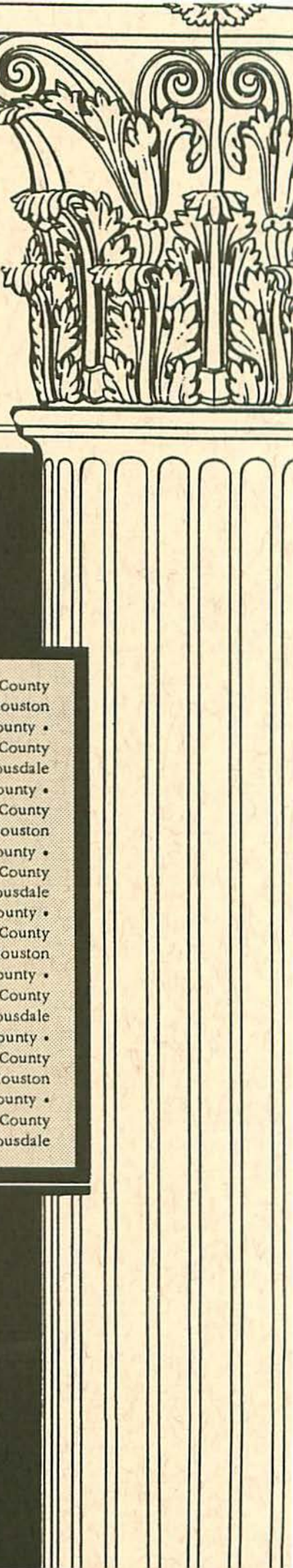


A detailed woodcut illustration of a classical architectural capital, specifically a Composite capital. The capital is composed of several acanthus leaves arranged in a circular pattern around a central column. The leaves have deeply lobed, serrated edges. The central column is fluted and has a papyrus-bundle capital. The entire capital is supported by a base of more acanthus leaves. The illustration is in black and white, with fine lines and shading to create a three-dimensional effect.

Volume XVIII, Number 2
Fall 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

Nov. 20, 2004

"Genealogical Research in the South"

Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck

Our annual Fall Conference will be at the Martin Senior Center in Brentwood. Featuring renowned genealogist from the Dallas Public Library. See p. 72 for details.

January 15, 2005

"Show & Tell"

One of MTGS's most popular programs, this open forum is the place for interested family historians to share their most interesting heirlooms and artifacts, plus a tale or two about their own genealogical adventures. Bring the bullet they took out of Uncle Ned the chicken thief or the apron Aunt Sookie was married in and share the stories that go with them!

March 19, 2005

"Southern Baptist Genealogical Resources"

Bill Sumners

Genealogical resources abound in The Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives, in Nashville. Learn about this facility---its hours, aids, the nature of Baptist church records, records of state conventions and associations, newspapers, residence books and other sources that can assist family historians. Mr. Sumners is Director & Archivist, of the Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives, Nashville.

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

Middle Tennessee

Journal of Genealogy & History

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Genealogical Society, Inc.**

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**Middle Tennessee Journal
of Genealogy & History**

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Charles A. Sherrill

Contributors in this issue
Gale Williams Bamman
Robbie Harris
J. Mark Lowe
Jesse Lynch Lynn, Jr.
Betsy Ragsdale
Shirley Wilson

From the Editor . . .

Dear Readers:

This Fall issue is chock-full of information for the Middle Tennessee genealogist. Don't miss the information about our Fall Seminar found at the 'centerfold'! And be sure to send in your registration right away.

A new contributor is Dr. Jesse Lynch Lynn, Jr., an MTGS member who lives in New York state. His article based on the 1878 property-ownership map of Bedford County will shed new light on map research. Mark Lowe has provided an interesting article about naturalization records, and Robbie Harris gives a first-hand account of her success in using a professional genealogist.

Records related to the Civil War take a front-seat in this issue, beginning with an article about new Tennessee Confederate Pension records recently released by the State Library and Archives. Another offering highlights the value of Confederate business records for the genealogist.

The Reconstruction period also figures significantly in two articles. Radical Republican Governor "Parson" Brownlow's files reveal moving petitions for pardon from the State Penitentiary. And our series of articles on the Southern Claims Commission is continued, this time with information from Coffee County

Gale Bamman's article on the Perpetual Calendar shows how you can use this tool to add those details that make a family history special.

Read, enjoy and learn!

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/>

New Confederate Pension Records Come to Light at Tennessee State Archives

The Tennessee State Library and Archives has recently microfilmed a collection of little-known Confederate pension records that had been in storage for many years. Part of Record Group 3, Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners, this collection includes 29 boxes of correspondence, 32 volumes and an extensive index card file. The bulk of the correspondence was written between the Pension Board and pensioners or their representatives. Although the material in the collection dates back to 1891, most of the correspondence with pensioners is from the 1920s and 1930s.



The Tennessee Pension Board

The pensioner's correspondence includes letters of inquiry about the status of pension applications, detailed descriptions of veteran's service experience sent in an effort to prove service, and notices of death sent by family members. The material is arranged alphabetically and a name index is included.

It appears that all of the pensioners included in this group of records also have files in the larger group of pension applications which was microfilmed many years ago and made accessible by Samuel Sistler's *Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Assoc., 1994). The material in this new collection pertains mostly to pensions that were still active in the 1920s and later, and for some reason this paperwork was not filed with the original applications.

The collection also includes general office correspondence of the pension board, including letters from board members, appeals from persons seeking employment and inquiries from prospective pension applicants. These files, too, are arranged alphabetically by the sender's name. This part of the collection is not indexed by name in the finding aid, but the alphabetical arrangement makes for easy searching.

The correspondence filed in the "General" category is primarily from persons who were not eligible for pensions and therefore made no formal application. For example, Mrs. Emma Mankin Bradshaw, age 72, wrote

from Monteagle on July 13, 1931, to say that she had married pensioner Anthony A. Bradshaw on Jan. 25, 1905 and lived with him until his death in 1908. "I am writing to ask if you cannot make me an allowance, which I sorely need.... I live alone here at Monteagle and am growing feeble." The Board replied that the law required widows to have married their veteran prior to Jan. 1, 1905. "It is a pity that you have missed it but a few days, and we are exceedingly sorry...."

Among the records of particular interest to the genealogist are sources for the dates of pensioners' deaths, which are not always noted in the pension file itself. A volume listing deaths of Confederate pensioners 1907-1927 is included, as well as notations sometimes penciled into the minutes showing the removal of a pensioner from the rolls due to removal from the state, or death. Likewise, the card file maintained by the office staff includes basic details about each pensioner, sometimes including the death date.

Mrs. R.E. Ross, who served as a Special Examiner for the Pension Board in the 1930s, wrote some very pithy replies to inquiries she received. A woman in New York who was the daughter of a deceased West Tennessee pensioner wrote for his records "in the war between the states fought to free the slaves." Mrs. Ross sent the records, but also advised the woman to learn "True Southern History" which would show that the war was fought mainly over state's rights.

Also included is a group of reports from the state Department of Public Welfare which, in 1942 and '43, sent staff members to visit Confederate widows and report on their living conditions. These records provide

insight into a way of life that was fast disappearing. Mrs. Carroll Campbell visited pensioner Martha Champion in Franklin County, and wrote these directions for reaching Mrs. Champion's two-room log house:

From Winchester go to Sherwood, to Anderson, on back into Sinking Cove where you leave your car at the school house and walk for about two miles to a mountain home in the edge of the mountain on the left of the road.

The welfare workers found many pensioners in pleasant homes and taken care of by family members. Others were destitute, ill and unhappy. Some of the reports were brief, while others, such as the one on Mrs. Ella Doak, seemed to rest on speculation on the part of the visitor more than on providing useful information. Of much interest to the family historian, it reads as follows:

Mrs. Doak was visited on Feb. 4, 1943. Mrs. Ella Doak and her sister, Miss Alice Sherrill, were the only members of the family at home. Mrs. Andrew Doak, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Ella Doak, and her two grown daughters, Dorothy and Jean, make up the household. They continue to live in the home owned by Mrs. Ella Doak. It is located at 620 West Main St. This has been a very nice home, however, after the death of Mrs. Doak's son, the place became in a dilapidated condition. It is badly in need of painting and other repairs.

When the visitor arrived in the home, H.T. Tipps, the Methodist minister, was visiting the two elderly ladies. Mrs. Doak's sister, Miss Alice ... is blind and almost helpless. Several years ago this family lived in luxury and were considered some of the wealthiest residents of the county. They were haughty and overbearing, which made them disliked by the entire community. They have changed in this way, especially Miss Alice Sherrill. She told the visitor that her sister's son, Andrew Doak, Jr., borrowed her money and went through with all of it, leaving her penniless.

Mrs. Ella Doak remains high minded and likes to think that she has plenty of money. In fact, she told the visitor that she did have enough to live on for the rest of her life. She has a large garden spot at the rear of her home and offered to let the government work it ... she thought in this manner she would be assisting in the war effort.

The home in which they live is adequately furnished. However, it is not clean and is often in a disorderly condition. This is due to the fact that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Andrew Doak, Jr., has to work out of the home in order to support herself and Jean, who is in high school. Mrs. Andrew Doak, Jr., a registered nurse, is at present employed at a local hospital. Her oldest daughter, Dorothy is working at Kuhn's Store.... Mrs. Ella Doak says she is very partial to her granddaughter, Dorothy, and that she intends to will her the home and everything else which she possesses.

They have a telephone and Mrs. Doak uses it a great deal for visiting purposes. She no longer has a car and says that she calls up all of her old friends and keeps in touch with them in this manner.

Mrs. Doak takes a great deal of interest in her granddaughters and their soldier friends. She is quite anxious for them to marry so they will not be in the same condition as her elderly sister, Miss Alice

Sherrill. She rarely ever gets out of the house and often gets lonesome since her sister is deaf and blind. She has a little dog that sleeps on the foot of the bed and is lots of company for them. Mrs. Doak's health is good except for some stiffness in her joints. Mrs. Doak's situation has changed very little in the past several years.

We are glad to give you this report.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Joe C. Grannis

Visitor

Miss Freda Kelley

Unit Supervisor – DPW. Wilson County

Let Your Christmas Present Be the VETERAN for 1906.
NASHVILLE, TENN. DECEMBER 1, 1905.

Confederate Veteran.



The Confederate Veteran

was widely read by pensioners and widows. It carried stories of battles and heroes, announced reunion plans and gave news of changes in pension laws.

The file of Jeremiah W. Primm provides an example of the value of the correspondence with pensioners included in this collection. Records in this newly disclosed file begin in 1931, but to get the full story we must go back to his original pension file. That file (number 9370) shows that Jeremiah applied for a pension on July 22, 1907. He was a resident of Petway in Cheatham County, age 65, born in Williamson

County on Jan. 1, 1842. At the time of his application Jeremiah had a 45-year-old wife, Mary E., and five sons and three daughters ranging in age from two to 20.

In his application Jeremiah Primm stated that he had served in Capt. Blackman's Company of Dick McCann's Regiment, had participated in battles at Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Nashville, Widow Hardin's Mill on Little Harpeth, Lavergne, Rock Springs and others. He captured and imprisoned, and contracted pneumonia and rheumatism while in prison. He was asked to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Union while in prison at Nashville, Louisville and Baltimore but always refused to do so. At the end of the war he was paroled by Federal authorities near Petersburg, Virginia.

The Pension Board asked Jeremiah for additional information about where he was imprisoned, and he responded in a hand-written letter on Sept. 4, 1907, giving the details. He was captured on the Cumberland River below Nashville on Jan. 12, 1863, while on a raid under General Wheeler. He was taken to Nashville and placed in the Penitentiary, where he was treated for rheumatism by a convict doctor. After staying there four months he was transferred to Louisville, where he remained in prison three months. He was then taken to Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, where he stayed until March 1864, at which time he was taken by ship to City Point for exchange. "Our army having no prisoners I was paroled." He remained hospitalized until the end of the war.

Three different inquiries from the Tennessee Pension Board to the War Department in Washington failed to

uncover any record of Primm's service in McCann's 9th Tennessee Cavalry. Letters from the War Department dated Aug. 29, Sept. 13 and Oct. 3, 1907, were all negative.

Some clerk, however, must have been motivated to keep digging, for on Apr. 11, 1908, Adjutant General F.C. Ainsworth wrote that they had discovered that a company of cavalry had served under Capt. B.H. Blackman in Douglass' Battalion of Tennessee Cavalry, of which Richard McCann was a major. The battalion was attached to the 9th Cavalry, and later became part of the 13th and then the 15th Cavalry. It is no wonder that Jeremiah was confused about exactly which regiment he had served in 40 years earlier, given all the changes in command. Unfortunately, Ainsworth reported, they were able to find no muster roll for Blackman's company.

Just three days later, on April 14, Ainsworth wrote again to say that his office had located records of a prisoner of war named Jerry Primm. The record shows that Primm, a private in Company B of Douglass' Battalion, was captured in Chatham County, Tennessee, on Jan. 15, 1863, and sent from there to

City Point, Virginia. On Feb. 11, 1863, he was exchanged. No further record was found.

On March 11, 1908, Col. John P. Hickman, Secretary of the Board of Pension Examiners, wrote to Jeremiah Primm saying that although his enlistment in the Confederate Army had been proven and his illness from rheumatism was not in doubt, he could not be considered eligible for a pension until he could prove his parole. Since the record showed that Primm had been exchanged, the Pension Board maintained that he should have rejoined his regiment. The discrepancy between Primm's account of his long imprisonment and the record showing he had been released after just one month was not reconciled, and Jeremiah did not receive a pension.

That is the end of the story insofar as the original pension file showed. However, the story is resumed in this new collection of records. This file contains letterw written to Mr. Sims Latta of Columbia, Tenn., by Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Pettus. Mr. Pettus wrote on stationery of the Hermitage Printing Company on June 18, 1931. Mrs. Pettus followed with a longer handwritten letter, as follows,

Mr. Sims Latta,

Mr. Pettus has givren me your letter, in answer to one he has written you, pertaining to the record of my fater, J.W. (Jere) Primm, who served thru the Civil War. He was advised by a friend that you perhaps would be able to give him more information than any Confederate Veteran living, and I was especially anxious to assist my step-mother in getting a pension, and because of this, I am trying to trace his war record.

I realize she has waited a long time before doing anything, but had hoped I could do something toward helping her, even at this late day. She is in more need of the pension now perhaps than in previous years. Her children have families of their won, and she is growing old and needs this assistance if it can be had.

My father was born and reared and lived most of his life in Williamson Co., nine miles east of Franklin; he was 75 years old at the time of his death about 18 years ago. He was married first to Sallie Whitfield of Franklin, Tenn., and in 1885 he was married to Mary Connor of Nolensville, Williamson Co., Tenn. I have secured a copy of his marriage certificate to his last wife, and have it in my possession now.

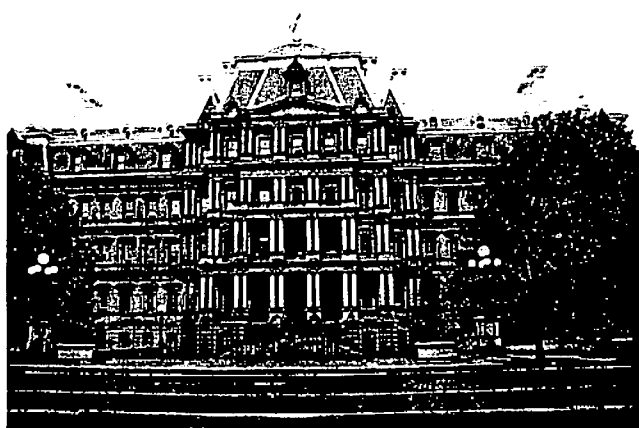
I have sent her the Application Blank sent me by Mr. Edgar Graham, State Comptroller, and have notified her to fill out blank as nearly as possible and return to me. We do not know where nor when he enlisted, nor under what Gen. he served nor what Co. nor Regiment ... and I do not know any old soldier now living who served with him.

I do know he did active service the entire duration of Civil War, was slightly wounded a couple of times, was taken prisoner and was in prison I think at Baltimore. When I was a child, during my own mother's life time, I recall hearing him tell many exciting events through which he passed, different battles in which he engaged and many horrors of that terrible conflict between the States.

If there is anything at all that you can do or suggest that would give me any thing to work on I assure you I would appreciate it very much, and it would be such a wonderful help to his widow in her declining years to have this help, so rightly due her. Thanking you for your letter and in advance for any further assistance, I am, very respectfully,

Mrs. L.L. Pettus
2515 Oakland Ave.
Nashville, T.

Apparently Mr. Latta suggested that Jeremiah Primm had served in the 24th Tennessee Infantry, as the Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners requested that the War Department in Washington search for records of him in that unit. This search was not fruitful. There is no separate pension application file for Sallie Primm, so apparently she did not complete the application form her step-daughter had sent.



War Department Building, Washington D.C.

Erected in 1871, this building housed Confederate military records of great importance to pension applicants. It is now known as the Old Executive Office Building.

Without this second file, a genealogist looking information about Jeremiah Primm would have been lacking much important information. The fact that he lived most of his life in Williamson County, the maiden names and hometowns of his wives, the year of his second marriage, the approximate year of his death, the situation of his second wife in her old age, and the relationship between his daughter and her step-mother are all revealed in the new file.

Unfortunately, these files do not tell us whether Jeremiah was being truthful in his claims about what happened to him after he was captured. His account is reassuringly specific and is confirmed in some points by his daughter's recollections. It is certainly possible that the records in the war department were inaccurate in showing that he was exchanged after a month's imprisonment and travel. Using modern indexes and microfilmed Civil war records available to the genealogist today, it may be possible to determine the truth even at this late date.

The genealogical community owes a debt of gratitude to Archivist Greg Poole of the Tenn. State Library and Archives, who organized this material for microfilming and created the detailed finding aid that makes it so easily accessible. ■

A case of Naturalization in Tennessee before 1906

J. Mark Lowe, , Certified Genealogist

Many researchers have heard that naturalization documents contain a great deal of information about the immigrant and often other members of his family. This may not always be the case, especially for naturalizations occurring before 1906. Consider the case of James Bowie.

James Bowie was a native of Scotland who came to Middle Tennessee during the 1870s. His obituary reported that he was a road builder who resided in Davidson and Robertson Counties before his death in 1930.¹ This native of Scotland appeared in the Federal Population census schedules for Tennessee from 1900 through 1920. These records indicate he was a naturalized citizen of the United States and that he was naturalized about 1895.² During this time he was living in Robertson County, Tennessee.

The U.S. Congress passed the first naturalization act on March 26, 1790 (*1 Stat. 103*), which provided that any free, white, adult alien, male or female, who had resided within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States for a period of 2 years was eligible for citizenship. Under this act, any individual who desired to become a citizen was to apply to "any common law court of record, in any one of the states wherein he shall have resided for the term of one year at least." Citizenship was granted to those who proved to the court's satisfaction that they were of good moral character and who took an oath of allegiance to the Constitution. These actions not only were processed in Federal courts, but also in State and local courts, and the children of successful applicants, if under 21 years of age, automatically became citizens. The act of January 29, 1795 (*1 Stat. 414*) increased the period of residence from 2 to 5 years. It also required applicants to declare publicly their intention to become citizens of the United States and to renounce any allegiance to a foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty 3 years before admission as citizens. The clerk collected information including the applicant's name, birthplace, age, nation of allegiance, country of emigration, and place of intended settlement, and granted each applicant a certificate that could be exhibited to the court as evidence of time of arrival in the United States.

The specifications of the 1802 act required a declaration of the intention to become a citizen at least three years before obtaining citizenship, an oath of allegiance to the United States, residency within the U.S. at least five years and within the local territory or state at least one year, relinquished allegiance to any foreign nation or leader, and proof to the court that the applicant was of good moral character and supported the U.S. Constitution. The act of 1802 were the last modifications of the naturalization process until the 1906 creation of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization

The usual court of record for such declarations was the Circuit court in Robertson County. On Saturday the 6th day of February in 1892 the following record appeared:

"James Bowie appeared in open court on the 6th day of February 1892 and filed his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States of America and took the oath prescribed by law and which oath is filed with the records of this court."³

On Monday the 11th day of June in 1894, James Bowie's citizenship was again considered by the circuit court of Robertson County.

" In the matter }
of James Bowie }

In this cause it appearing to the court from the proof that James Bowie has resided within the United States for over 13 years and within Robertson County Tenn. for more than four years and that during said time the said James Bowie has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same and that James Bowie regularly sworn to the affidavit and Filed the same February 6th 1892. And the same was entered on the minutes of the court as required by law. It is therefore ordered by court that the said James Bowie be and is hereby naturalized and entitled to all the rights confirmed by the Acts of Congress upon persons who become citizens of the United States by being naturalized and the clerk will issue a copy of this order to James Bowie under the seal of this court. James Bowie will pay the cost of this cause for which *fi fa* will issue."⁴

James Bowie became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 11 June 1894 in the presence of the Circuit Court in Robertson County, Tennessee. ■



A Naturalization Class in Wisconsin, ca. 1913.
reproduced from www.milwaukeeerecreation.net

Those who became naturalized in rural southern counties, as James Bowie did,
would often have been the only applicant in a given year.

¹ Obituary of James Bowie, 17 July 1930, p 1, *Robertson County Times*, Springfield, Tenn. Microfilm copy, TSLA, Nashville, Tenn.

² 1900 U.S. Census, Robertson County, Tennessee, p 147B, 9th District, sheet 16, ED 52, National Archives Micropublication T623, Roll 1594.; 1910 U.S. Census, Robertson Co. Tennessee, p 92, 6th District, National Archives Micropublication T624 Roll: 1516.; 1920 U.S. Census, Robertson County, Tennessee, p 7, National Archives Micropublication T625, Roll 1761.

³ Declaration of Intent by James Bowie, 6 Feb 1892, Robertson Co., Tenn. Circuit Court Minute Book L, p 112, Robertson Co. [Tenn.] Archives, Springfield, Tenn.

⁴ Naturalization of James Bowie, 11 June 1892, Robertson Co., Tenn. Circuit Court Minute Book L, p 420, Robertson Co. [Tenn.] Archives, Springfield, Tenn.

The Perpetual Calendar

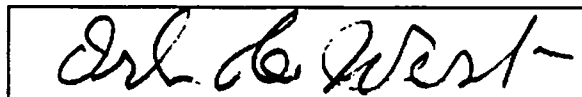
Gale Williams Bamman, Certified Genealogist

Have you ever wondered the day of the week for records you've found on your ancestors that show an exact date? Now you can easily determine that with the calendar shown here.

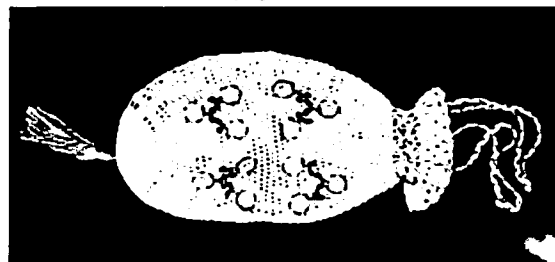
This calendar was sent to me by my mother's sister, after I'd asked if she knew the day their parents were married. I knew from court records that Irl C. West had filed his marriage bond on 11 November 1915,¹ and that the subsequent license indicated he was married to Leatha Florence Sutton on the 15th of that month.²

With the aid of the calendar, I now know the bond was issued on a *Thursday*, with the marriage taking place the following *Monday*.³ Being able to add the precise day makes those records all the more personal and treasured!

I also asked Aunt Inez if she had a specimen of her father's signature. Not only did she remember she had something, but she was also able to find it! She sent a physiology test paper of my grandfather's, filled out and signed on 18 April 1911 (a *Tuesday*), while he was attending D.A. Duke College.



As to something personal of my grandmother's, my mother had given me a crocheted purse (below). It is especially precious to me since I knew that Leatha Florence died at the age of 26, when my mother was only eight months old. In Leatha Florence's honor, my husband and I named our daughter Leah.



The home where my grandfather was born and raised is shown at the top of this article.⁴ It burned in 1922, the year my mother was born (9 January—a *Monday*), and the year my grandmother died (1 August, a *Tuesday*). Another house was built on the foundation of the one that burned, and still stands today (remodeled and enlarged) in the community of Difficult. It continues to be the home of West descendants.

Further details on this West family and collateral lines can be found in the family history, *What Is In A Name?*, by Hoke Holland

West (Gallatin, Tenn.: Gallatin Printing Co., 1970).

¹ Smith County, Tennessee Marriage Bonds, Book 9, p. 153, TSLA mf. roll no. 92. The bondsman signed my grandfather's name "by J. C. McCall," and then signed his own name on the next line.

² Smith Co., Tenn. Marriage Licenses, Vol. 1904-1918, p. 226, mf. roll no. 92.

³ "Calendars: 1800—2050," (n.p.: SouthCentral Bell Telephone Co.: n.d.).

⁴ The picture, painted by Lois West in 1961, appears on p. 14 in: West, Hoke H. *What's in a Name?* (Gallatin, Tenn.: Gallatin Printing, 1970). Copies of the book may be purchased from Uncle Hoke's granddaughter, Becky Rountree Bunch, 209 Liberty Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855, or from Gale W. Bamman at 3906 Calista Road, Cross Plains, TN 37049.

CALENDARS - 1800 TO 2050

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1812	10	1838	10	1864	10	1890	5	1916	5	1942	5	1968	5	1994	5
1813	11	1839	11	1865	11	1891	4	1917	4	1943	4	1969	4	1995	4
1814	12	1840	12	1866	12	1892	3	1918	3	1944	3	1970	3	1996	3
1815	1	1841	1	1867	1	1893	2	1919	2	1945	2	1971	2	1997	2
1816	2	1842	2	1868	2	1894	1	1920	1	1946	1	1972	1	1998	1
1817	3	1843	3	1869	3	1895	12	1921	12	1947	12	1973	12	1999	12
1818	4	1844	4	1870	4	1896	11	1922	11	1948	11	1974	11	2000	11
1819	5	1845	5	1871	5	1897	10	1923	10	1949	10	1975	10	2001	10
1820	6	1846	6	1872	6	1898	9	1924	9	1950	9	1976	9	2002	9
1821	7	1847	7	1873	7	1899	8	1925	8	1951	8	1977	8	2003	8
1822	8	1848	8	1874	8	1900	7	1926	7	1952	7	1978	7	2004	7
1823	9	1849	9	1875	9	1901	6	1927	6	1953	6	1979	6	2005	6
1824	10	1850	10	1876	10	1902	5	1928	5	1954	5	1980	5	2006	5
1825	11	1851	11	1877	11	1903	4	1929	4	1955	4	1981	4	2007	4
1826	12	1852	12	1878	12	1904	3	1930	3	1956	3	1982	3	2008	3
1827	1	1853	1	1879	1	1905	2	1931	2	1957	2	1983	2	2009	2
1828	2	1854	2	1880	2	1906	1	1932	1	1958	1	1984	1	2010	1
1829	3	1855	3	1881	3	1907	12	1933	12	1959	12	1985	12	2011	12
1830	4	1856	4	1882	4	1908	11	1934	11	1960	11	1986	11	2012	11
1831	5	1857	5	1883	5	1909	10	1935	10	1961	10	1987	10	2013	10
1832	6	1858	6	1884	6	1910	9	1936	9	1962	9	1988	9	2014	9
1833	7	1859	7	1885	7	1911	8	1937	8	1963	8	1989	8	2015	8
1834	8	1860	8	1886	8	1912	7	1938	7	1964	7	1990	7	2016	7
1835	9	1861	9	1887	9	1913	6	1939	6	1965	6	1991	6	2017	6
1836	10	1862	10	1888	10	1914	5	1940	5	1966	5	1992	5	2018	5
1837	11	1863	11	1889	11	1915	4	1941	4	1967	4	1993	4	2019	4
1838	12	1864	12	1890	12	1916	3	1942	3	1968	3	1994	3	2020	3
1839	1	1865	1	1891	1	1917	2	1943	2	1969	2	1995	2	2021	2
1840	2	1866	2	1892	2	1918	1	1944	1	1970	1	1996	1	2022	1
1841	3	1867	3	1893	3	1919	12	1945	12	1971	12	1997	12	2023	12
1842	4	1868	4	1894	4	1920	11	1946	11	1972	11	1998	11	2024	11
1843	5	1869	5	1895	5	1921	10	1947	10	1973	10	1999	10	2025	10
1844	6	1870	6	1896	6	1922	9	1948	9	1974	9	2000	9	2026	9
1845	7	1871	7	1897	7	1923	8	1949	8	1975	8	2001	8	2027	8
1846	8	1872	8	1898	8	1924	7	1950	7	1976	7	2002	7	2028	7
1847	9	1873	9	1899	9	1925	6	1951	6	1977	6	2003	6	2029	6
1848	10	1874	10	1900	10	1926	5	1952	5	1978	5	2004	5	2030	5
1849	11	1875	11	1901	11	1927	4	1953	4	1979	4	2005	4	2031	4
1850	12	1876	12	1902	12	1928	3	1954	3	1980	3	2006	3	2032	3
1851	1	1877	1	1903	1	1929	2	1955	2	1981	2	2007	2	2033	2
1852	2	1878	2	1904	2	1930	1	1956	1	1982	1	2008	1	2034	1
1853	3	1879	3	1905	3	1931	12	1957	12	1983	12	2009	12	2035	12
1854	4	1880	4	1906	4	1932	11	1958	11	1984	11	2010	11	2036	11
1855	5	1881	5	1907	5	1933	10	1959	10	1985	10	2011	10	2037	10
1856	6	1882	6	1908	6	1934	9	1960	9	1986	9	2012	9	2038	9
1857	7	1883	7	1909	7	1935	8	1961	8	1987	8	2013	8	2039	8
1858	8	1884	8	1910	8	1936	7	1962	7	1988	7	2014	7	2040	7
1859	9	1885	9	1911	9	1937	6	1963	6	1989	6	2015	6	2041	6
1860	10	1886	10	1912	10	1938	5	1964	5	1990	5	2016	5	2042	5
1861	11	1887	11	1913	11	1939	4	1965	4	1991	4	2017	4	2043	4
1862	12	1888	12	1914	12	1940	3	1966	3	1992	3	2018	3	2044	3
1863	1	1889	1	1915	1	1941	2	1967	2	1993	2	2019	2	2045	2
1864	2	1890	2	1916	2	1942	1	1968	1	1994	1	2020	1	2046	1
1865	3	1891	3	1917	3	1943	12	1969	12	1995	12	2021	12	2047	12
1866	4	1892	4	1918	4	1944	11	1970	11	1996	11	2022	11	2048	11
1867	5	1893	5	1919	5	1945	10	1971	10	1997	10	2023	10	2049	10
1868	6	1894	6	1920	6	1946	9	1972	9	1998	9	2024	9	2050	9
1869	7	1895	7	1921	7	1947	8	1973	8	1999	8	2025	8		
1870	8	1896	8	1922	8	1948	7	1974	7	2000	7	2026	7		
1871	9	1897	9	1923	9	1949	6	1975	6	2001	6	2027	6		
1872	10	1898	10	1924	10	1950	5	1976	5	2002	5	2028	5		
1873	11	1899	11	1925	11	1951	4	1977	4	2003	4	2029	4		
1874	12	1900	12	1926	12	1952	3	1978	3	2004	3	2030	3		
1875	1	1901	1	1927	1	1953	2	1979	2	2005	2	2031	2		
1876	2	1902	2	1928	2	1954	1	1980	1	2006	1	2032	1		
1877	3	1903	3	1929	3	1955	12	1981	12	2007	12	2033	12		
1878	4	1904	4	1930	4	1956	11	1982	11	2008	11	2034	11		
1879	5	1905	5	1931	5	1957	10	1983	10	2009	10	2035	10		
1880	6	1906	6	1932	6	1958	9	1984	9	2010	9	2036	9		
1881	7	1907	7	1933	7	1959	8	1985	8	2011	8	2037	8		
1882	8	1908	8	1934	8	1960	7	1986	7	2012	7	2038	7		
1883	9	1909	9	1935	9	1961	6	1987	6	2013	6	2039	6		
1884	10	1910	10	1936	10	1962	5	1988	5	2014	5	2040	5		
1885	11	1911	11	1937	11	1963	4	1989	4	2015	4	2041	4		
1886	12	1912	12	1938	12	1964	3	1990	3	2016	3	2042	3		
1887	1	1913	1	1939	1	1965	2	1991	2	2017	2	2043	2		
1888	2	1914	2	1940	2	1966	1	1992	1	2018	1	2044	1		
1889	3	1915	3	1941	3	1967	12	1993	12	2019	12	2045	12		
1890	4	1916	4	1942	4	1968	11	1994	11	2020	11	2046	11		
1891	5	1917	5	1943	5	1969	10	1995	10	2021	10	2047	10		
1892	6	1918	6	1944	6	1970	9	1996	9	2022	9	2048	9		
1893	7	1919	7	1945	7	1971	8	1997	8	2023	8	2049	8		
1894	8	1920	8	1946	8	1972	7	1998	7	2024	7	2050	7		
1895	9	1921	9	1947	9	1973	6	1999	6	2025	6				
1896	10	1922	10	1948	10	1974	5	2000	5	2026	5				
1897	11	1923	11	1949	11	1975	4	2001	4	2027	4				
1898	12	1924	12	1950	12</										

The D.G. Beers & Co Maps of Middle Tennessee Counties

Jesse Lynch Lynn, Jr., Ph.D.ⁱ

Maps are a frequently overlooked, but highly useful, source of information for the genealogist and local historian. One such map, from a series that is especially useful, is the Beers 1878 map of Bedford County.ⁱⁱ The author first encountered this map at the TVA map store, Knoxville, over twenty years ago. At that time he purchased a black and white reproduction printed on light stock for a price in the range of \$3. It has since departed to places unknown. More recently, reproductions in the Marsh Bedford County Archives, Bedford County Courthouse, and Argie Cooper Public Library, Shelbyville, Tenn., have been consulted. This particular report is based upon a Charles Reeves' reproduction which has recently been added to the author's library.

According to information provided by Mr. Reeves, who specializes in old maps of the south, especially Tennessee, this reproduction was made from an original in the Library of Congress. Civil Districts are delineated in color. Several previous versions examined by the author were in black and white. The map was originally printed in color and, although the Reeves reproduction is significantly more expensive (\$30) than previous versions, the color is a welcome addition to both the appearance and authenticity of the map. It is reproduced on heavy stock, significantly increasing its durability, both for the private and library user.

Similar maps are available for Davidson (1871), Giles (1878), Marshall (1899), Maury (1878), Montgomery (1877), Rutherford (1878), Sumner (1878), Williamson (1878) and Wilson (1907) counties in the Middle Tennessee region.ⁱⁱⁱ These maps can be found at the Tenn. State Library and Archives as well as at the public libraries and archives in the respective counties. The following description, although concentrating on Bedford County, is equally applicable to these other maps.



Bedford County 1878 Map

Copyright 2004 Charles A. Reeves, Jr. ReevesMaps.com

The Beers map is in relatively large scale, and contains a wealth of information potentially useful to the local historian and genealogist. It includes a number of items that would routinely be expected on any county map, *e.g.* roads, railroads, watercourses (all generally with names), towns, as well as numerous smaller population centers. According to the 1870 Census, the population of Shelbyville, the county seat and largest inhabited area, was 3177. No area in Bedford County would have justified a designation larger than town, at this time. The map has some indication of relief, showing prominent hills and knobs, frequently with names.

Additionally, it assigns names to areas and regions of the county that the author has not encountered elsewhere. For instance, he did not know that his Lynn and Bingham forebears lived in an area in northern Bedford County called "Sunnyside." Specific post offices are indicated and Civil Districts are delineated and numbered. The map also includes churches and larger "town" cemeteries. As might be expected, a number of family cemeteries were not marked, although they did exist at this time. On the other hand, the Woodfin family cemetery was marked, although not named as such. The author also believes, but with less certainty, that some small rural churches were not marked, although they may have been burned down by this time, or not yet built. The border of the map is inset with larger-scale maps of the then current population centers, with street names and individual dwellings marked.

All of the above information could be invaluable in locating the dwelling place of an inhabitant, especially when used in conjunction with deeds, wills, land grants, and censuses. Civil District boundaries would be especially useful with the later. When used to place more than one family, this map could help establish interfamily relationships. Additionally, marriages, as well as witnessing to deeds and wills could help establish close proximity and supplement information obtained from the map. Obviously, the map could be used with data from earlier or later periods if used judiciously. For instance, place names probably would not have changed with time, but county and district boundaries certainly did, although according to Thornhill and Dollarhide the county boundaries did not change after the 1840 Census.

The above approach could be used with any good quality county map. However, this map has a particular feature that makes it especially useful. It marks each dwelling place and designates it with the name of the owner, or in some cases, his/her estate. An obvious limitation is that it marks the residents as of 1878, and thus might not indicate those who died five years earlier, and it certainly will not indicate those who set up individual households after the date of the map. (The same objection could be made, *e.g.*, to any individual census.) The author has noted a few instances where the map may have designated houses

belonging to residents who died shortly before the 1878 publication date. Thus, such designations are useful, but potentially misleading when not interpreted with caution. One should not use the map as a certain indication that a resident was alive in 1878. Being able to exactly place a household in 1878 could enhance greatly the benefits described in the previous paragraph. As stated, the map has houses marked, and could be useful to place dwellings no longer standing.

For example, it shows the residence of J. Giles, stepson of Jacob Lynn, and the placement of his residence relative to that of his step-father. The author had previously known that they lived in close proximity, based on the 1870 and 1880 Bedford County Census, however he had not known the exact location of the Giles' residence. One limitation is that the map does not have property boundaries indicated. Another limitation is that only initials are given with last names, which could result in ambiguities in some situations.

The location of hills and rivers could give one a better grasp of early settlement patterns. The situation of the railroads could help explain the growth of early communities and their subsequent decline. For example, Bell Buckle was located on the Nashville, Chattanooga, & St. Louis Railroad, and had a train depot. The county seat, Shelbyville, was not on the main line but reached by a spur from War Trace. As late as the 1950s, passenger service ran along this line. Granville Crockett Bingham (1864-1928), the author's gr-grandfather, was state senator, 1917-1919, representing Bedford, Coffee, and Moore counties. He resided in northern Bedford County close to the Rutherford County line. When the legislature was in session in Nashville, he would be driven by buggy from his farm to a nearby railroad crossing. The engineer would stop at the crossing to carry him into Nashville in the morning. The location of this crossing may be found on this map. Today, highways have superseded railroads, and Bell Buckle is some distance from any major highway. It does not seem to enjoy the significance that it once did.

Obviously, cemeteries indicated on the map would provide starting places to search for burials of ancestors, and the attendant information that

gravestones, and perhaps caretaker records, could provide. However, published Bedford County cemetery records, e.g. Marsh, with burial indices, would make this approach generally unnecessary.

All of the above approach would be part of the general art that might be dubbed mapcraft. However, this map also provides information less generally offered, that might be of use in specific cases. As suggested above, it provides population data for the most populous areas, based on the 1870 Federal Census. It also includes lists of County Officers, attorneys, doctors, dentists, and local businesses. Some of the listings were apparently based upon paid placement. The larger scale town maps also include names and locations of individual businesses.

This map describes not simply the place of residence of an individual and his neighbors, but also provides a limited, but useful, demographic picture of Bedford County in 1878. Anyone interested in Bedford County history and genealogy should definitely consult it. On a slightly more personal note, it was especially interesting to the author to note from the Bedford and Rutherford County maps that essentially all of his ancestors lived within a five to ten mile radius as of 1878, and probably did so for the previous twenty years. By rough count the location of 9 ancestral families and numerous collateral relatives was shown. In some cases these help support probable but not 100% proven relationships.

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² D. G. Beers and J. Lanagan, *Map of Bedford County Tenn* (Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1878; reprint, Knoxville, Tenn: Charles G. Reeves, Jr., 2003), color, scale 1 1/4" = 1 mile, 51" x 35 7/8".

³ The Tenn. State Library & Archives offers large-format copies of the maps in their collection. These b&w copies come in sections for the reader to put together. For a price quote on a copy, contact the Manuscript Room staff at reference@state.tn.us

National Genealogical Society Conference To be held in Nashville next Summer

The National Genealogical Society has announced that their 2005 Conference in the States will be held at the Nashville Convention Center June 1st through 4th. The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society is assisting with local arrangements. The local committee is headed by T. Vance Little of Brentwood, past-treasurer and member of the MTGS Board of Directors.

Conference planners will bring the best speakers in the genealogical field to Nashville for this meeting. The four day meeting will be packed with sessions on every conceivable genealogical topic, with lectures set to appeal to both the beginner and the advanced genealogist. The GenTech convention, focusing on genealogical computing, is being folded into the Nashville conference for 2005, bringing a whole new dimension to the sessions. Watch the *Journal* for more information as plans progress. For now, be sure to save the date: June 1 – June 5.

Letters from Tennessee History

Petitions for Pardon from the Penitentiary

*From George Bingham and David Charleston
to Governor William G. Brownlow
1866 – 1867*



William Gannaway Brownlow
(Library of Congress)

The papers of Tennessee's governors, preserved at the State Library and Archives, contain letters from citizens both prominent and humble. In these collections many letters from prisoners in the State Penitentiary and their families can be found. These petitions often provide more information about the prisoner's crime than is given in the court records, and also give us insight into the lives of some of the least fortunate members of Tennessee society.

Archives staff have created indexes to many of the gubernatorial collections, so that one can quickly determine whether pardon petitions to a particular governor have survived. Moreover, many of the governors' papers have been microfilmed and can be borrowed via interlibrary loan for use in libraries across the country. A list of Tennessee's governors and their dates of service can be found on the State Library & Archives web site at www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/techsvs/govpprs.htm. It is not uncommon for a 19th-century governor's papers to include hundreds of these petitions. In all of these collections are gems waiting for discovery by the diligent genealogist.

The following letters were among those written to Governor William Gannaway Brownlow, the highly controversial Reconstruction-era governor of Tennessee. Brownlow was a radical Methodist preacher and Knoxville newspaper editor, and had been a vehement Union supporter during the Civil War. He served from 1865 to 1869 and is reputed to have pardoned every prisoner formerly convicted by the Confederate government. He was especially eager to see that recently freed slaves were not jailed.

Punctuation has been added to improve readability, but the spelling is original. Ellipses [...] indicate that some text from the original has been omitted in this transcription.

Nashville, Tenn.
Jany. 29, 1867

Gov Brownlow. Sir.

During "Hood's raid" a col'd man, George Bingham, was arrested in Nashville while driving in company with a white man two cows, which the owner alledged had been stolen from him.¹ The white man escaped, but the negro, who had been employed by him, to help drive the stock into the City, was cast into prison, and finally sentenced to fifteen (15) years imprisonment in the Penitentiary. He has already been there some two years.

¹ Hood's Raid refers to Confederate General John Bell Hood's unsuccessful effort to retake Middle Tennessee from the occupying Union forces in Nov. 1864. It culminated in the Battle of Franklin.

We the undersigned have knew the said Bingham a long time – he has often been in our employ, and confidentially entrusted with rations and large amounts of personal property, and we know his character to be good for faithfulness and integrity. Unsolicited, we make this application to your Excellency, for an unfortunate and a much injured man, with no personal interest in the result further than the cause of justice and humanity demand towards him, who has been the victim of circumstances, in the time of a great revolutionary excitement and prejudice on account of caste.

Without any further detail or argument, we feel confident that your sense of justice will pardon from any further punishment one who has already paid more than a full penalty even were he guilty and believing him to be innocent, we are firmly convinced that gross injustice has been done him, and to your clemency alone can he, or anyone in his behalf, look for redress.

Very Respectfully, your obedient Servants.

<i>Matilda J. Childress</i>	<i>Jane Marshall</i>
<i>Susan L. Gordon</i>	<i>Jane L. Taylor</i>
<i>W.H. Gordon</i>	<i>Litton Taylor²</i>

The following letter, bearing no date or salutation, is found in the same file. Written in a fine, even hand it appears to have been penned by a scholar although it is signed by former slave George Bingham. The records of the State Penitentiary show that Bingham was a colored man aged 20 years old when he was convicted in Davidson County Circuit Court in Sept. 1865. The nature of his crime does not appear in the prison record. It does show that his mother and step-father (not named) were living in Nashville, and that he had a brother living at Louisville Depot.³

The undersigned would respectfully set forth that he was convicted in August 1865 in Davidson County and sentenced to the State Prison for the term of seven years on the charge of stealing two beef cattle belonging to Mr. Maury. I was prosecuted by Mr. John Maury. I acknowledge that I drove the cattle from Mr. Maury's place to Nashville but I was hired to drive and sell them by a black man named Nathan Scruggs who said the cattle belonged to himself. I had witnesses to prove that Nathan Scruggs sent for me to come and drive the cattle for him but I did not know where to find them and while I was in jail none of my friends were allowed to come to see me and I had no way of writing out, so I could not get any witnesses to attend at my trial.

I hope your Excellency will take into consideration my ignorance and reflect how easily I could be misled, and pardon me. Should you do so I shall try and not render myself liable to a prosecution again if an honest life and honest intentions will be of any avail.

*Respectfully Submitted,
George Bingham
A Man of Color*

² A search of the Tennessee census of 1870 shows a Jane Taylor in District 10 of Davidson County, along with her 12-year-old son, Litton. She was a well-to-do white woman with \$25,000 in real estate and two servants. Milly Childress appears in the same district as a Virginia-born mulatto woman of 35 with a small child. A Jane Marshall was listed in Ward 5 of Nashville, a 70-year-old white woman with \$10,000 in real estate who lived with wealthy Matilda Catron next to the Tennessee School for the Blind. No 1870 census record for John Maury, George Bingham or the Gordons was located. (1870 U.S. Census, Davidson County, Tennessee, population schedules, Civil District 10 pp. 375 (Taylor) and 341 (Childress), and Nashville, Ward 5, p. 289 (Marshall).

³ Sherrill, Charles A. *Tennessee Convicts: Records of the State Penitentiary, Volume 2, 1850-1870* (Mt. Juliet, Tenn: Charles Sherrill, 2002) 26.

On the back of Bingham's petition are the following notations:

*State of Tennessee
Executive Dept.
Nashville, Jan. 26 / 67*

*Respfly referred to
Hon A.J. Fletcher
Secy of State
who will please make
out a warrant of pardon.
By order of
Gov. Brownlow
H.H. Meese[?]
Actg Pvt Secy[?]*

*Pardoned
Jany. 29th, 1867*

The following petition, also in Governor Brownlow's files, tugs at the heartstrings. If the boy's story is true, his case is indeed an example of the way justice was misapplied by white people to the detriment of blacks. This petition, like George Bingham's, is written in a fine hand.

*Tenn. Penitentiary
Nashville, Nov. 5th, 1866
To His Excellency Wm. G. Brownlow, Gov. of Tennessee*

Honorable Sir,

I feel it doing no more than justice to myself in laying before your Excellency a true Statement of the circumstances of my arrest and trail. I was playing marbles with a white boy and I won his marbles and he would not give them to me and was fighting with him and I scratched him so the large boys said I cut him with a knife but I did not have any knife so his father had me arrested and sent here.

I am only 12 years old and have no Father or Mother and I hope that you will release me if you do I will be a good boy and keep from bad company.

*David Charleston
(Colored)*

The petition was marked as received by the Secretary of State's office on Jan. 3, 1864. On the back of it Secretary Andrew Fletcher wrote on the Governor's behalf: "Respectfully referred to the Warden, who will please report the apparent age, conduct and record of this boy. A remark as to his disposition ~~will be~~ is desired." The Warden's reply was penned on the same paper.

Hon. A.J. Fletcher

Secty of State

Sir, The record in the above case is as follows. "David Charleston (col'd) sentenced by Criminal Court of Davidson County July Term for two (2) years. Crime Malicious Stabbing." His age apparently is about 15 or 14 years. His department since his imprisonment has been good.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obt Svt,

Jas. S. Hull

A search of State Penitentiary records showed the prisoner's name as David Charlton and his age as 15 at the time of his imprisonment in July 1866. He was sentenced to two years for the crime of malicious stabbing. The warden noted that he had no trade and no education.⁴ A note in a small, cramped hand on the back of the petition reads:

Let this boy be released

W.G. Brownlow

Governor & etc

⁴ Sherrill, p.65. A search of the 1870 census of Davidson County shows four black families with the surname Charlton, though none of them includes David. There are no families with the name of Charleston in that census.

Hamilton Thompson bids \$7 for Mary A. and Julia V. Campbell Grundy County paupers' provision, 1856

Know all men by these presents that we Hamilton Thompson and John Thompson all of the County of Grundy and State of Tennessee are held and firmly bound unto the State of Tennessee in the penal sum of fifty dollars, the payment of which well and truly to be made unto the State of Tennessee. We bind ourselves, our heirs and representatives jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this 7th day of July 1856.

The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bounden Hamilton Thompson on the 7th day of July 1854 bid off Mary Adline and Julia Virginia Campbell, he being the lowest bidder, for to keep said children un till the first Monday in Sept. 1856 for seven dollars each. Now if the said Hamilton Thompson as aforesaid shall keep Mary Adline and Julia Virginia Campbell until the aforesaid time and give them sufficient diet and clothing to keep them comfortable and administer to their necessities in sickness and in health during the aforesaid time, then this obligation to be void, else remain in full force and virtue. This day and date above written.

[signed] S.H. Thompson ((seal))

[signed] John Thompson ((seal))

Examined and received
this 7th day of July 1856.

[signed] Philip Roberts, Judge

Found in Grundy County loose records collection, box 7, mf reel 136, Tenn. State Library & Archives.

School Records of Middle Tennessee

Male & Female Institute,
Lewisburg, Marshall County
1866-1867 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.

*The First Annual Catalogue of Lewisburg Male and Female Institute
of Marshall County, Tennessee, 1866-7
(Nashville: J.T.S. Fall & Sons, 1867)*

*Presented to Miss Kittie T. Ewing,
Lewisburg, Tennessee, Aug. 1st, 1867.*

This school catalog is found among the collections of the Tennessee State Library. It is of particular value because of penciled notations added many years after publication by one of the students, Kittie Ewing. She added information about the spouses of many of her classmates, corrected errors in the booklet, and indicated which teachers and students were still living at the time she made her notes.

According to Miss Ewing's notations, 67 students out of an original 158 were still living. We do not know just when she made her notes, but judging by the number of deceased classmates it must have been many years after their schooldays.¹ The catalog was donated to the State Library by Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Burt in 1962. The library also owns a copy of the 4th Annual Catalog of this school, dated 1869-1870,

Goodspeed's history of Marshall County,² published in 1886, states that the Lewisburg Male Academy was incorporated in 1838 and was the principal school for boys until the opening of the Civil War. A Female Academy originated "in about the same manner," and Marshall Academy was founded in 1842. Goodspeed relates that in 1875 the Lewisburg Male Academy and the Marshall Academy were sold and the Lewisburg Institute was erected in their stead. First operated by the Freemasons, it was later purchased and operated by Rev. C.R. Darnall until his death.

The two catalogs in the State Library's collection tell us that Goodspeed's story is not entirely accurate. The first catalog proves that Rev. Darnall started the Male and Female Institute in 1866 and operated it through 1870. In the 1866 catalog he wrote that he owned the property, had room for 200 students, and had been "in the business" nearly 25 years. The 1860 census shows his occupation is given as "C. Minister, Farmer & Teacher" and his estate valued at nearly \$25,000. In 1870 C.R. Darnall, age 48, was a well-to-do "school teacher" with \$23,000 in real estate and \$2,000 in personal property.³ The decline in personal property may reflect the loss of slaves during the Civil War. Records of the Talley Cemetery in Marshall County show that Calvin R. Darnall died Nov. 8, 1870.⁴

The 1866 catalog includes information about the school, which was divided into four classes ranging from Juvenile to Senior. Tuition began at \$2.50 per month for Juveniles. The four-month fall term began in September and the spring term ran from January through April. The curriculum included daily Bible

reading "without any comments of a sectarian nature." Students were prohibited from using spirituous beverages and from carrying weapons while at school. In the 1869 catalog a proscription against "any kind of gaming that leads to immorality" was added.

Two interesting items specified tuition arrangements for some students. Children of ministers "who are actually in the work" were accommodated at half price. Additionally we find this promise, unusual for any private school in any period: "Orphan children will be cared for, and none turned away because of poverty."

Dr. R.G. McClure*	Board of Trustees	
	James V. Ewing*	Gen. E.A. Wilson*
	Dr. S.R. Hardison ⁶ *	Thos. Murray*
	W.N. Cowden*	R.A. Fraley*
	J.M. Ledbetter*	Ervin McAdams*
Willis McConnel*	Richard Warner, Jr.*	Andrew Edwards*
W.H. Lewis ⁵ *		
W.D. Fisher*		

Faculty

Male Department

C.R. Darnall*, Principal
E.M. Fisher* and W.A. Darnall, Assistants

Female Department

Sue F. Darnall, Principal
Jennie Lane* and Melissa Ewing, Assistants

Musical Department

Mollie Story*

Lecturers

W.N. Cowden* Richard Warner, Jr.*
Col. W.H. Lewis*

Catalogue of Students		
Names	Parents or Guardians	Pencilled Notes (spouses, etc.)
Armstrong, C.A.	Cunningham, Sam.	<i>Maggie Kercheval</i>
Adams, W.C.	Adams, Joseph	<i>Rier(?) Oslin</i>
Allen, G.H.*	Allen, Hill	<i>Sallie Harwell</i>
Bills, T.W.	Bills, Johns	
Bills, Nettie	Bills, W.G.	
Bills, Bettie	Bills, John	
Bills, Tollie	Bills, W.G.	<i>hard nut</i>
Barnett, J.T.	Barnett, John	
Barnett, Wm.	Barnett, John	
Bills, Olla	Fosler, C.	
Brawley, Mollie*	Ledbetter, J.M.	<i>Bill London</i>
Brents, M.E.*	Brents, Jas.	<i>Miller</i>
Brents, T.M.*	Brents, Jas.	<i>Mollie Prosser</i>
Bowden, Anna*	Bowden, Wm.	<i>Ellis</i>
Bowden, Blanch*	Bowden, Thos.	<i>Jim Reed</i>
Brawley, W.A.*	Self	<i>Mary White</i>
Calton, Gentry*	Calton, Wm.	
Calton, Jo*	Calton, Wm.	
Cowden, J.T.*	Cowden, W.N.	<i>Annie Benjamin(?)</i>
Cowden, W.W.*	Cowden, W.N.	<i>Jim Cooman(?), Margaret</i>
Collins, J.T.	Collins, G.W.	
Cunningham, S.E.	Cunningham, Wm.	
Cunningham, Thos.*	Cunningham, Wm.	<i>Puss(?) Fields</i>
Collins, L.B.*	Collins, Elisha	<i>Josie McAdams</i>

Catalogue of Students		
Names	Parents or Guardians	Pencilled Notes (spouses, etc.)
Collins, G.W.*	Collins, Elisha	<i>1. Nitho Tilman, 2nd Alice McBady(?)</i>
Collins, S.R.*	Collins, Elisha	
Collins, James	Collins, Wm.	<i>Lilly Tolley</i>
Collins, Mary*	Collins, Wm.	<i>John Tolley</i>
Collins, Marcellus*	Collins, Thos. S.	<i>old bachelor</i>
Cunningham, J.M.*	Cunningham, Sam	
Darnall, W.A.*	Darnell, C.R.	<i>Lorine Mann</i>
Darnall, M.E.*	Darnell, C.R.	<i>Foster</i>
Darnall, J.C.	Darnell, C.R.	
Darnall, S.J.	Darnell, C.R.	<i>Willie Sowel</i>
Darnall, C.L.*	Darnell, C.R.	
Davis, A.N.C.	Davis, Mrs. Sallie	Changed to <i>H.N.C. Davis</i>
Davis, Sallie*	Davis, Mrs. Sallie	<i>Jim Dark</i>
Duncan, Atlas*	Self	<i>widower</i>
Drake, Eva*	Drake, Hampton	Hampton is overwritten <i>B.F. Drake</i>
Diven, J.M.*	Diven, James	<i>Davis</i>
Elliott, T.S.	Elliott, J.C.	
Elliott, Wm.	Elliott, J.C.	
Elliott, Mattie*	Elliott, J.C.	
Elliott, Rhoda	Elliott, J.C.	
Ewing, J.C.*	Ewing, Jas. V.	<i>Lay, Rhoda Morris</i>
Ewing, Mattie*	Ewing, Jas. V.	<i>I, We, One</i>
Elliott, J.D.*	Elliott, Lizzie	<i>1st Ann White, 2nd Lula Berge</i>
Elliott, W.C.*	Elliott, Lizzie	<i>Alvie Patterson</i>
Ewing, G.W.*	Ewing, Jas. S.	<i>Alice Patterson</i>
Ewing, Mittie*	Ewing, Jas. S.	
Elliott, Rho.*	Elliott, Johnston	<i>Tom Cathey</i>
Ewing, Adda*	Ewing, Sam (Dr.)	<i>B. Fisher</i>
Ewing, Melissa*	Ewing, Sam (Dr.)	<i>Jim Snell</i>
Edwards, Henry F.	Edwards, Andrew	<i>hard case</i>
Fox, Gidie*	Fox, P. Sr.	<i>Nannie Hightower</i>
Fox, Joshua*	Fox, P. Sr.	<i>Murrel</i>
Fox, Mattie	Fox, P. Jr.	<i>Tub London</i>
Fox, Alice	Fox, P. Jr.	<i>Perin(?) McCord</i>
Fraley, R.*	Fraley, R.A.	<i>Lula Jounard(?)</i>
Fraley, J.M.*	Fraley, R.A.	
Fraley, Hattie*	Fraley, R.A.	<i>Huey Wilson</i>
Fraley, Duke*	Fraley, Solomon	<i>Mat Ristis(?)</i>
Furgis, R.*	Adams, R.L.	<i>Fannie Ewing</i>
Fisher, F.B.*	Fisher, W.D.	<i>Teder(?) Fleming</i>
Fisher, J.R.*	Self	<i>Tenniel(?) Tucker</i>
Fisher, E.M.*	Self	<i>Livy Williamson</i>
Foster, N.J.	Moore, James	
Goodwin, B.P.*	Goodwin, P.G.W.	<i>hard case</i>
Goodwin, Tennie	Goodwin, P.G.W.	
Goodwin, Jennie	Goodwin, P.G.W.	
Gilbert, John	Gilbert, R.	<i>Susan Burge</i>
Gilbert, Thos.	Gilbert, R.	

Catalogue of Students		
Names	Parents or Guardians	Pencilled Notes (spouses, etc.)
Houston, W.C.*	Houston, Aken	<i>Nonie Temple</i>
Houston, Frank	Houston, Aken	<i>Georgie Brown</i>
Houston, G.C.	Houston, Aken	<i>Nanie Brown</i>
Houston, Peggie*	Houston, Aken	
Houston, Cyrus*	Houston, Aken	<i>Sallie Bohanon(?)</i>
Houston, D.W.C.	Self	<i>Ola Still(?)</i>
Hooten, John*	Hooten, John (Elder)	
Hooten, Callie*	Hooten, John (Elder)	<i>W. Derreberry</i>
Holden, Fannie*	Holden, W.B.	<i>Bird, Tom McLenary(?)</i>
Holden, Charlie	Holden, W.B.	
Holden, Jason*	Holden, W.B.	<i>Bettie Waters</i>
Holden, Ellen*	Holden, W.B.	
Hawkins, M.E. *	Hawkins, John	<i>Bob Adams</i>
Hawkins, Lizzie	Hawkins, John	<i>Lizzie is changed to Jim Hawkins</i>
Hill, W.G. *	Hill, W.B.	<i>Mattie Thomas</i>
Hill, Sallie*	Hill, W.B.	<i>B. Fisher</i>
Hunter, W.W. *	Hunter, E.W.	
Hunter, Mollie*	Hunter, E.W.	<i>is a Hunter indeed</i>
Harvill, Wm.	Harvill, Dick	
Harvill, G.H. *	Harvill, Dick	
Hopwood, Alice*	Hopwood, Mrs. C.	<i>O. Maid</i>
Hopwood, Emma*	Hopwood, Mrs. C.	<i>O. Maid</i>
Hopwood, N.S. *	Hopwood, Willis	
Haggard, B.H.*	Haggard, R.M. (Rev.)	<i>B.H. changed to B.S.</i>
Kercheval, J.T. *	Kercheval, R.K.	<i>Mary Oglesby</i>
Kercheval, Willie*	Kercheval, R.K.	<i>fast boy, Mollie McKinney</i>
Kercheval, Hettie*	Kercheval, R.K.	
Long, J.J. *	Hill, Allen	<i>Bettie Stinson</i>
Ledbetter, J.M. *	Ledbetter, J.M.	<i>Hattie Long</i>
Ledbetter, Maggie	Ledbetter, J.M.	<i>Baby, Garrett(?)</i>
Ledbetter, G. *	Ledbetter, J.M.	
Ledbetter, J.N. *	Ledbetter, J.M.	<i>Kercheval(?)</i>
Lane, Jennie*	Self	
Lane, Callie*	Lane, Nat	<i>Smith</i>
Lane, Jesse*	Lane, Nat	
Lancaster, Naomia*	Lancaster, Wm.	
Laws, Maddie*	Laws, John (Col.)	<i>Allison</i>
Maxwell, Henry	Conley, Mrs. M.	<i>Mick White</i>
Maxwell, Lanora*	Conely, Mrs. M.	
McQuiddy, J.C. *	McQuiddy, N.	
McQuiddy, J.W.	McQuiddy, N.	
McAdams, J.H. *	McAdams, Ervin E.	<i>Bettie Smiley</i>
McAdams, C.L. *	McAdams, Ervin E.	<i>Ida Kellog</i>
McAdams, Josie	McAdams, Ervin E.	<i>Lu Collins</i>
McAdams, Alice	McAdams, Ervin E.	<i>Ed Miller</i>
McAdams, S.B.	McAdams, Dr.	
McClure, A.D. *	McClure, R.G. (Dr.)	<i>1st Lou Miller, 2nd Birdie, Callaway</i>
McCord, Tabitha*	McCord, Harvey	<i>Dr. Neil</i>
McCord, Persis*	McCord, Harvey	<i>Alice Fox</i>
McCrory, Sallie	McCrory, Wm.	<i>Fowler</i>

Catalogue of Students		
Names	Parents or Guardians	Pencilled Notes (spouses, etc.)
Miller, W.B.N.	Self	
Mathews, Wm.	Mathews, Robt.	
Mathews, Rich.	Mathews, Robt.	
McConnel, Willis*	Self	
McConnel, K.A.	McConnel, Willis	
McConnel, W.J. *	McConnel, Willis	
Myers, Robt.*	Lyles, Jo.	<i>Bittie Waggs</i>
McCrary, Sallie*	McCrary, Joseph	
Porter, Etta*	Porter, Mrs. M.	
Reed, T.D.*	Reed, J.L.	<i>Ella Cox</i>
Reed, Jennie*	Reed, J.L.	<i>H.K. Moss</i>
Reeder, N.H.	Hooten, John (Elder)	
Record, W.D.L.*	Record, Mrs. E.	
Reeder, Wm.*	Self	<i>Virgie Stillwell(?)</i>
Robinson, T.J. *	Oakley, Mrs. E.	
Robinson, Sallie*	Oakley, Mrs. E.	<i>Dr. Furgerson</i>
Rone, H.W.	Rone, Eli	<i>Mollie Crucher</i>
Smith, Fannie*	Smith, Frank	<i>Bryant</i>
Swan, Frank	Swan Mr. ---	
Snell, Thos. *	Snell, John	<i>Sallie Paroley</i>
Snell, Dora	Snell, John	<i>Jim Snell</i>
Stellwell, A.B. *	Self	<i>Kate Collins</i>
Stellwell, J.L. *	Stellwell, J.O.	
Stegall, John	Stegall, Mrs. E.M.	
Talley, J.C.	Talley, Stephen	
Talley, Susie	Talley, Sam	
Tilman, Vastine*	Davis, Wiley	<i>Rome(?) Turner</i>
Williams, S.R.*	Self	
Williams, Maggie*	Williams, Mrs. E.	
Williams, Mary	Williams, Mrs. E.	<i>T.K. Davis</i>
Waddle, Fannie	Waddle, Frank	
Waddle, Sallie	Waddle, Frank	
Wiggs, J.C.*	Wiggs, N.B.	<i>J.C. changed to J. Calvin</i>
Walker, Mattie	Walker, Mrs. M.	
Yarbrough, J.A.	Yarbrough, G.W.	
Yowell, Mollie	Yowell, W.R.	<i>B. Gill</i>
67 living out of 158		
*indicates persons marked "d" or "dead"		

¹ The notes may have been made shortly after 1917. William A. Darnall is listed as deceased while his sister Sarah Josephine is not. Information posted by Darnall descendants on *FamilySearch.org* shows that William A. died in 1817 and Sarah J. in 1921. Their sister Susan Frances Darnall, who was the Principal of the Female Department in 1866, was then just 18 years old. She died in 1940 at the age of 92.

² *History of Tennessee*. (Nashville: Goodspeed Pub. Co., 1886), p.899.

³ Federal Population Census of 1860 and 1870, Marshall County, Tenn., page 32 in 1860 and page 202 in 1870.

⁴ *TNGenWeb.org*, Marshall County site, Talley Cemetery.

* Names marked with an asterisk are marked with the word 'dead' or letter 'd' in pencil

⁵ Corrected in pencil to J.H. Lewis

⁶ The second initial has been corrected in pencil, appears to read S.T. Hardison

Present the 17th Annual Genealogical Seminar
Saturday, November 20, 2003

Finding Your Ancestors in the Southern States and Colonies



Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck
Fellow, American Society of Genealogists

Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, noted author, genealogy librarian, newspaper columnist, and nationally-known lecturer, will focus on genealogical aspects of Southern colonies and states of early America at the 17th annual seminar of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Saturday, November 20, 2004, at the Martin Senior Center, 960 Heritage Way, Brentwood, TN.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center at the church. A registration fee of \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members also includes a packet of handouts. A box lunch will be guaranteed only for advance registrations received before the 10 November deadline, however a complimentary selection of pastries and beverages will be available at the morning session.

Advance registrations should be sent to Juanita Patton, Registrar, P.O. Box 330948, Nashville, TN 37203-7507., with check or money order made out to the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society. For additional information, call (615) 298-3742, send your inquiry to juanitap615@aol.com, or check the society website at www.mtgs.org.

Mr. Bockstruck's four lectures will address several aspects of genealogical research in the Southern Colonies, along key migration routes, in Virginia & the Carolinas following the Revolutionary War. The schedule on the following page provides more details about each lecture.

Lectures Cover Virginia, Carolinas, Migration and More

8:30 a.m. – Registration and Book Vendors

9:15 a.m. - *Genealogical Research in the Southern Colonies*

The planting of the English colonies in North America posed a host of challenges of record keeping practices and agencies. Variations from one colony to another requires a thorough understanding of the system, the content of the records, and knowledge of surviving sources for research.

10:45 a.m. - *Southern Migrations*

By the time of the Revolutionary War there were descendants of Mayflower passengers in all 13 colonies. Inter-colonial movements of individuals and families provide the framework for effective genealogical research. Knowledge of migratory patterns is critical in reconstituting the pedigrees of tidewater and backcountry Southern families.

12:00 Noon – Catered Luncheon

1:15 p.m. - *Virginia Research*

The Old Dominion is the ancestral home of many (if not most) southern families. Losses in Virginia records pose serious challenges for genealogists. Familiarity with the records and research tools are essential for making headway.

2:45 p.m. – *Research in the Carolinas*

Migrations out of the Carolinas account for their importance in the genealogical history of American South. Knowing the significant differences between the records of North Carolina and South Carolina can make a significant contribution to successful planning of one's genealogical research strategies.

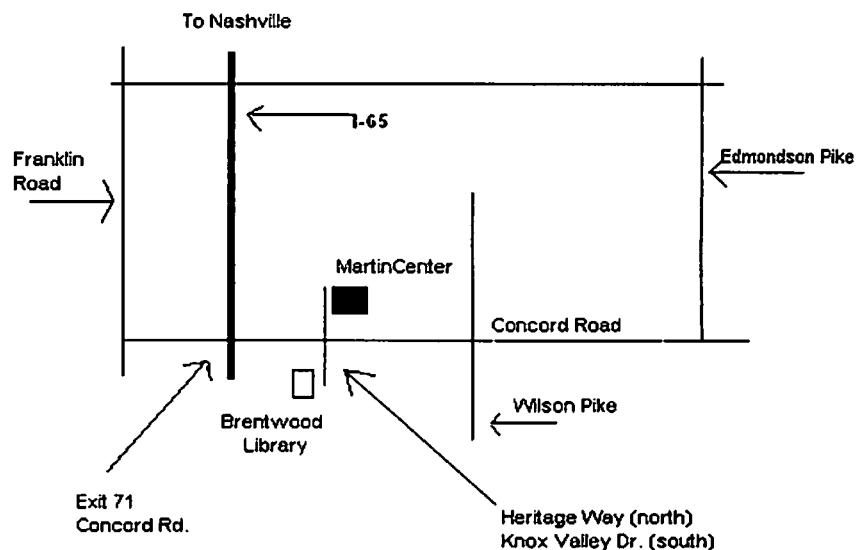
Vendors Will Offer Books and More

Ye Old Genealogy Shoppe and Dixie Press will serve as vendors at the Conference, offering a variety of books, supplies and other genealogical materials.

The Martin Center is located
¼ mile east of I-65 at the
Concord Road exit.

From Concord Road, turn
Left on Heritage Way.

Ample parking.
Accessible for the handicapped.



About Our Conference Speaker....

Lloyd deWit Bockstruck

Since 1973, Lloyd Bockstruck has served as Supervisor of the Genealogy Library at the Dallas (TX) Public Library. His popular column about genealogy, "Family Tree," appears each Saturday in *The Dallas Morning News*. He holds the A.B. cum laude (biology), M.A. (European history), and M.S. (library science).

Before joining the Dallas Public Library staff, Lloyd was a teaching assistant in the Department of History of Southern Illinois University from 1967 to 1969. During the next two years, he served in the Southern Baptist Missionary Journeyman Program and was assigned as a teacher and librarian at the Mombasa (Kenya) Baptist High School. In 1970-1971, he was a graduate assistant in the School of Library Science at the University of Illinois.

Since 1974, Lloyd has been a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He was the first recipient of the Institute's Outstanding Alumnus Award.

In 1982, he received the Award of Merit for the National Genealogy Society, and, in 1993, he was named a Fellow of the society. In 1999, he was named the first recipient of the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship. He is listed in *Who's Who in America*, a member of numerous lineage and genealogical societies, and a frequent lecturer at local, state and national genealogical societies.

Among his works are *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers (Lord Dunmore's War, 1774; French Indian Wars 1754-1763)*; *Genealogical Research in Texas*; *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*, and *Naval Pensioners of the United States, 1800-1851*.

Mr. Bockstruck last addressed the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society at the 1998 seminar, treating the topics of migration, legal terminology, church records, and "Bridging the Atlantic."

A Personal Note About Lloyd Bockstruck

When I was 15 years old, I went from my home in Cleveland, Ohio, to spend the summer with my older sister in Dallas. She had a two-year-old son, and I babysat him while she worked part-time. I had already been bitten by the genealogy bug, and my sister told me that the Dallas Public Library had an excellent research collection. This was in 1974, not long after Lloyd Bockstruck became the head of the Genealogy Collection there.

On my days off from babysitting, I took the bus downtown to the library. There I discovered such delights as Worth S. Ray's *Tennessee Cousins* and other published materials about Tennessee history. I copied useless information at a furious rate! Mr. Bockstruck noticed me (I'm sure I stood out among the usual high-heeled and blue-rinsed genealogy patrons of those days), and took an interest in my research. I remember finding a connection between the Sherrill and Sevier families, and mentioning it to Lloyd. He exclaimed, "Oh, how wonderful. I've always wanted to find a Hugenout ancestor." I smiled in agreement, trying not to let on that I had no idea what a Huge-a-Know was!

Thanks to the encouragement of Lloyd and other librarians who were kind and helpful to a teenage interloper who was poking around in genealogy collections, my early interest in family history research was strengthened into a lifelong love of learning that has brought me great satisfaction.

Chuck Sherrill, Editor

Did Your Ancestor do Business with the Confederates?

Confederate records of citizens and firms

Among the Confederate records captured by the Federal government at the end of the Civil War were many business records of people who bought and sold supplies or were otherwise engaged in transactions with the fledgling government. These records were reorganized in 1891-1892 by the War Department, primarily for the purpose of identifying people who had assisted the Confederacy and could, therefore, be considered disloyal citizens.

Even in the 1890s, thousands of southern claims against the U.S. government for depredations caused by the Union army were still pending in the federal courts. By identifying disloyal citizens, the courts could deny their claims. The government was so determined not to pay the claims of anyone who had recognized the Confederate government, even by so innocuous an act as selling a wagon load of corn to a Confederate Quartermaster, that these tens of thousands of documents were carefully organized and cross-indexed.

The huge series of more than 650,000 documents is titled *Confederate papers relating to citizens or business firms*. It has been reproduced on microfilm by the National Archives, filling 1,158 reels. The records are arranged in rough alphabetical order by the name of the individual or business. Large businesses, such as the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, or the H.H. Harrison & Son steamboat company of Nashville, have extensive files that make up a substantial part of the collection. However, thousands of individual citizens also appear in these records.

Many of the documents in the file are vouchers documenting an account between the Confederate government as buyer and the citizen or firm as seller. Vouchers were often written on preprinted forms which show the name of

the seller, a description of the goods sold, the price, the date, and the signature of the buyer (usually an army Quartermaster). When the seller presented his voucher for payment, he filled in at the bottom the date he received payment, the name of the payer (again, usually an army Quartermaster) and (significantly for the genealogist) the place at which payment was made. It is this location information which enables the researcher to distinguish one John Farmer from another.

The Confederate States

To William H. Willis, Dr. [debit]

Date of Purchase

Nov. 10th 1862 For 590 Bundles of Fodder @ \$.02 \$11.80

I certify that this account is correct and just, and that the articles have been accounted for on my property return for the quarter ending 31 of December 1862

S. W. Morgan, A. Quartermaster

Received at Pelham, Tenn. the 10th of November 1862 of S. W. Morgan, Asst. Quartermaster, C.S. Army, the sum of eleven dollars and eighty cents, in full of the above account.

W. H. Willis

For example, the figure shown above is a copy of a voucher filed under the name of William Willis in this collection. There are many records in the file bearing the name of William Willis, and it could be difficult to determine which of those might pertain to my ancestor of that name. However, there was only one William Willis living at Pelham, Grundy County, Tennessee, during the Civil War. And since the voucher shows that it was paid at

Pelham, I know this record is a piece of my family history. The italicized portions of the sample voucher are filled in by hand; the remainder is a pre-printed form.

Vouchers may represent as much as 76% of this collection, and the amateur genealogist may think “ho hum”, but to document a Middle Tennessee ancestor’s activities during the Civil War can be a difficult but fascinating aspect of your research. My grandmother always maintained that the Willis family was ‘strictly neutral’ during the war, but this document tells me that my ancestor was at least willing to do business with the Confederates. Some researchers will find that their ancestors provided great quantities of supplies to the rebel army, and others may find that a relative provided an unusual service such as shoeing horses or sewing uniforms for the soldiers.

Moreover, the collection is not limited to these vouchers. The following list shows an assortment of entries found in this series under the surname Blanton. There is a wide range of information given – often just enough of a clue to tantalize. Although most of these entries do not pertain to Middle Tennessee, the variety of data will give readers an idea of the scope of the collection.

Entries which refer to “personal papers” can generally be followed up by examining the compiled service records of the person cited. For example, in the entry below for G.S. Blanton, reference is made to the personal papers of Like Ogle of the 37th Tenn. Infantry. Upon examining the compiled service record for Ogle, one will find an affidavit sworn out by his father, Like Ogle, Sr., in Catoosa County, Georgia, in 1863. The father testified that his son, Like, was born in DeKalb Co., Alabama, in 1849, enlisted in the 37th Tenn. in Chattanooga in 1861, and died of illness at Carthage, Tenn., three months later. The father is requesting the soldier’s back-pay. The affidavit was sworn before a Justice of the Peace in Catoosa named G.B. Blanton.

It seems remarkable that the War Department indexed the name of G.B. Blanton, buried in Ogle’s service record, into this collection of records of Confederate citizens, but so they did. Because G.B. Blanton served as a Justice of the Peace in a seceded state during the war, he was considered an official of the Confederate government and, therefore, disloyal to the Union. This would have disqualified Blanton from payment if he had any claim pending against the government.

Some entries in the following list make reference to Chapters and Volumes. The records to which these entries relate have not been microfilmed, but are available for inspection at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. For example, the entry for J.N. Blanton refers cryptically to “Chap. 9-12-80” A consultant at the Archives was able to identify this as a reference to a large series of volumes in Record Group 109, *War Department Collection of Confederate Records*. Volume 12 in Chapter (or series) 9 is a record of bonds signed by officers of the Confederate Government who were authorized to handle funds.

In this case, Capt. J.N. Blanton, Assistant Quartermaster of the 17th Tenn. Infantry, gave his bond for services as an Assistant Commissary officer on May 21, 1863. Incidentally, Newt Blanton was one of those southern gentlemen who was mysteriously elevated to the rank of Colonel by his descendants. Discovering the true nature of his status in the Confederate army was one of the benefits of this research project.

Another example is found in the entry for E.V. Blanton, whose card merely contains a note, “Offers to raise troops for C.S.” and a chapter & volume reference. Turning again to Record Group 109 at the National Archives, the chapter and volume referenced is titled “Copies of correspondence issued from the Headquarters of the East Tennessee District.” This is a hefty volume containing handwritten copies of all the correspondence issued from the Commanding General’s office, arranged chronologically. The letters and telegrams deal with a myriad of issues, ranging from marching orders given to various units to inquiries about the purchase of supplies, to reprimands sent to officers who failed in their duty in some way, etc.

The Blanton item is a letter dated at Knoxville Aug. 4, 1862, and sent to Mr. E.V. Blanton at Clear Branch in Washington County. It reads:

"Sir, your application for authority to raise troops for service in Tennessee is received. The Commanding General directs me to say that before he can procure such authority, he must have satisfactory references of the applicant's competency for the post desired, as well as the facilities for arming troops at your disposal, and the time you will require to enroll the minimum number required by law for a company." E. Cunningham, Lieut. & A.A.D.C.

It would appear that Blanton had written with an offer to raise a company of men to join the Confederate army, but the commanding general was in need of more information before accepting such an offer. One wonders whether there was additional correspondence between them. It seems likely that only the first reference was indexed in the *Papers relating to citizens...* because only the one document was sufficient to prove disloyalty.

This microfilm collection is not available at any library in Tennessee, and with the price of the 1,000+ reels at more than \$4,000, it is not likely that it will be purchased by any of our repositories. However, Middle Tennessee genealogists can readily borrow specific reels of the collection through the L.D.S. (Mormon) branch libraries in Hendersonville, Franklin and Mufreesboro. A search of the Family History Library catalog for the title will provide a list of the reels showing which section of the alphabet is contained on each reel. In that way, the parts of the collection most likely to contain information on surnames of interest can be borrowed and perused.

Because the War Department organization of the records into alphabetical order was imperfect, one should remember to check variant spellings and look beyond the strict alphabetical placement for records. For example, a file on Larkin Willis was found filed under Larkin Williams. Despite the difficulty of obtaining the records and the fragmented nature of the information they provide, the *Confederate papers relating to citizens or business firms* are a resource not to be overlooked by the Middle Tennessee genealogist.

Here follows a list of the Blanton entries, which provides a glimpse of the sorts of information one might find on their own family in this valuable collection.

Blanton Entries in the Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms

Blanton & Haynes

Receipt for 14 pair mule shoes given at Camp Wane, Texas, in 1862.

Blanton & Howard

Receipt for 436 lbs. bacon sold to C.W. Kelly of the 4th Regt. Kentucky Cavalry in 1865.

Blanton & Longacre

Reciept for 160 bales of "exhafland" [?] at \$7 per bale, given at Columbus, Kentucky in 1861.

Abram Blanton

Statement of taxable corn and fodder raised by him in 1863 in Duplin County, North Carolina.

Alexander Blanton

Statement of taxable corn and fodder raised by him in 1863 in Duplin County, North Carolina.

Andrew Blanton

Father, Cleveland County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Wm. C. Blanton, Private, Company E, 12th Reg. North Carolina State Troops.

Alley Ann Blanton

Widow, Spartanburg Dist. South Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of C.D. Blanton, Private, Company H., Palmetto Sharp Shooters.

A.B. Blanton

Justice of the Peace, Cleveland County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Wm. T. Blanton and James Braddy, Privates, Company H, 28th Regt. North Carolina State Troops. See also papers of Charles P. Blanton and James Costner, Privates, Company E, 12th North Carolina State Troops. See also papers of Wm. B. Wright, Private, Company B, 34th North Carolina State Troops.

A.C. Blanton

Receipt for two "cover lids" and two blankets for Sandy Run Volunteers. Dated Rutherford County [no state] Oct. 1861. Signed by "H. Harrill, Chm. Com."

A.G. Blanton

Three vouchers dated at Trenton [no state] in 1862 for boxes and labor for quartermaster's stores, rent of a storehouse for storing commissary supplies and \$14.00 for one coffin and trimmings furnished for Private Wm. H. Wesson in Capt. Wm. Gay's Company, 47th Regiment, Col. Hill, C.S.A.

B.E. Blanton

Justice of the Peace, Rutherford County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of 2nd Lieut. G.J. Huntley and Pvt. James Taylor, Company I, 34th Regt. North Carolina State Troops.

Benjamin Blanton

Cross-reference card. Claimant, Walker County, Alabama. See paper filed with rolls of Company K, 26/50 Alabama Infantry, case of Jno. W. Blanton. Witness, Walker County, Alabama. See paper filed with rolls of Company K, 26/50 Alabama Infantry, case of Jno. M. Karrh.

B.F. Blanton

Voucher for transportation of C.S.A. stores from Navisota, Texas, to Shreveport in Sept. 1863, valued at \$306.

Exchange certificate from Confederate States Depository's Office in Shreveport, Nov. 1864.

Blanton deposited \$630 in old issue exchange notes for two-thirds of that sum in new issue notes.

B.F. Blanton of Texas. Cross-reference card. See M.J. Hall in Vouchers.

Voucher for freight on two grindstones and packages of files and saws received at Shreveport in Sept. 1863.

B.W.L. Blanton

Voucher for services rendered in Cumberland County from Aug. to Oct. 1862 at \$40 per month. Received at Burkeville.

Caroline Blanton

Widow, Spartanburg Dist., South Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Ambrose Blanton, Private, Co. F. 15th Regt. S.C. Infantry.

Charles Blanton

Vouchers for oats, corn and fodder received at Camp Real [or Zeal?] in 1862.

Father and witness, Cleveland County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Charles R. Blanton and John H. Eskridge, Privates, Co. E, 12th North Carolina State Troops.

Carter Blanton

Deposit receipt from Confederate States Depository's Office at Frankfort, Alabama in 1864. Blanton deposited \$800 in bonds. Blanton transferred the receipt in payment of his taxes for 1863.

Cross-reference card. See A. Martin in Vouchers, page 9.

C.W. Blanton

Two receipts for reimbursement of \$40 each for rent paid for use of one room in Caroline County Aug. thru Dec. 1864. Blanton was the Assessor of the 33rd District of Virginia and was stationed in Caroline County by Capt. M. Clark, P.Q.M.

Voucher for 5,100 lbs. fodder received in Caroline County in 1863.

Two receipts for services as tax assessor in Caroline County in 1864. Received at Orange Court House.

Charles W. Blanton

Numerous vouchers for telegraphic messages between March 1863 and March 1864, received at Farmville. Signed by C.W. Blanton, agent and operator for Southern Telegraph Company.

Receipts issued to H.H. Taliaferro, Surgeon in charge of Gen. Hospital, Farmville, Virginia, for beans, butter and eggs in 1864, signed by Charles W. Blanton.

Daniel Blanton

Brooks County, Georgia. Cross-reference card. See papers filed with rolls of Company I/C, 13/26 Georgia. Case of Wm. R. Blanton.

Dorcas Blanton

Statement of wool raised in 1863 in Duplin County, North Carolina.

Eldrid Blanton

Voucher for oats received in Hanover County in 1862.

Edward Blanton

Voucher for fodder received at Madison County, Virginia, in 1864.

Ed Blanton

Voucher for corn received at Burkeville [no state] in 1863.

E. Blanton

Of North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See Vouchers of W.H. Miller.

Eleanor Blanton

Widow, Henry County, Alabama. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Joseph W. Blanton, Private, Company F, 36th Regt. Alabama Infantry.

Elijah Blanton

Witness, Rutherford County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Jason Hamrick, Private, Company B, 34th Regt. North Carolina State Troops.

E.A. Blanton

Cross-reference card. Exempt, State Officer, Justice of the Peace, Augusta County, Virginia. Chapter 1.235.1-2-24.

E.M. Blanton

Admr[?], Rutherford County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Wm. A. Blanton, Private, Co. E, 12th Regt. North Carolina State Troops.

Witness, Rutherford County, North Carolina. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of J.D. Bowen and Wm. D. Gillespie, Privates, Co. H., 28th Regt. North Carolina State Troops.

E.V. Blanton

Offers to raise troops for C.S. Chap. 2-51-460.

F.B. Blanton

Cross-reference card. See vouchers of B.W.L. Blanton. Voucher and certificate of impressment for two mules taken at Cumberland Court House in 1864.

Voucher for corn and oats [no place] in 1864.

G. Blanton

Cross-reference card. See O.P. Gardner.

Receipt for services as teamster, given at Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1862.

Georgia Blanton (Mrs.)

Washington County, Mississippi, petition. Cross-reference card. See voucher files in case of J.S. Yerger, Miss.

George W. Blanton

Bidder, Rock Station, Virginia. See Chapter XI, Volume 41, Page 348.

G.W. Blanton

Receipt for repairing wagon and shoeing 17 horses and mules, given at Badgett Farm, Knox County, Tennessee, Nov. 1862.

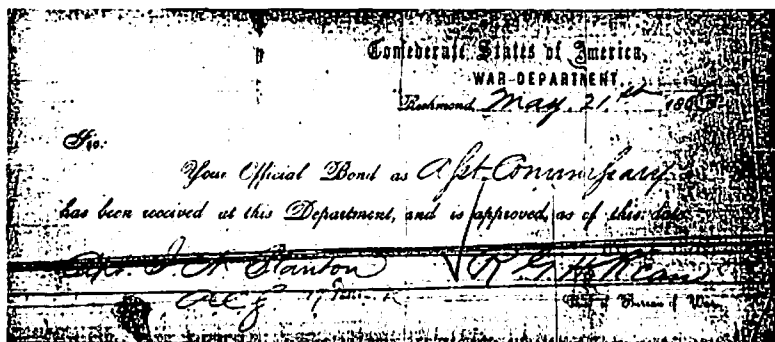
Voucher for fodder given at Camp [blank] in 1862.

G.S. Blanton

Affiant, Catossa County, Georgia. Cross-reference card. See personal papers of Like Ogle, Company H, 37th Regt., Tenn. Infantry.

H.L. Blanton

Cross-reference card. See S. Shaver.



Hugh L. Blanton

Isaac Blanton

James Blanton

J.N. Blanton

Receipt for payment of \$50 for services as agent to collect supplies of subsistence stores at Tullahoma and Murfreesboro in Dec. 1862.

N.C. Blanton

Middle Tennessee Supreme Court Records

Second Series

Contributed by Betsy Ragsdale and
Gale Williams Bamman, CG



Supreme Court Records, Box 66,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**John L. Young vs Napoleon B.
Young & others**

(Original Bill heard in Davidson
County Chancery Court)

Be it remembered that on the 23rd
day of September 1839 a bill of
complaint was filed..in the
words...to wit:

...your orator John L. Young a
citizen of Davidson County that in
the latter part of the year 1834 he
had contracted with one Hardy B.
Herring then a citizen of said
county for the purchase of a tract
of abut sixty one or two acres of
land on the east fork of White's
Creek and agreed to pay him
thereof twelve hundred & twenty
dollars. The sd. Heron being a
relation of your orator & very
friendly agreed to let him had sd.
land at that sum tho much under its
value & at a less sum of money
than he was offered for it by
Captain Wm. F. White being
desirous as he sd. of assisting your
orator in getting a home. Your
orator at this time had a family of
children living with him & was the
owner of & in possession of about
six slaves four or five of whom
worked in raising crops but he had
but slender means of raising
money. But about this time one

Jonathan Garrett who was acting
as the agent for Col. Andrew
Hynes who then owned a gin,
hearing of your orators desire to
purchase sd. land told our orator if
he would buy the land and put 25
acres in cotton & let him have the
crop he would loan your orator the
money or procure it for him. This
proposition was made in the
presence of your orator's son
Daniel who advised your orator to
make the purchase, upon which
your orator told his son Daniel to
go and request Napoleon B. Young
another son of your orator who
was then living with him &
attending to the business as your
orator's agent to go & close the
contract with Herron which sd.
Napolean immediately did but
instead of taking the conveyance in
the name of your orator he made
the contract in his own name tho
for the use & benefit of your orator
& took the deed in his own name.
Said Heron was unwilling to make
the deed in the name of sd.
Napolean until he was informed
the object was for the sole benefit
of your orator. The sd. Napolean
informed your orator how the deed
was made & asked him if he would
prefer it had been taken in his own
name, to which your orator replied
it made no difference in which
name it was. At this time the sd.
Napolean was an active young
man & had for some time been in
the habit of attending to your

orator's business as his son and
agent. After the deed was so taken
in the name of Napolean & he had
given his notes to Heron or became
security therefor it was deemed
proper that the money to be
borrowed from Hynes through
Garrett should be also in his name
and it was so done. Sometime in
the summer of fall of the next year
1835 one Ephraim Shale offered
for sale a tract of land on the main
White's Creek and his son Daniel
owned a piece of about 63 acres
adjoining the same but was
desirous of purchasing the Shale
tract, and he proposed to your
orator to purchase his tract and a
part of the Shale tract & he would
purchase the balance. To this your
orator agreed and Daniel took
thousand [sic] nine hundred & ten
dollars \$1,000.00 [sic] for Daniel's
place and the balance for the Shale
& Stump parts. All these trades &
contracts were made by your
orator but the title was still taken
in the name of his son Napolean
but intended and held in trust for
your orator.

To enable your orator to ay for this
tract of land in part which he then
intended to purchase he directed
Napolean to sell the 61 acres of
land purchased of Heron who sold
it to Captain White for two
thousand dollars all of which was
received by sd. Napolean and
applied in payment of the tract last

purchased a part of which was paid to Daniel and the balance to the agent or attorney of Mrs. Rachel Stump from whom Shale had purchased sd. land & to whom he owed the purchase money. He also received two hundred dollars of William B. Ewing for a piece of land sold him by your orator, about one hundred or \$120.00 from Willoughby Williams due your orator. He also sold a wagon & team of your orator in Alabama for some amount not recollected but believed to be not less than six or seven hundred dollars. He also sold another wagon and team in Alabama for something like the same amount. In the first team your orator had five horses and Ferdinand Young had one. The sd. Napoleon was a young man without property living with your orator & supported by him having no property but a bed and one indifferent horse which he kept at the house of your orator... Your orator had intended giving to sd. Napoleon for the last few years a part of said land ...and it may have come to the ears of said Napoleon & as your orator supposes in consequence thereof he fixed his eye upon said land and determined to have it all but knowing he could not hold the same he fell upon the expedient of selling the same. He first offered to sell it as the agent of our orator, but finally undertook and did sell the same to his two brothers Ferdinand J. & William T. S. B. Young for about six or seven thousand dollars & gave them a bond for title as he believed and took their obligations for the purchase money & he has commenced an action of ejectment vs your orator for the same in Davidson Circuit Court which suit is now pending in said court. Your orator would represent that sd.

Ferdinand & William were well acquainted with the right of your orator to sd. land having been fully cognizant of the agency of sd. Napoleon for your orator in the transaction & the trust under which he held said land, and your orator also was present at the sale forbid it, made known his claim to sd. land all which was known to them nor has the consideration the whole thereof been paid as he believed. Your orator would also represent that at an earlier period of his life, to wit, about the years 1825, 1826, and 1827 he was unfortunately addicted to constant habits of intoxication insomuch that his mind was much impaired & his capacity for business so far destroyed that his friends & children became apprehensive he would squander and lose all his property....

Supreme Court Records, Box 67,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

Burger vs Gunter & Stone

(Original Bill heard in Cannon
County Chancery Court)

The bill of complaint of James W. Binge a citizen of Warren County against Claibourn Gunter and Samuel Gunter & William Stone all citizens of Cannon County, Tennessee, defendants.

Your orator would state and shew that sometime in the month of April 1839 himself and John Martin, Jr. became the endorsers of said Saml. Gunter for \$500.00 in the Branch Bank of the State of Tennessee at Shelbyville and at the maturity of said note it was not paid by said Gunter, the same was

protested and your orator & Martin & A. Stone & William Gunter subsequent endorsers to your orator & said Martin & said Saml. Gunter were all sued by said bank in the Circuit Court of Cannon County, and at May Term of said court 1840 as well as your orator now recollects judgment was obtained by said Bank against your orator Martin Stone & Wm. Gunter and said Saml. Gunter for the principal debt (\$500.00) with interest costs and charges...

Your orator would further state and shew that a *fi fa* issued regularly upon said judgment against all the parties to said judgment on the 26th day of May 1840 and came to the hands of the sheriff of Cannon County and was by him levied upon 200 acres of land the property of said Saml. Gunter lying in Cannon County on the Dry Fork of Smith's Fork & on the north side of the Short Mountain & entered in the name of said Samuel Gunter & surveyed on the 22nd day of June 1836 No. of location 831. And also said *fi fa* was levied on fifty acres of land situated in Cannon County & on which sd. Saml. Gunter lived including the whole of the improvements & all of which had been and was fenced up cultivated and claimed by said Samuel Gunter adversely to all other persons for more than seven years previous to said levy & sale and which fifty acres lies near to said 200 acres adjoining Denby(?) on the east & Patterson on the south. He would state and show that the said Sheriff...exposed the same to sale at Woodbury under said *fi fa* on the 12th of September 1840, when your orator became the purchaser, for the 200 acres he gave \$25.00 & for the 50 acres

\$50.00 as will fully appear by the deeds of the Sheriff herewith filed and marked A & B & made part of this bill. Your orator would further state and charge that the 50 acre tract was given to the said Samuel Gunter together with one hundred acres adjoining the same by Claiborne Gunter his father and said Samuel was put into possession of said fifty acres lived on and improved the same claimed it as his own & paid taxes etc. for more than seven years previous to the levy & sale & all of which (that is the 50 acres) was enclosed by a fence for that length of time & was exclusively owned by sd. Saml. Gunter.

Your orator would state and show that sometime in the year 1834 said Samuel Gunter became embarrassed in his circumstances & was likely to be broke up & in order to prevent his creditors from taking said one hundred & fifty acres of land given to said Samuel by his father Claiborne Gunter, said Claiborn Gunter conveyed said 150 acres of land to William Stone the father-on-law of said Samuel Gunter for the consideration as was pretended of \$300.00 which your orator charges was merely colorable[?] that said Stone never did directly or indirectly pay said Claiborn Gunter anything for said land, if any thing was ever paid after this transaction it was paid by said Samuel Gunter, but he charges that the same throughout was a fraudulent contrivance on the part of said Stone and the Gunters to hinder and delay creditors of the said Samuel Gunter. He further shows that sd. C. Gunter made sd. Stone a deed to said 150 acres of land on the 22nd day of March 1834 and the same was registered

7th November 1839 a copy of which deed is herewith filed for the inspection of the court marked (C). This deed includes the 50 acres of land levied upon and sold by the Sheriff....

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; Huldai; 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....

Supreme Court Records, Box 68,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**David Ralston, Admr. of James
Read, Dec'd. vs William
Hutchison, Administrator of
James Read, Junior, dec'd.**

(Original Bill heard in Sumner
County Chancery Court)

James K. Polk Governor for the use of William Hutcheson Administrator of James Read Junior deceased vs David Ralston Administrator of James Read, dec'd. Plea.

And the said defendant by his attorney comes and defends the wrong and injury ...and says that the said plaintiff out not to have or maintain his aforesaid action thereof against him because he says that the said James Read Junior deceased the intestate of the said William Hutchison at the time

of his death was an alien born in foreign parts, to wit in Scotland out of the allegiance of the state of Tennessee or of the United States of America and within the allegiance of a foreign sovereign to wit the King of Great Britton[sic] and Ireland and that the said James Read Jnr. Dec'd. at the time of his death had not become a citizen of the United States in conformity with the laws of naturalization prescribed by the Congress of the United States nor had the said James Read Jnr. dec'd. at the time of his death filed his declaration to become a citizen of the United States as required by the acts of Congress. And the said defendant avers that no part of the monies goods and chattels and personal estate of the defendant intestate James Read, deceased had descended to the said James Read, Junior deceased, the said William Hutchison intestate nor was the said James Read Junior deceased at the time of his death entitled to any portion....

Supreme Court Records, Box 70,
Middle Tennessee, 1842

**Sophia W. Smith vs
Burriss Bender & Josiah Smith,
Admr. of John Smith, dec'd.**

(Original Bill heard in Wilson
County Chancery Court)

The bill of complaint of Sophia W. Smith, a citizen of Wilson County against Burriss Bender of Sumner County and Josiah Smith of Davidson County, administrators of the estate of John Smith, dec'd...that in the year 18__ [illegible] she intermarried with John Smith in the State of Virginia. About fifteen years since

they moved to the County of Wilson in the State of Tennessee, where they lived together until the death of her said husband in the year 1836. Her said husband was a widower at the time of their marriage and was the father of eleven children, and during their marriage there was an addition of four more... Oratrix asked her said husband what disposition was to be made of two Negroes named Rosettie & Anthoney, which were then in the possession of Warren Williams of Kentucky who had brought them on from Virginia to his place of residence in said State for your oratrix, and her other Negroes which she had at her marriage, her said husband replied to her...that he...bequeathed to your oratrix...such Negroes as he obtained of hers by their marriage and the interest your oratrix was entitled to in the division of the Negroes of her mother, Ann Price of Virginia.

About three or four months after the death of her said husband, your oratrix went to the State of Kentucky and paid Warren Williams about forty dollars for bringing said Negroes from Virginia, and for supporting them while in his possession...For the recovery of said Negroes the said Bender and Smith as administrators of her husband instituted an action of detinue against your oratrix in the Circuit Court of Wilson County. They obtained judgment against your oratrix for seven hundred dollars to be discharged by delivering up said Negroes. From the judgment, your oratrix appealed to the Supreme Court, where the judgment was affirmed. Execution is now in the hands of the sheriff of Wilson County, and your oratrix

will be compelled to surrender said negroes or to pay said judgment unless she is relieved by the timely interposition of your Honor.

In addition to the grounds already stated, your oratrix will state ...why...these negroes should be held peculiarly for her own use and exclusive benefit. In the year 1790 Joseph DeGernett, the grandfather of your oratrix made his last will and testament and shortly thereafter departed this life. Said will was duly proven in the proper court in Caroline County, where the testator resided at the time of his death, a copy of which is herewith filed...By said will it will be seen that the said testator Joseph DeGernett bequeathed to Ann Price, who is the mother of your oratrix, certain Negroes therein specified during her life, and to be continued in the possession of the said Ann Price during her life and at her death to be equally divided amongst her children...The Negroes sued for by said administrators are the descendants of Milly, one of the Negroes mentioned in said will. About four years ago the mother of your oratrix, as she has been informed, determined to divide a portion of the Negroes given to her for life... Your oratrix is informed that the Negroes allotted to her in said division were two small Negroes Rosetta & Anthoney...

Your oratrix [states] that her mother, the said Ann Price, is still living...that her said husband acquired by his marriage with her of her own property, a negro woman and two children. This negro afterwards had four other children... He also sold the landed interest of your oratrix in her father's estate...

A writ of *certiorari* having been awarded by the Supreme Court at Nashville for a copy of Joseph DeJarnett's will... and the following is a copy...to wit:

In the name of God amen I Joseph DeJarnett, being low in health, but of sound mind and memory, do constitute and appoint this to be my last will & testament, revoking all others heretofore by me made.

Item. It is my will & desire that all my estate both real and personal shall remain in the possession of my beloved wife Mary Ann, during her life, and at her decease that Moses a negro man shall be sold, and the money arising be equally divided amongst my daughter Elizabeth Richeson's surviving children. To them and their heirs forever I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Joseph DeJarnett all my tract of land that I now live on, to him and heirs forever. I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Daniel DeJarnett one negro man named Jack to be delivered to him at the decease of my wife to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Anne Price one negro woman by the name of Milly during her life and at her decease to be equally divided between her children lawfully begotten to them and their heirs forever. It is my will & desire that the Negroes hereafter named, to wit, Lucy, Thomas, James, Frankey & Moses the younger one, shall be equally divided between my two daughters Susanah DeJarnett & Anne Price, and when such division shall take place, that such part as shall fall to my daughter Anne shall be continued in her possession during her life, and at her decease to be equally divided amongst her children lawfully begotten to them

and their heirs forever. I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Susanna DeJarnett, daughter of James DeJarnett, one feather bed & furniture, which said James DeJarnett & daughter Mary Price I have already provided for, which bed above to be delivered at the decease of my wife to them and their heirs forever.

Item. I also give to my daughter Anne Price six leather chairs to be delivered at the [sic] decease to her and her heirs forever. It is my will and desire that all my stock of what kind so ever & all my household & kitchen furniture also all my outstanding debts should be disposed of to discharge my debts, and should there be any surplus it is my desire that it should go to my daughter Susanna DeJarnett to her and her heirs forever.

I do constitute and appoint my beloved son Joseph DeJarnett executor and Susanna DeJarnett executrix to this my last will and testament.

In witness I have hereunto affixed my hand & seal this first day of October 1790. [signed] Joseph DeJarnett. Witness: James Sutton, John Norment, Francis McCraw
Caroline January Court 1791.

The will of Joseph DeJarnett, Senr. was proved by the oaths of two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. Test. William Nelson, Clk.

Virginia. Caroline County. I, John L. Pendleton Clerk of the County Court of the County and state aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the will of Joseph DeJarnett Senr. as fully and wholly as it now exists of record in my office....this 27th day of April 1843...[signed] John S. Pendleton, Clk.

...In pursuance of the decree rendered at the last term of this court...directing ...the Clerk & Master to ascertain & report whether Ann Price is now living...reports that Mrs. Ann Price, the mother of the Compl't. is dead. She departed this life in October 1843....

Supreme Court Records, Box 68,
Middle Tennessee, 1841

**McDaniel & Williams & wives
vs Martha Belote, Henry A.
Belote, etc.**

(Cross Bill filed in Sumner County
Chancery Court)

The cross bill of F. L. McDaniel & wife Nancy G. McDaniel, Alexander Williams & his wife Martha J. Williams against Martha Belote, Henry A. Belote, etc.

Your orators and oratrixes citizens of Sumner County would represent...that on the 9th day of January 1837 for a valuable consideration the said Alex. Williams & F. L. McDaniel purchased of John D. Goodall who had intermarried with Elizabeth C. Belote all their right title and claim...in the estate of John Belote the father and in the estate of Henry Belote, dec'd. the grandfather. That they the said McDaniel and Williams aforesaid sold out their claim and interest in Eliza Malisa George & Prosper of John Belote's estate which was one third interest and their interest on one half in Solen[?] to John Branden possession to be given at the time specified in the will of John Belote, dec'd, to wit in May 1839. That the said Branden

previous to the trade consulted with Mrs. Martha Belote who had the possession and who under the will of John Belote was entitled to retain the John Belote Negroes til May as aforesaid for the purpose of schooling clothing boarding and raising her children. Solen was given by Henry Belote to the children of John Belote his six daughters in lieu of Tempe who was given up to his estate...

State of Tennessee, Sumner County, Circuit Court Novr. Term 1834. James C. Carr & wife Harriett, Henry A. Belote Nancy Belote Mary Ann Belote Catharine Belote Martha Belote Aurelia Belote and Quinchilean[?] Belote by their guardian Martha Belote vs Caroline W. Maria E. Henry B. Mary M. and Patsey P. Swaney by their guardian John L. Swaney James M. Swaney John L. Swaney and John L. Swaney & Lucillias Winchester, executors of Henry Belote, dec'd. Final Decree.

And
James C. Carr & his wife Harriett vs John L. Swaney & James M. Swaney & John L. Swaney, guardian of Mary M. Caroline W., Maria E Henry B & Patsey P. Swaney Henry A. Belote and Patsey Belote guardian of Mary Ann Orella & Quinchellean Belote & Nathaniel Herndon & his wife Caroline Fountain L. McDaniel and his wife Nancy & Alexander Williams & Martha his wife. Supplemental Bill. Final Decree

...the above causes came on to be heard ...upon the pleading interlocutory decree proof report of the Master and exception taken on both sides.....

Supreme Court Records, Box 72,
Middle Tennessee, 1843

**Polly Worthington & others
vs Uriah York & others**

(Original Bill heard in Warren
County Court)

The bill of complaint was filed January 7th, 1840, by Polly Worthington in her own right and by James and Sarah Worthington minors under the age of 21 years, by their next friend Polly.

On the 28th July 1841, the cause came on for hearing...and the bill was dismissed. A new trial was prayed for with leave to make William Worthington and Enoch York parties to the bill; all of which was granted.

The bill charges that in October 1827 Samuel Worthington the husband of complainant openly and to the knowledge of his neighbors left the County of Warren, Tenn. on a trading expedition to the south. That he did not return, but continued to wander in that region, and finally died, and that complainant Polly at the ___[blank] Session of the County Court of Warren in the year 1829, obtained letters of administration upon his estate...The bill further charges that at the time he left the country, he was owner of several tracts of land in Warren County; to wit, 118 acres in several small adjoining tracts, owned by dec'd., it being a purchase from one John Nash[?]. Also, several tracts claimed by entry, grants for which had not been obtained, to wit: 180, 200, 100, 14, and one half of a 500 acres, the last being a joint entry made by the said Samuel and John Nash[?].....

Coffee County Claims

Allowed for Payment by the Southern Claims Commission

Part I of a Series

Following the Civil War, many residents of Middle Tennessee attempted to gain compensation from the Federal government for damage done to their property by the Union Army as it marched through their towns, raided their barns and camped in their fields. The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to review the claims of Southerners. Only those deemed to have been loyal to the Union throughout the war were eligible to receive payment for damages.

More than 20,000 people filed claims with the commission; the records show that fewer than one-third recovered anything. The records of these "allowed" claims are located at the National Archives. Files pertaining to those who were rejected have been microfilmed and are available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The files of those claimants who were allowed some payment have not been filmed and can be viewed only at the National Archives branch in College Park, Maryland.

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

Davidson, Mary

File length: 46 pages; Residence: near Tullahoma;
Amount claimed: \$1,237 for wheat shocked in the field, cordwood, a mare; Age: 50; Year filed: 1873

Commissioners' Summary:

Mrs. Davidson was formerly the wife of a Dr. Norton who died in 1862. After the war was closed, she married Saml. Davidson who died in 1870. She had no children. The claim accrued while she was the widow Norton. She was keeping a boarding house at Tullahoma. She owned in her own right 264 acres of land near the railroad and within one mile of the depot. The evidence that Mrs. Davidson throughout the war sympathized with the Federal cause is positive and unequivocal. It is sometimes difficult to determine the political position of women, as reliance can not always be placed on the allegations of witnesses ... and it is frequently difficult to find facts indicating clearly loyalty or disloyalty. It is very certain that Mrs. Davidson's house was robbed and she was persecuted by reason of her Union sentiments. It is also certain that she was known and recognized by Federal officers

as a Union woman and earnestly attached to the Union cause. Her house was the headquarters of Gen. Milroy. It was selected because of her reputed loyalty. We refer to his affidavit annexed to her depositions. In 1863 Mrs. Norton had rented a tract of land on which she raised 10 acres of wheat. Men were employed in cutting and shocking it when the Federal army took possession of the field, fed out the wheat that had been cut, and pastured the balance of the field. The value to the army was much less than the value to the claimant. A large quantity of timber was cut from the claimant's 264 acre tract of land and used by the army – some for fuel, some for fortifications, and some sawed into lumber. A very considerable portion of the timber on this tract had been taken by the Confederates – the claimant so testifies. The amount taken by the Federals is necessarily estimated. Its proximity to the railroad made it valuable. The amount taken by the Federals is uncertain. The witnesses estimate it at 65 acres. The proof the taking of the mare for army use is certain, and unusually satisfactory. We recommend the payment of \$1,075.



Wartime Raid on a Southern Plantation

Examiner's Comments:

This claimant is an amiable lady who has at one time in life had some means. She is now in straightened circumstances. I have no doubt but the land from which the timber and rails were taken was her won. She has not been able to re-fence the land. I walked over a part of it in an evening walk. I don't think there can be any doubt as to her loyalty. I talked to various Union men about Tullahoma that knew her and her former husband and they had no doubts. As to what amount of her claim was included in the Act of Congress is not for me to say. Her witnesses were quite respectable men. [signed] John W. Ramsey.

Notes:

Claimant resided at Tullahoma until Aug. 1862 when she removed to Oak Hill Seminary about seven miles away, where she stayed until May 1864. Her husband died at Oak Hill Seminary. Her 264 acres is within the corporation limits of Tullahoma. She purchased the land in 1857 with money from her father's estate, because her husband Mr. Norton was financially "broken up" because of endorsements he had made. She had nephews

in both Union and Confederate armies, but no son, brother or husband. The wheat was on land she had rented about two miles from Beech Grove. The wood was cut by Federal troops who were camped on her land in Tullahoma. They also tore down a good hewed-log house and outhouses on that place to build fortifications at Tullahoma. She lived at her house in town, where Gen. Milroy made his headquarters. Her first husband, Dr. James H. Norton, died in August 1862 and was loyal to the Union. They had no children.

Robert H. Milroy's deposition, given at Thurston County, Washington Territory, identifies him as the Major General in command of the defense of the Nashville and Chatanooga Rail Road with headquarters at Tullahoma. He and his officers boarded with Mrs. Norton, and his wife and children also boarded there when they visited. Gen. E.A. Paine had recommended Mrs. Norton as a loyal citizen. He found that "she was not only a lady of genuine piety and virtue, but that her warmest feelings and sympathies were strongly enlisted on the side of the United States in said war." While he was away working to concentrate the forces at Fortress Rosecrans at Murfreesboro guerrillas descended on Tullahoma and robbed the houses of Union citizens, including Mrs. Norton. "They broke open her trunks & drawers & rifled them of valuables to a considerable extent." Milroy was also acquainted with Samuel Davidson and knew him to be a loyal citizen.

A letter to Mrs. Mary Davidson dated at Murfreesboro July 29, 1863 is in the file. B.F. Jackson, Capt. &

A.A.Q.M. of the First Sub-District of Middle Tenn., wrote "Madam, Your note of 27th inst. is received and in reply sorry that I cannot comply with your wishes in regard to the mare. I called at your house before leaving Tullahoma but could not see you. I have since receipted for the mare as Government property and cannot let the animal go without a receipt or order from the Genl. Commanding. When Gen. Milroy returns he will probably make some arrangements for you to get the mare. Hoping this explanation will give satisfaction. I am, Madam, Very Respectfully, B.F. Jackson."

Witnesses:

- Frances M. Yell, age 52, retired merchant. Has known complainant 15 years.
- Joseph S. Payne, Sr., age 51, farmer. Has known complainant 15 years. Says the claimant was robbed of many of her household goods and treated very unkindly by Rebels. The logs that were taken were hauled to a Federal sawmill in Tullahoma.
- James R. Graham, age 51, a miller. Has known complainant 15 years.
- David Criscoe, age 53, house carpenter.
- Ann W. Thomas, age 32, wife of Dr. H.T. Thomas, niece of the claimant. She was at her father's house a mile from the Beech Grove land when the wheat was taken, a day or two after the battle of Hoover's Gap. Her brothers had been helping cut the wheat. One of them lives at Beech Grove and one in Florence, Alabama.

A note in the file indicates that this case was appealed to the U.S. Court of Claims and was still under consideration in 1914.

Huffar, Pleasant A.

File length: 49 pages; Residence: Hillsboro; Amount claimed: \$200 for corn, hay, cattle, hogs, sheep, potatoes; Age: 53; Year filed: 1873/1877

Commissioners' Summary:

The claimant is a farmer about 53 years of age and a resident of Coffee Co. Tenn. When the state seceded he took the Union side and voted against separation. He

advocated the Union cause at all times and denounced secession. He received protection papers and was otherwise recognized by the federals as a Union man. He joined a company of Union Home Guards. The confederates threatened to hang him. He was a miller as well as a farmer. The supplies were taken about the 1st of July 1863 by the federal army under the immediate command of Gen. Palmer. In 1868 Mr. Huffar filed his claim precisely as in this case with the Tennessee General Claims Commission. ...The claim is reasonably well proved. The potatoes were in the ground and dug by the soldiers. It being about the 1st of July before potatoes had matured, they can hardly be regarded as an army supply. The hogs are largely over charged. At that time dried bacon cost but six cents pr. Pound and yet he charges for pork (live hogs) ten cents. We recommend the payment of \$767.50.

In his original application for a Tennessee Claim, dated 1868, his witnesses were Wm. T. Hart and Samuel Hill.

Notes:

He was born in Knox Co., Tenn. Has lived near Hillsboro in Coffee Co. for 20 years. He served in a Home Guard unit but was never mustered into the army. The Rebels threatened to hang him but did not do it. He was exempted from Confederate service because he was a miller. His 200 acre farm near Bradley's creek had about 70 acres in cultivation at the time of the war. He saw his cattle shot down in the field.

Witnesses:

- William C. Timmons, age 70, formerly taught and sold goods but has no present occupation. Has known complainant 17 years and lived about a mile from him on Bradley Creek during the war. When the Rebels threatened to burn the still house of Mr. Call, a Union man, Mr. Huffar went to Call's house to help protect it. The leading Union neighbors George Roberts, Wm.T. Hart, E.A. Call and Samuel Hill all spoke of Huffar as a Union man. "He was always cursing the Confederacy." The troops took the property to their camp in the vicinity. They had skirmished in the neighborhood



the evening before, in pursuit of Gen. Bragg's army.

- George A. Huffar, age 29, has lived in Coffee Co. for 20 years, is a farmer and the son of the claimant. He lived with the claimant at the time the property was taken.
- William T. Hart, age 53, resident of Franklin Co., have lived there 20 years, farmer and tanner. Has known complainant 20 years, lives about 3 miles from him. Heard Rebels say Huffar was "a d--d Union man and a Lincolnite." Other Union men in the neighborhood included Jno. C. Hindman, James Bull, D.T. Rathbone, Robt. Lassater, J.L. Payne, Washington Tate, Hiram Emerson, Wm. Lawson, John Mulnicks[?], Philip Lawson, Jas. Robinson, Jesse Robinson, Ed Robinson, Johnston Robinson, Thomas Warren, Levi Wildman.
- E.A. Call, age 53, has lived in Coffee Co. 37 years, farmer and miller. Has known complainant since 1852. Lived a mile from claimant and would sometimes be with him all the time for a week during the war. Mentions James M. Timmons, Samuel Charles, G.G. Woodruff, Jno. F. Thomas, G.W. Davidson, Jno. Dun, Ransom Davidson and E.A. Rutherford as Union men of the neighborhood.

Starkey, Frederick A.

File length: 41 pages; Residence: Tullahoma; Amount claimed: \$1,352 for cattle, hogs, wheat, horse and a frame house; Age: 46; Year filed: 1877.

Examiner's Comments:

The claimant is a very intelligent black man, about whom I have made considerable inquiry. I learn in a letter from G.W. Davidson, U.S. Commissioner at Tullahoma, that both the claimant and his witness Clinton H. Hill are men of good character. I learned the same facts at Winchester about the claimant and John F. Anderson, a man who lives between here and Stevenson and on whom I can depend and I suppose will [be] known to you testifies strongly to his good character. Claimant is a modest colored man about whose loyalty I have no doubt. It is difficult for him to get witnesses about his property for nearly all the white people fled from Stevenson before the federal army and it seems but claimant and his two witnesses were the only colored men that were left at Stevenson. [signed] John W. Ramsey, Special Comm.

Commissioners' Summary:

The claimant was emancipated by his master, who died before the war. Claimant was an industrious and thrifty man. Was a barber and kept [a] confectionary at one time. He also rented land and raised grain, hogs & etc.

He acted as pilot and barber for Union officers in Buell's Army, and at a later date enlisted in the Army. Special Commissioner Ramsey certifies to the good reputation of claimant and his witnesses. The property was taken by Union troops at Stevenson where claimant lived and owned a house and lot in 1862. We find claimant loyal, and allow \$435.

Notes:

He was born in Oglethorpe Co., Georgia, but was removed into Alabama when about eight years old. When he arrived at age 20 he was set free by his master Jesse Starkey, who died a few years later. He then came to Bellfonte, Alabama, and learned the barber's trade, which he has followed ever since. He lived at Stevenson, Alabama, from 1857 until the federal troops came there during the war. During part of the war he was Post Barber at Gen. George Thomas' Headquarters. He left Stevenson with his family in 1871 and moved to Tullahoma. The only relative of his old master he has seen since the war was his son David Starkey, who was in the Union Army, is now supposed to be living in Mississippi. He piloted Union army men

around the area and carried dispatches for them through enemy lines.

Witnesses:

- John F. Anderson, age 68, resident of Franklin Co., Tenn., farmer. Has known claimant more than 20 years, from the time he came to Stevenson, Alabama, to live. He was a free man of color, a barber, confectioner, and sometimes worked at the hotel. Just before the war claimant worked for Anderson and a partner in their tanyard at Stevenson. Anderson was frequently in Stevenson because he owned property there.
- Clinton H. Hill (colored), age 33, resident of Tullahoma, a confectioner. Has known complainant since 1857.

Sarah M. Waldron (colored), age 51, lives with her son at Tullahoma. Has known complainant since 1857.

"When the federals came to Stevenson nearly all the whites left and all the colored were taken away except myself and my son Clinton H. Hill and the claimant and two white families."

To Be Continued

Graves Estate Case in 1809

State of Tennessee. Winchester District. October Term 1808. William T. Lewis, complainant, vs. William Graves, petitioner, otherwise Payton Graves, John Graves, Mary Swanson, William Swanson and Ann his wife, Joseph Terrel, William McQueston and Susannah his wife, Henry Terrel, Lydia Nail and Nancy Ferguson, are not inhabitants of this state. It is therefore ordered that the said defendants appear at the next term of this court to be held at the Court House in Carthage

From *The Monitor*, Washington Georgia (Wilkes County), Jan. 7, 1809

Gold-Barber Query

I am researching

- *Granville "Grand" BARBER (Barbee/Bourber)
- *Elijah & Sarah BARBER
- *Ned GOLD
- *Sallye GOLD-BARBER

They were living in Montgomery County from 1880-1890. I would appreciate any info on the above.

Jerry Hall 304 Ray Sandoval St D/3
Walsenburg, CO 81089-8535

How a Professional Genealogist Found My Mystery Ancestor

Robbie Harris

For about a year I had been looking for a Harris relative that I had only heard about from my daughter. Unfortunately she did not remember where she got the information so I was stumped.

I thought I had the complete name, Charles Carroll Harris, and from the verbal information he was in the Civil War, and buried at Arlington National Cemetery. I used the LDS Church web site, FamilySearch.org. I even went to their center in Franklin to ask for their help. Even with the capable help of the staff there we were unable to find him.

I tried to pull up on the Internet on the Arlington cemetery site. All it told me was what it looked like and who could be buried there. I even left a message on their message board. Nothing happened.

I asked questions of my friends, family and acquaintances. Lots of advice but no results. I went to the library to use the AncestryPlus database. I found nothing. I could not find his name in the 1880 census. There was no record of a Civil War pension.

I was organizing my genealogy notes and scraps when I found a scribbled note about a researcher who was less expensive than contacting the National Archives in Washington D.C. to apply for a copy of a pension.

I e-mailed the man, gave him what little I knew and asked if he could help me. He wrote right back and asked for information about where my ancestor had lived. I knew that Charles Carroll Harris lived in Rhode Island, but I was not sure of the town. I thought it was Harrisburg, and I had been told his wife's name was either Sara Abigail or Mary S.

Mr. Peters wrote back that there was a Harrisville in Rhode Island, and there was a Charles Harris pensioned there. We exchanged information for several days, trying to sort out the mystery. Finally

Mr. Peters wrote back that he had found my ancestor! For a small fee he would send me what was available.

I sent him \$40 and in about a week received a large packet full of information. Census records of Charles' family from 1850 and 1860 showing his parents, Andrew and Mahitable, and his brothers and sisters. A copy of Charles Harris' enlistment papers, and those of a brother. Copies from a history of his Civil War unit, and from the *War of the Rebellion* series.

I learned that Charles C. Harris was indeed a Civil War veteran, but he only served three months. Because pensions were only allowed to veterans with longer service, neither he nor his widow applied. His 1st Rhode Island Infantry unit was organized for the defense of the capitol, Washington D.C., It was moved to Manassas, Virginia in July and was at the battle of Bull Run during Charles' brief stint with them.

In the pension file of Charles' brother was a letter from Charles explaining why the brother was given a medical discharge after a year of service. The brother had tuberculosis or pneumonia, and Charles gave a very vivid report of his severe pulmonary disease.

Mr. Peters also provided me with some leads for my future research, including contact information for the Town Clerks in Burrellville and Harrisville, Rhode Island. I am in the process of following up and continuing the search down the line.

So when you are at a standstill, keep on looking. You never know when you will stumble on a real fine lead. Use every resource. Mine was Norman R. Peters. His card reads: "*Do you have research to be done at the National Archives or D.A.R. Library in Washington D.C.? Civil War pensions? My fees are low and I have a short turnaround time.*"

AND HE REALLY DID!

William and Betsy Snoddy's Divorce Case

Sumner County, 1803

The records of the Superior Court for the Mero District, headquartered in Nashville but covering the entire region Middle Tennessee in the period before 1809, include many important records of early settlers in the area. The records were transcribed in the late 1930s by employees of the Works Progress Administration, as part of the Historical Records Survey project.

One nugget found among these records is the case of Betsy Snoddy vs. William Snoddy, an early divorce petition.¹ This particular entry gives a remarkably detailed picture of the situation. To find such an informative account in early court minutes is unusual. During the period before 1836, divorces in Tennessee could be granted by certain courts and by the General Assembly. Gale Williams Bamman, a specialist in the history of Tennessee divorce records (although married to her only husband for 41 years!) says that it is difficult to determine why some divorce petitions were sent to the legislature while others were in court.² She hypothesizes that some petitioners may have preferred the relative privacy of having their case heard in the capitol, rather than in their county seat, while others may have felt that a court hearing would allow for a more balanced review of the facts. For whatever reason, Betsy Snoddy and her brother John Orr, representing her as her "next friend," decided to appeal to the Superior Court, and their case was assigned to the up-and-coming judge, Andrew Jackson. The record is as follows:



Betsy Snoddy by her next friend John Orr

vs.

William Snoddy

On a petition for divorce

On 28 July 1803 Betsy Snoddy by her next friend John Orr presented her petition to the Honorable Andrew Jackson, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity for the State of Tennessee, against William Snoddy.

Betsy Snoddy of Sumner County, wife of William Snoddy, by her next friend and brother John Orr, states she was married to William Snoddy on the __ [blank] day of October, 1801. "She has ever since endeavored to behave and conduct herself towards the said William Snoddy as became a virtuous dutiful and affectionate wife." Shortly after the marriage William "beat your petitioner in a cruel manner and ordered your petitioner out of his house in the dead hours of the night ... maliciously did cut with a pair of scissors the wearing apparel which your petitioner then had on her.... Your petitioner was delivered of a child and while in child bed the said William locked up all the nourishment ...

which it was absolutely necessary a woman should have in that situation ... a neighbor had to supply ... the necessities of life.... William Snoddy kicked your petitioner out of bed in the night time and kicked and bit with his teeth and beat your petitioner in a cruel and unmerciful manner.... Afterwards ... fastened [her] up in a room with the the avowed intent ... to murder her ... with a knife ... [but] was prevented by the intervention of a neighbor man....

"Notwithstanding the many overtures and entreaties of your petitioner to ... William to reform his conduct towards her and treat her as becomes a good and virtuous husband; yet the said William proves enexorable; your petitioner therefore states that she must inevitably were out her existence in a miserable and intolerable manner...."

Betsy prays the court to dissolve the bonds of matrimony and allow her such further redress as the court may think proper.

"Personally appeared before me Andrew Jackson one of the judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity ... the within named Betsy Snoddy and made oath that the contents of the within petition are just and true ... not made out of levity or collusion between her and her husband for the near purpose of being freed and separated from each other but in sincerity and truth... 28 July 1803."

The answer of William Snoddy "... denies that said Betsy has conducted herself as became a dutifull or virtuous wife, and avers that the said Betsy was frequently intoxicated with ardent spirits both at home and abroad, that she was unfaithful to this respondent's bed, and guilty of other misconduct degrading to herself, injurious and destructive to [his] ... peace and happiness."

William defended himself by explaining "That this respondent, being anxious to reform her and to restrain her from these vicious practices sometimes reasoned with her upon the impropriety of such conduct, sometimes he may have chided her and perhaps scolded at her, but he positively denies that he ever beat or threatened her life. That his remonstrances had no effect but to increase her passion. That once in particular ... in September 1802 ... she got angry at him and deserted his house for the space of about six weeks. That during her absence ... [he] requested her to return [and] she, after some refusals, did return.... Respondent denies that he ever did cut her clothes with scissors ... [or] that he locked up the provisions ... on

the contrary, he avers that he uniformly administered to her every comfort and convenience in his power; that her neighbors never furnished her with any necessaries to his knowledge, if they did it was because her wants were unknown to this respondent.

"Your respondent denies that he ever kicked said petitioner ... or bit her ... [or] fastened her up in the house...." In May 1803 Betsy had been visiting at the house of a certain Pleasant Chitwood and returned some hours after dark. William had gone to bed and hearing a knocking at the door and several voices he asked Betsy who was with her. Upon her answering Mr. Chitwood and his wife, he told Betsy he would open the door to her but not to Chitwood and his wife. William had quarreled with Chitwood earlier that day. Betsy said she would not come in without them, but called for an axe and either she or Chitwood broke open a window in the room where William lay and Chitwood came in.

William stated that he had always had a "sensitive affection" for Betsy, that he had no other motive for marrying her as she brought him no property. All his chiding and remonstrance were intended to reform her improprieties, which he still hopes will be cured in time. Despite the unhappiness that Betsy has caused him, William is still willing to live with her in peace and treat her well. He asks the court to dismiss the suit.

And the cause was continued from term to term until this term ... at which day came the parties, and by their consent it is ordered that the suit be dismissed, and that each party pay their own witnesses and half the other costs.

Records of Sumner County show that a William Snoddy, Sr., made his will in 1812.³ He is probably the William of the divorce suit, but the will also names his son, William Jr. The old William does not appear to have been very pleased with William, Jr., leaving him only \$1 in his will. However, he doled out the same treatment to his daughter Rebeckah Porter and his son David Snoddy. His younger sons Adam and Graham and daughters Elizabeth and Sarah fared better. No wife is mentioned. The name of William Snoddy appears frequently in early Sumner County deeds, and the will indicates he owned both land and slaves.

Sumner County marriage records indicate that the children of William, Sr., were born ca. 1785-1800. Rebecca married Ambrose Porter in 1805. William, Jr., married Elizabeth Alexander in 1812. Adam and Graham Snoddy both married in 1817.⁴ It appears, therefore, that William, Sr., was a widower with small children when he married Betsy Chitwood in 1801. One naturally wonders whether William and Betsy, perhaps having kissed and made up

when her suit was dismissed, managed to make a success of their marriage. Since she is not named in his will, that seems doubtful. A deed recorded in Sumner County transfers 61 acres from John Orr and Frances Orr, deceased, to Elizabeth Snoddy "by consent" in 1814, indicating that Elizabeth may have again become a single woman at that time.⁵

Evidence of the bad blood between Pleasant Chitwood and the Snoddys is not confined to the divorce record. A Sumner County case file shows that in 1803 William Snoddy accused Chitwood of attacking his slave Jim with "swords, staves, sticks and fists."⁶ Chitwood's appearance bond for \$1,000 was secured by James Cryer and Robert Trousdale. Thomas Barnett and Elenore Harris were called as witnesses. The court's decision is not shown in the file.

Chitwood, apparently, was one of those people who made frontier life more interesting. Richard Powell sued him in 1803, charging that on Sept. 15th Chitwood had assaulted and ill-treated Partheney Powell, Richard's wife.⁷ Robert Trousdale again signed as Chitwood's security. The records show that Chitwood was a land owner, having bought a lot in the town of Cairo in 1800.⁸ By 1810 Chitwood had apparently moved to Smith County, where he was involved in another suit.

⁵ *Superior Court of Law and Equity, Pleas 1805-1807, Part 1*. (Nashville: Works Progress Administration, Historical Records Survey, 1939), beginning on p. 36 of the original record.

⁶ Gale W. Bamman and Debbie W. Spero co-authored the book *Tennessee Divorces, 1797-1858* which was first published in 1985.

⁷ *Sumner County, Tennessee, Will Book 3*, page 160. Will of William Snoddy dated 13 Apr. 1812. No probate date recorded.

⁸ Whitley, Edythe R. *Marriages of Sumner County, Tennessee, 1787-1838*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981).

¹ Bamman, Gale. *Sumner County, Tennessee Inventories, Settlements, and Guardian Accounts, Vol. A, 1808-1821*, p. 18 (orig. p. 189)

¹ *Sumner County, Tennessee, Loose Court Records*. File number 130, records of the Quarterly Court of Common Pleas. William Snoddy's security on the prosecution bond in this case was Ambrose Porter.

¹ *Sumner County, Tennessee, Loose Court Records*. File number 12348, records of the Quarterly Court of Common Pleas. Again, the case file does not reveal whether Pleasant Chitwood was found guilty.

¹ *Sumner County, Tennessee, Deed Book 3*, page 266.

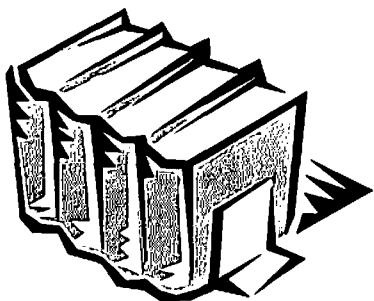
So, How Bad a Painter Was He?

The Many Wounds of Louis de St. Leger

Louis de St. Leger (a.k.a. Lewis D.S. Leger) was convicted of Assault with Intent to Kill in the Shelby County, Tenn. Circuit Court in January 1837. He was sent to the Tennessee State Penitentiary, where the Warden made the following observations.

He is 29 years old, 5 feet 11 ½ inches high, weighs 173 lbs. Has dark hair, hazel eyes, fair skin. Many scars, viz. 1 ½" below the left ear made by a bullet which came out ... below the cheek bone ... and between the two a scar from the bite of a man. One across each thumb ... between the two joints. A scar on the back of the thumb of the left hand which cut the sinew. A scar on the ... left shoulder and one below through the muscle of the right arm where bullets had entered..... A scar on the right hip bone occasioned by an ounce ball. By profession a portrait painter.

Sherrill, Charles. *Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary* (Mt. Juliet, Tenn., 1997) p.125.



Book Reviews

by Shirley Wilson

Original Surveyor's Record Book 1836-1887 Coffee County, Tennessee, edited by Dorothy William Potter. 391 pp., appendix, illustrations, index, 2004 reprint of 1976 publication. \$43 plus \$4 shipping from Willow Bend Books, 65 E. Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026 or www.willowbendbooks.com

This volume is a transcription from the *original* book in the Coffee County Register of Deeds office in Manchester, Tennessee. A microfilmed copy made by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1969 is that of an 1880s vintage copy. Thus, the entries in this book will not coincide with the microfilm copy.

In addition to the transcript of the survey language, the drawn plats have been reproduced. Although most of the surveys are in Coffee County, there is a cross reference for entry numbers that includes some in the parent counties of Franklin, Bedford, and Warren. The appendix includes documents relating to the founding of the town of Tullahoma.

Surveys are an excellent source of information. In addition to the legal description of the land, they often include the names of present and past neighbors, some listed as deceased. The sworn chain carriers, identified as S.C.C., are listed at the bottom of the survey and are often young sons of the family.

This is a reprint of a 1976 publication. If you missed it the first time around, here is another opportunity to purchase this gem. It is an excellent source of genealogical and historical information for Coffee

County. The every name index, which includes all names in the text and on the plats, adds value to an already exceptional book.

1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction, Tennessee Edition, Volume 1 by Sherida K. Eddlemon. 240 pp., 2004. \$24 plus \$4 shipping from Willow Bend Books, 65 E. Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026.

Arranged alphabetically, this book lists alternate sources for the mostly-missing 1890 federal census. Data was collected for the time period between 1881 and 1891 from miscellaneous sources. The absence of the 1890 census can prove fatal to genealogical research. A child born after 1880 could marry prior to the 1900 census and thus never be enumerated in the parents' household.

This book was designed to overcome that census gap, but it is difficult to judge its value since it is only Volume 1. The title suggests an important contribution to research, but the book has several drawbacks. The most troubling of these is the lack of a master list of sources. Combined with the absence of specific sources within the entries, this is a serious flaw. Although some entries have sufficient source information to enable the reader to retrieve the original with some effort, many do not.

A list of the counties included would be another helpful addition. In Volume 1 there appears to be an emphasis on Campbell County where Eddlemon used an excellent census substitute, the 1890 tax list. The

The Journal

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Members of the Society are encouraged to submit *unpublished* primary source material of Middle Tennessee genealogical and historical importance to be considered for inclusion in the *Journal*. Data can be in the form of transcribed records, "how-to" articles of broad interest, or historical facts. Family histories that are well documented and pertain to the region will also be considered. Photographs and other illustrations can accompany the article and are encouraged. Sources used should be cited in the submitted material. References or footnotes should be in the form of end notes and placed at the end of the article. *Material should be limited to a published length of approximately five typeset pages.*

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