

The MIDDLE TENNESSEE Journal of Genealogy & History



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Volume XVIII, Number 1
Summer 2004

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

at
Edmondson Pike Branch Library
5501 Edmondson Pike
just north of Old Hickory Blvd.
at Nippers Corner

Check our website for any changes
www.mtgs.org

Sept. 18, 2004

"Friersons Rediscovered & Reunited: Black & White"

Elizabeth Queener

The remarkable story of how the descendants of Dr. T.J. Frierson and his 97 slaves of Maury County were reunited in their common heritage and reaffirmed in their hopes for tomorrow. Mrs. Queener, a Frierson descendant, often lectures on the antebellum era and genealogy.

Nov. 20, 2004

"Genealogical Research in the South"

Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck

Our annual Fall Conference returns to the Brentwood United Methodist Church. Featuring renowned genealogist from the Dallas Public Library. See p. 48 for details.

Jan. 15, 2005

"Show & Tell"

One of MTGS most popular programs, this open form is for interested family historians who want to share their favorite heirlooms and artifacts. Bring the bullet they removed from Uncle Ned the chicken thief or the apron that Aunt Sookie was married in, and share the stories that go with them!

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

Middle Tennessee

Journal of Genealogy & History

Volume XVIII, Number 1, Summer 2004

Table of Contents

From the Editor	2
Southern Ancestors in Union Army Records	
The Blanton family in Provost Marshal's Papers	3
Obituary of Capt. John D. Tolly, C.S.A.	
Lincoln County, 1912	7
Dead Letters at Carthage, 1824	8
Registered Voters of Gallatin, 1894	
by Shirley Wilson	9
Genealogical Serendipities (Part III)	
In the Footsteps of a Missing Soldier	
by Thomas K. Potter, Jr.	15
Deaths at Owen Chapel Church of Christ, 1863-1889	
by Carol Farrar Kaplan	23
Ma's Corner: A Tribute to Granny Sweeten	26
Williamson County Boy Sees the World	
S.H. Hill's Long Journey to California	27
Haden/Merril Slave Dispute	28
Middle Tennessee Supreme Court Records	
By Betsy Ragsdale and Gale W. Bamman	31
School Records of Middle Tennessee	
Jackson College, Columbia, 1849-50	35
Alumni of Jackson College, 1835-1853	40
Vandalism Threatens Nashville City Cemetery	
By Lauren Batte	41
Protection Papers Issued by the Union Army	43
Research Files of Past Tennessee Genealogists	
The Turner Family file of Caroline Crockett	44
Queries. By Bobby Ezell	46
In Memoriam : Betsy Ragsdale	47
Book Reviews. By Shirley Wilson	47
Journal Policy and Information	Inside Back Cover

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**Middle Tennessee Journal
of Genealogy & History**

Editor

Charles A. Sherrill

Contributors in this issue

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Julia Otey Lee

Betsy Ragsdale

Mary Sue Smith

Shirley Wilson

From the Editor. . .

Dear Readers:

Please dig into this issue of the Journal with the enthusiasm of a genealogist opening a dusty old ledger book!

You'll find plenty of variety here, and some real gems. Among them are Thomas Potter's article detailing how he and his wife tracked the story of her father through the desperate last days of Hitler's Army. Don't miss the footnotes for this article, as they are a veritable 'here's how' for this type of research.

New member Robbie Harris shares poignant memories of her childhood on Rebel Hill in McMinnville, along with the history of how that site earned its name during the Civil War.

A petition from Giles Countians concerned about the care of a 'raving lunatic' in their community provides insight into the care of mentally ill patients in the antebellum period, not to mention documentation of the sentiments of 78 early humanitarians from that area.

Your comments (and articles) are always welcome!

Chuck Sherrill

Journal Editor

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Yearly memberships include four issues of the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*. Make check or money order payable to MTGS. Dues are \$20.00 per membership year, beginning of fiscal years on June 1. See back cover for details and application form.

Printed by Miami Systems, Nashville, Tennessee 37209. Cover design by Dorothy Williams Potter. Indexed in the Genealogical Periodical Annual Index (GPAI) and PERiodical Source Index (PERSI). Our website: <http://www.mtgs.org/>

Southern Ancestors in Union Army Records

The Blanton Family in the Union Provost Marshal's Papers



During the Civil War Provost Marshals acted as military police. Appointed by the War Department to serve with Army units, they sought out and arrested deserters, Confederate spies and civilians suspected of disloyalty. They also controlled the passage of civilians into military zones, confined prisoners and recorded paroles and oaths of allegiance. The Provost Marshal had the authority to convene a court to try cases involving civilian violators of military orders and other offenses arising under the military jurisdiction.

Records of Union Provost Marshals from around the country have been compiled into one large collection by the National Archives.¹ Published on 300 rolls of microfilm, these records comprise a vast storehouse of information about military operations and the activities of civilians during the war.

The papers are not indexed, but genealogists will find them useful because they are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the individual involved. The following descriptive list of the 24 documents filed under the surname Blanton will serve to illustrate both the value and the variety of this collection.

Researchers will find these records among the microfilmed manuscript collections at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Records from all over the country can be found in the Provost Marshal's papers, but the areas best represented include Middle Tennessee (the area around Tullahoma where the occupying Union Army housed its area headquarters in 1863-64), Missouri, and New Orleans. Although the material is arranged alphabetically, it is not uncommon to find documents out of order. A Blankenship item was filed among the Blanton papers, and documents about J.N. Blanton were not all filed together.

Former Confederates were often required to take the much-hated Oath of Allegiance to the United States in order to stay out of military prison. Many of these oaths appear in the Provost Marshal's collection. The text of the oath is as follows.

The Oath of Allegiance

I, _____, County of _____, State of _____, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by the laws of the United States. And I take this oath freely and voluntarily, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever, with a full and clear understanding that Death, or other punishment by the judgment of a Military Commission, will be the penalty for the violation of this, my solemn oath and parole of honor.

The Missouri State Archives has undertaken a very valuable project to identify all of the Missouri documents in the Provost Marshal's papers, and to create a name index to all of those documents. Although the project is still in its beginning stages, the index to the first several reels can be found on the Archives' web site at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost>

A separate but similar group of records titled *Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians* is also available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.² As the title indicates, these records deal with groups of people. Two short examples of documents from this collection can be found the article titled *Protection Papers ...*, also in this issue.²

In order to learn more about these records, I studied all of the entries under the surname Blanton. My ancestor Jasper Newton Blanton was a Confederate soldier from Bedford County, Tennessee. To my surprise, I found that his wife, Lucy Willis Blanton, had given testimony to the Provost Marshal on behalf of a nephew (to confuse the matter, the nephew was also named Jasper Newton Blanton). A family story handed down through the years is that Union soldiers came to Lucy's home during the war, took all the food and valuables they could find, and even dumped out the contents of the churn she was working all over the furniture. It seems likely that this raid by the Union soldiers may have been a result of the incident described in her testimony to the Provost Marshal.

The records below show that the younger J.N. Blanton was accused of piloting Confederate bushwhackers to raid the home of the Widow Shofner whose sons were serving in the Union Army. Fortunately, the young man escaped hanging, later moving to Texas where he died after 1900.³

Although not all of these Blanton records pertain to Middle Tennessee, I have included the complete selection. I was unable to determine whether the files for which there is only an introductory card and no further documentation may be followed up elsewhere.

The Blanton Files

Item #1. A.T. Blantan.

Provost Marshal file card bearing the name of A.T. Blantan, and the number 14431.

Item #2. J.S. Blantan.

Provost Marshal file card bearing the name of J.S. Blantan, 28th N.C. Inf., and the number 22641.

Item #3. John Blantin.

Provost Marshal file card bearing the name of John Blantin, Palmetto S.S., and the number 15401.

Item #4. (Rebel) Blanton.

Provost Marshal file card noted "Blanton, (Rebel)" with the number 14977.

Item #5. B.F. Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of B.F. Blanton, of Moniteaur Township, Howard County, Missouri. Sworn 23 June 1862 before Capt. Jas. B. Mason. Witnessed by John W. Busley, Jr.

Item #6. B.F. Blanton.

Provost Marshal file card bearing the name of B.F.

Blanton (citizen) and the number 20848. Notation: "S.S. to Mrs. Edith W. Blanton. 813 N. Ramsey Ave., Sikiston, Mo. 10-18-30. Call for Ben F. Blanton, Mo." indicates a descendant requested information about this file in 1930.

Item #7. B.M. Blanton.

Certificate from Capt. J. McCahon, Provost Marshal at Leavenworth City, Kansas. "I am acquainted with B.M. Blanton, the bearer, and know him to be a loyal man. He is an old resident of Kansas and in our early troubles he was a staunch Free State man and was subject to many privations on that account."

Item #8. E.A. Blanton.

Provost Marshal file card bearing the name of E.A. Blanton and the number 16246.

Item #9. Blanton Family.

Provost Marshal file card noted "Blanton (Family)" with the number 22133.

Item #10. John A. Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of John A. Blanton of Crawford County, Missouri, dated 26 May 1862. Witnessed by Wm. G. Pomeroy, Notary Public, Statesville, Crawford County, Missouri. Signed James A. Blanton (his mark).

Item #11. Mrs. J.C. Blanton.

Letter from Mrs. J.C. Blanton, Tunnel Hill, Georgia, to Capt. S.B. Moe, 1 Aug. 1864. She makes application for exemption from a General Order to evacuate and to remain at home. Wm. Howard and C. McCuller vouched for her loyalty. Note on the document states "The applicant's husband has deserted the rebel army and is now in Indiana working for the Gover't."

Item #12. J.N. Blanton.

Bond of J.N. Blanton, M.W. Watson, J.N. Blanton, and Thomas Byars of Bedford Co., Tenn., for \$1,000. "The conditions of this obligation are such that whereas the said bound J.N. Blanton is now in arrest on charge of being a Guerilla that upon being released from custody he will commit no act of hostility towards the Government of the United States or in any way aid or assist the enemies, that he will ... [be] a peaceable and law abiding citizen of the United States.... Given at Tullahoma Tenn., this 8th day of Mar. A.D. 1865."

Item #13. J.G. Blanton.

Pass for J.G. Blanton from Cairo, Illinois to Jefferson City, Missouri, dated 22 June 1865. "En route home in compliance with G.O. no. 104 A.G.O. 1865. He having taken the oath of allegiance."

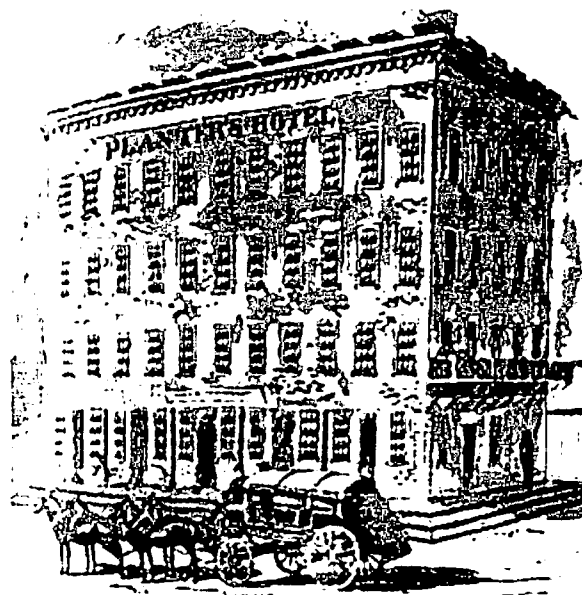
Item #14. Martin V. Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of Martin V. Blanton of Crawford County, Missouri, dated 26 May 1862. Witnessed by Wm. G. Pomeroy, Notary Public, Statesville, Crawford County, Missouri. Signed by Marvin V. Blanton (his mark).

Item #15. N.B. Blanton.

Letter from N.B. Blanton dated Aug. 21, 1863. Written from Planter's House, Leavenworth, Kansas to Gen. Thoms. Ewing, Kansas City, Missouri. "I wrote you yesterday and did not sign my name and when you receive this letter you may know who the letter is from. When I see you I can explain why I did not sign my name. It is signed B. If you could let me know when you would be at Kansas City or when I could see you, I will come. I just got hear a few minutes after you had left. I can assshure you that your detectives cannot ade

you for they or the majority of them are conserned in the murder and robbery and I know I can satisfy you when I see you." [signed] N.B. Blanton. "P.S. I am stopping at my brother's at Kickapoo. I am in the city nearly evry day. N.B.B."



Planter's Hotel in Leavenworth, Kansas

Item #16. N.B. Blanton.

Letter from "B" [N.B. Blanton] dated August 20, 1863. Written from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Gen. Thomas Ewin at Kansas City, Mo. Alleges that the Provost Marshal at Kansas City has "a lot of detectives" who are murderers and thieves. Claims that one of them named Jack Bridges "... the night before Muligan surrenderd Lexinton murdered the Banker & Clerk" who were carrying \$250,000 in specie. "The said Bridges and one Swain called Jeff Davis left Kansas City last week with one hundred soldiers and two wagons." Warns not to let the Provost Marshal or detectives or the city police see the letter "for they are connected in the matter." Says he has been offered \$5,000 to assist the robbers. Says he can be contacted under the name of J.B. Wright, Mansion House.

Item #17. Lucy Blanton.

Affidavits of Lucy Blanton and Minerva Bobo of Bedford County Tenn., dated 15 Feb. 1865, respecting Newton Blanton who is confined at Shelbyville. Sworn before Maj. John Wortham. "Lucy Blanton is the wife of J.N. Blanton. Newton Blanton is her husband's nephew, and has lived with Lucy since he was about

six years old. Newton is now about 17 years old, not yet 18. Some time before 25 Dec. 1864 a dozen rebel soldiers or bushwhackers came to her house. One of them was William Blanton, a cousin of the prisoner and a nephew of her husband. Young William said they were going to Woodberry that night.

William and a man called Taylor came into the house and asked for food. William came to her and said Aunt Lucy I am going to take Newton to pilot us. She tried to dissuade him, telling him amongst other things that he would get them all into trouble. Newton didn't want to go but "they were armed and very decided." Newton went off with them after dark and returned about 11 o'clock the same night.



J.N. and Lucy (Willis) Blanton
of Bedford County, Tenn.

Minerva Bobo swore that she and her little brother was going to visit her sister, Mrs. Evans, when she got to Mrs. Blanton's and saw William Blanton and 15 or 16 Confederate soldiers there. She did not know any of them beside William. While Mrs. Blanton was out of the room William asked Minerva if there was a person in the neighborhood who could pilot them around to some houses that night. "I told him there was but three men left ... Mr. Davis was not at home ... Mr. Crisnbe[?] & Mr. Williams were old men." William said he'd be damned if he did not intend to have someone. She left, but a short time after "the same Rebels came to my mother's and asked for supper and were talking about going to Coffee County and asked Newton Blanton if he would not go and pilot them. He gave them an evasive answer and when they talked about pressing him he slipped out and hid out all night when it was very cold."

Item #18. Newton Blanton.

Shelbyville, Tenn., Feb. 16, 1865. Dispatch from Maj. John Wortham, Post Commander, forwarding under arrest Newton Blanton charged with "piloting bushwhackers to the residence of Mrs. Shofner a loyal widow lady of Bedford Co. during Hood's Raid." They treated her very badly because she had two sons in the Federal Army. Refers to witnesses Mike Shofner, Lt. 4th Tenn. Mtd. Inf., Mrs. Shofner, and Martin Shofner, citizen. Encloses the affidavits of Lucy Blanton and Minerva Bobo "both bad Rebs."

Endorsed by Maj. A.W. Billings, Provost Marshal on Feb. 28, 1865. "Respectfully returned to Maj. Wortham with an order from Gen. Milroy to take the depositions in the case. "I find many extenuating circumstances in this young man's case.... During the past few weeks he has acted as guide for our men and fought with them. Return this with your opinion endorsed."

Item #19. Thompson Blanton.

Bond of Thompson Blanton, B.F. Blanton and Chas. H. Collins for \$1,000, dated 14 Jan. 1864. Conditions that Thompson Blanton of Iron County, Missouri, who has been arrested on a charge of disloyalty, swears to be loyal to the United States and not to aid its enemies.

Item #20. Thompson Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of Thompson Blanton of Iron County, Missouri. Dated 14 Jan. 1864 at Pilot Knob, Missouri. Blanton is 18 years old, 5' 6", blue eyes, sandy hair. Signed by mark. Sworn before Lieut. Thos. H. Mackensie, Provost Marshal. Witnessed by James A. Shields, Co. M, 3rd Cav., M.S.M.

Item #21. Vincent Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of Vincent Blanton of St. Francis County, Missouri. Dated 18 Oct. 1863 at Pilot Knob, Missouri. Describes Blanton as 25 years old, 5' 9" high, with blue eyes and light brown hair. Limits Blanton to St. Francis County and requires him to report to the Provost Marshal at Pilot Knob on the first day of each month by letter. Signed before Lieut. George F. Crocker, Provost Marshal. Witnessed by W.C. Kellogg, 3rd Colorado Inf.

Item #22. Vincent Blanton.

Bond of Vincent Blanton and Vincent Blanton (both signed with a mark) for \$500, dated 10 Oct. 1863. Conditions that Vincent Blanton of St. Francis County, Missouri, who has been arrested on a charge of

disloyalty, swears to be loyal to the United States and not to aid its enemies.

Item #23. W. Blanton.

Letter from W. Blanton dated 9 July 1863, written at Frankfort, Kentucky. Addressed to Brig. Gen. Hartsuff, commanding at Lexington. Requests the general to appoint officers to assess the damage being done by soldiers staying on his property, so that he may submit

it for compensation. The back of the letter is inscribed with an order to Col. Drake to direct the commanding officer at Frankfort to appoint an assessment board.

Item #24. William W. Blanton.

Oath of allegiance of William W. Blanton of Crawford County, Missouri, dated 26 May 1862. Witnessed by Wm. G. Pomeroy, Notary Public, Statesville, Crawford County, Missouri. ■

Obituary of Capt. John D. Tolly, C.S.A.

Lincoln County, 1912

Wednesday of last week Elder A.J. Willis was called from his home in this city to preach the funeral of John D. Tolly, and ex-confederate soldier who had reached his seventy-fifth milestone in life. He was born March 28, 1837 and died April 24, 1912. At the time of his death he was one of the most prominent citizens of Lincoln County, being strictly honorable in every sense of the word. He was quite a successful farmer of the neighborhood in which he lived. He died at his home near Mulberry, Lincoln County, but was placed beside his wife in the family burying grounds at Lynchburg, in Moore County, to sleep the last sleep.

**"He went through
The struggle of the
dark days of the
Sixties"**

Early in life the deceased began laying the cornerstone of his educational career in a little school in the neighborhood of Mulberry, later attending school at Burnett [sic] College in Van Buren County. From there he went to Knoxville and entered the State University. Later he completed a law course at the Lebanon Law School, receiving his diploma in the year 1860. In the year 1861 he was called to take up arms in the struggle between the states and enlisted with the Eighth Tennessee Regiment. He was soon elected Adjutant Major of his regiment and later made Captain of his company. He was honorably paroled at the close of the war and the fact that he was honorably discharged was cherished very highly through the remainder of his career, as there is nothing so highly pleasing to an old confederate soldier than to know he went through the struggle of the dark days of the sixties and came out with an honorable discharge. Immediately after the war Mr. Tolly practiced law and made quite a success at his profession, but being a lover of nature, he engaged himself in the tilling of the soil, and as a planter, he made his mark.

On June 15, 1875, deceased was married to Miss Jennie P. Holman, and to this union there were born four children, only one of these living, J. Holman Tolly, who resides at the old homeplace and who is an experienced stock man and farmer. The funeral of Mrs. John Tolly was conducted the 28th day of last February by Elder J.G. Woodfin, also of this city. The family are all members of the Primitive Baptist Church, Mr. Tolly having united with Mt. Moriah Church in the year 1902.

From an unidentified Marion County, Tennessee, newspaper, May 3, 1912.

Notes for "Southern Ancestors..." :

¹ *Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Individual Citizens*. National Archives Microfilm Publication M345 (Washington, D.C.:1966). Filed at the Tenn. State Library & Archives as Mf. Mss. #1047.

² *Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians* (National Archives Microfilm publication M1098.) Filed at the Tenn. State Library & Archives as Microfilmed Manuscript #1607.

³ Jasper Newton Blanton, born about 1846, probably in Grundy County, Tennessee, was a son of Smith Blanton and his wife Nancy Willis. His father died before he was nine. J.N. and wife Sallie are listed in the 1880 census of Navarro County, Texas, with three children. In 1900 they were living in Palo Alto County, Texas.

Dead Letters at Carthage, 1824

"A list of letters remaining in the post office at Carthage on the 1st day of October, 1824, which if not taken out before the 1st of January next will be sent to the General post office as dead letters. "
Submitted by R.O.I. Chester, Postmaster.

From the *Tennessee Republican*, Carthage, Nov. 8, 1824.

Alford, James
Allison, Thomas
Austin, Levi
Acuff, Miss
Ashworth, Moses
Beicat, Susannah
Birchett, Joseph
Bradford, Mary
Bradford, Booker
Bomar, Will J.
Bomer, Thomas
Branch, Pledge
Briton, Will C.
Bransford, John
Bullas, J.M.
Butts, Wilson
Blew, Daniel
Belk, Jeremiah
Burton, Jacob
Beasly, Braddock
Boulton, Lent
Bigelow, Luther
Burnit, John
Brown, Jessee
Bishop, Joseph
Blankencheap, Jessee M.
Carter, Ammon
Chatham, Danl.
Calloctt, Saml.
Cooksey, John T.
Dyer, B.B.
Dunkin, Elijah
Dunlap, R.G.
Douglas, David S.

Douglass, Coleman
Davis, John H.
Davis, Uriah
Day, Henson
Daily, Charles
Du---[?], Josiah
Ewing, John
Ellison, Nancy
Everett, David
Ford, Miss Susan
Fagg, James
Fite, Leonard
Grisham, Will
Gordon, James S.
Hart, Will, clerk
Hogg, David
Hammach, Wm.
Hanie, Elijah
Hughes, E.P.
Hynes, Thos.
Harris, Turner
Howard, Thos.
Huff, John
Huddleston, Thos.
Hodges, John
Hardwich, Benj.
Huntsman, Adam
Hazzard, Lott
Hastings, John
Jackson, Thomas
John, Jesse
Jared, Nathaniel
Jared, Joseph
Johnston, Robert

Joseph, Joseph
Jones, Saml.
Jinkins, Wilson
King, John W.
Kerby, Archibald
Knotts, Levi
Lynch, Joseph J.
McMellan, Malcom
Moody, James
Martin, George
Moore, Thomas
McGee, John
Montgomery, Joseph G.
Moore, Will H.
Murphee, Joseph
Morris, Demsey
Mann, Lindsey
Micabee, Jas.
Needham, Thomas
Overall, Abraham
Parris, Elizabeth Mrs.
Petty, William James
Porter, James
Pope, Philip
Perrison, John
Payne, Nehemiah
Ragland, Addison
Reese, John
Rowark, Andrew
Rawley, Danl.
Roberts, Elizabeth
Rowland, David
Robertson, Stephen
Reeves, John

Rucks, James
Smith, James Thomas
Sanders, William
Shoemake, Elizabeth
Sullivan, Lee
Sutton, James
Shaw, John
Smith, F.R.
Sexton, John C.
Sadler, Thomas
Shaw, Thos.
Strange, B.B.
Shepherd, Thos.
Tynes, David
Turner, Stephen H.
Turney, Peter
Towns, Edmond
Whitley, Jones
West, Miles
Warren, Etheldred
Woodson, John
Winfrey, Allen C.
Wooton, Alary
Waggoner, Jacob



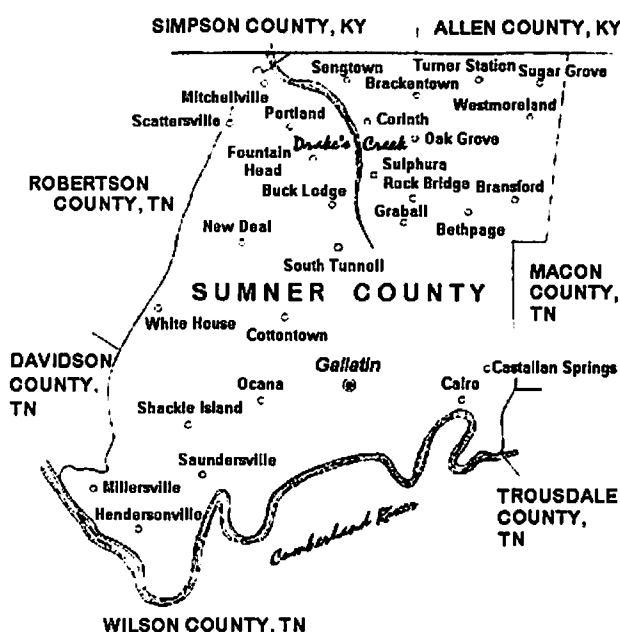
Registered Voters of Gallatin, 1894

Contributed by Shirley Wilson.

This index to registered voters in the town of Gallatin (the third district) in Sumner County was copied from Election Returns on file at the Sumner County Archives and housed in Record Group 87. The original list includes both white and African American voters (who are identified by a *b* following their names). Information includes name, color, age, street, owner of house, marital status, nativity, avocation, time of residence (within the city, county and state), place of business, and place of residence. The last two categories are occasionally omitted and are not included for any entries numbered above 171. Listed below is a sample entry:

#65 Robert Meek, white, age 60, resides on S. Water, home owned by George Boddie, married, native of New York, occupation railroad man, resided in Tennessee eight years, in the city of Gallatin eight years and in Sumner County eight years, employed by the C & N. Railroad, previously resided in Louisville, Kentucky.

Copies of original entries can be obtained by visiting or writing to the Sumner County Archives, 155 East Main Street, Gallatin, Tenn. 37066, or by contacting the Archives website <http://www.sumnertn.org/archives> or by email at SumnerSettlers@yahoo.com. Please cite the name and number of the person whose information you want along with the record group (RG87) and include a stamped self-addressed envelope and a \$5 search fee.



Map by Danene Vincent, from Sumner County GenWeb site
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsumner/sumnmap.htm>

Voter Name	Entry Number
Abston, Chairot - b	361
Abston, Jack - b	292
Alexander, Andrew - b	445
Algood, Alex - b	126
Algood, Cy - b	235
Algood, Henry - b	431
Algood, Washington - b	313
Allen, B. F.	206
Allen, Geo. W.	413
Allen, Jas. S.	102
Allen, W. Y.	455
Anderson, D. B.	376
Anderson, Levy - b	484
Anderson, P. L.	234
Anderson, W. L.	299
Anderson, Will - b	350
Anthony, J. F. - b	475

Voter Name	Entry Number
Apples, Tom - b	412
Armstrong, J. C. - b	153
Baber, James - b	138
Baber, John T.	97
Baber, Tom - b	155
Baird, E. R.	61
Baker, George	340
Baker, Joe? E.	88
Baker, John - b	303
Baker, Ruffin - b	342
Baker, W. L.	67
Baker, Woody - b	358
Barbour, A. M.	52
Barbour, W. A.	470
Barry, J. R.	170
Barry, John - b	89
Barry, L. W.	418

Voter Name	Entry Number
Baskerville, J. A.	405
Beard, Arthur - b	415
Beebe, R.	363
Bell, B. D.	75
Bell, Ben	509
Bentley, Jim - b	327
Birdwell, J. W.	186
Blackmore, J. W.	69
Blakemore, D. C.	298
Blakemore, F. D.	16
Blakemore, J. T.	19
Blakemore, W. F.	208
Bledsoe, Ned - b	421
Bloodsworth, Webb	320
Blue, A. M.	271
Blue, Irby L.	373
Blue, John F.	105
Blue, W. C.	217
Blythe, Dou? - b	40
Blythe, Slec? - b	78
Blythe, Tony - b	144
Boddie, Cole - b	218
Boddie, G. W.	209
Bond, J. D.	296
Bowers?, Isaac - b	220
Boyers, Thomas Jr.	224
Boyers, Thomas Sr.	230
Bradley, John H.	416
Brandon, C. L.	152
Branham, J. F.	207
Brant, L. A.	125
Brassell, Harry A.	459
Brown, C. B.	76
Brown, H. S.	438
Brown, Harris	1
Brown, J. B.	182
Brown, Temple - b	236
Bruce, Hal	506
Bruce, J. F.	127
Bruce, J. R.	60
Bruce, S. W.	231
Bryant, C. P. - b	233
Buchanon, E. O.	454
Buckingham, Alfred	407
Buckingham, B. F.	473
Buckingham, T. L.	142
Bugg, Henry - b	30
Bullock, Ed - b	505

Voter Name	Entry Number
Burney, A. M.	184
Burns, George - b	86
Burton, Joe - b	461
Burton, Milus - b	216
Bymes, W. T.	262
Cadzon, A. D.	306
Cage, James	45
Caldwell, R. W.	337
Calgy, Daniel	294
Callender, C. W. S.	188
Cantrell, Henry - b	326
Cantrell, Henry - b	344
Cantrell, J. M.	24
Cantrell, Ned - b	365
Cantrell, Wm. - b	456
Carmichael, J. W.	434
Carr, Anderson - b	273
Carr, Willis - b	404
Chapman, J. F.	351
Chapman, W. A.	439
Chenault, C. B.	432
Chenault, D. S.	264
Chenault, Horace - b	214
Chenault, Robt. - b	391
Chenault, Waller	355
Chrisman, A. D.	10
Chrisman, John T.	201
Clark, John C.	71
Clark, M. A.	366
Cocke, S. F.	388
Cocke, T. W.	448
Cole, Bomey? - b	156
Cole, J. H.	488
Combs, L. D.	117
Covington, George - b	281
Cox, E. J.	464
Craig, Ben	139
Craig, E. T.	7
Cron, J. E.	43
Crump, Lewis	272
Dancey, Jim	433
Darnell, Charles - b	309
David, Frank - b	463
Davis, R. J.	250
Day, C. H.	255
Day, Thom. J.	279
Dickson, Richard - b	244
Dillard, J. O.	501

Voter Name	Entry Number
Dillard, Owen	500
Dismukes, Branch - b	290
Dismukes, G. R.	458
Dismukes, Geo. W.	356
Dismukes, Lyman? - b	368
Dismukes, Porter	378
Dismukes, W. C.	310
Dobbins, James - b	223
Donelson, J. B.	204
Donnell, R. E.	436
Douglass, C. C.	435
Douglass, C. S.	12
Douglass, George - b	393
Downs, Andrew	424
Drandon?, Thomas	133
Drane, J. W.	278
Drane, L. A.	447
Drane, P. E.	354
Driver, Burrell	332
Duffy, Frank	270
Durham, J. J.	53
Edwards, Mose - b	498
Elkin, Robt.	96
Elliott, Jerry - b	480
Ellis, T. S.	93
Ellis, Thomas - b	112
Epperson, Jack - b	129
Escue, F. D.	107
Escue, A. H.	286
Escue, Thom. L.	284
Estas, T? D.	406
Evans, J. M.	394
Evans, Polk - b	375
Evertson, D. B.	449
Ewing, M. A.	251
Ferguson, J. W.	158
Fidler, H. R.	254
Fitzgerald, Guy	149
Foley, Freeman - b	226
Foster, C. A.	265
Foster, J. H.	410
Foster, O. H.	157
Foster, P. A.	510
Foster, R. M.	483
Foster, Wm. - b	205
Frakes, H. A.	197
Franklin, A. C.	164
Franklin, C. R.	487

Voter Name	Entry Number
Franklin, Edwin - b	247
Franklin, Ernest	185
Franklin, Houston - b	68
Franklin, Joe - b	116
Fry, Abraham	27
Fry, John	131
Fry, Wm. M.	382
Furgerson, Alfred - b	486
Gaines, Thos. L.	485
Gaines, W. R.	121
Gainor, George	323
Gammon, Hardy - b	42
Gardner, Founty? - b	84
Gardner, Jas. F.	335
Gilbert, B. P. Dr.	18
Gilmore, J. W.	261
Glenn, Gus - b	314
Gourley, W. M.	8
Gray, C. W.	132
Green, George - b	38
Green, John - b	417
Green, S. N.	293
Green, S. N.	387
Green, W. F.	11
Greer, James	124
Greer, S. C.	348
Greer, W. R.	187
Guil, Rufus - b	311
Guild, Harry B.	451
Guild, W. A.	494
Gunn, Charles	495
Guthrie, G. K.	5
Guthrie, I? N.	32
Guthrie, Will M.	213
Halbert, J. A.	338
Hall, Wm.	195
Halloran, Wm.	118
Hamilton, Gaston - b	377
Hampton, H. C.	308
Hampton, Richard	427
Harlin, Jas. - b	141
Harris Tallmage - b	336
Harris, C. G.	453
Harris, John B.	106
Harris, Tyree B.	312
Hart, Curtis - b	47
Hart, James - b	79
Haynie, L. B.	23

Voter Name	Entry Number
Head, Green - b	99
Head, Walter - b	237
Head, Woody - b	400
Hearn, Elija - b	135
Henley, H. D.	196
Henley, T. J.	240
Hester, Bob - b	120
Hibbett, James - b	383
Hickerson, George - b	242
Hickerson, Henry - b	287
Hitchcock, C. W.	283
Holder, Peter - b	171
Holder, T. J.	423
Hollett, C. W.	151
Holmes, H. A.	258
Hooker, B. F.	379
Horay, Wm.	134
Hord, Robt. - b	282
Horten, John - b	81
House, E. B.	109
House, Geo. T.	166
House, J. B.	370
House, James	176
House, Jim - b	243
House, R. E.	503
Howell, J. T.	364
Howerth, Samuel	466
Howison, J. B.	504
Hudson, Albert - b	441
Hullett, John M.	468
Hullett, W. O.	496
Hunter, W. F.	497
Hutchison, F. J.	28
Jackson, B. P.	72
Jamison, C. G.	452
Jamison, James	334
Jamison, Logan - b	362
Jenkins, Doc - b	411
Jenkins, J. B. W.	482
Jennings, J. P.	489
Jones, R. M.	215
Joyner, Elliott	119
Joyner, J. E.	54
Joyner, W. H.	3
Keen, W. M.	160
King, T. H.	191
King, T. H.	437
Kirk, Cal - b	159

Voter Name	Entry Number
Kirkpatrick, Logan - b	227
Lackey, S. E.	384
Lane, Y? B.	479
Lanier, J. J.	467
Lassiter, F. H.	66
Lassiter, M. S.	136
Lauderdale, Geo. - b	219
Lavender, T. F.	202
Lawrence T. J.	371
Lawrence, Ellis - b	491
Lawrence, L. W.	181
Lee, A. C.	194
Levy, C.	180
Levy, Sam	193
Lewis, F. W.	443
Lewis, S. R.	29
Lippman, L.	35
Locke, Wesley - b	280
Love, B. E.	34
Love, S. W.	414
Lucas, M. J.	460
Lucus, H. B.	13
Lulus?, W. E.	353
Lyle, H. C. - b	77
Lyle, Wm. - b	31
Lyles, Doc - b	359
Lyles, Sam - b	146
Lyte, Jim - b	385
Maddox, J. L.	263
Maddox, R. O.	341
Maddox, R. O. Sr.	360
Majors?, C. G.	253
Malone, Aaron - b	172
Malone, Ben - b	44
Malone, R. L.	477
Martin, D. D.	426
McCadden, John - b	189
McGavick, Hugh	114
McGlothlin, W. A.	62
McIntosh, Hugh	390
McIntosh, J. G.	513
McKinney, Frank - b	91
McLaren, J. H.	238
McLaren, Jackson	210
McLaren, O. C.	276
McMurray, Geo. - b	161
Meek, Robert	65
Miller, Charles - b	163

Voter Name	Entry Number
Miller, E. C.	257
Miller, J. K.	329
Miller, R. G.	442
Miller, A. C. - b	41
Mitchell, Charles	395
Mitchener, E. N.	98
Mitchener, J. N.	266
Mitchener, R. M.	331
Montgomery, Jim - b	228
Montgomery, W. N.	401
Moore, Albert - b	403
Moore, Larry - b	274
Moore, W. B. - b	165
Moseley, Edgar - b	49
Mosely, S. H.	333
Mulligan, T. C.	39
Naive?, J. J.	474
Natcher, C. M.	168
Newton, C. H.	302
Newton, H. E.	211
Newton, John W.	203
Newton, W. R.	476
Nickelson, E. F.	51
Nokes, Henry	465
Odom, J. T. E.	252
Odom, Joe - b	481
Odom, John - b	399
Oglesby, Abe - b	57
Oglesby, Newton - b	115
Oglesby, Wm. - b	300
Oldham, John H.	101
Oldham, W. L.	21
Orr, Harlin - b	457
Owen, E. R.	260
Pardue, W. W.	37
Parker, Brice - b	154
Parker, Ed - b	508
Parker, G. T.	145
Parker, Munch - b	499
Parker, W. P.	58
Patterson, Elija - b	92
Patterson, J. A.	74
Peacock, James	33
Pearson, Jas.	352
Pearson, Rufus	493
Peebles, W. R.	339
Penn, Newton	446
Person, H. W.	267

Voter Name	Entry Number
Person, J. R.	212
Peyton, Don - b	140
Peyton, John B.	103
Peyton, W. T.	55
Pierce, A. D.	289
Pierce, F. F.	80
Purdy, J. F.	190
Purseley, Ed - b	392
Pyles, Jack - b	178
Ramsey, E. A.	402
Ramsey, R. T.	301
Read, G. D.	64
Read, T. P.	108
Rippy, F. A.	183
Robb, J. Y.	123
Robb, Wm. L.	396
Robertson, W. A.	2
Rodemer, J. C.	398
Rodes, Chas. E.	70
Rodes, Jas. S.	367
Rogan, David - b	346
Rose, Z. T.	245
Roth, W. F.	17
Rutherford, B. O.	450
Rutledge, E. B.	307
Rutledge, W. H.	229
Ryan, C. G.	409
Sadler, C. C.	25
Sanders, Jim - b	148
Sanders, Jim - b	349
Sanders, Sam - b	330
Satterfield, Jas. W. - b	422
Schell, A. R.	36
Schell, Zach B.	297
Schluter, G. W.	198
Scott, Robt. - b	316
Seay, E. T.	324
Seay, Geo. E.	471
Shafer, Jas. - b	490
Shafer, Wash - b	225
Shannon, J. B.	315
Silcor, Calvin	428
Simpson, G. W.	175
Simpson, S. H.	174
Simpson, S. R.	386
Simpson, W. A. J.	56
Sloss, Alex - b	222
Smikes, Thomas - b	469

Voter Name	Entry Number
Smith, Captain - b	514
Smith, George - b	249
Smith, George Sr.	167
Smith, Henry - b	94
Smith, Willis - b	221
Smith, Wm. - b	85
Snow, J. C.	507
Snowden, Josh - b	317
Soper, J. A.	444
Soper, James	291
Spillers, D. K.	389
Stainback, John K.	232
Stainback, B. F.	150
Stewart, Joe - b	128
Strain, Sampson - b	46
Surber, W. H.	492
Surber, W.E.	374
Swaney, Joe - b	372
Swaney, A. J.	22
Taylor, J. D.	322
Terry, Wash - b	63
Thomas, G. W.	137
Thomson, Charlie - b	511
Thomson, Dave - b	82
Towson, Henry - b	48
Trousdale, C. W.	192
Trousdale, J. A.	111
Troutt, J. A.	6
Truer, H. E.	381
Turner, Hayward - b	87
Turner, Haywood Sr.	256
Turner, J. E.	319
Turner, J. Nat	26
Turner, Mason - b	347
Turner, Wm. - b	83
Vandens, James - b	50
Vaughan, E. D.	20
Vaughan, Willis - b	162
Vaughan, Witt - b	241
Vertrees, Peter - b	246
Vinson, T. S.	512
Waldroup, W.	397
Walker, Harry - b	113
Walker, Jas. K.	269
Walker, Larry W.	259
Wallace, C. B.	143
Wallace, J. C. Sr.	380
Wallace, John W.	59

Voter Name	Entry Number
Walton, W. E.	173
Walton, W. K.	4
Warran?, Wm. - b	73
Washington, Linsey - b	130
Watkins, Douglass - b	122
Watkins, George - b	462
Watkins, Henry - b	440
Watkins, James - b	288
Watson, Chas. P.	502
Watson, F.	425
Watson, Sam M.	419
Watson, Thomas	95
Webber, Hilton	345
Wells, Ben	147
Wells, W. T.	179
Wemyss, James A. Jr.	295
White, J. K.	321
White, John - b	343
White, Lewis T.	277
White, Sam - b	304
Whiteside, J. D.	472
Whitesides, J. M.	9
Wicknare, J. W.	14
Wile, L.	169
Wile, Morris A?	104
Wile, Moses	199
Williams, Anthony - b	248
Williams, Jim - b	100
Williams, W. O.	268
Williamson, Fred - b	110
Willis, Henry - b	420
Wilson, S. A.	429
Wilson, S. F.	478
Winston, Horace - b	357
Wiseman, J. C.	408
Withers, [illegible]	275
Witherspoon, Thos. F.	430
Witherspoon, W.	285
Woodard, David	239
Woodard, F. A.	318
Woodfolk, John - b	90
Woodson, L. M.	369
Woodson, T. M. Dr.	200
Wooten, W. B.	15
Wright, Simon - b	177
Wylie, Hugh	328
Wylie, James - b	325
Wylie, A. L.	305

Genealogical Serendipities

by Thomas K. Potter, Jr.

Maybe you already know the feeling . . .

- A doorway opens, unexpectedly. Now you are facing the past.
- An ancestor is before you, someone you never really knew.
- An old family homeplace emerges.
- A treasured heirloom takes on new meaning. A family mystery melts away.

It's an unexpected find, almost by accident---*a genealogical serendipity!*

This three-part series describes instances of genealogical serendipity the author has experienced.

Part Three

In the Footsteps of A Missing Soldier

The latest genealogical serendipity involved my wife's father, a man she cannot remember.

When she was only four years old, he was reported missing on the eastern front near the end of World War II.

But the family clung to the belief that somehow he had survived. They waited day after day to hear his name as long lists were read over the radio in the late 1940s and early 1950s, identifying hundreds of thousands of prisoners-of-war finally released from Soviet captivity.

His name was never read out.

He was one of about two million German soldiers missing in action.¹

Our search began only with what my wife and her sister could recall: their father's name (Walter Lass), branch of service (Army), birthplace (Demmin, Pomerania), his approximate age (born about 1910), and dim memories of a blonde-haired, blue-eyed man.

Over the next two years, we learned what probably happened to him, documented his full name, rank and military service record, found histories of two units in which he served, discovered eyewitness accounts of wartime events in the area where he last served, and contacted two veterans who served in his regiment.

The research project began with e-mail and letter inquiries to several libraries, government agencies, and other institutions in eight German cities. We were searching for personal information, data about his military service, whether he had been a prisoner-of-war, or his body identified and buried in any one of German military cemeteries in eastern Europe. Contacts were made with the present *Bundeswehr* (German Armed Forces) Academy, archives in

¹ See "Fathers for Life" <<http://www.fathersforlife.org/hist/wwiicas.htm>>. The Senate of Bremen announced on Oct. 31, 1949 that 1,902,704 German soldiers were reported missing, based on daily tallies compiled through January 31, 1945 by the U. S. Armed Forces Headquarters. Germany surrendered May 8, 1945. Other German military losses included about 3.5 million killed in action and approximately 5 million wounded, according to Marcus Wendel's "World War II Factbook" <<http://www.infoplease.com>> In the last half of 1944-1945, two million were reported killed in action, according to an article, "10,000 Prisoners of War released from the Soviet Union 50 years ago," by Werner Fuhrmann published 7 Sept. 2003 in GlaubeAktuell.net <www.GlaubeAktuell.net/portal/journal/journal.php?IDD=1062919033>.

five cities, the information agency for the next of kin of *Wehrmacht* (WWII German armed forces) dead, the *Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchdienst München* (German Red Cross Tracing Service Munich), a military history research bureau, a current history archives, two German soldiers' associations, the public association for care of German military graves, and the U.S. Army Military History Institute.²

Surfing the Internet uncovered several helpful websites about German military topics and terms, historical background on specific localities and biographical sketches of several military leaders. A search of universities in key cities yielded contacts with a couple of history professors, one of whom actually was serving as a visiting professor at Vanderbilt University near our home. A cyberlink was also established with a retired German merchant marine chaplain who had published several books about the last days of the war in Pomerania, the massive destruction, and the great hordes of refugees fleeing a rapacious Red Army.

Two Comrades Tell of War's Last Desperate Days

Replies to my inquiries began arriving. Soon we had the details of Walter Lass's military service. We also

² Inquiries were sent to the Director of the Library, Akademie der Bundeswehr für Information und Kommunikation, Strausberg; Bundesarchiv, Berlin-Lichterfelde; Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv, Freiburg im Breisgau; Bundesarchiv-Zentralnachweisstelle, Aachen; Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASt), Berlin; Deutsches Militärarchiv, Potsdam; Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchdienst-München, Munich; Jason Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst," www.feldgr.com; *Kameraden*, Stuttgart; Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel; Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, Potsdam; Verband deutscher Soldaten, Bonn; Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V., Abteilung Gräbermachweis und Angehörigenbetreuung, Kassel, and Zeitgeschichte Archiv, Munich, all in the Federal Republic of Germany. Others included the Goethe Institute, New York, and the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

The Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchdienst München (German Red Cross Tracing Service, Munich) and the Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASt), Berlin (German Office for Informing Next-of-Kin of World War II Armed Forces Members Killed In Action) provided detailed information about the military service record and missing in action status of Walter Lass.

Established in May, 1945, the German Red Cross Tracing Service has classified 14 million of the more than 30 million Germans separated in World War II, including servicemen killed in action or missing, as well as missing civilian refugees and displaced persons. The office remains active and focuses on persons reported missing in wars, disasters and other causes of separation.

The Deutsche Dienststelle is the key source of information about the German armed forces in World War II. Established before the war, this national military office processed information about personnel, casualties, grave service, and prisoners-of-war.

learned that there was no record of his burial in a military cemetery. Military archivists identified military histories of two of the units in which he served, and the two German-language titles were secured through inter-library loan. Finally, official word came from the Red Cross telling what probably happened to him.

This encouraging response prompted a search for any living comrades who might have served with him. A classified ad was placed in a German veteran's magazine which regularly features ads seeking contact with others who might supply information about fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and sons killed or missing in World War II. But, the odds of finding anyone were slim due to high casualty rates in the Germany army during World War II, and the small and declining number of surviving veterans. Also, if located, former comrades would likely be in their 70s at least, or well into their 80s or 90s.³

Amazingly, the ad brought forth a letter from a former lieutenant who said he had served in the same battalion. It was full of details of desperate days in a decimated company seeking to escape the overwhelming waves of Russian tanks and troops, and the merciless artillery barrages. In those chaotic times when the ranks of his unit were being decimated and replacements limited to stragglers, poorly trained emergency reserves, and militia, the writer confessed that there little time or need to become acquainted with comrades. He did not recall Walter Lass.⁴

Searches on the Internet turned up a German website describing military action in an area where Walter Lass's unit had been engaged. The webmaster replied that he had served as a 17-year-old draftee. He and his comrades were thrown helter-skelter into an emergency unit and briefly trained in the basics near the front lines. In a matter of weeks, he served in three or four units---including Walter Lass's regiment. But, he said he never knew Walter Lass.⁵

³ *Kameraden*, an independent magazine for World War II veterans and members of the current armed forces, the *Bundeswehr*, is published 10 times a year by Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kameradenwerke und Traditionsverbände e.V in Stuttgart.

⁴ Letters dated May 19 and August 19, 2003 from Rudolf Möbius, Leonberg-Höfingen am Main. Möbius states he commanded Co. 2, Fortress Stettin Infantry Battalion 1455 (*Magenkrank*).

⁵ E-mails dated May 2 and 29, September 28, and October 7, 2003 to author from Ulrich Reinke, Keidelheim, Rheinland-Pfalz. Reinke, at 17, was called up and hurriedly placed in Festungsregiment Stettin 2, a "thrown-together

Out of all this research emerged a poignant story of a collapsing Germany and the last days of Walter Lass. It filled a void which my wife and her sister had lived with for nearly 60 years. Unfortunately, the information came too late for their mother and their paternal aunt, both of whom had died years before.

A Missing Soldier Becomes a Real Person

Walter Ernst Robert Lass, born July 23, 1910 in Demmin, a Pomeranian town in northern Germany, was educated as an engineering technician. When he was about 24 years old, he entered the *Reichsarbeitsdienst* (RAD), the government labor service which provided manpower from its camps for civil and agricultural construction.⁶

Like its American Depression-era counterpart, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), RAD offered work, wages, lodging, sustenance and a military style of life to unemployed young men. They reclaimed marshland, constructed dikes and drainage systems, cleared woodlands, built roads, and did other public works.⁷

Enrolled as member #218 of the 2nd Company, Construction Battalion 29, Lass began his service in one of the very first RAD units. It was assigned to the Danzig-West Prussia area. When first organized in 1931, RAD was a voluntary organization, but by June, 1935 all German men, ages 18-35, were required to serve six months, plus an additional two years in a branch of the armed forces. The pre-existing labor service and its troops were then nationalized as a part of the Nazi party structure.⁸

unit," where he received minimal training before being shoved into combat. He was captured during a withdrawal and held in the St. Peter and Paul Church in Stettin which served as a POW camp. Reinke and other young prisoners were later released by a Soviet commissar, and he made his way to his hometown. About 20 percent of the town was burned out, and the rest was damaged. His family home was heavily damaged by gunfire and "like a pig pen inside and out."

⁶ Auszug aus den Geburtsregister von Renate Anni Lass, Berlin, (Copy of the Birth Certificate of Renate Anni Lass, Berlin) dated 11 August 1981; Letter of July 17, 2000 from Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASt), Berlin (German Office for Informing Next of Kin of German World War II Armed Forces Members Killed in Action, Berlin); E-mail dated 22 Sept. 2003 from Heinrich Rehberg, Department Manager, Deutsches Rote Kreuz Suchdienst München (German Red Cross Tracing Service, Munich) providing scan of *Vermisstenbildliste* (Illustrated List of Missing), p. 454; Jason Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst," www.feldgr.com

⁷ Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst."

⁸ Letter of July 17, 2000 to author from Deutsche Dienststelle; Andreas Hanacek, Internet Sources of German Genealogy, <<http://home.bawue.de/~hanacek/info/edatabase.htm>>; Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst."

After the declaration of general mobilization in Germany on 26 Aug. 1939, men serving in the 1,050 *Reichsarbeitsdienst* units were transferred to the German army. In the army, they served as construction troops, building roads, clearing obstacles, digging trenches, erecting fortifications, and performing other duties.⁹

On December 13, 1939—not long after his transfer from RAD into the army, Walter Lass was reassigned to Infantry Replacement Battalion 48, then in training at Neustrelitz, Mecklenburg, about 50 kilometers from his hometown. By about that time, Lass held the rank of *Unterfeldmeister* or squad leader in the labor service. After basic training in the army, he returned home on furlough in July, 1940.¹⁰

From 11 April 1941 to 15 Oct. 1943, Walter Lass served as a *Feldwebel* (Sergeant or Technical Sergeant) in Regiment 722 of the 702nd Infantry Division, which was organized April 16, 1941 from replacement units in the Stettin army command area, near the Baltic port cities of Rostock and Stettin (now in Poland). The division served in the invasion of Norway in the summer of 1941, and was stationed in the north at Drontheim.¹¹

After service in the Norway campaign, Lass apparently was furloughed for about 60 days, and then reported December 12, 1943 to the 2nd Company, Fusilier Battalion, 98th Infantry Division. At that time, the division was stationed on the southern sector of the eastern front in the Soviet Union.¹²

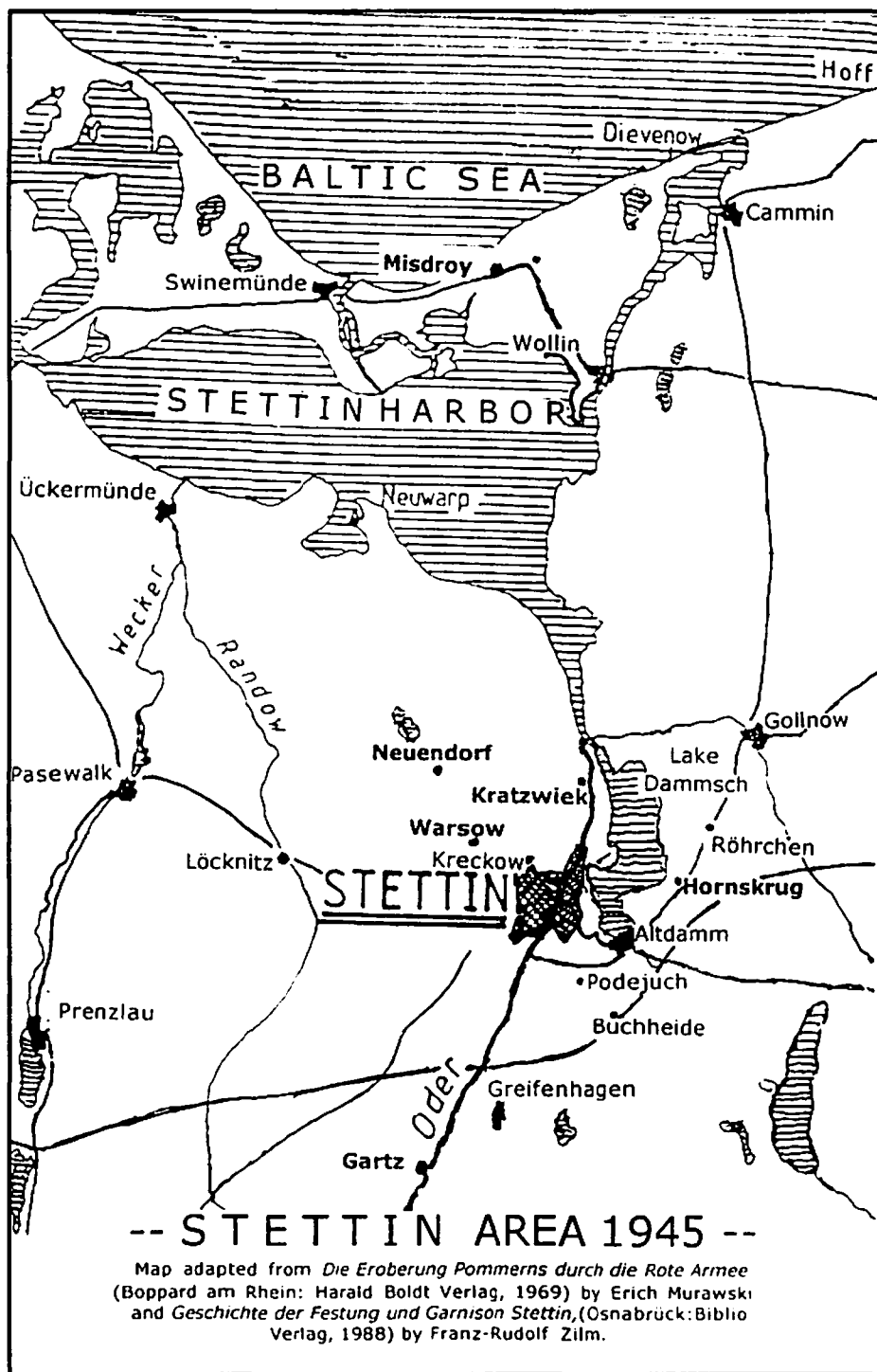
⁹ www.bawue.de/~hanacek/info/edatabase.htm; Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst." The numbers on personal identification tags in the German armed forces during World War II bore the numbers of the training unit to which a man was first assigned. Lass's ID tag would have been inscribed with the numbers, "218-2 / .Bau. Btl. 29." A battalion consisted of about 276 men or four platoons of 69 men each. Four to six of these battalions made up a division.

¹⁰ Pipes, "Reichsarbeitsdienst"; Georg Tessin, *Verbände und Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen SS im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945, Vierter Band, Die Landstreitkräfte 15-30* (Frankfurt/Main: Verlag E. S. Mittler & Sohn GmbH), p. 278. According to one report, Lass's labor service battalion was transferred to another area, and slated for disbandment about two months after mobilization of RAD troops and their transfer into the German army.

¹¹ Nachstehender Bildabzug gibt als beglaubigte Abschrift, 3 March 1941; Letter of January 22, 2002 to author from Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt)...; Konstantin Hierl, *Idea and Formation of Labor Service*, Historical Division, Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, 1947, courtesy of U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA.

¹² Deutsche Dienststelle letter of January 22, 2002...; Tessin, Georg, *Verbände und Truppen* ..., p. 144; Jason Pipes, "702 Infanterie-Division," www.feldgrau.com

¹³ Deutsche Dienststelle letter of July 17, 2000...; Andreas Hanacek website; Tessin, *Verbände und Truppen*..., Vol. 6, p. 155, as cited by Erika



Rasthofer, Institut für Zeitgeschichte Archiv, Munich, in a letter dated 30 August 2000; *Third Reich Factbook*, 98. *Infanterie-Division*, <www.skalmann.nu/third-reich-infanterie-div-98.htm>. The word *Füsilier* designates an infantry formation with some reconnaissance abilities. At the mid-point of the war, when infantry divisions reduced the number of battalions from nine to six, Fusiliers usually replaced the reconnaissance battalions.

As a part of the 98th Division, Lass's battalion was engaged at the Kuban Bridgehead in 1943, in the Crimean campaign of 1944, and the battle of Sevastopol. Soviet forces drove the division into the Crimean peninsula where it was decimated in intense fighting. In May, 1944, remnants of the 98th Division were frantically evacuated from the Crimea by sea under furious Soviet attacks by air and land. Surviving troops were transported via Rumania to Agram, Croatia in June, 1944. Here, the division was reorganized, refreshed, replenished, reinforced, and reassigned to a post near Remini, Italy in August-September, 1944.¹³

Debilitated Soldier Leaves Home for Front

At the time his division was destroyed in the Crimea, it is likely that Walter Lass was on furlough---perhaps sick leave---visiting his family in Misdroy on the Baltic island of Wollin near the mouth of the Oder River just north of the port city of Stettin. He apparently suffered from acute ulcers or another serious stomach disorders, perhaps aggravated by fierce combat experiences with the 98th Infantry Division on the Russian front. Home furloughs were granted in each unit of the division to as many as eight men who had served from the beginning of the campaign.¹⁴

By March 5, 1945 (about two months before the end of the war), Lass was once again on the front lines. This time the combat zone was near home, no farther away than 30 miles from his family and within 75 miles of his birthplace. He was assigned to Co. 3, Infantry Battalion 1455 (M) of the "Fortress Stettin" Division. The battalion was designated as "M" for *Magenkrank*, meaning its ranks were made up of men suffering from serious stomach disorders. Normally, they would qualify for special rations of white bread, instead of the standard issue of gray bread, but in the emergency at Stettin they "were happy to receive any rations."¹⁵

¹³ Martin Gareis, *Kampf und Ende der Fränkisch-Sudentendeutschen 98. Infanterie-Division* (Bad Nauheim: Verlag Hans-Henning Podzun, 1956); Tessen, *Verbände und Truppen...* pp. 152-153.

¹⁴ E-mail dated October 5, 2000 to author from Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchsdienst, Munich; Gareis, *Kampf und Ende der Fränkisch-Sudentendeutschen 98. Infanterie-Division*, p. 217.

¹⁵ E-mail of October 4, 2000 to author from Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchsdienst, Munich; Reinke e-mails of May 2 and May 29, 2003 to author; also Ulrich Reinke, "Christinenberg wird Kampfgebiet," <<http://www.christinenberg.de/krieg.htm>>; Möbius letter of August 19, 2003. Only one week later on March 12, 1945, Lass's battalion was consolidated with other units and redesignated as the *I. Bataillon, Festungs-*

In the last months of the war, Adolf Hitler demanded "fanatical resistance" by German armed forces, designating specific cities, such as Stettin, as "*Festungen*" ("Fortresses") for defense to the last man, regardless of their condition, equipment, supplies or the military situation. Also, 16-year-olds were called up for military service, a "*Verbrannte Erde*" ("Scorched Earth") policy was adopted, all military vehicles anywhere were redirected to the front, and "*Werwolf*" guerrilla fighters were organized.¹⁶

Festung Stettin, called the "Bulwark of the Oder," was a designated area including the city and Lake Dammsch nearby. The boundary ran from the Oder bridgehead near neighboring Altdamm southwestward; then swung northwestward in a semi-circle about 10-15 kilometers from the city. The "Festung" border north of the city ran along the west bank of the Oder for about 10 kilometers, and then turned westward.¹⁷

The new emergency combat units, which were created about January, 1945, were made up of officers, non-commissioned officer and soldiers drawn from all over Pomerania. Many of these men also were natives and were defending their own homeland. These emergency units were comprised of soldiers suitable for temporary service, or wounded and sick soldiers no longer fit for regular active service in the field, especially *Magenkrank* men, or recruits still in basic training.¹⁸

Other types of emergency units were known as *Alarm* or ad hoc units assembled, often equipped, and posted to meet emergencies separately or attached to larger combat units. *Feld Ersatz* or field replacement units included the slightly wounded, recovering sick, and recruits. *Landesschützen* were home defense units of

Infanterie Regiment 2 (1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment of the Fortress Stettin Division)

¹⁶ Erich Murawski, *Die Eroberung Pommerns durch die Rote Armee* (Boppard am Rhein: Harald Baldt Verlag, 1969), pp.77-78. The *Werwolf* or "Werewolf" were guerrilla forces intended to create chaos and destruction behind the lines of an advancing enemy.

¹⁷ Jürgen Ruzkowski, comp., *Zeitlebens im Gedächtnis, Deutsche Schicksale um 1945, Zeitzeugen erinnern, Wir zahlten für Hitlers Hybris* (Verlag Dirk Dietrich, 2003).p. 291; Erich Murawski, *Die Eroberung Pommerns durch die Rote Armee* (Boppard am Rhein: Harald Baldt Verlag, 1969), pp.292-294.

The "Festung Stettin" area stretched over the city and harbor east to a fortified bridgehead and on to the west bank of Grossen Reglitz. The right flank border ran from Sydowsaue over the Oder valley to Kurow-Kelin Reinkendorf-Mandelkow, and the left flank border from the west bank of of Lake Dammsch to Kratzwieck on the Oder north of the city.

¹⁸ Erich Murawski, *Die Eroberung Pommerns durch die Rote Armee* (Boppard am Rhein: Harald Baldt Verlag, 1969), pp.102-103.

second-rate infantry. *Volkssturm* troops were teenagers and men in their 50s and 60s, who wore special armbands, dressed in their own civilian clothing, and carried beggarly weapons and *Panzerfausts* (personal anti-tank rocket launchers). All of these makeshift units were skimpily armed with weapons taken from the killed or seriously wounded---comrades or enemies---or from prisoners.¹⁹

Hodgepodge Defense Faces Russian Onslaught

Lass's battalion was one of four *Magenkrank* battalions in *Festungs-Division "Stettin"* ("Fortress Stettin" Division) which was organized to help stem the Russian onslaught. Also in the division were six other *Alarm* battalions, two sections of artillery, three battalions of engineers, and two companies of anti-aircraft artillery now often used for anti-tank defense. Under intense pressure from the combined assault of Soviet artillery, fighter-bombers, tanks, and infantry, German defenders struggled daily to stabilize their faltering lines.²⁰

Under such conditions, "no one could develop a relationship with comrades in such a short time," wrote one survivor, then a 17-year-old rookie rifleman in the same regiment as Walter Lass. "It was seldom possible to know the destiny of comrades and later searches for the missing, killed and wounded became even more difficult."

Battalions in this regiment were "a mixed composition at about 80 percent of strength," he added. Casualties were high and the physical condition of the troops was weakened through sickness. Psychologically, "they faced the choice of death or Siberian imprisonment."²¹

Infantry Battalion 1455 (*Magenkrank*) was posted near Hornskrug, a village within the fortified lines on the railroad north of Stettin on the east side of the Oder River. Other units in the division were aligned to the north and northwest along a line embracing the villages of Christinenberg, Rörchen, Sophiental, Ibenhorst and Lübzin. Refugees were streaming by in parallel columns on the autobahn and in passing trains, and military convoys of trucks and wagons were choking

the streets. Soviet fighter-bomber planes were strafing anything that moved.²²

Here, in Hornskrug, Walter Lass paused to write a brief letter to his wife, Gertrud, and his three little children: daughters, ages 8 and 4, and a son, age 2. Just the previous summer, he had attended the christening of his son and younger daughter, whose baptism had been delayed until he could come home on furlough. His older daughter remembers a tearful goodbye at her bedside at the time of his last departure for the front. It is said that his mother begged to hide him away, rather than let him return to combat.²³

Last Letters, Last Days, Last Word

When Walter wrote, the Red Army was five days into its great offensive toward Stettin, driving closer and closer to the city. Stettin had been pounded regularly by Allied air raids since January. The major suburb of Altdamm was so badly damaged that only about 50 inhabitants remained at the final evacuation of civilians. As the major Soviet offensive opened in January, 1945, a flood of civilian refugees---mostly women, children and the aged---poured into Stettin and other Baltic seaport cities, seeking evacuation by ship to the west. About two million of these German civilians were evacuated from Pomerania and Prussia during the last months of the war.²⁴

By mid-March, Lass's battalion had moved westward to the other side of the Oder River. After pulling back from Hornskrug, elements of the regiment returned to the anti-aircraft barracks in Kreckow, west of Stettin, and Lass's battalion moved a few kilometers north to the suburb of Grünhof and nearby Neuendorf.²⁵

²² Helmut Lindenblatt, *Pommern 1945*, (Rautenberg: Leer, 2nd edition, 1993), p. 321; E-mails dated February 12, 2001 and March 22, 2003 from Jürgen Ruszkowski, Hamburg, <Juergen.Ruszkowski@t-online.de>; Reinke e-mails dated May 2 and May 29, 2003.

²³ E-mail of October 5, 2000 to author from Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchsdienst, Munich; recollections of Mariluisse Zöllner, Irapetra, Crete, April-May 2000.

²⁴ "Stettin-Altdamm unter sowjetischer Besatzung," an excerpt from the report of Felix Gosser, Federal Archives, Koblenz, OstDok 1, IV Pommern, Stadtkreis Stettin, Sn 1, S, 5-6., and an unsigned copy of a 20 May 1945 memorandum of Communists in the Stettin city government found in Democratic Socialists Party files of the Mecklenburg-Pomerania state archives, a1:35, as cited in *Stettin, 1945-1946, Dokumente-Erinnerungen*, (Rostock: Hinstorff Verlag GmbH, 1995), p. 105. See also Heinz Schoen, "Unternehmen Rettung - Ostsee 1945," excerpted from Rolf-Josef Eibichs *50 Jahre Vertreibung*, www.vho.org/D/DG/Schoen43_2.html

²⁵ Reinke e-mail of May 29, 2003; Möbius letter of May 19, 2003.

¹⁹ "The German Armed Forces," <www.diedeutschewehrmacht.de/Fest%20Stettin.htm>; Ulrich Reinke e-mails of 2 and May 29, 2003.

²⁰ E-mail of October 5, 2000 to author from Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchsdienst; Ulrich Reinke's website, describing wartime events near Hornskrug.

²¹ Reinke e-mails of May 2 and May 29, 2003 to author.

"When I reported," a former lieutenant and company commander recalled, "battalion (headquarters) lay in the Magdalene convent (and) the companies (between two villages nearby). Two days after I reported, the battalion had to pull into fortified positions on the Oder." There the battalion line stretched between two towns along the Oder River and Lake Dammsche, with one company posted on an off-shore island. In this area, "there was no combat," the company commander wrote, "until the evacuation of Stettin on 25 April."²⁶

After the letter written at Hornsbrug, no more messages came from Walter Lass. In April, 1945, Gertrud Lass received a brief letter from one of her husband's acquaintances, saying he had seen Walter in Stettin.²⁷

Then came the dreaded news: Walter Lass was reported to have been missing since April 19, 1945. Stettin had been evacuated six days later and almost immediately occupied by Soviet troops.²⁸

During the following decade, Gertrud Lass and Walter's sister, Anni Ernst, tried again and again to get information about him. In September, 1947, Gertrud contacted the Red Cross Tracing Service. About a year later, Anni also inquired. Still without any word, Gertrud inquired once again in March, 1950.²⁹

Searching, Waiting and Hoping

Between 1948 and 1950, 290,000 German prisoners-of-war returning from Soviet camps were processed through *Lager Friedland*, a receiving camp built by the British at the juncture of the British, American and Russian zones. As POWs arrived, they were registered by the German Red Cross. A list of their names was announced over the radio each afternoon at 5:00

o'clock. Hundreds of thousands of German families waited day after day to hear the name of a missing or captured father, son, brother, uncle, grandfather or in-law.³⁰

In 1955, the last contact with the Red Cross was made by Anni Ernst in 1955. There was no more news. Walter Lass was still missing.³¹ A generation later---in November, 1982---the Red Cross Tracing Service in Munich filed an official report about their investigation of the case of Walter Lass. But this report never reached Gertrud Lass or Anni Ernst. Gertrud died in 1980, and the current address of Anni, who died the next year, was not then on file.³²

Finally, 55 years later in October 2000, came another letter from the Red Cross, replying to an inquiry made by the author. It brought news and a copy of the 1982 official file report, providing new insights to the wartime story of Walter Lass and his last days.

"Walter Lass, in all probability, was killed in combat 19 April 1945 in engagements around Stettin," the report concluded. At that time, he was within a day's drive from his own family or from his hometown, and the war would last less than three more weeks.³³

Summarizing the story of the relentless and massive assault of Soviet armies on German defenses along the Oder, the Berlin campaign, and the unconditional surrender May 8, 1945, the Red Cross report described general conditions in the combat zones and the implications for survival. "The rapid loss of this large region in a few weeks made it impossible to evacuate many hospitals in time. In most cases, they were surrendered to troops of the Red Army.

"Since the combat already described, and also for a short time thereafter, countless soldiers in units posted in these areas were missing. Research has indicated that a few of them were killed in action. However, others died in unobserved sites or in night fighting, unknown to a surviving comrade. Also ambulances,

²⁶ Möbius letter of May 19, 2003.

²⁷ Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Suchdienst, Munich, letter dated April 10, 2000.

²⁸ Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Letter dated April 10, 2000...; Möbius letter dated May 19, 2003; *Stettin, 1945-1946, Dokumente- Erinnerungen*, p. 93, citing a Red Army propaganda leaflet in the county museum at Demmin. The report that Walter Lass was missing may have come from acquaintances or other comrades. Four conditions point to the lack of any official notification being given to the next-of-kin during the war: (1) the chaotic conditions in the Stettin area during the final overwhelming Soviet offensive; (2) absence of an official written report kept by the family; (3) the fruitless, but intensive post-war search his wife and sister made through official channels to determine his destiny, and (4) the July 17, 2000 letter from the Deutsche Deinstelle, Berlin, stating that no killed-in-action or missing report was found in Walter Lass's records. The main force of German troops evacuated Stettin the night of April 25, 1945, and the city was surrendered by a remaining detail April 26, 1945.

²⁹ Deutsches Rotes Kreuz letter dated April 10, 2000.

³⁰ Werner H. T. Fuhrmann online article at GlaubeAktuell.net, September 7, 2003.

³¹ Deutsches Rotes Kreuz letter dated April 10, 2000.

³² 51. Official Report about the destiny of the Missing Person, Walter Lass, born 28 July 1910, missing since 19 April 1945, according to the German Red Cross Illustrated List of the Missing, Vol. LO, p. 454, signed November 26, 1982 by Emanuel Wittek, Director, German Red Cross Tracing Service, Munich.

³³ 52. Letter dated October 4, 2000 to the author from Heinrich Rehberg, Department Manager, German Red Cross Tracing Service, Munich.

first aid stations, and hospitals were caught in fire from artillery, tanks and air attacks.

"In view of the possibility of capture, the Soviet Red Cross (Moscow) was contacted and reported that no relevant data was available.

A Final Conclusion, Another Serendipity

"All these findings lead to the final conclusion that the missing person died in combat. On the basis of research findings, it is not even possible to identify a grave site."³⁴

About 2,600 German soldiers are buried in at least 20 cemeteries in Stettin, including more than 1,400 in the military cemetery there. A new temporary cemetery was established in a suburb of Stettin in 2001.³⁵

Lass's military service record only identified the units in which he served through December, 1943. However, it was possible to identify the units in which he served during 1944-1945 based on the military post office number appearing on his last letter.³⁶

The two middle names of Walter Robert Ernst Lass were rediscovered in reviewing the birth certificate of his second daughter. Present generations of the family clung only to his most commonly used names, unaware of his full baptismal name.³⁷

The Red Cross report was based on impressive research and a thorough investigation. The report cited all previous inquiries made by Gertrud Lass and Anni Ernst, provided a detailed list of Lass's military service and units through 1945, explained the German method of personal identification in the military, and the nature of the *Magenkrank* units, and described how the war dead were gathered and buried in the Stettin area. The report investigation process included review of a Red Cross listing of all missing soldiers, queries to all former POWs still living in Germany, Austria and neighboring countries, and examination of data from

Red Cross central files in Geneva, the *Deutsche Dienststelle* in Berlin, war diaries, maps, Russian data about POW deaths in Soviet camps, and from files in the home town of the missing person.³⁸

And so, Walter Robert Ernst Lass emerged from the unknown and became a person for the three generations now in his own family. His military service detailed. The maelstrom of his last months was vividly painted in the comments of comrades and refugees. A report of the thorough investigation of his destiny was shared for the first time with his family, and his probable death in combat officially established.

A genealogical serendipity!

A working knowledge of German, some basic family data, a driving curiosity, the invaluable assets of web research and e-mail---all worked together to recover the story of my wife's father who disappeared in World War II. With an electronic bridge to key German archives, libraries, universities and government offices, valuable assistance was tapped. Records were found. Recommendations were offered, identifying even more sources, books, and files. Persistence and curiosity led to placement of the magazine ad which evoked a response from one old comrade. Web surfing located another veteran. Within about three years, a picture of *Feldwebel* Walter Lass slowly emerged, the campaigns in which he soldiered, the eventful weeks surrounding his last days---all unknown to his family. All unexpected.

ser·en·dip·i·ty
a natural gift
for making useful discoveries
by accident

³⁴ Heinrich Rehberg letter of October 4, 2000.

³⁵ Letter of February 13, 2002 to author from Margarethe Stefanik, Researcher, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberversorge e. V., Kassel. The Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberversorge e. V., a private organization for the care of the graves of German World War II dead, establishes and maintains cemeteries, but also locates scattered graves, removes remains and reinters them in newly-established military cemeteries in the area. If remains are identified, an effort is made to notify next-of-kin.

³⁶ SS. Heinrich Rehberg letter of October 4, 2000, German Red Cross Tracing Service.

³⁷ *Geburtsurkunde* [Birth certificate] of Anni Renate Lass, Stettin, Pommern, March 1941, citing name and birth date of her father.

³⁸ Heinrich Rehberg letter of October 4, 2000.

Deaths at Owen Chapel Church of Christ, 1863-1889

Located in Brentwood, Williamson County

Contributed by Carol Farrar Kaplan



This list of deaths of members of Owen Chapel Church of Christ was taken from page 394 of the original record book of the church. The church still owns this book, but it is too fragile to be examined. Researchers should use the microfilm copy available at Lipscomb University's Beaman Library or the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The record does not contain other lists or biographical information about members of the church; it does provide accounts of church business. The contributor is the de facto church historian, since her Moulton ancestors were charter members of the church. Owen Chapel is an active congregation, welcoming visitors who enjoy worshipping in an historical setting. The church is located at 1101 Franklin Road in Brentwood.

Brother Jas. Calender¹ killed 24 of June 1863 at Hoovers Gap

Sister Frances C. Johnston² died the 4th of Sept. 1864

Sister Amanda Scot departed this life the 20th of Feb. 1866

Brother Garnet Sims	16 May 1866	Brother Lewis Cook	Died 21 st of March 1876
Brother Wm. Ford	17 Sept. 1866	Brother James C. Owen	Died 12 April 1885
Brother James W. Owen	27 April 1867	Brother Walter Owen	Died 6 th August 1885
Brother Wm Pate	16 March 1868	Sister Mary C. Gaines	Died October 13 th 1886
Sister Virginia Collins	14 th of July 1868	Bro. John W. Jarrett	August 23 rd 1887
Brother John W. Guthry	12 th of Dec. 1869	Bro. Daniel F. Collins	Sept. 10 th 1887
Brother Alfred Scot	4 th of June 1870	Bro. R. M. McDaniel, Sr.	Dec. 24 th 1886
Brother Robt. E. Owen	5 th of Nov. 1870	Bro. Jack McDowell	Nov. 6, 1887 ¹
Sister (faded) Hill ³	3 rd of Jan. 1871	Sister Leila Dozier	Jany. 24, 1888
Mary H. or B. Owen	8 th of No. 1871	Sister Eliza Beasley	Dec. 17, 1888
Lancelot Johnston	11 th of Nov. 1873	Sister Martha J. Zellner ⁴	May 21, 1889
Sister Elizabeth Walker	25 th of July 1874	Sister Lydia Benton	Sept. 1, 1889
Sister Kittie Owen	Died 24 th of Sept. 1874		

¹ James Callender was a private in C. Company, 20th Tennessee Infantry. He was the nephew of Catherine (Mrs. James C.) Owen, and with his brother and sister William and Sarah, had been raised by the childless Kittie and James. The Callender parents, Thomas & Mary, are buried in Nashville's City Cemetery.

² Frances Johnston was a charter member of Owen Chapel, the daughter of James and Narcissa Johnston. Their home was located where "Isola Bella" is today. Frances was 24 years old when she died.

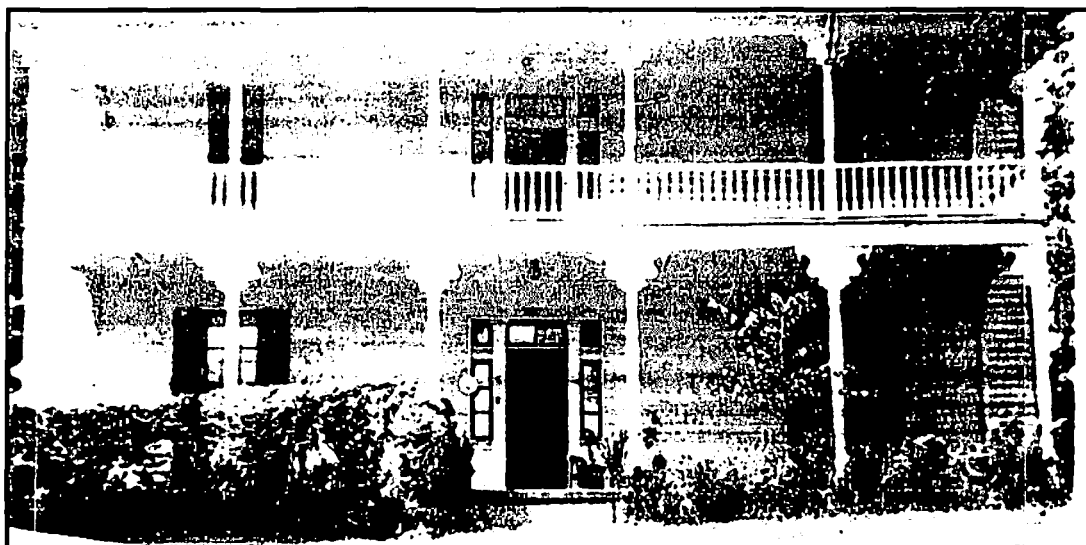
³ Sister Hill refers to Sally Hill, African-American member of Owen Chapel. The family consisted of Sally, her son Peter, his wife Ellen, and their daughter Gracey or Ginny. Peter Hill, a carpenter, probably was the one who did much of the construction, including building of the pews still used at the church.

⁴ Martha J. Zellner and her husband Henry lived at Ashlawn. Among their children was Margaret, wife of David Lipscomb, who often preached at Owen Chapel.

On Rebel Hill in McMinnville

Memories of a Beloved Home

Contributed by Robbie Harris



The Winton Home on Rebel Hill

Rebel Hill is an historic landmark in McMinnville, Tenn., named for its tumultuous history during the Civil War. But as I was growing up it was the magical place where my grandparents lived.

My earliest memory at the house was at age 2 being carried down the front stairs wrapped in a quilt on Christmas morning to see the decorated tree by the fire place. It was a lovely sight and just as vivid today as it was then.

The Towles family were the original owners of the land that later became known as Rebel Hill. By the time the Civil War came, there were five homes on the hill. The oldest of these was Hickory Hill, the home of Oliver Towles. Chatham Coffee's stately frame residence on the hill stood overlooking the town for more than 100 years. Other residents were the families of William Lowery, Samuel Laughlin, Thomas Argo and the Pennebakers.

This prestigious McMinnville neighborhood changed hands several times during the Civil War. On this hill Yankee troops, at the beginning of the war in May 1861, were camped near the home of Maj. William Lowery. Local history recalls that the troops were

raiding the Lowerys and other nearby plantations for meat and vegetables, forcing the Lowery slaves to cook for them. Maj. Lowery, though commander of the Home Guard unit in McMinnville, was powerless to protect his own home and property. It was strongly fortified by the Union Army in anticipation of an attack.

On Oct. 1st 1863 McMinnville was occupied by the 4th Tenn. Infantry Regiment of Union troops. This unit consisted of about 400 men commanded by Maj. M.L. Patterson who was encamped at the federal garrison. Confederate troops advanced against the town and drove into the Federals. Gen. Wharton commanded the Confederate Army troops and made three charges up the north side of the hill. Each time he was repulsed. Wharton's troops were supported by Confederate cavalry under Gen. Joseph Wheeler. Together these forces moved right and left, surrounding the Federals. Then Gen. Wharton demanded and received the surrender of Patterson and the garrison at 1 p.m. on Oct. 3, 1863. On Oct. 4th Wheeler held McMinnville for 18 hours until large forces of the Union Army reached the town and began to build fortifications. From that day on, the area became known as Rebel Hill.

Capt. Chatham Coffee, whose home was at Rebel Hill, served with artillery units all through the war. After suffering through the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta, Coffee's unit was sent back to Middle Tennessee on special assignment. On a bright sunny Thursday, Aug. 11, 1864, Chatham Coffee slipped into his home atop Rebel Hill and spent two nights with his family and visiting friends. By Saturday Aug. 13, everyone in McMinnville,

including the occupying Federal troops, knew Coffee was at home. This infuriated the Yankees and they ransacked the home. Mrs. Evelina Coffee sat in the living room, smiling in the face of ruin. They found nothing. As they departed without the Captain, Evelina ran to the porch and cried, "two places you didn't look ,the cistern and the well".

In 1896 Mrs. T. H. Faulkner erected a house on Rebel Hill the sites of one of the old Confederate forts. It was her desire to commemorate the Confederate victory at McMinnville of Oct.3, 1863, and the troops who had fought there. It was into this house that my grandparents, Franklin J. and Robbie Winton moved sometime before 1934 when I was born.

I can still see in my mind every room upstairs and down, every out building, the chicken yard, the barn and fields where I played. Days spent on Rebel Hill were the happiest times of my young life. I roamed over the house, the barn, and the fields until 1943, when my grandparents sold their place to the Rhea family and moved to town.

I remember and tell stories of Rebel Hill to my granddaughter. She says "MeMe, tell me the story of when the horse ran away nd threw you off. Tell me about the pony for your birthday, and about finding the kittens in the hayloft." I painted a Grandma Moses style picture a few years ago of the house and farm. It now hangs in my granddaughter's bedroom.



Robbie Harris, age 3, with her grandmother

I gathered eggs , rode the mules , cows, and horses, milked the cows, held the baby pigs and listened to them squeal and found baby rabbits in the hay field. My grandmother and I walked over the far field and climbed the fence and had picnics on the stone benches at Mt. View Cemetery.

I had a friend up the street named Frankie. My grandparents had help cleaning and cooking from Lula May, who I dearly loved. She kept warm biscuits for me on the back of the wood cookstove. I have a picture of me at age 3 holding a rag doll named Lula May . I wish I could find her relatives to share some photos I have of her.

When I was five years old my grandmother told me I had a surprise coming . I was excited till I learned it was only my baby sister, Nancy Rhea Potter . She was so much younger than I that she doesn't remember the house and farm as well as I do.

In 1955 Warren County purchased my family's old home in order to build the McMinnville Middle School . The stadium and football field was placed where the barn and back fields were . It broke my heart.

Notes

Robbie Harris compiled this article from memories with help from *The Heritage of White County* (1999) and *The Warren County Story* by E.M. Wiseman (1995). Additional information about Capt. Coffee was found in *Tennesseans in the Civil War* (1964).



Robbie Harris and her grandfather
Franklin Jefferson Winton

Ma's Corner

A tribute to Granny Sweeten

Written in 1934 by Joe Brown
for his grandmother Eliza Sweeten
of Grundy County



Ma's a-settin in her corner
The fires-a blazin hot
I think shes most-a-scorchin
But-o' cours she says shes not.

Her voice is kinda trembly
Her foot-steps getting slow
Her hands are worn and wrinkled
Her hair's as white as snow.

She's got her woolen sweater on
Wearin' her boggin too
She says the winters colder
'N it wuz in ninety two.

She's lived with us since Pa passed on
She's brought us heaps o' cheer
You couldn't help but love her
She's really such a dear.

Shes most always a-fussin
About the other folks
She grabs the poker-'n'then
And gives the fire a poke.

Pa's been gone for many years
But Ma she ain't fer-got
She must o' loved him very much
Cause she talks of him a lot.

A-dippin and a-spittin
Her spittin aim is poor
She aims it at the fireplace
But it lands right on the floor.

I notice when she talks 'bout Pa
Who's been gone all these years
She gently lifts her apron
To wipe away the tears.

She keeps right on a-rockin
And a-talkin all the while
Sometimes a sad expression
And other times a smile.

When she's gone we'll miss her
The house will seem so bare
Her corner will be vacant
And her little rockin chair.

A copy of this poem was found among the papers of the late Margaret Brown Coppinger of Beersheba Springs. Sweeten descendant Barbara Garrett is the Assistant Archivist at the Maury County Archives. She says that Granny Sweeten was Martha "Eliza" Ann Baswell, born in 1860, who when a child fled the Battle of Atlanta with her father on horseback. She loved to dance, dressed to the nines and was the belle of the ball – petite and full of life. She married Francis Marion Sweeten and raised a large family of children. In her older years she lived near Grace Chapel in Beersheba Springs. She died on Dec. 15, 1945, and was buried there.

Williamson County Boy Sees the World

S.H. Hill's long journey to California

In a search for information about the Boiling Spring Academy, which is being restored by the City of Brentwood, the following biographical sketch of a man born in Williamson County in 1822 was discovered in a California history.

The story of S.H. Hill is a remarkable one. Well-educated and from a prominent family, he enlisted in the Mexican War at age 18. After the war he worked on a steamboat between Nashville and New Orleans, and then taught school in Missouri. With a group of friends he climbed Pike's Peak, where he met Horace Greeley who actually told this young man to "Go West." Following Greeley's advice he went to California, discarding his wife and two children to do so. In the Golden State he again worked as a teacher and eventually became a judge and large land-owner.

*From A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Fresno, Tulare and Kern, California.
(Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1891?. Pp. 554-555.). Photo courtesy of Brentwood Camera Club.*

Judge S.H. Hill

Prominent among the pioneers of Fresno County we find the name of Judge S.H. Hill. He was born in Williamson County, Tennessee, in 1822. His father was for many years Sheriff of that county, and was serving in that capacity when the civil war broke out in 1861. He [the father] took the Confederate oath, and while in the service was taken prisoner by the Union army and was conveyed to Dayton, Ohio. He was there treated with great respect, and, after a confinement of six months, was released and paroled. His death occurred in 1891, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years.



S.H. Hill was educated in Williamson county, and finished his studies in the Boiling Spring Academy in 1840. He then went to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was employed as a clerk until the beginning of the Mexican war. He enlisted in "Bob" Foster's company, under Colonel W.G. Campbell, Second Tennessee Regiment, for one year, going to Point Isabella, Texas, and then across to Monterey, where they had a little fight, but no heavy service. Upon the expiration of his term of enlistment he went to New Orleans. There he re-entered the service, enlisting in Company F of Second Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, and was elected Second Lieutenant of the Company. They were sent to Vera Cruz, but arrived after the battle; then to San Juan, and garrisoned at Jalapa for six months, the city being in command of Colonel Hughes, of Baltimore. They remained there until peace was declared. On return to New Orleans, July 4, 1848, there was a great demonstration, and Zachary Taylor made the leading speech. The regiment was then sent to Alton, Illinois, where they were discharged.

Mr. Hill returned home for a visit, and soon afterward secured employment as a steamboat clerk on the old Governor Jones, which plied between Nashville and New Orleans, remaining thus engaged until 1850. He then went to Ray County, Missouri, and for nine years taught in the public schools of that county. In 1859, with Josh B. Craven, E.S. and Samuel Kincaid, he started with ox teams for Pike's Peak. At Ft. Laramie they met and had a long talk with

Horace Greeley. It was his opinion that Pike's Peak was over-estimated, and he advised them to push on to California, which they did, passing through Virginia City and arriving at Hangtown, near Placerville, in September, 1859. Instead of visiting the mines, they came direct to King's river, where W.W. Hill, brother of our subject, was living. W.W. Hill was elected County Treasurer in 1868, and served in that capacity for six years.

In 1862, S.H. Hill began teaching school at Millerton, and later at Centerville and Kingston, following this profession until 1875. During those years he served as County Superintendent and organized the first public school in the county. In 1875 he was elected Justice of the Peace of Fresno, and located here. For fourteen years, until January 1899, he served faithfully in this judicial position. During his residence in this county he acquired considerable real estate, being now the owner of 320 acres of land west of Fresno, and much valuable city property.

Judge Hill first married in Missouri, in 1855, to Miss Anna Kincaid. After his settlement in California she was unwilling to come here to reside, and they separated by mutual consent. By her he has had two children, who have visited him in his western home. In 1876 he was married, in Fresno, to Miss S.B. Baley, daughter of Judge Gillum Baley, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The Judge is a member of Fresno Lodge No. 186, I.O.O.F. ■

Haden / Merrill Slave Dispute

Sally Merrill and others v. Johnston, Parchment and others, 1822

This case was tried before the Tennessee Supreme Court at Nashville in January, 1822. It was a dispute over the ownership of slaves.

William Haden was the father of Sally, wife of William Merrill. In 1784 he gave two slaves, Dinah and Harry, to be at his death the property of his married daughter. He also gave Dinah's children, if any, to Sally's children. William Merrill "departed from his family and went to parts unknown" about 10 years prior to the filing of the suit. Dinah had a daughter named Milly, who somehow came into Johnston's possession. Milly had four children: Dinah, Randal, Dicy and one whose name was not known. Johnson sold Milly, Randal and Dicy to Parchment. The defendants were in "slender and declining circumstances" and Parchment planned to move the slaves out of state. Sally's children want the defendants to sign a bond assuring that when Sally dies, they will return the slaves to the possession of Sally's heirs.

Johnston was Sally Merrill's son-in-law. He stated that Sally married Merrill between 1770 and 1780, and that Haden gave Dinah and Harry to William Merrill at the time of the marriage as "an advancement." During the Revolutionary War Merrill became indebted, and Haden made the deed of gift in order to avoid losing the slaves to Merrill's creditors. Johnson also claimed when he married Margaret Merrill in 1800, William Merrill gave him the slave Milly. Parchment said that in 1815 he exchanged a tract of land in Lincoln County with Johnston for complete ownership of Milly, Randal and Dicy.

The Supreme Court ruled that William Merrill did have the right to dispose of Milly for a limited time, but at the time of Sally's death Milly and her children would become the joint property of all of Sally's heirs. Although Sally had no rights to the slaves, her children did.

Note: Abstracted from: Yerger, George S. *Reports of cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Tennessee*. Vol. 1. (A new edition, with notes and references by William Frierson Cooper.) Columbia, Missouri: E.W. Stephens Publishing, 1912.



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

**Regarding Nelson Hobson,
a 'Raving Lunatic' of Giles county**

Based on Petition Number 162,
Legislative Records of 1843

This petition complains about the limited number of people able to gain admission to the State Lunatic Asylum in Nashville. They cite the case of Nelson Hobson, a 'lunatic' who has resided in Giles County since about 1823. Hobson's relatives, according to the petition, find it too difficult to maintain him.

It is interesting to note that among the last 20 signers of the petition are J.M. Hobson and several women. As women did not usually sign legislative petitions (not being voters) it seems likely that the women who signed under Hobson were members of the sick man's family. Lists of early inmates in the State Lunatic Asylum are available in the published Journals of the General Assembly. It does not appear that any original records of the Asylum for the antebellum period have survived, but in any case they would be closed records under the state's confidentiality laws.

Also of interest is the signature of A.V. Brown, just above Hobson's. Aaron V. Brown was a State Representative from Giles County at the time of the petition, and in 1845 became the Governor of Tennessee. Under his leadership funds were approved for a new mental hospital.

Most of these signers probably lived in Giles County near the Hobson family. However, a comparison of these names with those on the 1840 census of Giles County reveals a number of differences. Because most of the petitioners signed their own names to this document, genealogists may find here a good sample of an ancestor's writing. The document is preserved on microfilm as part of Record Group 60 at the Tenn. State Library and Archives, and copies are readily available.

To the honorable Senate and house of Representatives of the State of Tennessee, in General Assembly convened

Your memorialists respectfully show to your honorable body that they are informed that by the provisions of the present laws of this State only a prescribed number of Lunatics or Insane persons can be admitted into the Lunatic Asylum of this State from each Senatorial District. That number they would represent is wholly inadequate to meet the ends of humanity and Justice Contemplated in the Establishment of that humane and benevolent Institution. They believe ... that its provisions should be greatly enlarged....

In the opinion of your memorialists ... its present organization must necessarily confine its advantages to a few Individuals whose better fortune it is to be able to come within its regulations and who are less objects of charity and commiseration than many others who are excluded under the present System....

For example, in confirmation of their views and facts your memorialists show unto your honorable body that this Senatorial district has at present its full quota in the assylum and that in the County of Giles in said district there resides a Mister Newton Hobson who has been for the last twenty years a resident in said county and a raving madman for that whole period, who is wholly unfit for Society and too dangerous to be suffered to go at large. Consequently, for the greater part of said period said Hobson has been confined in a small cabin or building and kept a part of the aforesaid period at the expense of said County of Giles, but for several years ... the County has wholely refused to contribute any thing to his support and the whole burden of keeping said Lunatic in close confinement and supporting him has fallen on his near relatives, to whom he is an intolerable burden and ... an expense too heavy for them longer to sustain.



Your memorialists therefore urge it upon your honorable body to make some general provisions embracing such cases as the above ... or at least to provide for this Special case so as to afford this sufferer under the heaviest of all Earthly Calamities the loss of reason a relief adequate to his wants and whereby he many be placed in the condition of others like situation ... who are now enjoying the munificence of the government, and for which as in duty bound they will pray & etc. & etc.

The Tennessee Lunatic Asylum opened in 1840 with 66 beds

*E.J. Sheilds
D.M. Leatherman
Samuel McCracking
Hiram Powell
William M. Coper
James Black
Thomas M. Jones
C.H. Sanchuk[?]
Benj. Manning
W.M. Row
Ellis Suttle
E.R. Feild
W.L. Lancaster
Thomas R. Jones
David Neil
J.P. May
R.H. Rorke[?]
John J. Morris
Charles C. Abernathy
L.H. McGehee
J.C. Custer[?]
J.J.P. Lindsay
Ben Carter
B.H. Owen
G.F. Simonton
A. Black
Wm. Gilmer*

*H.M.[?] Birthright
W.E. Anderson
Berryman Mitchell
Jacob R. Groves
B. Shapard
W.M. Ezell
Charles B. Cynis [Cyrus?]
R. Wilkinson
Albert Daughtry
John Kouns
James Holland
Mosses Meek
A.W. Moss
L.N. Barham
W.H. Lyon
Timothy Ezell
B.M. Burch
Wm. R. Brown
John H. Washburn[?]
Jacob Jones
E.D. Jones
Saml. Moseley
Thos. S. Webb
Edw. M[?] Rose
James Caruthers
T.T.[?] Armstrong
Andrew Fay*

*W.C. Flournoy
N.T.[?] Brown
William Brownlow
James M. Brownlow
W.W. Topp
John W. Eldridge
A. Wright
Amasa Ezell
A.V. Brown
J.M. Hobson
H.A. Brumlett
Sariah Hobson
Sarah Kisner
James W. Leath
Mrs. E.S. Leath
John Bramlett
Luissa[?] Bramlett
W.W. Pattie
P.H. Ezell
Vines Harwell
H.N. J-rier[?]
T.R. Brown
F.M. Bramlett
L.W. Ezell
Wells[?] Pellam
J.A. Jackson*

Middle Tennessee Supreme Court Records

Second Series

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



Supreme Court Records, Box 70,
Middle Tennessee, 1842

Gill et al vs Gill

(Original Bill heard in
Maury County Chancery Court)

Orators and Oratrixes Thomas Gill and his wife Sally Gill James A. Perry & his wife Emaline Maria Perry Wilaim G. Patterson & his wife Araminta Evaline Patterson Hugh McDonald & his wife Elizabeth Anne McDonnald formerly Elizabeth Anne Gill Eldridge Gill and Sarah Gill and Robert D. Gill, the last three of whom are infants under the age of twenty one years, who sue by their father and next friend Thomas Gill all of whom are citizens of Giles County and State of Tennessee and Cynthia Ann Reynolds a citizen of ___[blank] County and State of Alabama. That about the year ___ a marriage was solemnized between Thomas Gill, Senior a citizen of Maury County and Sarah ___[blank] that at the time of said marriage the said Thomas Gill was a widower and the father of 10 children, all of whom were grown
....

Supreme Court Records, Box 70,
Middle Tennessee, 1842

Charles Bailey vs Thomas S. Booth and others

(Original Bill heard in
Montgomery County
Chancery Court)

Your orator and orators, Thomas S. Booth, a citizen of Greene Co., Illinois and Mary P. Booth, wife of your orator formerly Mary P. Andrews (widow and relict of Baker Andrews dec'd.) and Benjamin B. Andrews Wm. W. Andrews Virginia A. S. Andrews Nathaniel J.[?] Andrews and Baker S. Andrews minor heirs of Baker S. Andrews, dec'd. by their guardian Thos. S. Booth and your orator and oratrix George Pegram and his wife Mary Pegram formerly Mary C. Andrews one of the heirs of Baker Andrews, dec'd. citizens of Greene Co., Illinois, would represent to your honor that some time in the year 1836 the said Mary P. wife of your orator then a widow filed her petition in the circuit court of Montgomery County, Tennessee for partition of a tract of land in said county of which said Baker Andrews dec'd. died seized and possessed. Upton Orgain was appointed guardian *ad*

litem for the heirs at law of said B. Andrews, dec'd. and answered for them at the September Term of said court upon the report of the clerk and master that the interest of all parties required a sale of the land in question it was decided by said court that Charles Bailey clerk of said court be appointed a commissioner to sell said tract of land....

Supreme Court Records, Box 70,
Middle Tennessee, 1842

William Bigby & others vs John S. Bigbee, Senr.

(Original Bill heard in
Sumner County Chancery Court)

Humbly complaining your orators John S. Bigby & George W. Bigby William Bigby and Mary Ann Bigby infants under the age of twenty-one years citizens of Robertson County who sue by their next friend John S. Bigby, Junior, shew that some time in the year 1826 their grandfather George Bigby conveyed to his son John S. Bigby, Senr., two hundred acres of land on the waters of the North Fork of Red River in first civil district in Robertson County the one half of which said tract of 200 acres being the northern half was

conveyed to him in trust for his brother Archibald, your orators' father, and which he agreed verbally at said time by agreement between them said father, grandfather and said Jno. S. to convey to your orators when required so to do.

They would represent that some time in the year 1827 their said father Archibald purchased of one Michael Long another tract of twenty-five acres on the north boundary of the before-mentioned tract and directed said Long to convey the said tract of twenty acres [sic] to the said John S. Bigby, Senr., in trust for your orators, which conveyance was accordingly made and said Jno. S. at said time executed a bond by which he agreed to convey said tract, as well the hundred [sic] as the twenty five acres to your orators as soon as said Archibald paid the purchase money agreed to be paid Long for the twenty-five acres which was one hundred & twenty five dollars to said Long.

Your orators would represent that as they are informed and believe their said father Archibald Bigby took possession of said land for them about the year 1827 and continued to reside thereon with our orators in possession until some time in the year 1838 he was arrested for an assault and battery and being a very poor man he was committed to the common jail of Robertson County for the want of bail and remained there until about the 8th of November 1838 when he was bailed out of said jail by his said brother Jno. S. Bigby and one Charles R. Hendley and the prosecution still pending against him & having confidence in his

said brother, he deposited the bond with him, and then left the state and has not yet returned. Your orators have been informed and believe that the said Archibald Bigby paid off and discharged the whole debt due Long ... and also had paid off and taken a full receipt from his brother Jno. S. all he had owed him...and said Jno. S. had no claim or lien on said land or any part thereof. Nevertheless they have been informed and so charge that the said Jno. S. Bigby, Senr., has destroyed, cancelled or secreted said bond and now refuses to make your orators a title to said land....

Supreme Court Records, Box 69,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**William Pope
vs S. & T. Aikin & Co.**

(Original Bill heard in Sumner
County Chancery Court)

Injunction Bill filed 7th August 1841. Humbly complaining your petitioners Subrina Pope, Mary Pope & Sarah Pope all infants under the age of twenty-one who sue by their next friend and grandfather William Pope all citizens of Robertson County & State of Tennessee, would represent that on the 17th day of June 1841 said William Pope the grandfather of petitioners gave to them by deed of gift duly executed and recorded two certain negro men Charles aged about fifty years and Ben aged about forty, the said negroes not to be subject to the payment of the debts of William W. Pope, nor to be disposed of by him in any way or manner whatever, but the said negroes

were to remain in the possession of said William W. Pope during his life, which deed of gift is hereto appended ... Your petitioners would further represent that one of said negroes, Ben, has been levied upon by the Sheriff of Robertson County as the property of said William W. Pope to satisfy an execution that he has in his hands in favor ... merchants, trading under the firm ... of S. & T. Aikin & Co. in Nashville, which said execution was issued against one G. B. Kelly and said William W. Pope as security. Your petitioners therefore pray that your honor order the Clerk & Master to issue the state's writ of injunction directed to the coroner of Robertson County restraining said G. Benton Sheriff as aforesaid from selling said negro Ben and that he be permitted to remain in the possession of William W. Pope until the termination of this suit, that said S & T. Aikin & Co. Merchants be made parties defendants to this Bill ... and that on a final hearing your honor order and decree that your petitioners be ever quieted in the right to said negro Ben & Charles [sic]....
[signed] W. W. Pepper, Sols.

Supreme Court Records, Box 66,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**Tillmon D. Beasley
vs Allen Fields & others**

(Original Bill heard in Williamson
County Chancery Court)

On the 2nd day of March 1837 a bill of complaint was filed...in the words...to wit.

The bill of complaint of Tilmon D. Beasly, complainant, against Allen Fields of Graves County, Kentucky, Nelson Fields and Green Vernon of Williamson County, Tenn., Joseph Anthony of Giles County, Tenn. and Younger(?) Hobson of Giles County, Tenn., defendants. This complainant sues as well for himself as for such of his brothers & sisters as shall claim benefit under & contribute to the expenses of this suit.

Your orator Tilmon D. Beasly shews that he was born on the 30th day of March 1813 and consequently that he attained the age of twenty one on the 30th day of March 1834. Your orator further states that his father Burton Beasly in the latter part of the year 1817 or the first part of the year 1818 departed this life in Giles County, Tenn., leaving a will by which he bequeathed all his property both real and personal to his wife Delilah Beasly during her widowhood except a sufficiency thereof to pay his debts & if she married again that she should receive a child's part of the whole of his estate both real & personal. Said Delilah Beasly in 1820 [1821?] intermarried with said defendant Allen Fields. Said testator Burton Beasly had six children Rebecca, William, Wyatt Y, your orator Tilman D., Ann & Polly Beasly, each of whom at the said Delilah's marriage as foresaid became entitled to one seventh part of said testator's estate and she to the other seventh thereof. The estate of said Burton Beasly consisted of one valuable negro man named Isaac, at his death about thirty years old, much stock

of different kinds ... all of which is shown by an inventory of his estate.... Your orator further states that one Jesse Beasly his grandfather on the 21st day of August 1820 was duly appointed by the County Court of Giles County guardian to the said Rebecca, William Wyatt Y, your orator Tilmon D., Ann & Polly Beasly, minor orphans of said Burton Beasly dec'd and gave bond....

Supreme Court Records, Box 65,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**Allen T. Nolen
vs Burrell G. Lewis
for the use of Wm. H. Hill**

(Original Bill heard in Williamson
County Chancery Court)

We Allen T. Nolen John Marshall & Lemuel Farmer are held and firmly bound unto Barrett G. Lewis in the sum of \$299.98 ... and dated the 4th day of December 1840. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas a certain action of *assumpsit* was lately prosecuted and determined in our Circuit Court for Williamson County Burrell G. Lewis — [two illegible words] being plaintiff and Allen T. Nolen defendant, on trial of which judgment was rendered on the 1st day of December 1840 in favor of the plaintiff for the sum of \$149.99, damages ... from which judgment said defendant prayed an appeal to the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals at Nashville...[signed] Allen T. Nolen by Jno. Marshall his atty. At law, Jno. Marshall, Lemuel Farmer.

The bill of complaint of Burrell G. Lewis & Frances his wife of the county of Williamson and State of Tennessee against Allen T. Nolen of the same county and state defendant, sheweth your orators Burrell G. Lewis and Frances his wife that on the 20th day of April 1833 the said defendant Allen T. Nolen filed his bill in this court against your orators and others for the settlement of and proper distribution of the estate of John Turner the father of your oratrix which suit was not finally terminated until 23rd April 1839. That at the November Term 1834 of this court it was decreed in said cause that Catharine Butler (or Turner) with whom John Turner had for many years cohabited was not his wife, and that her son John J. Turner, the son of said intestate John Turner, was illegitimate and that his estate belonged to Peter N. Smith assignee of Baswell Maswell & wife, your orators & Delilah Turner whose share of said estate was also decreed to P. N. Smith & your orators. But as by the exertions of said Catharine it was supposed much of the property of said John Turner had been acquired. Your orators and said Smith agreed that said defendant who was admr. of said John Turner should deliver to her a negro woman Jinny, which he did, and should also pay her two hundred dollars, and to enable said defendant to do so with safety. Your orator Burrell G. and said Peter N. Smith on the 12th day of May 1834 gave an order on said Nolen directing him to pay the said Catharine \$200.00 the sum to be charged to them; which payment he made. And to secure the said Nolen in the sum of \$100 the half

said order your orator gave his note dated the 12th day of May 1834 to said defendant for said sum of \$100, which note said defendant held until sometime in the summer of 1839 when he voluntarily gave up said note to your orator.... Your orator further states that during the pendency of said suit in chancery the said John J. Turner brought suit at law against said defendant for two slaves, Esther and her child Andy, belonging to said estate of John Turner, claiming them as a gift from his father which suit being an action of *detinue* was finally decided in favor of the said John J. Turner at the Dec. Term 1837 of the Supreme Court at Nashville, who also recovered besides said slaves as damages for their detention and costs of suit the sum of about \$227.21 which was paid by said defendant to the sheriff on an execution issued from said judgment about the 28th May 1838....

Supreme Court Records, Box 67,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**Mary F. Baldwin
vs Henry Baldwin & others**

(Original Bill heard in Williamson
County Chancery Court)

On 21st February 1840 a bill of complaint was filed as follows: The bill of complaint of Mary F., now the wife of Henry Baldwin, Jr., of Williamson County, Tenn., late Mary F. Dickson, who sues by her next friend William G. Dickinson against her said husband Henry Baldwin Jr., James W. Hoggatt of Davidson County,

Tenn. William R. Saunders of Sumner County, Tenn. and _____[blank] and _____[blank] Thomas, merchants of Baltimore, Maryland, trading under the style of Thomas & Thomas, Thomas A. Jones of Marshall County, Tenn., Aaron Ross of Philadelphia, _____[blank] Hopkins, merchant of _____[blank], Solomon Oden of Williamson County, John H. Otey & Co. of Franklin, Tenn., Joseph L. Campbell of Lawrence County, H. & G. Kirkman of Nashville, Tenn., Casey Weathered & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland, _____[blank] Smith and _____[blank] Atkinson merchants of Baltimore, trading under the style of Smith & Atkinson, James Bass of Rutherford Cty., Tenn. John C. Carter of Williamson County and Henry Baldwin and James Anderson merchants of Franklin, Tenn. trading under the style of Anderson & Baldwin, defendants.

Your oratrix shows that about the 27th of October 1830, being an infant under the age of twenty one years and being about to intermarry with her now husband the said defendant Henry Baldwin and being seized and possessed and entitled in her own right to the following negro slaves to wit: Peter; Emanuel; Sam; Ralph; David; Sally Ann & child Martha; Egbert; Walston; Claiborne; Big Bob; Little Bob; Stephen; Hulday; Minerva; Susan; Clementina; Laura; Eliza; Sally; Julia; Lucinda; and Huntley, and to a large sum of money due from her guardian Edward Ward, Esquire, now deceased, but then of Davidson County, the amount of which was not then ascertained and which she

cannot now specify and to other personal property. She did on the day and year aforesaid jointly with her said then intended husband Henry Baldwin Jr. ... execute and deliver to the said James W. Hoggatt an article of agreement or deed his acceptance of which the said James W. signified by signing it and his assent to and concurrence wherewith the said Henry Baldwin Jr. signified by joining in it, whereby she gave and granted, bargained sold and conveyed and confirmed to the said James W. Hoggatt, a trustee chosen by herself, and to his executors, administrators and assigns forever all the foregoing negro slaves and their increase and all sums of money, debts, dues and demands whatsoever belonging to her and owing by the said Edward Ward or any other person whatever ... and also all and every description of property belonging to her wheresoever situated in trust that until the solemnization of the contemplated marriage the said negro slaves debts and other property should be held for the sole use and benefit of your oratrix, and also that when said marriage should take place, she should have sue occupy and enjoy the said negro slaves and their increase and the debts and other property to her separate use and benefit free from the control of her said husband and as a feme sole with full power and authority of directing in what manner the slaves should be hired out and employed or disposed of and also in what manner the money due her should be invested from time to time....

School Records of Middle Tennessee

Jackson College,
Columbia, Maury County
1849-1850 Catalog



In the absence of good public schools in Tennessee during the 19th century, private schools and academies were founded in many neighborhoods. Some flourished while others sputtered out after only a year or two in operation. Those which could afford to do so published annual catalogs listing faculty and students and describing the courses available. These catalogs served as promotional devices, and today they provide an excellent source for genealogists.

A Record of the Officers and Students of Jackson College at Columbia, Tennessee, for the Scholastic Year 1849-1850 is among the old school records found among the Library Special Collections of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. This catalog provides an interesting list of the students enrolled at the time, along with some details describing the school's operations.

According to local historians, the college was chartered in 1833 and organized as a manual training school by Robert Hardin and Professor William L. Williford. Originally located near Spring Hill, it moved to Columbia in 1837. At that time Columbia was a center for education in the region, the prestigious Columbia Institute for Girls already in operation there.¹

Jackson College was apparently a small institution for many years, as the number of graduates listed in the alumni directory is not large. However by 1849 when this catalog was published it had a remarkable enrollment totaling 167. Students from as far away as Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi joined those from Maury County and the surrounding area.

The school had two divisions, preparatory and collegiate. Among the courses required of freshman in the collegiate division were Anabasis of Xenophon, Cicero's Orations, Aenid, Lucian, Livy, Greek and Roman antiquities, and Horace, along with subjects more familiar to modern students such as geometry and algebra.

Tuition in the preparatory school began at \$8 per session (half-year). The collegiate division cost \$21 per session, plus room rent of \$2. Fuel and light could be "procured at a moderate expense." Among other information, the catalog shows the college boasted a library of 3,500 volumes, chemical apparatus and a "Cabinet of Minerals."

Edmund Dillahunt, President of the College in 1849, was a Tennessee lawyer of some prominence. Records show that he married Sarah Looney in Franklin County, Alabama, in 1824², and the Looney family was socially and politically active in Middle Tennessee. The 1850 census of Maury County lists him as a 49-year old, and gives his occupation as Judge of the 8th Circuit. In the household next door are listed four law students, young men in their 20s, who were probably studying law under Dillahunt.³ His tenure with the college may have been short-lived, as he is not listed among the notable faculty members in the *Century Review* article published in 1905.

J.O. Church, President of the Board of Trustees in 1849, is listed as "Rev." in the catalog, but the 1850 census identifies him as a 37-year-old teacher born in New York. He, too, may have had only a brief career with Jackson College, as the census shows him heading a school of his own just a year after this catalog was published; his household includes 15 girls aged 9 through 18.⁴

The following list of students also includes the name of a parent or responsible adult.

**Catalogue of the officers and students of Jackson College, Columbia, Tennessee,
for the scholastic year 1849-50.**

Columbia: Printed at the Maury Intelligence Office, 1850.

Board of Trustees

Rev. J.O. Church, President	William Galloway
Nathan Vaught, Treasurer	Rev. John B. Hamilton
James O. Griffith, A.M., Secretary	W.R. Hodge, Esq.
Isaac N. Bills, Esq.	A.M. Hughes, Esq.
Dr. Andrew T. Boyd	Dr. W.G.J. Hunter
John P. Campbell, Esq.	W.W. Jossey
Nathaniel T. Cheairs	Samuel C. Newell
W.W. Coleman, Esq.	James O. Potter, Esq.
Hon. Edmund Dillahunty	F.G. Roche
Hugh Forgey	

Faculty

Hon. E. Dillahunty, A.M.,
President and Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy and International Law.
Joseph Crawford, A.M.,
Chairman of Faculty; Professor of Ancient Classics, Rhetoric and Elocution.
O.H. P. Bennett, A.M.,
Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.
S.W. Mitchell, A.M.,
Adjunct Professor of Ancient Classics.
James O. Griffith, A.M.,
Adjunct Professor of Preparatory Department.
Prof. William A. Strozzi
Will give instruction in Modern Languages.
Nathan Vaught,
College Treasurer.



Students in the College Department

Akin, Robert	Pleasant J. Akin, Esq., Maury Co.
Allison, Thomas F.P.	Col. T.F. Perkins, Williamson Co. Tenn.
Anderson, J.W.	Dr. William J. Anderson, Marshall Co., Tenn.
Bailey, James T.	___ Bailey, Esq., Helena, Ark.
Bennett, W.F.T.	J.D. Bennett, Esq., Franklin, Tenn.
Branch, E.M.	John A. Branch, Esq., Florence, Ala.
Brandon, John L.	Giles Co. Tenn.
Brooks, H.I.	P.C. Smithson, Esq., guardian, Maury Co.
Calhoun, C.T.	Christopher Todd, Maury Co.
Calhoun, N.D.	Christopher Todd, Maury Co.
Carter, B.F.	Milton Carter, Esq., Maury Co.
Cochran, J.T.L.	Reuben Cochran, Esq., Columbia
Dillahunty, C.L.	Harvey Dillahunty, Esq., Florence, Ala.
Dillon, Charles R.	Mrs. A. Dillon, Columbia

Dixon, J.E.
 Dowell, P.A.
 Edgar, William
 Egnew, G.R.
 Erwin, J.H.
 Erwin, J.N.
 Estes, Henderson Jr.
 Ewing, C.B.
 Ewing, Flavius J.
 Francis, W.B.
 Gates, James M.
 Greenfield, James T.S.
 Griffith, R. Paine
 Groves, J.S.
 Hanks, James M.
 Hanks, John F.
 Harrison, W.B.
 Hendly, E.T.
 Hendly, F.J.
 Hodge, J.A.
 Hodge, J.S.
 Horner, Albert A.
 Horner, John J.
 Hunter, G.R.
 Inge, W.M.
 Ingram, James M.
 Johnson, W.M.
 Jones, Thomas R.
 Kimbrough, J.J.
 King, James A.
 Leftwich, W.M.
 Lewis, Benjamin H.
 Mack, J.B.
 Maguire, N.K.
 McQuiston, W.C.
 Moody, F.H.
 Moore, R.N.
 Noel, S.S.
 Osborne, H.T.
 Partee, B.L.
 Pickins, A.O.P.
 Pickins, J.L.B.
 Polk, Lucius E.
 Pope, G.A.
 Porter, N.P.
 Powell, William
 Ridley, R.R.
 Roche, J.B.
 Saunders, D.D.
 Smith, B.C.
 Smith, John H.
 Spindle, Thomas D.
 Stewart, M.S.
 Thomas, J.C.
 Thomas, N.A.H.
 Walker, Joseph N.

Adam Dixon, Esq., Maury Co.
 B.F. Dowell, Esq., guardian, Maury Co.
 Benton, Tenn.
 George Egnew, deceased, Maury Co.
 W.E. Erwin, Esq., Columbia
 Ephriam Erwin, Esq., Maury Co.
 Henderson Estes, Esq., Columbia
 Lyle A. Ewing, Esq., Lewisburg, Tenn.
 Jas. V. Ewing, Esq., Lewisburg, Tenn..
 John M. Francis, Esq., Maury Co.
 Col. Charles Gates, Aberdeen, Miss.
 Mrs. Jane Greenfield, guardian, Maury Co.
 John J. Griffith, Esq., guardian, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.
 Dr. J.B. Groves, Columbia
 ___ Hanks, Esq., Helena, Ark.
 ___ Hanks, Esq., Helena, Ark.
 Benjamin Harrison, Esq., Columbia
 William D. Hendly, Esq., Maury Co.
 William D. Hendly, Esq., Maury Co.
 James Hodge, Esq., Columbia
 James Hodge, Esq., Columbia
 Hon. ___ Horner, Helena, Ark.
 Hon. ___ Horner, Helena, Ark.
 ___ Hunter, Esq., Williamson Co., Tenn.
 Mrs. ___ Inge, guardian, Aberdeen, Miss.
 Samuel J. Ingram, Esq., Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.
 Dr. J.P. Spindle, guardian, Columbia
 James Jones, Esq., Maury Co.
 ___, Arkansas
 Col. ___ King, Huntsville, Ala.
 Maj. Thos. A. Leftwich, Maury Co.
 Maj. M.G. Lewis, Columbia
 Rev. W. Mack, Columbia
 P. Maguire, Columbia
 Col. Wm. McQuiston, Aberdeen, Miss.
 Maj. F.T. Moody, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.
 James T. Moore, Esq., Maury Co.
 ___ Noel, Esq., Florence, Ala.
 Philip Osborne, Esq., Maury Co.
 A.Y. Partee, Maury Co.
 ___ Pickens, Esq., Marshall Co., Tenn.
 ___ Pickens, Esq., Marshall Co., Tenn.
 Dr. Wm. J. Polk, Columbia
 John I Gant, Esq., Columbia
 Col. H.B. Porter, Maury Co.
 ___, DeSoto Co., Miss.
 John T. Ridley, Esq., Columbus, Miss.
 F.G. Roche, Esq., guardian, Columbia
 James E. Saunders, Esq., Courtland, Ala.
 Dr. Charles Smith, Houston, Miss.
 Col. ___ Smith, Florence, Ala.
 Dr. J.P. Spindle, Columbia
 T. Stewart, Esq., Columbia
 W.H. Thomas, Esq., Columbia
 N.H. Thomas, Esq., Columbia
 J.A. Walker, Esq., Columbia



Students in the Classical Preparatory Department

Akin, J.T.
Alderson, W.H.
Anderson, J.J.
Andrews, W.J.
Armstrong, J.R.
Bostwick, E.D.
Boyd, J.R.
Brandon, A.W.
Brandon, James
Bynum, J.W.
Cherry, W.W.
Colquitt, J.W.
Dew, J.H.
Dillon, J.M.S.
Estes, Edwin
Estes, H.B.
Estes, H.H.
Estes, Joseph
Estes, W.P.
Farrar, W.T.
Frierson, J.W.S.
Frierson, L.M.
Gant, R.D.
Gordon, J.C.
Gordon, W.B.
Graham, W.G.
Hackney, T.C.
Harris, M.
Hilliard, J.W.T.
Hodge, G.A.
Hodge, J.M.
Hodge, J.R.
Hodge, W.R.
Houston, C.M.
Johnson, J.E.
Johnson, J.H.
Jones, E.W.
Keesee, J.W.
Klyce, J.H.
Lankford, T.R.
Lester, G.A.
Looney, F.M.
Looney, R.A.
Madden, T.J.
Martin, Barkley
Martin, C.H.
Martin, H.B.
Mayes, Walter
Moore, J.S.
Moore, W.P.
Neill, J.T.
Northern, R.E.
P.J. Akin, Esq., Maury Co.
Mrs. Lucy Alderson, Columbia
Elias J. Armstrong, Esq., Columbia
James Andrews, Esq., Columbia
Pres. B.H. Ragsdale, Columbia
A. Bostwick, Esq., Columbia
John Kennedy, Esq., guardian, Columbia
C. Brandon, Esq., Columbia
C. Brandon, Esq., Columbia
C.P. Bynum, Esq., Columbia
W.C. Cherry, Esq., Columbia
Colquitt, W.L., Columbia
Mrs. R. Dew, guardian, Columbia
Mrs. A. Dillon, Columbia
A.B. Estes, New York City, N.Y.
A.B. Estes, Esq., New York City
L.H. Estes, Esq., Columbia
H. Estes, Esq., Columbia
L.H. Estes, Esq., Columbia
William H. Pillow, Esq., guardian, Columbia
Dr. J.W.S. Frierson, Columbia
S.D. Frierson, Esq., Columbia
John I. Gant, Esq., Columbia
Gen. G.W. Gordon, Columbia
Gen. G.W. Gordon, Columbia
G. Graham, Esq., Columbia
James Brown, Esq., Columbia
W.J. Cunningham, Esq., guardian, Columbia
A.W. Hillard, Esq., Columbia
W.R. Hodge, Esq., Columbia
W.R. Hodge, Esq., Columbia
James Hodge, Esq., guardian, Columbia
W.R. Hodge, Esq., Columbia
M.W. Houston, Esq., guardian, Columbia
Dr. J.P. Spindle, guardian, Columbia
Dr. J.P. Spindle, Columbia
Marshall Co., Tenn.
T.W. Keesee, Esq., Columbia
John Klyce, Esq., Williamsport, Tenn.
J.B. Lankford, Columbia
Col. S.H. Lester, Canton, Miss.
D. Looney, Esq., Memphis, Tenn.
Hon. Edmund Dillahunt, Columbia
C.A. Madden, Esq., Columbia
Col. Matt Martin, Nashville, Tenn.
C.C. Martin, Maury Co.
W.P. Martin, Esq., Columbia
R.B. Mayes, Esq., Columbia
J.W. Moore, Columbia
Mrs. Jane Moore, Maury Co.
Col. John L. Neill, Bedford Co., Tenn.
Samuel Northern, Esq., Davidson Co., Tenn.

Payne, Calvin
 Pillow, G.J.
 Polk, C.
 Potter, W.J.
 Smith, J.J.E.
 Vaught, A.D.
 Vaught, J.W.
 Walker, A.J.
 Walker, J.S.
 Webb, T.G.
 Webb, W.A.
 Weir, Rev. W.D. *
 Willcox, T.R.
 Williams, F.M.
 Young, James

*This name is listed as a student but is probably that of a parent.

Peter Holland, Esq., Columbia
 Maj. Gen., G.J. Pillow, Maury Co.
 Dr. W.J. Polk, Columbia
 James O. Potter, Esq., Columbia
 John L. Smith, Esq., Columbia
 N. Vaught, Esq., Columbia
 N. Vaught, Esq., Columbia
 James Walker, Esq., Columbia
 Elias J. Armstrong, guardian, Columbia
 Gray P. Webb, guardian, Columbia
 Gray P. Webb, guardian, Columbia
 Maury Co., Tenn.
 L.H. Willcox, Esq., Maury Co.
 John Williams, Esq., New Orleans, La.
 Evan Young, Esq., Maury Co.



Students in the Preparatory Department

Bowles, A.J.
 Bradshaw, W.D.
 Brandon, E.
 Bynum, J.W.
 Bynum, W.M.
 Campbell, M.D.H.
 Campbell, R.W.
 Campbell, T.J.

Cherry, T.J.
 Estes, A.H.
 Estes, D.N.
 Farney, W.B.
 Ferguson, James
 Ferguson, T.J.
 Folsom, C.O.
 Graham, C.A.
 Helm, Thomas J.
 Hodge, A.A.B.
 Kirby, R.W.
 Lemaster, L.H.
 Lemaster, W.H.
 Lester, N.B.
 Morgan, W.P.
 Norman, H.H.
 Smith, Jo. W.
 Smith, Mumford
 Vaught, C.N.
 Vaught, W.E.
 Wilcox, W.H.
 Williams, T.H.

Mrs. Mary S. Bowles, Oxford, Miss.
 A. Bradshaw, Esq., Columbia
 C. Brandon, Esq., Columbia
 M. Smith, Esq., guardian, Columbia
 M. Smith, Esq., guardian, Columbia
 D. Campbell, Esq., Columbia
 D. Campbell, Esq., Columbia
 D. Campbell, Esq., Columbia
 J. Cherry, Esq., Columbia
 A.B. Estes, Esq., New York City
 L.H. Estes, Esq., Columbia
 Mrs. Eliza C. Farney, Columbia
 Arthur Ferguson, Esq., Columbia
 Arthur Ferguson, Esq., Columbia
 D. Folsom, Esq., Columbia
 Green Graham, Esq., Columbia
 M. Helm, Esq., Columbia
 W.R. Hodge, Esq., Columbia
 L.W. Kirby, Esq., Columbia
 J.W. Lemaster, Esq., Lawrenceburg, Tenn.
 J.W. Lemaster, Esq., Lawrenceburg, Tenn.
 Evin T. Lester, Esq., Columbia
 John Morgan, Esq., Columbia
 H. Norman, Esq., Columbia
 John L. Smith, Esq., Columbia
 Mumford Smith, Esq., Columbia
 N. Vaught, Esq., Columbia
 N. Vaught, Esq., Columbia
 L.H. Wilcox, Esq., Columbia
 E. Williams, Esq., Columbia



Alumni of Jackson College

Columbia, Tennessee

1835-1853

The following information is found in the 1854 catalog of Jackson College, which is also housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Titled *Catalogus Alumnorum* it appears to be a list of all 61 graduates of the school since its first class in 1835. The year of graduation is given for each. Some names are italicized, and may be those of deceased graduates. Given names are listed in Latin form, a typical convention of academia in this period.

Anderson, Josephus	1853	Looney, Abrahamus McL.	1840
Bailey, Jacobus T.	1853	Maxwell, Jesse Wallace Egnew	1839
<i>Baker, Archibald C.</i>	1837	McCutchen, Samuel E.	1845
<i>Blair, Georgius H.</i>	1843	McMillan, Johannes	1835
Brandon, Thomas S.	1847	McReady, Josephus A.	1846
Brown, Johannes Calvinus	1845	<i>McRee, Gulielmus F.</i>	1836
Chapman, Alexander S.	1844	Mitchell, Robertus B.	1844
Cooper, Edmundus	1839	<i>Morrison, Robertus M.</i>	1837
Cooper, Henricus	1847	Neill, Jacobus F.	1853
Crofford, Nimrodus P.	1844	Nixon, Orvilus A.	1853
Dysart, Milton Hall	1840	O'Brien, Laurentius	1847
Edmiston, Alexander Reid	1840	Osborn, Henricus P.	1851
Estes, Henderson	1851	Pearsall, Jeremias	1840
Ewing, Cyrus G.	1835	Pettit, Elisaeus*	1848
Frierson, Johannes	1848	* "in coll. Marshall, Texas"	
Frierson, Milton Brown	1840	<i>Pickens, Archibald M.</i>	1838
Frierson, Samuel W., M.D.	1845	Pickens, Johannes L.B.	1853
<i>Garrison, Robertus C.</i>	1837	Plummer, Gulielmus Thaddaeus	1839
Glass, Robertus	1836	Rainey, Winfield Scott	1839
Goodwin, Gulielmus W.	1843	Russell, Alexander Erskine	1848
Gordon, Andreas Galbraith	1839	Saunders, Napoleon B.	1847
Grant, Gualterus H.	1847	Smith, Buford Jackson	1839
Griffith, Robertus Paine	1852	Smith, Preston	1846
Hall, Claudius B., M.D.	1841	Spindle, Thomas D.	1852
Hanks, Johannes F.	1851	<i>Tarbet, Gulielmus L.</i>	1847
Helm, Georgius W.	1845	Thomas, Jacobus D.	1853
Hodge, Jacobus S.	1853	Ward, Hilarius L.	1843
Hodge, Jesse A.	1853	Wardlow, Gulielmus	1846
Horner, Johannes Josephus	1852	White, Jackson B.	1835
Jones, Jacobus C.	1845	White, Johannes C.	1848
Kercheval, Gulielmus Felix	1839		
Little, Bryan A.	1847		

Notes:

¹ *Century Review of Maury County* (no author, published 1905 under the auspices of the Mayor and Aldermen of Columbia, p.22.)

² Franklin County, Alabama, marriage records provided on the website *Ancestry.com*.

³ Porch, Deane. *Maury County, Tennessee, census of 1850*. (Nashville: n.p., [1973], p. 165.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 238

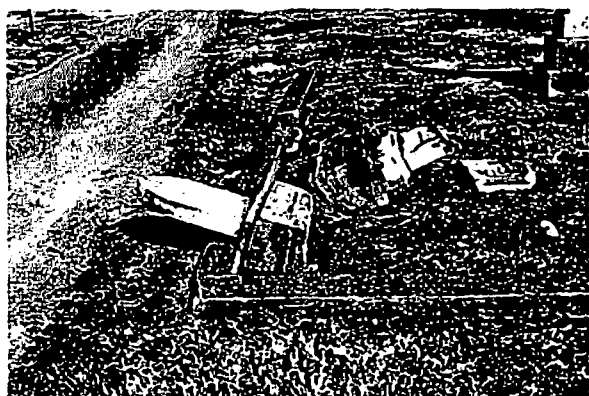
Vandalism Threatens Nashville City Cemetery

Contributed by Lauren Batte



For generations Middle Tennesseans have known the history of the Nashville City Cemetery, after-all many of the city's early leaders were laid to rest there. The cemetery, located just a short distance from downtown, is Nashville's oldest public cemetery, opening in 1822 after the city government purchased land "on the plains, south of downtown" from a local tavern keeper. It was Nashville's cemetery, long before Mt. Olivet opened. As the years have passed, the city has grown up around the cemetery. Today, it is a park-like oasis in the middle of an area filled with industrial warehouses.

But sometimes the passage of time causes us to push aside some of our collective memories and historic cemeteries can be overlooked. Far more threatening, however, to the cemetery than blurred memories is the vulnerable nature of historic cemeteries, particularly those with so many markers of Tennessee limestone. The Nashville City Cemetery is a fragile historic resource sensitive to environmental conditions, the ravages of weather and, most distressing, the senseless destruction caused by vandals. In recent months, vandals have uprooted, toppled or broken some 175 markers in the cemetery, many of them only recently repaired.



The Nashville City Cemetery Association partners as a friends association with the Metropolitan Historical Commission, whose responsibility it is to oversee the cemetery. Together the non-profit association and the city agency are working to deter any further vandalism to the cemetery.

The Metropolitan Parks Department and Metro Police have stepped up patrols in and around the cemetery. The Metro Historical Commission is working with CSX which maintains a fence along the back of the property to repair the fence. And city leaders are being many aware of a threat to an irreplaceable link to Nashville's ancestors.

Since its opening, the Nashville City Cemetery has become the final resting place for some of Nashville's most interesting citizens, including governors, mayors, Civil War soldiers, Fisk Jubilee singers, schoolteachers, former slaves and early civic leaders. Among those who are buried at the cemetery are:

- James Robertson and his wife, Charlotte. James Robertson led Nashville's founding party across the frozen Cumberland River to Fort Nashborough on Christmas Day in 1779.

- Dr. John Shelby, who once owned much of the land that today makes up East Nashville. Shelby Park and Shelby Avenue are named in his honor.
- Governor William Carroll who presided over the 1834 Constitutional Convention when lotteries were outlawed in Tennessee – a law that has only recently been revised.
- Sally Thomas, a slave who ran a business in downtown Nashville and worked to purchase freedom for herself and her son.
- William Driver, a Union sympathizer who christened the American flag “Old Glory” and brought his American flag to fly at the State Capitol when the Union army occupied the city in 1862.
- Francis Fogg, developed Nashville’s public school system in 1852, along with Alfred Hume, who is also buried in the cemetery. Hume-Fogg High School is named for these men.

The thousands of markers found throughout the cemetery are in themselves a history lesson, reflecting the changing burial styles of almost 200 years. Headboard markers, false crypts, obelisks, underground and above ground vaults are all expressions of the ways that family members honored departed loved ones.

The Nashville City Cemetery Association was formed in 1998 as a nonprofit, volunteer organization to raise both funds and public awareness of this important historic treasure. Some of our members have ancestors buried in the cemetery. Other members are those who love Nashville’s history and want to help in preserving the site and all of the city’s history that it represents.

As a young organization, the association has already had many accomplishments including an annual Living History Tour, the Memorial Day Dash (5K race) and Descendants’ Day. The fund-raising events support the cemetery’s restoration. In the past year, we have funded the restoration of more than 60 markers.

But there is much more work to be done, and we welcome involvement from interested Nashvillians. We invite you to become a member of the association and to get involved by volunteering for events, recruiting new members and making donations toward the cemetery’s restoration.

If you would like to join the association, membership information is available at www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org or contact Association Coordinator Sharon Mendonsa at mendonsa4@worldnet.att.net



Tennessee’s late historian Stanley Horn wrote, “Here lie the mortal remains of generations of public and private citizens who contributed so much to the establishment and development of our city, county and state. It is not only our duty, but our privilege to maintain it with loving care as a perpetual memorial to those who have gone before us.”

It is time for our present-day generation to offer this loving care in honor of previous generations who have made Nashville the great city it is today. Please join us.

Protection Papers Issued by the Union Army

to Middle Tennessee Civilians in 1863

During the summer of 1863 the Union Army occupied much of Confederate Middle Tennessee. Civilians were not allowed to pass through army lines unless they had been granted a pass from Military Headquarters at Tullahoma. All civilians and their property were also subject to search, seizure and imprisonment without due process of law. Protection papers were granted to those who could convince the commanding officers that they were not Confederate sympathizers and/or had legitimate business that necessitated their traveling freely through the lines. Often the papers were issued to those who assisted the occupying army by providing information about Confederate movements and acting as scouts to guide them in an unfamiliar country.

The following two documents found among the papers of the Union Provost Marshal list residents of Warren, Coffee and Grundy counties who were issued passes during that unhappy Tennessee summer.¹ More information about these protected citizens may be found in other records, including the Southern Claims Commission files and the Union Provost Marshal files relating to individual citizens.

List of Names of persons to whom protection has been granted

Wm. McGehee	Warren County	Lucy Ramsey	Warren County
Ransom Gwyn	Warren County	W.J. Taylor	Coffee County
Stephen Winton	Coffee County	T.J. Winton	Coffee County
S.M. Ramsey	Warren County	Joseph Waggoner	Warren County
A.B. Davis	Coffee County	W.A. Powell	Coffee County
Ann Stroud	Warren County	Sam'l Ramsey	Warren County

July 21, 1863, Manchester

A List of names of Citizens to whom protection papers were granted.

At Manchester, Tenn., July 18th, 1863.

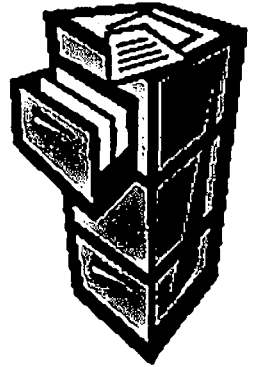
S.J. Christian	Grundy County	Joel Hale	Coffee County
James Winton	"	T[?] J. Lindley	Coffee County
Jesse Wooton	"		
William Winton	"		
James Lusk	"		
Wm. Ray[?]	"		
John D. Berry	"		
James Parnell	"		

¹ Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians. (National Archives Microfilm publication M1098, File Number 12950. Tenn. State Library & Archives Ms. #1607. Item numbers 5638 and 5641.)

From the Notes of ...

Research Files of Past Tennessee Genealogists

The Turner Family file of Caroline Crockett



Caroline Crockett (1867-1959) was one of the first notable genealogists in Middle Tennessee. Born in Henry County just after the Civil War, she was educated at the Tennessee Female College in Franklin, where her mother was the headmistress. In 1894 she married Dr. Sidney Scales Crockett, a physician. During World War I she organized and headed the Red Cross canteen in Nashville. In addition to her genealogical work for private clients, Mrs. Crockett worked for the Tennessee Department of Education for many years. She died in Nashville at the age of 92. Her papers, preserved on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, contain approximately 6,600 items on 450 families. The materials are arranged in folders alphabetically by surname.

In 1955 Mr. E.L. Turner of Anniston, Alabama, wrote Mrs. Crockett asking for her assistance in locating information about his Turner ancestors. Although the genealogist was then approaching her 88th birthday, she took on the job for a fee of \$15. She mentioned in one letter that "rather heavy snow and ice" had prevented her from driving to the Archives that day, but her notes show that in the course of the work she made several trips to the State Library and Archives, the Davidson County Courthouse, and perhaps to sites in Rutherford and Robertson counties.

Mr. Turner knew that his great-grandfather was George Turner of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, who had come to Nashville by 1803. Mrs. Crockett conducted an extensive search in records of Virginia and Tennessee, but was unable to answer her client's primary question – who was the father of George Turner? She did, however, uncover many tidbits about the Turner family. Her notes are rather disorganized – it appears that she took rough notes in the field and compiled a handwritten report for her clients, but did not keep a copy of that report. The rough notes and typed correspondence remain in the file. The following information has been extracted from them.

Findings on the George Turner Family

- George Turner (whose middle name may have been Foster) was from Mecklenburg County, Virginia.
- George married Anna Reed, also from Mecklenburg, who died in 1840. She was reputed to be 94 years old at the time of her death. Anna was the daughter of Mr. Reed and his wife Miss Terry of Virginia. Mr. Reed was a Revolutionary War soldier and served on Washington's staff. His mother was a Miss Talbot of England.
- The only son of George and Anna was James Henry Turner, born in Nashville on May 7, 1803.
- James Henry Turner was a Methodist, and was an original settler of Columbus, Mississippi.
- James Henry Turner married Cornelia Jones Dyer of Brownsville, Tenn. She was born Mar. 4, 1819. Cornelia was the daughter of Joel Dyer and his first wife, a Miss Christmas. Joel Dyer was a pioneer settler of Dyersburg, Tenn.
- James Henry Turner was buried in Columbus in the fall of 1890. His wife died in 1881.

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- James H. Turner and Cornelia Dyer were married in Nashville by Dr. John B. McFerrin in 1835.
 - James and Cornelia Turner had 10 children. One of them was Joel Dyer Turner, who died in Nashville in 1891, unmarried.
 - Information about the Turner family was provided by Mrs. J.A. Birch of Malvern, Arkansas (Bess Adine Owen Birch), a descendant of George Turner.

Other Turner Family Notes

- Caroline Crockett wrote to her client, "I remember [two] nice old men named Turner – wholesale grocers – my mother thought a lot of them." She later found in the 1866 Nashville city directory an entry for James Turner, Grocer, 25 N. Market and noted "I think he is the one my mother bought of."
- In the Turner Cemetery at Turnersville in Robertson County, Tenn., are buried:
Mrs. Wealthy S. Turner, died June 4, 1830, ages 29 years 6 months.
Maj. Jack E. Turner, Dec. 22, 1774-Dec. 22, 1825
Julia Glover Sept. 6, 1772-Dec. 1, 1850
- Davidson County, Tenn., Will Book 1, includes the will of John Turner dated Jan. 1785, mentions children, not named. A record dated Apr. 9, 1788 documents the sale of John Turner's negroes
- Davidson County, Tenn., Will Book 4, includes James Turner's will dated Sept. 25, 1811. He mentions his wife Martha and children "when they come of age."
- Minutes of the Mero District. dated Nov. 1806 show that Mary Turner sued James Turner for divorce, saying he has left her and gone to North Carolina.

Findings on the Dyer Family

- Joel Dyer had nine children by each wife. By his first wife (name unknown) were:
Col. Henry Dyer, born in Dyer County, Tenn. Was on Gen. Jackson's staff.
Major Wm. Dyer, served in War of 1812.
Charlotte Dyer married General Coleman, an officer in the War of 1812.
Betsy Dyer married first Mr. Gray, second Mr. Childers.
Susannah Dyer married General Conway of Arkansas
Another sister married General Coffee, an officer in the War of 1812.
Another sister married General Hogg, an officer in the War of 1812.
- Davidson County marriage book 1 records the marriage of Joel Dyer to Sarey Jones Christmas on July 16, 1802.
- Joel Dyer had by his second wife, Sarah Christmas:
Henrietta Dyer, married Mr. Gray.
James Dyer, an attorney in Lexington, Mississippi.
Charles Dyer, a physician.
Joel Dyer, a physician.
Marie[?] Dyer, died unmarried.
Drusilla Dyer, died unmarried
Sarah Dyer married Mr. Scruggs of Holly Springs.
[Cornelia Dyer Turner is not included in this list, but apparently should be.]

- Joel Dyer died before 1838. Both of Cornelia Dyer's parents died before her marriage to J.H. Turner in 1835 and Cornelia made her home with the family of Felix Grundy. She was married in the Pope Mansion.
- Rutherford County Deed Book H, 1 Oct. 1809. William Christmas deeds land on the Cumberland river to his daughter Sally Jones Dyer and Joel Dyer her husband, for love and affection. Witnesses: Lewis Green, Drusilla Christmas. Clerk: Blackman Coleman.
- Rutherford Co. Deed Book V, Oct. 1817. Joel Dyer's deed to "Blackman Coleman and Charlotte his wife, my daughter," for love and affection.

Queries

Edited by Bobby Ezell

EDMUNDS: Seeking info on family of Lucy EDMUNDS. In the mid 1840s Lucy EDMUNDS, apparently a widow, was living near Eagleville, TN with a family of several children. A few years earlier, her dau Sarah Green EDMUNDS had married Robert Gray HARRISON (SON OF Wiley/Willie & Penelope HOLLOWAY) of Brunswick Co, VA. This marriage in VA or as far away as Edgefield, SC. Robert (nephew of Nancy Harrison WASHINGTON of Nashville) & Sarah visited her mother as they moved by wagon train to MS in 1845-46. What was Lucy's maiden name, who was her husband and Sarah's father, and where did the marriage take place? Gray W. Harrison, Jr/259 Eastbrooke II/ Jackson MS 39216.

LOCK/JONES/THOMAS: Need help locating parents & sibs of William Henry LOCK b TN, par b. VA desc of Richard & Charles LOCK of VA & Wilson Co., TN. He m 1st wife Rhoda Boyd JONES Williamson Co., TN 2nd wife Martha Ellen THOMAS b Robertson Co., TN – m in KY. Wm d ca 1888 Mississippi Co, MO. Martha moved back to Hickman Co., KY. Martha's par Young THOMAS & Frances WALKER b VA. Martha Miller/9023 Central Ave/Brooksville FL 34613-5087.

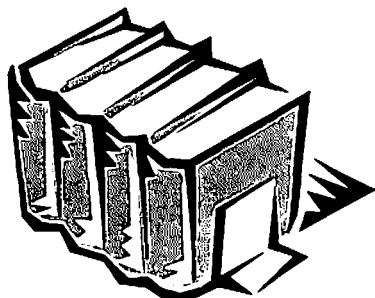
BRIGGS/PEAY-KING: Seeking info on David M. BRIGGS, g gf (b 3 Feb 1828 Wilson Co, TN, d 3 Mar 1896 Davidson Co. TN) m 1 Dec 1852 Nashville, Davidson Co, TN to Nancy PEAY-KING, g gm (b 13 Feb 1831 Williamson Co, TN, d 27 Jan 1896 Davidson Co., TN). Both buried Mt Olivet Cem, Nashville TN. Ch: Mary E.(b 1854) m RICE; William George (b 5 Aug 1858) m Nancy BUGG; John David, gf (b 17 Nov 1864 Williamson Co., TN, d 24 Aug 1946 New Brunswick, N.S. Canada) m 11 Oct 1887 Davidson Co., TN to Willie Rose CLAIBORNE (b 7 May 1870 W. Nashville, TN, d 2 Dec 1940 Halifax, N.S. Canada; Alice; Lee (male) (b 1866 Memphis TN area?); A. L. (son) Admin. of David M's settlement. W. F. BRIGGS, 19, clerk (1869 census) a bro to David M.? David M., Nancy & dau Mary E. members of McKendree Methodist church in Nashville & also attended Alex Green Methodist church. A town called Alex Green? David M. owned property on Stones River & Dogtown outside of Nashville according to gf, John D. David, a farmer, moved to different counties & was grocer in Robertson Co. Nancy bought property from Vincent JOHN in 1867. Reason? Also need parents of David M. & Nancy PEAY-KING & where they came from. Helen A. Briggs-Lonnroth/3319 Woody Court/Ellenton FL 34222-4346/sterlingsilver4@juno.com.

In Memoriam Betsy Ragsdale

The Society extends its sympathy to the family of Betty Ann (Betsy) Ragsdale, who passed away recently in Nashville. Betsy was a Charter Member of MTGS and served as the Society's first Treasurer. For many years she was a volunteer at the Tenn. State Library and Archives and a contributor to the *Journal*, co-authoring the Supreme Court abstracts series with Gale Bamman.

Gale recalls: "She had a delightful sense of humor, and I could always tell by the look on her face if she'd found a "good" Supreme Court case file (like when everybody let their hair down and told all!). The one about the man who rode his horse up the steps of the courthouse and into the courtroom was a favorite. She was on everybody's list as a person who could make you feel better just by being around her. I miss her."

Betsy passed away on Feb. 15, just a few weeks after the death of her husband, James, in January. She is survived by her daughter, Polly Givens, grandchildren William, James and Adam Givens, and a brother, John B. Buchanan.



Book Reviews

by Shirley Wilson

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Volume VI: 1851-1860 transcribed by Herman W. Ferguson. 302 pp., index, c2004. \$26.50 postpaid from author at 600 Chad Drive, Rocky Mount, NC 27803-1512 email FERGGE0GEN@aol.com

Having already completed six volumes of court minutes, Ferguson has the system fine-tuned. He has produced yet another exceptional book for genealogists working in Mecklenburg County records.

Court minutes are an excellent resource tool as they depict the day to day business of the county. Men are named as jurors and to oversee road work. They are appointed to administer estates and to serve as guardians of children. Orphan children are bound out to learn a trade. Licenses are issued for various purposes, such as to retail spirits and to peddle dry goods. Estates are divided among the heirs and the lots

identified. These are just a very few of the many records found in county court minutes.

Although women are not frequently found in such minutes, there were instances where men were appointed to take the depositions of women too feeble to come to court and also where a widow named in an estate procedure. Several actual plats, dividing the lands of a decedent, were reproduced.

Of particular value is the index which includes geographical places, streams, subjects, institutions, trades and occupations, companies, and titles in addition to the full names of all persons, including slaves. Other welcome features include a map with an index to geographical locations and a list of legal definitions to assist the reader in understanding the terms found in the minutes.

Reading the court minutes is a way to determine what is happening in the county and Ferguson has made it very easy for readers to do that in Mecklenburg County.

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**The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society's
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**featuring noted lecturer
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10:45 Southern Migrations

12:00 Lunch

11:15 Virginia Research

2:45 The Carolinas Research

4:00 Conclusion

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Please make sure the document is typed. Original documents should be transcribed by the submitter. Include your name, address, and phone number or e-mail address on the manuscript. Materials submitted electronically or on diskette are preferred, and most file formats can be accommodated. Materials submitted on disk should be accompanied by a printed copy of the article. The right to edit material from presentation, grammar, length and form is reserved by the Editor, and all material submitted becomes the property of the society.

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Submit queries to: MTGS Queries, P.O. Box 330948, Nashville, TN 37203-7507. Be short and concise. Capitalize, underline or highlight each surname used. Make sure your name and complete address are shown on the query sheet. Queries will be included in order of receipt as space permits.

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