merrill was born at Westover, my home near Columbia, Sept. 11 1903. I sold it when I moved away and a boot legger living in it since set it a fire for the insurance. When Prohibition made the tribe called boot leggers it undermined all law and did more real harm than all the whiskey drunk before had done.

No. I can remember little of Christmases which is strange since I had always entered so heartily in them. I remember one in Monterey when oysters at the festival made me sick. I rode home in the moon light with my girl, so sick I lost all my Christmas supper. I can see the moon, the lovely night, the pines of Monterey – everything but the girl and the last supper. I know now I had ptomaine which would have killed any one but a young and sentimental fool. A spoilt oyster did it – not the only time by odds.

66 Christmases! A long time ago – my first was 4 months after I was born. I wish I could see that one again. In the old home at Marion in 1858, 3 years before the awful catastrophe of that unholy war in which for slavery the South turned loose the best [word

missing] in the world every fabric of which had been made by their own hands. And to Yankees who had spent their time up until then trying to break it up. Think of the Hartford Convention and John Brown and the Abolitionists. Now we are the traitors & they the real traitors – we the patriots.

To hell with them all. The Old Rebel South with its pure Anglo Saxon blood will yet save the Republic again.



I would love to see that Christmas of 1858. my young mother, 26 years old, dark hair & dark dreamy eyes. Poet & prophetess, for she knew the Bible by heart. My father, 29, fiery red hair, blue grey eyes, red face, thin skin, six feet & with dignity &

fight all through him.¹⁶ My brother Wooten, 3.5 years older than I, my sister Lucy 5.5 yrs. older than I. She was an extraordinary pretty girl, dark eyes & auburn hair & with very graceful & classy look. She was distinguished looking after she grew up but ill health overtook her in after life. Yet even up to 69 when she died she always dressed & looked the part of a thoroughbred. My brother is different – the best fellow in the world but never had an ounce of ambition & quite content to collect insurance from negroes – what queer folks our ancestors make of us!

I remember one Christmas day [during] the war (1861-1865) when the blockade was closed and all we found in our stockings was peanuts – home grown product. Peanuts and yet we had eleven negroes on our home lot to wait on us – eleven negroes worth \$15,000 - to parch peanuts and shine our shoes. Let me see if I can remember any of them. Aunt Rachel (mammy) near

100 and came from the Lanes. A religious old fanatic that is responsible for all of my fear of death & my nervousness – telling me African tales of death hell & the devil.... Aunt Sally, a yellow woman who also had me in charge. She was married to old black George Huskabee a little Guinea negro, very smart who once belonged to my g.g.sire John Moore, the Hatter, of Chatham Co., North Carolina. This old negro told me all I ever knew about my g.g.sire. After being freed by the war Sallie took up with an Irish man and had 3 nearly white girls. They all moved to Chicago and I suppose intermarried with the Yankees, preparing to reproduce another Warren Harding....¹⁷ Then there were Mack, the gardener, Letty, his wife & 5 children, Lewis, Mark, Pluck, etc. Fereby, the 18 year old house girl, Sallie's 2 children and Osborn, a lusty negro who ran away & was never heard of again....■

To Be Continued



Notes

1. Tennessee: the Volunteer State, 1769-1923. (Nashville: S.J. Clarke, 1923), sketch of John Trotwood Moore, p.276. ■ 2. Madame de Staël-Holstein, 1766-1817, French woman of letters. ■ 3. Tennessee Governor Austin Peay (1876-1927) who served from 1922-1928. His wife was Sallie Hurst, a native of Clarksville. ■ 4. William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), Democratic political leader. In the summer of 1925 he became famous for his role in the prosecution of biology teacher John Scopes at the famous "Monkey Trial" in Dayton, Tennessee. ■ 5. Isaac Ruth Sherwood (1835-1925); a New York native, Sherwood was similar to Moore in that his political interests were paired with journalistic and poetic talents. ■ 6. Col. John Hickman, a Confederate veteran, was head of the Tennessee Confederate Pension Examiner's review board. ■ 7. This references a series of government scandals, of which Teapot Dome is the latest. William Worth Belknap (1829-1890) was Secretary of War under President Grant and was unanimously impeached for accepting bribes. Credit Mobilier was a financial scandal involving Vice President Schuyler Colfax in 1872. Teapot Dome involved the sale of profitable oil drilling rights on government lands for personal gain. ■ 8. Henry M. Daughtery served as Attorney General under President Harding. ■ 9. Known as the Ohio Gang, these corrupt politicians served in Harding's administration and were eventually ousted: Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior; Charles R. Forbes, head of the Veteran's Bureau; Edwin Denby, Secretary of the Navy; Henry M. Daughterty, Attorney General. ■ 10. William E. Chancellor (1867-1963) was the author of *Warren Gamaliel Harding, President of the United States*; a review of facts collected from anthropological, historical and political researches, published in 1925. A professor at Wooster College in Ohio, Chancellor is labeled by some as a white supremacist determined to smear Harding's reputation with allegations of Negro ancestry. Agents of the Justice Department allegedly bought and destroyed all copies of this book. Moore obviously had a copy, but it is not found at the Tennessee State Library, and no copy exists in any Tennessee public library today. However, the Library of Congress catalog on-line shows that a copy is available there. ■ 11. The U.C.V., or United Confederate Veterans, held annual soldier's reunions for many years. ■ 12. Merrill Moore, son of John Trotwood Moore, was born in 1903. He was a member of the Fugitives, leaders of a Vanderbilt-generated Southern literary movement of the 1920s and 1930s. He later became a prominent Boston physician ■ 14. William Gibbs McAdoo (1863-1941) had been a Chattanooga lawyer and Secretary of the Treasury. He was married to Eleanor, daughter of Woodrow Wilson. He contended unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1920, 1924 and 1928. Alfred E. Smith (1873-1944), a New York Catholic, eventually won the Democratic nomination in 1928. ■ 15. Moore's first wife, Florence Allen, whom he married in 1885, died in 1896. He married Mary Brown Daniel in 1900. ■ 16. Moore's parents were John and Emily (Billingslea) Moore. His father was a Circuit judge in Alabama and a Captain in the Confederate Army. ■ 17. President Harding was the son of George Tryon and Phoebe (Dickerson) Harding. His father was an Ohio farmer and physician. Moore's bias against Harding apparently reflects the writings of William Chancellor (q.v., footnote 10). ■

William Washington Seay of Smith County

A Life Study

by Robert Polk Thomson

The life of William Washington Seay provides an interesting study of the prosperous Middle Tennessee farmer and businessman of the Civil War era. This detailed investigation into his life reveals the intricacies of family relationships, business activity, real estate dealings, lawsuits and the economic ruin brought on by the collapse of the Confederacy. The successes and difficulties Seay encountered reflect the stories of many families of the region.

part 2 of a series

In the first installment of this story, we studied the early life of William Washington Seay, beginning with his birth in Virginia in 1801 and early migration to Smith County, and following the development of his career as a planter and businessman. By the time the Civil War began, Seay was one of the wealthiest planters in the area, with large holdings in land and slaves. In this issue, we will follow his story up to and through the Civil War years.

In 19th century Tennessee, men of wealth constituted the local gentry and routinely managed public affairs. William Washington Seay evidently chose not to become part of the courthouse ring that managed county-wide affairs, but he was active in his own neighborhood and, in some ways, his involvement in the affairs of his neighbors and extended family was the most memorable feature of his life. In July 1829 he and his father, John Seay, Sr. were two of the trustees of Abner Springs Methodist Church.¹⁹ This early in life he had assumed a position of leadership in the Methodist church, the denomination adhered to by generations of Seays.

He was commissioned by Tennessee's governor as an officer in the local militia in 1830²⁰ and it was not long before he began to be addressed as Major Seay. He is not known to have participated in any military action. In 1834 he was named to serve as a juror in the county's circuit court,²¹ the standard route by which

men entered county political circles. But if he served then, he never did so again. This must have been his personal choice, for routinely others chose him for responsible positions.

The only public positions he would hold thereafter were postmaster and election judge. He served as the postmaster of Jennings Fork from 1857 until 1862²² and he served as an election judge in District 12 of Smith County regularly from 1848 until 1859, in which year the post was passed along to his son-in-law, Richard A. Bridgwater. In 1848 he became a charter member of the Martin Lodge of York Masons in the village of Rome. He was chosen master of the lodge by 1850 and under his leadership the group built its lodge house.²³ It seems likely that he was also continuing his leadership in the local Methodist church. He had an uncle and a brother who were Methodist preachers.

From time to time the county courts of Smith and Wilson county asked Seay to serve on commissions appointed to make recommendations on matters before the court. In 1835 it was to partition equitably among the heirs the lands of the Armstrong estate.²⁴ In 1847 it was to decide how to divide equitably among the heirs the slaves of the Swan Hubbard estate.²⁵ In 1853 it was to determine the mental state of John Page, a retired Methodist preacher who at age 87 had married a 33 year old woman. His children believed he was about to throw away his considerable property.²⁶ In 1859 it was

to select a contractor to build a bridge over Round Lick Creek and to decide on specifications for the structure.²⁷ In 1866 it was to assign the dower from her husband's estate to a widow, Nannie Ward.²⁸ These were assignments routinely assigned to respected citizens and all of them involved matters in Seay's immediate neighborhood.

Of more enduring consequence in his life were assignments to become the guardian for minors or incompetents who owned property. In 1834 following the death of his sister Elizabeth's husband, Purnell Hearn, Seay became the guardian for her children, Polly and John Hearn.²⁹ In time Polly married Eli R. Harris and became the mother of two children, Lelia Virginia and Erastus C. Harris. Polly died in the summer of 1853, only a few weeks after the death of her mother, and William Washington became the executor of the Mary Harris estate and in 1856 the guardian for her children, who were also legatees of their grandmother Hearn.³⁰ These responsibilities were considerable, since the Harris children had inherited 22 slaves and hundreds of acres of Seay land in Wilson County. The Wilson County chancery court authorized the sale of the land and Seay's son-in-law, Richard A. Bridgewater purchased 270 acres of it.³¹ Seay loaned their money in the form of notes, as was customary.

One note for \$1000 was received from S. E. Belcher, a friend and local business man. In the mid-1860s Seay took Belcher to court when he attempted to pay off the loan in Confederate money. Like most others of the area, Belcher was in serious financial trouble. Learning this to be the case, Seay refused to push the matter, saying that he would not have it said of him that he was the cause of Belcher's downfall.

Seay's guardianship activities extended beyond the care of his extended family. In 1851 the Smith County Court named him guardian for William and Lucy Payne and required him to post \$10,000 bond.³² And in

1853, having declared John Page mentally incompetent, the Smith County Chancery Court made Seay his guardian, also requiring him to post \$10,000 bond.³³ The Payne guardianship led to an unusual arrangement. William Payne came of age quickly and received his share of the estate without incident.³⁴ Lucy A. Payne married Timothy H. Williams and in November 1852 he signed a marriage agreement that



involved William Seay. She owned four slaves and an undivided interest in her father's real estate. Williams surrendered his legal marriage rights to the property and conveyed all of it to Seay, in trust, to support Lucy Payne. The agreement was an adroit stratagem to ensure that she did not lose her inheritance

as a result of marriage and may have accomplished its purpose. In 1868, though, Seay was deposed in a lawsuit brought against Timothy Williams and stated that he never knew that he was Lucy's trustee after her marriage, that he had never seen the marriage agreement, and that none of the funds were ever put in his hands as trustee.³⁵

The Page guardianship took a great deal of time and energy, and the Page family believed that Seay was overpaid for his effort. He reported to the court in 1855 that he had rented the 467 acre farm, hired out 8 slaves, entered a lawsuit in an attempt to collect a claim due Page, and provided the old man with groceries, clothing and articles necessary for his and his young wife's comfort. Initially the court had allowed Seay \$200 a year for his trouble, but in 1856 one of Page's sons went to court and succeeded in getting the fee reduced to \$150. Seay received annual approvals from the court for his trustee activities. John Page died in 1859 whereupon Seay got approval of the court to sell crops in the ground and perishable property, making provision for the support of the surviving family. He was also authorized to hire all the slaves for the remainder of the year and was ordered to prepare to turn over to the estate at year's end all assets in his

hands. George Page became the estate administrator and protested the sum Seay had been paid for his services. The will was contested and technically settled in 1867, but as late as 1875 Page heirs were still contesting the will, one of their complaints being Seay's charges for his services.³⁶ Notwithstanding their complaint, it is hard to believe that Seay had managed the estate for the payments he received. He was performing a civic duty in his community.

It is unlikely that any man in Smith County spent more of his time in managing the affairs of others than did William Washington Seay. Once in the 1840s and twice in the 1850s he agreed to act as trustee for men who owed debts and placed their property in the hands of trustees empowered to sell it to effect debt repayments if they failed to meet their obligations on schedule.³⁷ It was a troublesome assignment that had the potential to require draconian, even cruel actions. But these were the minor tasks he took on. For almost all of his adult life he served as the executor or administrator of estates in Wilson, Sumner, or Smith counties. He assumed this role at least twelve times, twice in the 1830s, once in the 1840s, five times in the 1850s and four times in the 1870s. Five times he was named executor in wills, seven times he became court appointed administrator. He was not a lawyer, but without question he was a person highly trusted by many individuals and by the judges in the area courts. Most of his assignments he completed promptly, but a few of them were extraordinarily difficult, and one of them, at least, had devastating consequences for him and his family.

In October 1831 Seay's father-in-law, Abram Stanfield, signed his will in Sumner County, naming as his executors his son Josiah Stanfield and William Washington Seay. Stanfield's other sons had left Tennessee but Seay was one of three sons-in-law who might have been chosen. Abram Stanfield died in July 1835 and Seay qualified in Sumner County as one of the executors.³⁸ There was little to do as Stanfield had made gifts to all of his children and specified the value of each in his will. All of his property went to his wife, Mary, for life, after which time the estate was to be divided among his children so as to make each equal. When Mary Stanfield died, in August 1848, Josiah

Stanfield and William Washington Seay sold the slaves, mostly to the Stanfield heirs. William Washington paid \$50 for an old man and his wife, Anthony and Mary. Obviously it was an act of kindness. He also bought the Stanfield 232 acre farm, located a mile or so south of Castalian Springs, for \$2094. He kept it until December 1858 when he sold it to J. M. Shaver and Hugh Wiley for \$6436. Seay had performed a service to the family and he had also made a profitable investment in Sumner County land.

Not surprisingly, all of William W Seay's affairs suffered from the Civil War, and the bad luck was that his activities were numerous and complex at the end of the 1850s. They included his work as the administrator of the estate of his wife's bachelor brother, Josiah Stanfield, who died in November 1858.³⁹ Stanfield had been a successful planter and his estate, valued at more than \$20,000, included a number of debts owed him, about a dozen slaves, 700 acres of farm land in the Castalian Springs area of Sumner County, and a timbered island in the Cumberland River a few miles upstream from the village of Cairo. His heirs were his brothers and sisters, or their descendants, a numerous clan that had scattered over the Midwest and South.

Seay lost no time before starting proceedings to settle the Stanfield estate. Debt collection and the sale of the estate assets were the major tasks but the most immediate concern was the status of the island in the Cumberland River.⁴⁰ In the mid-1850s Stanfield had made an agreement with James Cunningham to harvest timber from the island. Cunningham and one of Stanfield's slaves were placed on the island to do the work and Stanfield and Cunningham were to share the profits of sales. Cunningham claimed part ownership and refused to give up the land. The Civil war disrupted judicial proceedings and the island remained in Cunningham's hands in 1865 at the end of the war. He had continued to cut and sell wood and to use the land, in the parlance of the time, to commit waste to the land. The pursuant litigation continued into the mid 1870s when some of the parties involved appealed a decision to the Tennessee Supreme Court.⁴¹ Regardless of judicial decisions, the Stanfield heirs were the principal losers. William Cunningham was penniless and Sumner County land values in the post

war years were half what they had been in the late 1850s.

In August 1859 Seay took legal steps to determine whether to sell Josiah Stanfield's land and slaves or to divide them among the heirs. The technical procedure was for Seay to file a suit that would enable the court, rather than Seay, to make the critical decisions.⁴² Late in the year the circuit court authorized the sale of the slaves, at auction. Among them were a woman with two children who, Ann Stanfield Seay later said, were of her brother's "family of Negroes." She wanted them, although the Seay family already had a large number of slaves and had no need for additional servants. William Washington Seay estimated that his wife's share of the estate exceeded the value of the slaves, hence he agreed to purchase them for her at the auction.⁴³ He paid \$2250, paying \$28.50 in cash and giving a note for \$2221.50, payable twelve months after 17 December 1859. S M Blythe was his security on the note. Blythe purchased slaves himself, for \$1525 and Seay was his security on the \$1505 note he gave on his purchase. Four heirs of Josiah Stanfield also purchased slaves and total amount realized from the auction was \$5915. Obviously all of the purchasers expected their payments to come from their shares of the Stanfield estate, which expectation was thwarted by Seay's inability to bring the affairs of the estate to a close by the end of 1860. Consequently, the court ordered suits instituted against the slave purchasers for non payment of their notes, and in March 1861 all of them were forced to secure stays of execution on the orders to foreclose. There matters stood, as the courts came to a halt as a result of the war. The suits were reinstituted in 1866, with unfortunate consequences for the Seay family.⁴⁴

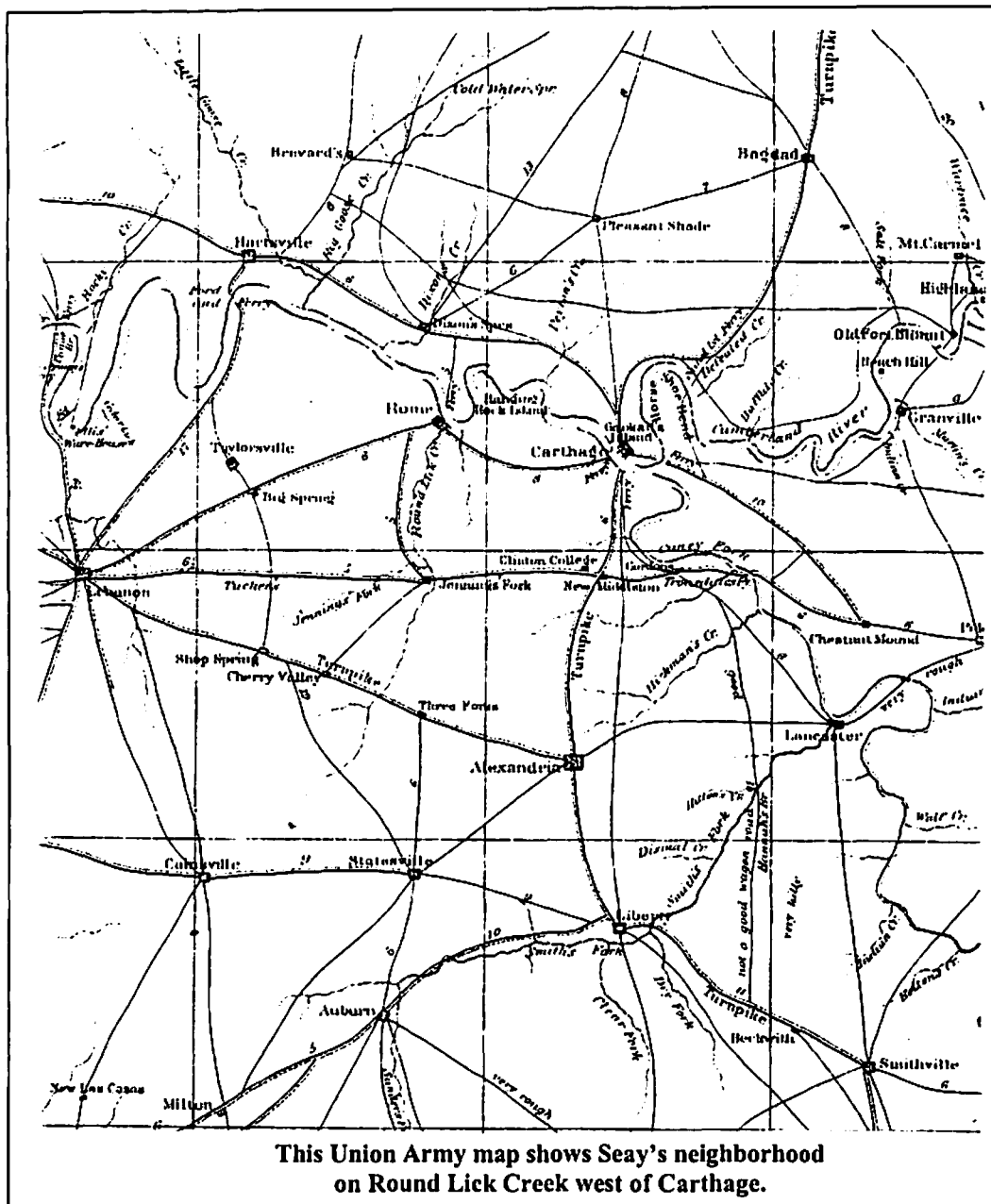
During 1860 and 1861 Seay tried to collect the debts owed to the Stanfield estate. Some of them were in West Tennessee and Seay had to make several trips to Dover, where he instituted suits on behalf of the estate. The war halted the process and the creation of the Confederacy, with its own currency system, made it difficult for him to know what kind of money to accept as payment for debts.⁴⁵ Before the war's end the entire Stanfield estate business had come to a complete

stalemate and Seay had, as yet, received no court authorization for any fee for his extensive service to the estate. The affairs of the estate would resume after the war, disastrously.

In the decade before the war, William Washington Seay had extensive business dealings with a close friend and neighbor, S. E. Belcher. Belcher had a large farm, at least twenty slaves, and was an active exporter of tobacco, in every respect resembling Seay as a business man. Belcher had a solid reputation and the two men trusted one another without reservation. On occasion when either would be required to make bond when performing some duty, such as becoming an estate administrator or guardian for a minor, the other would become a security. In August 1851 Belcher proposed to borrow capital from Ellis Beasley and asked Seay if he would be his security on a note.⁴⁶ Seay agreed, he later said, to sign for a thousand dollars and signed a blank note as the specifics had not been worked out. Unknown to him, Belcher made out the note for \$2000.⁴⁷ At the end of a year he proposed paying the note but Beasley suggested that he pay only the interest and continue the note. This arrangement continued into the 1860s.

In 1853 Belcher and his two sons, who traded under the firm name of J. E. Belcher & Co., borrowed money from John Gordon, one note for \$1000 and another for \$4200. Again, Seay signed as their security for the notes.⁴⁸ Late in the 1850s, as guardian for Lelia and Erastus Harris, Seay loaned Belcher some of the Harris assets, which in total exceeded \$12,000. Belcher's son stated that his father was a speculator who handled large sums of money, in some years making a great deal, in others, not. John Gordon died in February 1860 and his estate administrator, F. H. Gordon, well known to the Seays as a physician and educator, asked W.W. Seay to help him make an inventory of the notes in Gordon's estate. In the course of the work, they noted the two notes on the Belchers for which Seay was security. In January 1862 S E Belcher, in Seay's presence, paid the \$1000 note and interest on the larger one. Soon Seay was to be at odds with Belcher when he tried to make debt payments in Confederate money. There matters stood until war's end.

In every conceivable way the Civil War upset William Washington Seay's world. He was too old to fight but all of his sons were of military age. Two sons, John P. and Thomas J., stayed at home. Although his son, Dr. Daniel Seay, did not join the Confederate army, he had some military role, for in May 1862 his presence was noted at Confederate military camps near Corinth, Mississippi.⁴⁹ Two other sons, William Aurelius and Charles Irenius Seay



were living in Memphis when the war began. William was a lawyer who in 1860 had run a strong, though unsuccessful, race for the post of the Memphis City Attorney General. Charles had campaigned actively for him.⁵⁰ Both brothers entered the Confederate army, William becoming a lieutenant in Capt. T. C. Goodner's Company of the 24th Tennessee Infantry⁵¹ and Charles a major in the Tennessee Cavalry, riding with Nathan Bedford Forrest. Their sister Caroline's husband, David L. Wallace, also fought as an officer in the Confederate army. William's unit

was part of the army General Braxton Bragg led into Kentucky and on 8 Oct. 1862 he was killed at the battle of Perryville.

About the time William Washington Seay would have received this terrible news, on 17 Oct., his daughter Cindariller Turner died, leaving behind an infant child, Betty.⁵³ Family tradition is that William Washington drove a wagon and team to Kentucky to bring home his son's body.⁵⁴ January brought yet more bad news. Charles I. Seay was with Forrest raiding federal supply lines in West Tennessee when, on 31 Dec. 1862, they were confronted with a superior Union force and forced to do battle. Seay was captured at Parker's Cross Roads and sent to military prison in Illinois. He was transferred first to Camp Chase Ohio, then in 1863, to Fort Delaware. He was forwarded to City Point and exchanged on the 29th of April. News of the exchange would have been some small comfort to William Washington Seay, but the winter of 1862-63 must have been the worst of his entire life.

Maintaining his large plantation was a huge problem during the war years. At the very least he had to produce enough food to feed up to seventy people, more than sixty slaves and several family members. Horses, mules and livestock also required food. The

war destroyed the entire marketing system, so the essentials of life could not be purchased, nor produce sold. No records exist to tell how much his plantation suffered from seizures and wanton destruction. He was not close to military campaigns, for the most part, but both the Confederate and Union armies had foraging parties that scoured the countryside in search of food, firewood, and animals. Throughout middle Tennessee rail fences and wooden barns were torn down and hauled away for firewood. In the latter years of the war the breakdown of local government opened the way for the growth of marauding bands of thieves that often seized property by force.⁵⁵ Seay's barns and storehouses and large stock of horses and mules could not have escaped raids from one or more of these groups. The Seays were victims of pillage; only its extent is unknown. Emma Bridgwater Thomson remembered a potato patch near her home that was allowed to become overgrown with weeds to prevent its being discovered by raiding parties. She also remembered the hiding place in their house used to conceal silver and other articles of value. A very young child at the time, she could not have known the extent of losses suffered by her grandfather, but she knew the fear with which they lived. ■

Notes

■ ¹⁹ Proved by the Wilson County court in September 1830, the deed is included in Edythe Rucker Whitney, *Red River Settlers* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 141. ■ ²⁰ Unverified. His name does not appear in the Tennessee Commission Books in the 1830s. ■ ²¹ Smith County Court Minute Book 1834-1835, 105. ■ ²² D. R. Frazier, *Tennessee Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments, 1789-1984* (1984), 725. ■ ²³ Smith County Masonic Records, Martin Lodge No. 141, Minute Books, Rome, Tennessee 1850-1875. Mss Microfilm 221, Reel 4, in TSLA. In Nov. 1869, as a chartered member, he was exempted from paying dues. ■ ²⁴ Smith County Court Minute Book 1834-1835, 536. ■ ²⁵ *Ibid.*, 1841-1850, 358. ■ ²⁶ Smith County Chancery Court Minute Book 1853-1860, 59-60. ■ ²⁷ Smith County Court Minute Book 20, 376. ■ ²⁸ *Ibid.* 22, 206-207. ■ ²⁹ *Ibid.* 1834-1835, 12. He made bond for \$500. ■ ³⁰ Wilson County Administrators and Executors Settlements 1850-1858, 216; Wilson County Guardian Settlements 1851-1856, 466. ■ ³¹ Original deed, recorded on 14 Sept. 1857 in the Wilson County clerk's office, in my possession. ■ ³² Smith County Court Minute Book 1850-1853, 44. ■ ³³ Smith County Chancery Court Minute Book 1853-1860, 59-60. ■ ³⁴ Smith County Court Minute Book 1850-1853, 256-257. ■ ³⁵ Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #735. ■ ³⁶ Smith County Chancery Court Minute Book 1853-1860, 59-60, 126, 350, 489; Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #2955 and #3161. ■ ³⁷ In May 1843 Samuel Burdine entrusted Seay with 305 acres in Dist 13, Smith County, and four slaves. Smith county Deed Book Q, 533-534. In 1858 Burton Underwood entrusted Seay with land and slaves his wife had inherited from her father, A tangle of lawsuits ensued and Seay resigned his trusteeship in 1859. Smith County Deed Book Y, 429-430; Smith County Chancery Court Minute Book 1853-1860, 385, 500; ■ Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #19223 and #1835. In Oct. 1859 his son-in-law, David L. Wallace, entrusted Seay with

seven slaves, two mules, a wagon, and a full household of furniture to ensure the payment of a note he had made for \$2576 and which Seay had signed as a security. The conveyance specified that whatever property remained after the payment of the debt should remain entitled to Seay for the use of Wallace's wife, Caroline, and their two children. Wilson County Trust Deed Book MM, 513-514. ■ ³⁸ Sumner County Will Book J94-195. ■ ³⁹ Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #958. A voluminous file, it contains detailed information about the handling of the Stanfield estate. ■ ⁴⁰ W W Seay et al vs. James Cunningham. Sumner County Chancery Court Loose Records #1067. Another voluminous file, it contains detailed information about the island property dispute. Additional information about Cunningham is in Sumner County Chancery Court Loose Records #2707. ■ ⁴¹ Sumner County Chancery Court Loose Records #10623 and #11687. These large files contain detailed information, among other things, about Patton's involvement in the efforts to sell the island property. ■ ⁴² W. W. Seay et al vs. Moody Wilkes, et al. Moody Wilkes was one of Josiah Standfield's nephews, the son of his deceased sister, Mary Wilks. Sumner County Chancery Court Loose Papers, #62 and #12877. ■ ⁴³ Seay, William W. vs. Hart, D. P. 1868, #958, Smith County Chancery Loose Records. ■ ⁴⁴ In 1863 James N. Mitchener rented it from Seay; in 1864 he rented it from James A. Bowman, acting as agent of the Stanfield heirs. Sumner County Court Loose Records #10751. ■ ⁴⁵ Thomas J. Seay deposition, 14 June 1876, Sumner County Chancery Court Loose Records #10751. ■ ⁴⁶ Nancy Beasley et al. vs. Edward Parker, et al. Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #3740. ■ ⁴⁷ W. W. Seay vs. W. A. Corley, adm. Smith County Chancery Court Loose Records #1607 and Wm. A. Corley, admr. vs W W Seay, Ibid. #417. ■ ⁴⁸ W W Seay vs J. H. Gordon, exr.. Middle Tennessee Supreme Court #264. The file includes detailed information on the handling of the Belcher notes. ■ ⁴⁹ Thomas Fuller diary, 6 May 1862. *Smith County Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly Newsletter*, XI (Winter 1999), 22. Seay told Fuller that he had left home about a month ago and was eighteen days on the road, having come across the mountains of Alabama. ■ ⁵⁰ Letter from William Aurelius Seay to William Washington Seay, Memphis 26 May 1860, in Kirby Seay, *Here Lies John Seay*, 155-159. ■ ⁵¹ Confederate army rosters for 24th TN Infantry, in National Archives. Microfilm in TSLA. ■ ⁵² Ibid. ■ ⁵³ William Washington Seay family bible, current location unknown. ■ ⁵⁴ The story lacks some credibility as William's grave is not among those marked in the family cemetery. A parallel story, evidently with better basis in fact, is that Charles future wife, Harriet Victoria Rives, who lived in West Tennessee, took a wagon to Perryville where she located her wounded brother and brought him home with her to nurse back to health. ■ ⁵⁵ Stephen V. Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed 1860-1870* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), chap. V, is an excellent account of the destruction that occurred in Middle Tennessee. Map credit: *Official military atlas of the Civil War* (Gettysburg: National Historical Society, 1978.)

IN CHANCERY AT CARTHAGE,

JOHN RULES, 1847.

John Wilson,
vs,
Nathaniel M. Adams and } Attachment
John Linvill } Bill

ON motion and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Clerk and Master from affidavit that John Linvill is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee: It is therefore ordered, that publication be made for 3 successive weeks in the Carthage Casket for John Linville, requiring him to appear at the Court-house in the town of Carthage, on the 2d Monday in August 1847, to plead answer or demur to complainant's bill, or the same will be taken for confessed, and set for hearing *ex parte* as to him.
A. MOORE, C. & M.
July 9, 1847, -22-3t Pra. fee \$3.

Legal ads like this one
from the *Carthage Casket*
were important to people
involved
in court affairs
as was W.W. Seay
(July 9, 1847, v. 1, no. 22,
p. 3)

Middle Tennessee Supreme Court Records

Second Series

*Contributed by Betsy Ragsdale and
Gale Williams Bamman, CG*



Supreme Court Records, Box 58,
Middle Tennessee, 1837

**Lavina, a woman of colour and
Jackson a boy of colour, by their
next friend James W. Combs vs
Goff & Porter**

(Original Bill heard in
Giles County)

Your oratrix Lavina a woman of colour and Jackson a boy of colour and who sue by their next friend James W. Combs humbly complaining stated and shew unto your honor that on the 6th day of March 1807 and thence up to the 25th day of June 1812 your oratrix was a slave and the property of one John Duffield then a resident citizen of Davidson County in said state, that on the said 6th day of March 1807 the said John Duffield made his last will and testament....

Supreme Court Records, Box 58,
Middle Tennessee, 1838

**Robert A. High and Elizabeth B.
his wife vs Gardiner Batte and
John Bradley**

(Original Bill heard in
Giles County Chancery Court)

The complainants humbly complaining shows unto your honour our orator and oratrix Robert A. High and Elizabeth B. High his wife late Elizabeth Clay

late citizens and residents of Limestone County Alabama that on and before the 14th day of November 1831 the said Elizabeth, then a feme sole, was the owner of the tract of land described..., she having and being at that time the owner of one undivided moiety of 658 acres of land and that the said Elizabeth agreed to convey her said undivided moiety of said tract to one Zeno T. Harris for the sum of \$1600, the said plat representing Lots No. 6 and 12 as divided between the heirs of Samuel Lockard[?].....

Supreme Court Records, Box 53,
Middle Tennessee, 1835

**Denny Hadley and others vs
George L. Latimer and others**

(Original Bill heard in
Davidson County)

Denny Hadley, John L. Hadley, Junr. James H. Hadley and William E. Anderson ...bound unto George L. Latimer, Hannah Hadley, William Hadley, John L. Hadley, Snr. and Amelia his wife, James S. Blackmore and Evelina his wife.

Hannah Hadley, William Hadley, Denny Hadley, John L. Hadley, Jr., John L. Hadley Snr. and Amelia his wife, James Hadley and James S. Blackmore and Evalina his wife,

heirs of Joshua Hadley, Snr., dec'd....

Supreme Court Records, Box 53,
Middle Tennessee, 1836

**Mark M. Collier, Admr. vs
William & James Collier**

(Original Bill heard in
Giles County)

And the said defendants say the said plaintiff ought not have right to prosecute the aforesaid suit against them, said defendants, in his character of administrator of Joseph Collier, dec'd...because they say that since the commencement of his said suit against them in this court, the last will and testament of the said Joseph Collier has been exhibited by James Y. Collier to the County Court of Limestone County, Alabama, to wit on the 30th day of August 1831....

Supreme Court Records, Box 53,
Middle Tennessee, 1836

**William C. Walker, Admr. vs
Samuel B. McConnico and
others**

(Original Bill heard in
Williamson County)

The bill of complaint of William C. Walker, administrator of Garner McConnico, dec'd. of the County

of Williamson and State of Tennessee complainant, against Samuel B. McConnico and Samuel Cox of the same county, defendants...sheweth unto your honor your orator William C. Walker...that the said Garner McConnico departed this life intestate in the County of Williamson in August 1833 and that in his lifetime the said Garner McConnico gave his bond to Mary Walker for the sum of one thousand three hundred and sixty 23/100 dollars for money borrowed and justly due by the said Garner McConnico to the said Mary Walker, falling due the 9th day of December 1831...that the said Mary Walker for value assigned the said bond to your orator; on the 8th day of January 1835...that after said assignment the County Court of Williamson at their January Term 1835 granted letters of administration to your orator on the estate of the said Garner McConnico as his greatest creditor; your orator further states on the first day of September 1832 the said defendant Samuel B. McConnico made his certain deed of trust to the said defendant Samuel Cox, as trustee, conveying to him for the use of his creditors a certain house and Lot #173 in the town of Franklin, five negroes and much other personal property....

Supreme Court Records, Box 45,
Middle Tennessee, 1830

State vs Robert Black and others

(Original Bill heard in
Warren County Circuit Court)

Leighton Ferrell, Esquire high
sheriff in and for said county

returned hereinto court the State's writ of venire facias to him directed executed upon the following persons, to wit, Robert George, Arthur Warren, Jonathan Boyles, John Fletcher, David Ramsey, William Shields, William Scott, Moses Hopper, John Duncan, Thomas Bright, John G. Wilson, Uriah York, Raleigh Shipley, William Bonner, Leroy Braley, John K. Wills, Ezekiel McGreger, Isaac Young, John Blanks, Solomon Mazy, and William Neil out of which are elected ...a grand inquest and jury...

And on the 26th day of January 1831 Hugh L. French who was appointed by the court attorney general pro tem preferred to the grand jury aforesaid a bill of indictment in the words and figures following to wit:

The grand jurors....present that a certain John Marshall of said county was possessed on the 24th day of October 1830 of ___[blank] acres of land situate in the county aforesaid with appurtenances and dwelling house thereon and thereto belonging and being so thereof possessed on the said 24 day of October 1831 in the nighttime of said day a certain William Bates labourer Robert Black constable Henry Pennington labourer of said county with force and arms to with clubs, knives, stones and strong hand did then and there enter the close and dwelling house of him the said John Marshall, and did then and there take from and out of the dwelling house aforesaid and out of the possession of said John Marshall one negro woman slave for life named Peggy of the value of three hundred dollars....

Supreme Court Records, Box 45,
Middle Tennessee, 1832

**Turner's Heirs vs
Frederick A. Ross**

(Original Bill heard in Franklin
County)

[This file contains the will of
David Ross, as follows:]

I, David Ross, of the City of Richmond do make this my last will and testament, in presence—I give and devise to my son Frederick Augustus Ross a tract of land of equal value with the tract which I heretofore put into the possession of my son David Ross, Junior, and also thirty-six slaves in four families of equal value those in possession of my said son David, I give and devise to my son David Ross, Junior the land in his possession called and named Mountido[?] and Red House plantation, containing above fourteen hundred acres, also thirty-six slaves which are also in possession of my son David Ross, Jr, with their further increase, all the rest and residue of my estate real and personal after paying all my just debts, I give devise and bequeath to my four children, and their heirs, equally to be divided among them namely Eliza Myers wife of Jacob Myers, Amanda Duffield, wife of John Duffield, and Frederick A. Ross and David Ross, Junior...And I hereby appoint my son Frederick A. Ross, my son-in-law Jacob Myers, and my friend Thomas T. Bauldwin executors of this my last will and testament...and direct that no security be required of my said executors...this 24 day of April 1817. [signed] David Ross

Test. John Jameson, Sewel
Osgood, M. H. Rice....

Supreme Court Records, Box 45,
Middle Tennessee, 1836

**Samuel Overton vs William P.
Lawrence, Extr. of Luther
Bigelow, dec'd.**

(Original Bill heard in
Smith Chancery Court)

The bill of complaint of Samuel Overton, planter, a citizen of Smith County, filed on 19th May 1830, against Luther Bigelow Doctor of Medicine, defendant...that sometime in the month of March 1825 he was much embarrassed in his circumstances and greatly in want of money to pay his debts, that about that time there resided in the town of Carthage a certain Luther Bigelow Doctor of Medicine who was represented to your orator as a man of honesty and fair dealing and who had money to let at a reasonable interest. Your orator called on said Bigelow to borrow about three hundred dollars, who represented to your orator that he had purchased of divers persons, Jesse[?] Link[?], Pledge branch, and others notes on your orator amounting to the sum of two hundred dollars...

Public Sale of Negroes: Pursuant to a decree of this Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals there will be sold at the upper end of the Market House this day a family of likely Negroes consisting of a woman about 42 years of age and her seven children, viz Lecan[?] and her child aged 18 years Cynthia 16 years James about 14 Harriet about 12 Frank about 10 Tom about 8 and Priscilla 7 years—to satisfy a

decree obtained by Luther Bigelow's executor against Samuel Overton....[signed] J. N. Clark, clerk, Nashville, Saturday, February 18, 1836. L. E. Johnson, Auctioneer....

Supreme Court Records, Box 44,
Middle Tennessee, 1830

**Thomas L. D. W. Shaw vs
Dabney Ewell]**

(Original Bill heard in
Bedford County Circuit Court)

On the first Monday in December in the year 1830 being the sixth day of said month, and it appearing that the public courthouse built in said town had been blown down and destroyed by a great storm or hurricane which had visited the same, and there being no public courthouse wherein to transact the public and judicial business of said court it was thereupon opened and held at the house formerly occupied by the Nashville Branch Bank and now by Doctor Abraham B. Morton in the town of Shelbyville aforesaid in said county....

Supreme Court Records, Box 44,
Middle Tennessee, 1831

**Absolom Johnson, Admr. , vs
James Draper and John Graham**

(Original Bill heard in
Jackson County)

Absolom Johnson administrator of the estate of Patrick Fitzgerald, deceased Debtor in account with James Draper to wit:

1823— to 7 months tuition of children sent by the day at \$10 per scholar per year

1824—to five dollars paid your wife \$5.00

—to posting old books \$2.00

—to calico per your wife @ 50 cts a yd \$2.00

1825—posting books for the estate \$2.00

1826— to 1 day helping survey land \$1.00

—to 31 ½ lbs coffe [sic] on my return from Louisville at 50 cts pr lb pr boys and loony[?] Johnson \$15.75

—to 3 lbs do per Joseph \$1.50

—to 5 ½ do per widow at fathers \$2.75

1827—this sum paid your wife before your married [sic] \$1.00

1828—making out inventory of property of the estate \$2.00

—to writing as clerk of sale of the estate drawing notes, etc. \$2.00

...Ptff. then introduced John McCarver who...read the orders appointing Phebe Fitzgerald, admrx. and Absolom Johnson, Ptff. admr. of Patrick Fitzgerald...

At a court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said county in February 1823 on motion it is ordered that Phebe Fitzgerald be appointed administratrix of Patrick Fitzgerald, deceased with the will annexed whereupon she came into court and executed bond with John Fitzgerald and Robert White her securities as required by law.

At November Sessions of said county court 1827 Absolom Johnson is this day appointed administrator of the estate of Patrick Fitzgerald who executed and acknowledged bond with Sampson Williams his security took the oath prescribed by law and thereupon letters of administration with a copy of the will annexed were directed to issue....

Supreme Court Records, Box 44,
Middle Tennessee, 1831

**William Fontaine vs
Isaac Gardner**

(Original Bill heard in Maury
County)

Warrant: State of Tennessee,
Maury County. ...Summon Isaac
Gardner personally to appear
before me ... to answer William
Fountane to the use of Wm.
Falton[?] in a plea of debt...this 14
day of June 1831. [signed] Job H.
Thomas, J. P.

... County Court of Pittsylvania at
the court house the 21st day of
March 1828... that heretofore on
... 3rd day of December 1827 came
William Fontaine assignee of
Thomas B. Fountaine adm'r of the
goods and chattels rights and
credits of Sally Williams, dec'd.
by his attorney & filed his
declaration against James
Eudailey[?] & Isaac Garner of a
plea of debt...that sd. defendants
on 29th December 1817 at the
Parish of __ [blank] and county
aforesaid by their certain note...
promised to pay the sd. Sally
Williams ... & a certain Charles
Williams the sum of \$70 ... &
before any part of the said sum of
money was paid to the said Sally
Williams...or to the sd. Charles
Williams the said Thomas B.
Fontain as adm'r aforesaid....

Supreme Court Records, Box 44,
Middle Tennessee, 1831

**William B. Stephens by his next
friend Joel G. Childress vs
Elisha Davis**

(Original Bill heard in Williamson
County Circuit Court)

The petition of William B.
Stephens by John Page his next
friend...that Elisha Davis about the
year 1817 became guardian for the
said William B. Stephens and in ...
the same year he received \$779.42
belonging to him and that in July
1825 he rendered ... account to
this court only accounting for
about \$475 dollars and that only as
having been received in 1822,
thereby including principal and
interest depriving the said William
B. Stephens of at least one half of
his estate in this particular besides
20 per cent interest at which this
money was actually loaned... It is
respectfully submitted to the court
whether a man capable of such
conduct should be guardian. ... He
further states he pays no attention
to his education and hardly ever
sees the child. [signed] Hays &
Perkins for petitioner.

...Whereupon on 14 April 1831
the defendant filed his answer...
Elisha Davis... saith that it is true
... he became guardian to said
complainant and his sister Ann
Stephens sometime in the year
1817; and that it is also true...that
about 25th of June 1817 he
received into his possession from
the admrx. of William Stephens
the father of the said wards the

sum of \$779.42 ½ as the share of
said petitioner... Respondent states
he is willing and always has been
to settle fairly this or any other
matter; for it is well known to said
John Page that respondent paid
over to his ward said Ann Stephens
and B. F. Crockett her husband
after their marriage the full amount
of her estate in his hands so soon
as the same could be collected

Supreme Court Records, Box 56,
Middle Tennessee, 1837

**James Vaughan vs Alfred
Martin and Isaac W. Brashear**

(Original Bill heard in Rutherford
County Chancery Court)

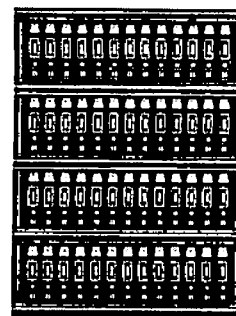
Your orator James Vaughan of the
State of Tennessee and County of
Rutherford sheweth to your honor
that on the 25th day of September
1834 he entered into a contract
with Alfred Martin by which he
purchased of the said Alfred two
negroes to wit Sam a boy aged
about 45 years and Chancy a
woman also aged about 45 years
for which he paid to the said
Alfred the sum of \$675.00...

... At the time of making the
aforesaid contract one Valentine
M. Sublett held a lien upon said
negroes from the said Alfred the
consideration of which was a debt
due from the said Alfred to the
said Valentine M. to the amount of
four or five hundred dollars, which
said lien, mortgage or deed of
trust, the said Alfred agreed to lift
and satisfy....

Genealogical Resources for African-American Research

Sources for Post-Emancipation Research

Compiled by Julia Otey Lee



**The following sources are particularly helpful in tracing
African-American families after the Emancipation Proclamation.**

Slave narratives. Wonderful first-hand accounts of slaves, recorded by WPA workers during the 1930s. Don't just check the narratives recorded in your state. For example, Tennessee-born persons can be found in narratives from Oklahoma, Kentucky and Missouri. These records are available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

Newspapers. Immediately following emancipation, African-American newspapers contained ads placed by former slaves who were looking for relatives. Search editions even as late as 1920 for obituaries of former slaves. News of local families and important events in the African-American community can also be found in these publications. Tennessee papers can be obtained at TSLA.

Civil war pension applications. Check the Colored Man's Confederate Pension Applications as well as Union applications. Those for Tennessee are available at TSLA, which also provides published list of pension applicants from other southern states. The Union pension file index is available to subscribers only on *Ancestry.com*.

Freedman's Bureau records. These papers from the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands begin during the Civil War years and continue through the Reconstruction period. They contain school records, correspondence, labor contracts, post-slavery marriage records, reports of outrages and other lists and registers. One interesting register is the Signatures and Depositors in the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company. These records list the depositor and sometimes include the names of his or her parents, brothers and sisters, and indicate whether they are living or dead. The names of spouses, children, birthplace and year of birth, and, in some cases, the previous master's names are given in some of these banking records. Transcriptions of selected records can be found on-line at www.freedmensbureau.com.

Voter registration lists. In some states, these lists give more than just a name. Length of stay in the area and places of birth are sometimes given. These records are found primarily for larger cities, some of those from Tennessee have been microfilmed by TSLA.

Five Civilized Tribes. Enrollment cards, applications and testimonies. There are Freedmen rolls for each of the tribes. Consult the Guion Miller roll, a list of all applicants, available in several published sources and on the Internet at tngenweb.org/chokeby_blood/

County history books. Many of these, for Tennessee and adjoining states, can be found in the TSLA collections. Often they will include sections on the African-American settlements and churches in the county, with an occasional biographical sketch of a member of the black community.

Negro yearbooks. Published annually by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama beginning in 1912, the best known *Negro Yearbooks* contained information about notable African-American people and events nationwide. Successful businesses are profiled, military officers are listed, athletic prowess is reported, along with a wide range of other topics. Examples from the 1917 yearbook include a list of African-Americans who were awarded the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission medal, one of whom was Chattanooga Lucy G. Edwards, a nurse who rescued a child from a rabid dog. Also listed in that issue are the presidents of local chapters of the National Negro Business League. Similar publications were sometimes issued for individual cities or counties.

Southern Claims Commission. Many African-Americans who lived in the South and had some personal property during the war applied for compensation for goods taken by the Union Army. Additionally, the eyewitness testimony of former slaves is included in applications of white persons. Consult Gary Mills' book *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War* for an index of applicants; a list of applicants from Tennessee is also found on the TSLA web site. Many of the original files can be viewed on microfiche at TSLA. ■

National Negro Business League Chapters in Middle Tennessee
From the 1917-1918 *Negro Year Book*

Chapter	President
Clarksville	Robt. T. Burt, M.D.
Columbia	C.O. Hunter
Nashville	R.H. Boyd
Nashville (#2)	A.N. Johnson
Shelbyville	W.H. Goslin
Springfield	I.S. Cunningham

Testimony of former slave Sophia Austell of Coffee County Tennessee
before the Southern Claims Commission.

My name is Sophy Austell. My age is 40 years, my residence Coffee County, Tennessee. I am a house servant. I lived with the claimant and was his slave at the time of the war. Now I live on Ben Patton's land and my husband works at Mr. Strickler's near here. I was freed by the President's proclamation. I am not indebted to Mr. Austell, nor is he in debt to me.

When the great army of General Rosecrans came in here, I saw the soldiers take the oxen, the cattle, the sheep, the and the hogs. They drove them into the road from the lots and drove them off toward Pelham. There were a great number of soldiers and officers on our place. I saw them kill some of the hogs and sheep and put them into wagons and take them off.

From the disallowed claim file of Littleberry Austell.
Southern Claims Commission files, National Archives.



Wandering on the World Wide Web

Learning about your veteran ancestor

By Nancy Adgent Morgan

The Lest We Forget Page at <http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/> is a "one-stop shopping" source for veteran information. Although the site's primary audience is the African-American researcher, Bennie J. McRae's comprehensive genealogy and history website provides a wealth of information for any researcher. He covers wars from the Revolution through Vietnam with links to specialized units such as the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Tuskegee Airmen. The Buffalo Soldiers selection, for example, offers rosters of officers and some enlisted men by regiment as well as lists of distinguished marksmen. The "Military Records" topic includes name searches, pension file indices, regimental histories, and records of veterans' burial places, plus aids to researching military records.



One LWF link is to the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System at <http://www.itd.nps.gov>. African-American soldiers and sailors, numbering over 235,000, are included. A search may be by soldier's or



sailor's name, by regiment, by cemetery, by battle, by prisoner of war (civilian or soldier), or by Medal of Honor recipient. The cemetery and prison record databases are works in progress, with only a few listed thus far. Because name searches using first and last names produce a list of all middle names or initials with the two names

requested, records for your ancestor may surface that you would otherwise miss. Using an example from my ancestry, James Hopper, known as James Harvey Hopper to the family and as James H. Hopper on most military documents, is also listed as James A. Hopper on at least one other record. Military documents under that name were not included in files I previously ordered from the National Archives for James H. Hopper, and those additional records may contain valuable family history. (Obviously, more frequently occurring names such as James Smith may indeed denote two different people.)

The United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University maintains a frequently updated website – <http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/>. Choices include battlefields, cemeteries, forts, and parks. A cemetery registry is searchable by state or by any of the numerous listed cemeteries such as the Confederate Cemetery at Rock Island Prison in Illinois, Cemetery for Hebrew Confederate Soldiers in Shockoe, Virginia, Nashville (Tennessee) National Cemetery, and Union Soldiers' Cemetery in Oklahoma.



At <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/www1intro.htm>, the Tennessee State Library and Archives provides a searchable database of World War I veterans from Tennessee. Data is arranged by county, then in alphabetical groupings. Information consists of name, age, birthplace, notes, original record group volume number, and includes those killed during service.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**

Military historians Steven D. Smith, Keith Krawczynski, and Robert F. Jefferson, among others, compiled thorough regimental histories of African-American soldiers from Colonial days through World War II. [A Historic Context for the African American Military Experience Page](https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Legacy/AAME/aame.html), available on the Department of Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Legacy/AAME/aame.html>, offers valuable background information and includes quotations from some

veterans. Sections covering World Wars I and II are particularly valuable for understanding conditions particular regiments faced.

Simply entering your ancestor's regimental information, e.g. "4th Tennessee Cavalry" or "371st Infantry, 93rd Division" in a search engine (such as Google) typically results in several regimental histories as well as diaries or other individual accounts, and taps into online family trees, some with e-mail contact information. ■

INTERNET SEARCHING TIP

Remember when searching in Google (and some other search engines) that placing quotation marks around your search term will ensure that it is searched as a whole phrase. If that doesn't retrieve the sites you need, try again without the quotation marks for a word-by-word search.

Illegitimate Children Made Legal

Willie and Maria Lyons, Montgomery County, 1807

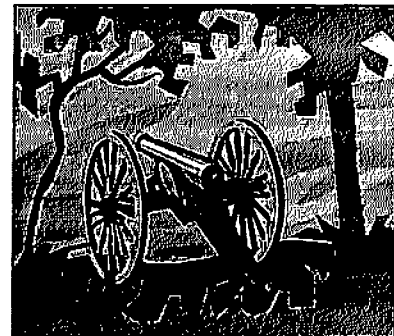
To the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Montgomery & State of Tennessee, your petitioner Guthridge Lyons humbly sheweth that he has two children, one a son by the name of Willie, the other a daughter named Maria which children not being born in wedlock are not as he is advised considered as legitimate children and consequently not intitled by law to inherit a proportionate share of his estate with his other natural children, and as he considers himself bound by the ties of humanity and natural justice to make provision for them and put them on equal footing with his other heirs he therefore prays the worshipful court that the names of said children, the children of Margaret Davidson, be changed from that of Willie and Maria Davidson to that of Willie Lyons and Margaret [sic] Lyons and that the said children by order of the court [be] made legitimate and to all intents and purposes put upon an equal footing with his other children....

*From the Minutes of the Montgomery County, Tennessee, Court of Common Pleas
January Term 1807 (WPA transcription)*

War of 1812 and Union Pensioners of the Civil War

Macon County, 1883

The following names are found in a document prepared by the federal government in 1883, titled *List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883*. The list was probably prepared by pension office officials in response to requests from Congress about how many pensioners were living in each Congressman's district. The information was reprinted in 1970 in four volumes by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore.



Macon County was formed in 1842, long after the War of 1812 was concluded, but these elderly soldiers and widows of that war were living there and drawing a pension in 1883. It can be assumed that anyone not listed specifically as a War of 1812 pensioner was receiving a death or disability pension for service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Since most records of Macon County prior to 1900 have been destroyed, these federal pension files will include records of marriages and other information not available anywhere else.



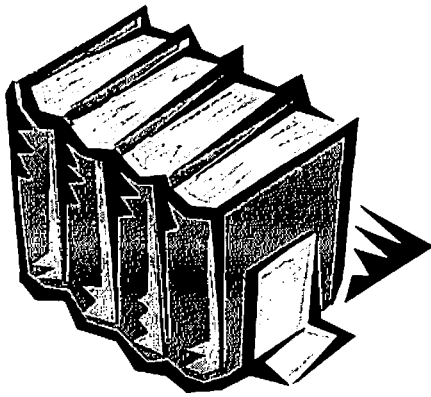
The list also shows the monthly payment being received, though that information was not transcribed for the *Journal*. Drawing a pension was no way to get rich: most veterans were paid only \$8 per month.

Many details about these pensioners can be obtained by reading their pension application files, which are available through the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These pension files have not been microfilmed and are only available in Washington. To order copies of pension files, submit Form NATF 85 to the National Archives. Fees will be in the \$40 range. Requests for forms can be submitted on-line at:

http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html

NAME	POST OFFICE	CAUSE FOR WHICH PENSIONED	YEAR ALLOWED
Adams, Catharine	LaFayette	widow 1812	1878
Adams, Elizabeth	LaFayette	widow 1812	1878
Adams, Isaac W.	Gibbs Crossroads	minor	1875
Anderson, Harriet	Eulia	widow 1812	1878
Austin, Martha	LaFayette	widow	1867
Bell, John H.	Red Boiling Springs	wound in arm	1881
Blankenship, Asa	LaFayette	wound in thigh & knee	1872
Bridgeman, Nancy	LaFayette	dependent mother	1867
Carr, Charity W.	Echo	widow 1812	1878
Carter, Nancy	Gibbs Crossroads	widow 1812	1878
Center, Mahala	LaFayette	widow	1880
Coley, Wm. D.	LaFayette	gunshot wound in lip	1881
Crocker, Matilda F.	Eulia	widow 1812	1879
Crosby, Mahala J.	LaFayette	widow 1812	1878
Donoho, Leroy	Gibbs Crossroads	wound in arm	1867
Doss, Sarah	LaFayette	widow 1812	1879
Dotson, William S.	Salt Lick	injury to abdomen	1882
Ellis, Louisa J.	LaFayette	widow	1869
Fishburn, Rachel	LaFayette	widow	1867

NAME	POST OFFICE	CAUSE FOR WHICH PENSIONED	YEAR ALLOWED
Freeman, Margaret C.	LaFayette	widow	1867
Freeman, Sarah J.	LaFayette	widow	1867
Glover, Geo. L.	LaFayette	wound in jaw	1871
Gregory, Nancy G.	LaFayette	widow	1875
Haines, Benjamin M.	Long Creek	gunshot wound both thighs	1876
Hargis, Shadrack B.	LaFayette	wound in hand	1867
Hawkins, Joshua	Red Boiling Springs	gunshot wound in thigh	1880
Hooze, Newton	LaFayette	wound in shoulder	1870
Jenkins, Baley P.	Gibbs Crossroads	wound of body	1867
Jenkins, Dixon A.	Gibbs Crossroads	wound in left knee	1869
Jenkins, Martha	LaFayette	widow	1867
Johnson, Martha	Echo	widow 1812	1879
Jones, Elizabeth	Gibbs Crossroads	widow	1868
Jones, Louisa E.	LaFayette	widow	1867
Kearby, Montavilla A.	Gibbs Crossroads	widow	1866
King, James W.	LaFayette	gunshot wound in lung	1877
King, Robinson Sr.	Gibbs Crossroads	varicose veins	blank
King, Wm.	LaFayette	survivor of 1812	1871
Leonard, Elizabeth	Red Boiling Springs	widow	1867
Marsh, Martha J.	LaFayette	widow	1866
Maxey, Susan	LaFayette	widow	1867
McCullough, Martha J.	LaFayette	widow	1870
McDuffy, Martha J.	LaFayette	widow & child	1871
McKinnis, George	Gibbs Crossroads	gunshot wound in leg	1870
McWhirter, Mary	Echo	widow 1812	1880
Meador, Martha	LaFayette	widow 1812	1878
Meador, Susan	LaFayette	dependent mother	1870
Meador, Tyre J.	LaFayette	lung disease	1877
Nichols, Elvira A.	LaFayette	widow	1875
Norman, Francis C.	LaFayette	widow	1867
Parker, Louisa B.	LaFayette	widow 1812	1879
Propes, Martha J.	LaFayette	widow	1877
Raglin/Ragland, Reuben	LaFayette	wound in both legs	1867
Roark, Cyrene	LaFayette	survivor of 1812	1878
Russell, Levi A.	Gibbs Crossroads	gunshot wound thru abdomen	1870
Smothers, Martha F.	LaFayette	widow 1812	1878
Sullivan, Margaret	Eulia	widow	1869
Swindle, Mary S.	Echo	widow	1882
Talman, Jesse L.	LaFayette	gunshot wound in heel	1874
Thomas, Maranda	Gibbs Crossroads	widow	1868
Wakefield, Gilbert H.	Gibbs Crossroads	gunshot wound in knee	1869
Walden, Caroline	LaFayette	dependent mother	1866
Walker, Charlotte C.	LaFayette	widow 1812	1879
Wallace, Rhoda G.	LaFayette	widow	1867
West, Hamilton	Red Boiling Springs	gunshot wound in head	1882
Whitley, Jefferson C.	Red Boiling Springs	wound in knee	1867
Wilson, Jonathan B.	Red Boiling Springs	gunshot wound in shoulder	1869
Woods, Minerva F.	LaFayette	widow	1869
Wright, Hannah R.	Gibbs Crossroads	widow 1812	1878



Book Reviews

by Shirley Wilson

The Williams Family of Granville County, North Carolina and Marshall County, Tennessee by Elizabeth T. Schack. Softback 8 ½ x 11, 195 pp., appendix, footnotes, illustrations, index, photographs, no copyright. A few copies available from author at 49 East 73 Street, New York, NY 10021-3564.

The descendants of William Williams who died in 1813 in Granville County, North Carolina, are traced in this genealogy which is divided into two sections. Allied families are Allison, Boyd, Camden, Haislip, Harris, Ogilvie and Peace.

The first section includes general information on the various family members. Lovely old color photographs of ancestors and their homes make attractive additions to the text and a list of illustrations is helpful in locating them. There is an index in the middle of the book that partially indexes this material.

The second section, which represents almost half of the book, is not indexed. This is a colorful and attractive family tree section listing the descendants with dates of vital records. Although there is an outline of the families preceding the trees, an index to the many names in it and a numbering system would have been welcome additions.

The Webb Families of DeKalb County, Tennessee and 23 Related Families by Thomas Gray Webb. Hardback, 696 pp., index. \$50 from author, 835 South College Street, Smithville, TN 37166.

In this family history, DeKalb's county historian, has presented key genealogical data on family heads,

select narrative biographies, family charts, and almost 70 pages of individual and group photos and illustrations. The book culminates more than 50 years research by Webb, who also wrote *A Bicentennial History of DeKalb County, Tennessee*, published in 1995.

In addition to the families of John Byars Webb, Elisha Webb and Levi Webb, the 23 related families include the Bethel, Cantrell, Colvert, Fuson, Gribble, Hicks, Jaco, Judkins, Magness, Mangum, Moser, Parker, Potter, Redmon, Snow, Turner and Weedon families plus the Farmer and Fooshee families of Virginia; the Gray, George and Sageley families of Cannon County, Tennessee, and the Nathaniel Miller family of Rutherford County, Tennessee. Others include the Patterson, Young, Loring, Byars, Evins, Parrish, Davis, Reeder, Van Hooser, Ray, Odom, Farler, Braswell, Jacobs, Sandlin, and Smithson families.

Printed on acid-free archival paper, *The Webb Families* contains a complete first-name index of more than 20,000 names and a complete list of references for each family line. The narratives tell about the families, how they lived, what problems they faced, and offer other personal insights, all based on old wills, inventories, and other period resources. Webb's study contains only a small state highway department map of DeKalb County and lacks a listing identifying the photos, illustrations and their page numbers.

Reviewed by Thomas K. Potter, Vice President of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society.

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Members of the Society are encouraged to submit unpublished primary source material of Middle Tennessee genealogical and historical importance to be considered for inclusion in the *Journal*. The data can be in the form of county records, cemetery accounts, Bible records, journals/diaries, "how-to" articles of broad interest, or historical facts. Family histories that are well documented and pertain to the Middle Tennessee area will also be considered. Photographs, drawings, maps, and other illustrations can accompany the article and are encouraged. Complete and specific sources in the proper form should be used in the submitted material. *Material should be limited to a published length of approximately five typeset pages.*

Please make sure handwriting is legible or the document is typed. Include your name, address, and phone number on the manuscript. If using a computer, save the file in Rich Text Format [.RTF], Generic DOS ASCII [.TXT], WordPerfect, or MSWord word processing format and enclose the disk, along with a printed copy of the article. *References/footnotes should be in the form of end notes and placed at the end of the article.* Once submitted, there can be no rewriting by the author except by request of the editor. The right to edit material for presentation, grammar, and form is reserved by the editorial staff, and all material submitted becomes the property of the Society.

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