

Williamson County Historical Society

Publication Number 22
Spring 1991

Published by
Williamson County Historical Society
Franklin, Tennessee
1991

Sara Ladd

Williamson County Historical Society

Publication Number 22
Spring 1991

Published by
Williamson County Historical Society
Franklin, Tennessee
1991

Williamson County Historical Society

Publication Number 22

Spring 1991

Published by
Williamson County Historical Society

Editors

Richard Warwick

Ed Manning

Officers

President	Robert Hicks
First Vice President	Michael Balliet
Second Vice President	Rebekah Clark
Recording Secretary	Evelyn Lester
Corresponding Secretary	Marjorie Hales
Treasurer	Herman Major

The ***Williamson County Historical Society Journal*** is sent to all members of the Williamson County Historical Society. The annual membership dues are twelve dollars for an individual and fifteen dollars for a family. This includes this publication and a frequent NEWSLETTER to all members.

Table of Contents

- i* Statement from the Editors
- ii* Dedication
Mary Trim Anderson
- iv* A Message From the President
- 1 A Century of Chairmakers
Richard Warwick
- 31 John Poynor, Father of John Smith Poynor
Frank Poynor
- 34 Sallie Perkins Marr Ellis, Plantation Mistress of Forty-Three Slaves
Dorris Callicott Douglass
- 61 Reminiscence of Dr. George Hunter
from Miss Susie Gentry's Historical Papers
- 63 Letter to General Granger
Dr. J. S. Park
- 65 Garrison - An Historic Settlement in Williamson County
Miss Susie Gentry
- 67 Central Grammar School
Mary Louise Osburn Stallings
- 71 History of Genl. James Wellborn Starnes of Williamson County
Tom Tullos, from Miss Susie Gentry's Historical Papers
- 83 Battle of Douglass's Church
from Miss Susie Gentry's Historical Papers
- 88 Sketches of Antebellum Churches of Williamson County
Lula Fain Major

Statement from the Editors

I hope the *Journal* No. 22 is as well received as last year's Civil War edition. The variety of subjects covered in this edition should be of interest to a broader reading audience. Social history, material culture, biography, and military history are subjects of equal importance in our understanding of Williamson County. Ed and I offer this edition in the hope that the reader will be entertained and enlightened with our county's past.

I offer thanks to the contributors for sharing their knowledge and love of Williamson County. I would personally like to thank Ed Manning for his computer skills, Hunter Kay for proofreading, and Virginia Bowman for her guidance and encouragement.

— *Richard Warwick*

There are always difficult decisions to make when editing historical documents. In some cases we opted for corrections to make the text more readable; in others, such as the article on General Starnes, we left the text as written. We invite your comments on this, as well as any other aspects of the *Journal*. Rick and I try to keep in mind that the purpose of this publication is not only research and preservation, but also your enjoyment.

Many thanks again this year to Bob Schwartzman, Ellen Gibbons, and Julie Hale at Journal Communications, Inc. for their assistance and use of computer equipment.

— *Ed Manning*



Anne Beasley Johnson
1906 - 1991

Dedication

When the *Williamson County Historical Society* was organized on July 25, 1966, one of the charter members was Anne Beasley (Mrs. J. Dobson) Johnson. From the beginning she was an enthusiastic, participating member. She served as secretary during James Crutchfield's presidency (1974-5). One year she delighted those attending the meetings with delicious, unusual refreshments particularly appropriate to the season. At times she served as chairman of the Library and Acquisitions committee.

Sometimes the little-noted, behind-the-scenes tasks in an organization are among those of greatest service in the long run. Such was the case with projects carried on by Anne Johnson, Frances Gibbs, and Lula Fain Major

over a considerable period of time. Many materials acquired by the society over the years - clippings, family histories, books, articles of various kinds - had been housed at the Old Jail. They processed these materials, setting up vertical files and otherwise making them usable by researchers. Obituaries, which had simply been saved, were alphabetized and indexed. A special group of materials processed were the "Who's Who" articles written by Mrs. R. S. Owen and appearing in the *Review Appeal* from the 1930's to the 1950's. This committee put these into a usable form and indexed them by name and date. All of this is a real service to people who, in years to come, may have need of these materials.

Mrs. Johnson served her community in many ways. She received her education at Battle Ground Academy, David Lipscomb College, Peabody College, and Middle Tennessee State. She taught in Florence, Alabama, then in Triune. From here she went to David Lipscomb College as a teacher and then as librarian. After retirement she set up the library at Fourth Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin.

For her contributions and influence, the 1991 *Journal* is dedicated to Anne Beasley Johnson.

— *Mary Trim Anderson*



A Message from the President

Robert Hicks

As my third year as president of the *Williamson County Historical Society* comes to a close, my heart is full of thanks for having been given the opportunity to serve and for the encouragement and support of so many of my fellow members. The Society was founded to help better understand and preserve Williamson County's heritage, both its history and its material culture. To that end we have spent the last three years in the battle. We have suffered many losses such as the Polk House and the Crockett House to those who would say, "Slay our past."

Lest we grow weary in this good fight, there have been victories along the way.

Because of the continuing labor of love of Lula Fain Major and those she has recruited for the project, the "Cemeteries in Williamson County" survey is coming to completion.

Because of folks like Rebekah Clark, Michael Balliet, Marge Hales, and a lot of awfully generous property owners, "Before Their Shadows Fade: A Tour of Unrestored Williamson County" was a shining success as it showed how rich and diverse our material culture really is.

Because of that tour, the Sawyer House has been given a new lease on life.

Because of folks like Ridley Wills, Jack Gautney, Vance Little, Virginia Bowman, and Jane Trabue, more historical markers are going up in this county than ever before.

Because of Rick Warwick and Tracy Parks we have a better understanding of Dick Poyner's chairs and our county's sugar chests.

Because of the diligence of our membership, along with other Williamson Countians, a plan to link the Natchez Trace Parkway with the Interstate System has been modified.

Yet with all this said and done, the fight to preserve our future goes on. I look forward to the days ahead as others bring new leadership and direction to this society. There remains much to be done. Let us now go out and be about it.



A CENTURY OF CHAIRMAKERS 1850 - 1950
An Informal Survey of Western Williamson County and
Northern Hickman and Maury Counties

My interest in Williamson County chairs began eighteen years ago when I began teaching at Hillsboro School. To localize our study of the Civil War, I asked my students to search the neighborhood for war stories that had been handed down in their families. In addition to the typical tales of Yankee soldiers stealing chickens and hams, I encouraged them to find stories about slavery. One student shared a story of an ex-slave who made his grandmother's kitchen chairs. With further investigation, I discovered that ex-slave Dick Poynor's chairs were treasured heirlooms in many of the families in the Leiper's Fork area.

From this initial query began an interesting hobby and a more in-depth study of the community. My first Poynor chair I acquired from Nan Rodgers Chapman by raking leaves after school for a week. Fortunately, my succeeding acquisitions were not so dear. Over the past years, I have collected twenty-seven Poynor straight chairs, two sewing rockers and three armed rockers. My main sources for finding Poynor chairs have been Colonel Fulton Beasley's auction barn, local yard sales, and friends in Hillsboro.

My interest in Williamson County chairmakers intensified over the years through personal investigation. Many local families, possessing chairs believed to be those of Dick Poynor, found their chairs to have differing characteristics from those of the classic Poynor chair. After closer study, I reasoned that there were other chairmakers in the area using similar methods and style. Even after years of familiarizing myself with the work of Dick Poynor, I am still

puzzled by the similarity of his work and that of Benjamin Waddey of Bethesda, Robert Baker of Bakertown and at least one other yet to be identified craftsman in the area. This puzzle has enlarged my study from southwestern Williamson County to the northern edge of Maury and Hickman counties. After driving miles over county roads and interviewing many senior citizens, I found the twenty mile area around Hillsboro to be teeming with homemade chairs and several identifiable chairmakers.

I offer this report in the hope that readers may be able to identify chairs they have or may acquire in the future, and, in that, develop an appreciation for those craftsmen who used their knowledge of wood and skills with primitive tools to make that most useful of household furniture. . . the "settin'" chair. This survey is by no means the final word. I have had to rely on oral history and recollections of the elders in the area for much of the information. I have tried to find two different sources to validate the facts as much as possible. I hope that one day the Williamson County Historical Society will enlarge this survey to include all craftsmen of the county and provide a county museum for the display of our material culture.

Chairs are mentioned in all the household inventories of early Williamson County. No doubt the settlers crossed over the mountains with a few cherished chairs but, due to limited space, it can be assumed that, from very early on, chairs were being made in Williamson County. Chairs with knobs or finials on the backposts were common in this early period. The makers of these beautifully styled chairs remain unknown.

The emigrants from Virginia and the Carolinas who moved into Middle Tennessee brought with them a knowledge of wood and skills

sufficient to make all their household furnishings. Cabinetmakers were blessed with an abundant selection and supply of walnut, cherry, and poplar. Chairmakers equally rejoiced in the straight-grained maple, hickory, ash, and white oak necessary for their craft.

The tools and equipment necessary for the making of chairs are few and simple to make. Since wood split with the grain is stronger than sawn, chairmakers did not need a sawmill. The crosscut saw, ax, wedge, and maul were sufficient to bring the wood from forest to workshed. Once split into bolts and cut to length, a foot-powered springpole lathe could be used to turn the posts and rounds. However, those chairmakers without a lathe used only a drawknife to round the chairparts. The hickory rounds were turned ahead to time and fire-dried to remove the moisture and ensure no further shrinkage. The posts were turned green and sometimes boiled to form an arched back. Slats were split with a froe and shaped with a drawknife. To achieve the desired curve, the slats were placed in hot water then into a mold and allowed to dry.

Once the parts of a chair were made, the maker could proceed to assemble them. Holes were bored with an auger into the posts for rounds and long, narrow mortises were chisled out for the slats. The knowledge that green wood shrinks as it is drying enabled the craftsmen to drive the dry rounds into green posts and guarantee that their product would remain tight. Much pride was taken when a chairmaker could boast that his chair would last a lifetime except for replacing the split-bottom seat about every twenty years.

The verdict on whether a split-bottom white oak seat is superior to a hickory bark bottom is still out. Split-bottom seats were more common

in Williamson County. However, as the fast growth white oak supply diminished, hickory bark, being more readily available, was used as a replacement. Hickory bark is also quicker to prepare and easier to weave than white oak.

From the stories collected, it seems the marketing of our chairmakers' products was largely made to order. People told the maker what kind and how many chairs they wanted and the craftsman set to work. Upon completion, a set of six chairs could be delivered by horseback if a wagon was not available. There were stories of chairmakers making a wagonload of chairs and going to Franklin or Columbia and peddling their wares from door to door. Prices mentioned ranged from one dollar for a straight chair to three dollars for an armed rocker.

In comparison to other crafts and occupations of the times, chairmakers were making good money. Mr. B. G. Fly, a grocer at Fly's Bottom, brought home this point when he responded to my remark that Walter Kelley only received three dollars for a rocking chair in 1935. "Hell, that was good money. I was hoeing corn for thirty-five cents a day. Kelley could make that chair in a day and a half." The chairmakers of this survey had little capital investment in shop tools or expense for materials, which increased their profit.

Not until the 1850 census are individuals' occupations listed. Since chairmaking was not always the primary occupation, many craftsmen are listed as farmers, carpenters, or mechanics. A good example is Michael Cody [age 55 - born in Virginia] who was living in Franklin

and listed as a jailer. Also in his household was Hale Brown [32 - free Black man - chairmaker.] On first impression, one would assume that Hale Brown was in jail or part of the Cody family. Upon further research, Michael Cody is listed in the 1860 census as chairmaker and Hale Brown is head of his own household still working as a chairmaker. Examples of these two men's work have not yet been identified.

Located on Bear Creek near Boston two brothers, Littleberry and William Beasley, were making chairs in 1850. They were the sons of Lucy Ellis and John Pitts Beasley, who came to Williamson County in 1817 from Warren County, North Carolina. The 1850 census indicated that Littleberry was living with William. Littleberry's wife, Rebecca Thompson Beasley, had recently died. Between 1860 and 1870, Littleberry and a third wife, Margaret Etta Pugh Sitler, moved to Perry County. By 1880, he was living on Beaverdam Creek in Hickman County and died in 1895 near Lyles. Littleberry's migration into three counties would probably indicate a wide circulation of his chairs.

William Beasley remained in Williamson County. Whether the Beasley chairs identified in the survey were made by William or Littleberry could not be determined. The Beasley chair resembles the classic Poynor chair except for the use of hickory slats and square wooden pegs. The chairs attributed to the Beasley brothers came from the Warf and Overby families, who were related and close neighbors. Six Beasley chairs came from Glen Overby's store on Carter's Creek Pike and Bear Creek Road. Luther Warf of South Lick Creek has a chair once belonging to his Great-grandmother Warf, which is identical to those of Glen Overby. Four Beasley chairs were purchased from Jack Fox of Hillsboro, who traced them back to his Grandmother Warf.

Southern Williamson County can claim Benjamin Waddey of Bethesda as its resident chairmaker. Many Bethesda families still use Waddey's graceful chair. Only a close examination can distinguish a Waddey chair from a Poynor chair. Both were made of maple posts, maple slats, and hickory rounds with two round wooden pegs in the top slat. Mrs. Leo Bond of Bethesda allowed me to examine her Waddey chairs and I found the posts larger and the slats thicker than Poynor's.

On the northern edge of Maury County near Kinderhook, John D. Poynor (age 28) and William J. Poynor (age 24) are listed in the 1850 census as chairmakers. They were living with their father, James Poynor (age 54 - farmer), and wives, Mildred B. (age 26) and Elizabeth (age 20). Unfortunately, little more is known about this family of Poy nors for they were not living in Tennessee by the 1860 census. Only an overgrown cemetery in the first district of Maury County known as the Poynor graveyard remains of this family. Their chairs remain unidentified. I had hoped to find a connection between John and William Poynor and the well-known Williamson County chairmaker, Dick Poynor.

Mr. Harold Meacham, a longtime collector of Poynor chairs, believed that all other chairs made in the area could be judged by Dick Poynor's durable classic. T.C. Fox related that his father, Collie Fox, always said that if a newly married couple could get a set of Poynor chairs, they were set for the duration of their marriage. The list of admirers of my favorite chairmaker is long.

Richard L. Poynor is first listed in the 1860 census as a free mulatto with seventy-five dollars in land and seven hundred and fifty dollars in personal property. His legal status of free mulatto is enhanced by the notation in that census indicating his ability to read

and write. He was born in Virginia on June 22, 1802, and came with the Robert Poynor family from Halifax County, Virginia to Williamson County in 1816. Robert Poynor's inventory in 1848 listed Dick and six of his children as slaves. Local lore maintains that Dick bought his wife's freedom before marrying her. County records have not been found that would document the marriage or sale.

From Dick Poynor's bible, now in the possession of Miss Jane Cannon, a great, great-granddaughter, one finds Loucinda Poynor, first wife of Dick, was born on March 11, 1802, and died on January 27, 1840. Children are listed as Martha Ann, Catharine, Thomas, James, Phillip, Mary, and Loucinda Jane. Loucinda died three months after the death of her last child.

Dick married his second wife, Millie, before 1860. In 1878, at the age of eighty, Millie Poynor died and was buried in the Garrison Methodist Church cemetery near her home. Dick lingered on in ill health until April 22, 1882. Dick and Millie were members of the Leiper's Fork Primitive Baptist Church, a white congregation. Though no marker can be found, it is believed he was buried in the Garrison cemetery. A son of Robert Poynor, Dr. Ashley Banks Poynor, served as administrator of Dick's estate.

Dick Poynor's shop tools and household furnishings were sold at auction on February 5, 1884. A.J. Yates received \$9.25 for "crying the sale" and a total of \$294.70 was realized. His horse-powered lathe was not mentioned in the sale inventory. There is a strong possibility that this fascinating lathe was sold during Dick's illness to Perry Southern. During this period, Southern was using

such a lathe in his chairmaking shop in the Craigfield community only seven miles away. If Perry Southern did not obtain Dick's actual lathe, he at least must have borrowed the mechanical knowledge for one. Of the twenty-two chairmakers revealed in this survey, only these two craftsmen used a horse-powered lathe.

The Craigfield community of western Williamson County can proudly claim the workshed of Perry Southern as one of the busiest during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth. Almost every family from Fairview to Hillsboro owned a Southern chair. In one of my initial interviews with old-timers of the area concerning chairmakers, Gene Givens of Hillsboro related that as a young boy he remembered visiting Perry Southern's shop. He was impressed by the horse-powered lathe and the surrounding yard knee-deep in woodshavings.

Mr. Oscar Green of Pinewood remembered having Mr. Southern make him and his new bride, Miss Sue Nell, a set of six chairs in 1917. Mr. Oscar provided the hickory, maple, and white oak from his farm. Mr. Southern made the chairs for one dollar each. These chairs are still in use seventy-two years later. Mr. Oscar stated that since Southern's own timber was soon consumed, he would make chairs on shares. Neighbors would trade logs for chairs.

Two sizes of straight chairs, two armed rockers, three youth chairs, and a baby high chair attributed to Southern were found in the survey. A commode chair with woven bottom was made by Southern for C.C. Daugherty's grandmother around 1900. Mrs. Irene Daugherty has the unusual chair today. Since most potty chairs were only straight chairs with the bottom cut out, this original commode chair was a rare find.

Maple and hickory were Southern's favorite woods. His earlier chairs have wooden pegs fastening the back posts and top slat. The majority of the Southern chairs found have wire nails instead of wooden pegs. Since chairmaking was his main source of income and he worked up until his death in 1930, Southern chairs are probably the most numerous handmade chairs still in the county.

Bennie Pewitt, who remembered Mr. Southern well, has his mother's spinning wheel made by Southern. Luther Daugherty also remembered his mother having a Southern spinning wheel. Other textile equipment such as reels and looms were also most likely made by him.

Buster Southern remembered when Grandpa Southern left his Craigfield home and moved in with his son John Southern on North Lick Creek in 1925. To continue his chairmaking operation, Perry converted the old Sears house on the banks of North Lick Creek into a workshop. He removed the floorboards and leveled a place next to the log cabin for the horse mill. The lathe reached such great speed while turning that Southern would not allow his grandchildren inside the shop while he was turning. The spinning posts would sometimes fly out from the lathe and he did not want to endanger the children. They were required to peek through the cracks if they wished to watch.

The area where Williamson, Maury, and Hickman counties join was once called Corners. Children from all three counties attended Corners School. County boundaries were only recognized when one voted and paid taxes. I am taking the liberty to include in this survey a group of chairmakers from this area. Their chairs and descendants have emigrated into Williamson County.

The Robert Baker family was so numerous that the neighborhood near his homestead was known as Bakertown. Like the poor soils found on the Duck River on which he lived, Bob Baker could be identified as poor on the surface but rich in character and content. He scraped-out a living by making chairs and occasionally furniture. The six Bob Baker chairs found in the survey were bartered at the T.J. Oakley store on Lick Creek for groceries. The Oakley family also has a pristine knobbed child's high chair made by Mr. Bob before he died in 1915.

George and A.B. Baker, sons of Robert, carried on the family tradition of chairmaking into the late 1950's. My survey identified six A.B. Baker chairs and one rocking chair made in 1945 for Glen Beard and his new bride. Glen remembered helping A.B. cut the ash tree used to make these chairs. Although many named George as a fine chairmaker, I was unable to find any examples of his work. A son of A.B., W. Henry Baker, was also reported to be a chairmaker but an illustration of his work could not be located.

Walter Kelley and Eddy Scott, both brothers-in-law of A.B. Baker, are well-known chairmakers in the Kinderhook area of Maury County. Like the Bakers, they used a spring-pole lathe to round out their chair parts. The Walter Kelley chair is well-made, graceful and all hickory. Jasper Potts had Kelley make him six chairs for two dollars each and one armed rocker for three dollars in 1935. Today, these chairs are as strong and sound as when first made.

Eddy Scott's chairs were made from a variety of woods. One Scott chair had maple posts, hickory rounds, and ash slats. Scott's later chairs are characterized by the use of fourpenny nails on the back

posts instead of wooden pegs. His spring-pole lathe and workshed were found as he left them. Still active in the 1960's, he was the last of the traditional chairmakers found in this survey. His widow, Florence Ragsdale Scott, is still living at age eighty-three.

Not far from Bakertown was another chairmaker by the name of George Irwin. Miss Alma Gillespie of Primm Springs has a set of Irwin chairs which she values highly. Miss Gillespie's father enjoyed listening to ballgames and the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights leaning back in his Irwin chair in front of the radio. Murphy Dean of Lick Creek has a rocking chair made by Irwin in 1925. Dean's father traded two T Model Ford tires for two rocking chairs.

Around the turn of the century, John Hotsinpiller, a coalminer from Pennsylvania, settled in the South Harpeth community on Pewitt Road. To supplement his meager farming income, he made chairs for his neighbors. The Hotsinpiller chair was made from maple and hickory with simple lines and a slightly arched back. Mr. Bennie Pewitt remembered his father buying a set of chairs before World War I and was kind enough to loan his remaining chair to the Hillsboro School Library chair exhibit. Mrs. Edna Hotsinpiller Anderson related that her grandfather, John Hotsinpiller, moved to Hammond, West Virginia where he died in 1925. His legacy to Williamson County in the form of a skillfully made chair has outlived the toil and sweat of an Appalachian coalmine.

The partnership of Billy Spencer and Leslie Sullivan began in the early 1920's and continued until the late 1930's. During this time, the making of chairs and blacksmithing flourished on Caney Fork near present-day Fairview. Their chairmaking operation was the only one reported to

have used a gasoline engine to turn the lathe. Young teenaged boys were employed to bottom the chairs with white oak splits. A Spencer and Sullivan chair was guaranteed to withstand the most abusive daily use. The large families of the area required strength and sturdiness over gracefulness and high style. Many Fairview families still prize the comfortable chair purchased for one dollar over fifty years ago. Chairs for children have a special value. Valier Cooksey of Fairview has a high chair her Great-uncle Billy Spencer made in 1930. Betty Lampley Mangrum prizes a child's rocking chair Mr. Billy made for her in 1937.

Billy Spencer was legendary for his skills in blacksmithing, in the repair of clocks, guns, and locks, and the making of walking canes, ax handles, and chairs. Unschooled in the book learning of the classroom, he mastered the skills necessary to keep the community's farm machinery working, hunters happy and housewives proud to invite guests to come sit in their Billy Spencer chairs.

Lemuel Parker lived on Parker Branch Road in the Bingham community. Well-known for making coffins and molasses, he also knew how to make chairs. The chair attributed to him was the only chair found to be made of white oak instead of the traditional hickory and maple. Still strong and sturdy, a new bottom of hickory bark has been added.

On the Old Natchez Trace Road near Bending Chestnut lived Hugh and Mary Ellen Beard and their fourteen children. Throughout my survey and interviews, Hugh and his son, John Henry Beard, were always mentioned as well-known craftsmen in the art of basketmaking and replacing chair bottoms. Both men were small in stature yet widely known for their

physical strength and hard work. Living on poor hilly farms, they were forced to eek-out a living for their large families by the sweat of their brow and talents of working with wood handed down from previous generations.

Luckily John Henry Beard's log house, though abandoned, still survives. A son, Buford Beard, lives near his old homeplace and kindly allowed me to look for examples of John Henry's handiwork. In the kitchen, along with a wood cookstove, meal and flour chest were two homemade chairs. Buford's sister, Pearlie Mae Fitzgerald, identified one chair as being made by her grandfather, Hugh, and the other by John Henry. Both chairs are small, simple, and show signs of being shaped with a drawknife instead of a lathe.

Obviously, the Beards were not primary chairmakers but are examples of what probably happened numerous times throughout the area. Men like the Beards and Lemuel Parker, with rudimentary skills of woodworking, made what they needed. This may account for the many unidentifiable chairs found where examples of only a few exist. The makers may have only made what was needed for their families.

The art of chairmaking has not totally died out. Tom Harbor of Lick Creek makes an all-hickory chair for his neighbors using traditional skills. Few craftsmen are needed today to supply the demand for chairs made in the traditional style. Antique buffs have no trouble finding chairs to their liking at yard sales and flea markets. Maybe this report will help someone identify their newly found treasure and instill in them the same appreciation I have for these craftsmen and their art work.

Interesting conclusions drawn from this survey:

1. There were many more craftsmen in the area than first believed.

2. Nineteenth century skills and styles were being used up until the 1960's.
3. The highly skilled chairmakers were also talented in other crafts.
4. Three power sources for the turning lathe were found: horse mill, foot treadle with springpole, and gasoline engine.
5. Many chairs with unknown provenance were found during the survey.
6. The country folk of western Williamson County interviewed during this survey have a wealth of unrecorded history. Folklore in the form of hunting stories, tragedies, and colorful characters abound.



Dick Poynor armed rocker
and captain's chair made
for M.A. Meacham of
Garrison.



Dick Poynor highchair
and youth chairs

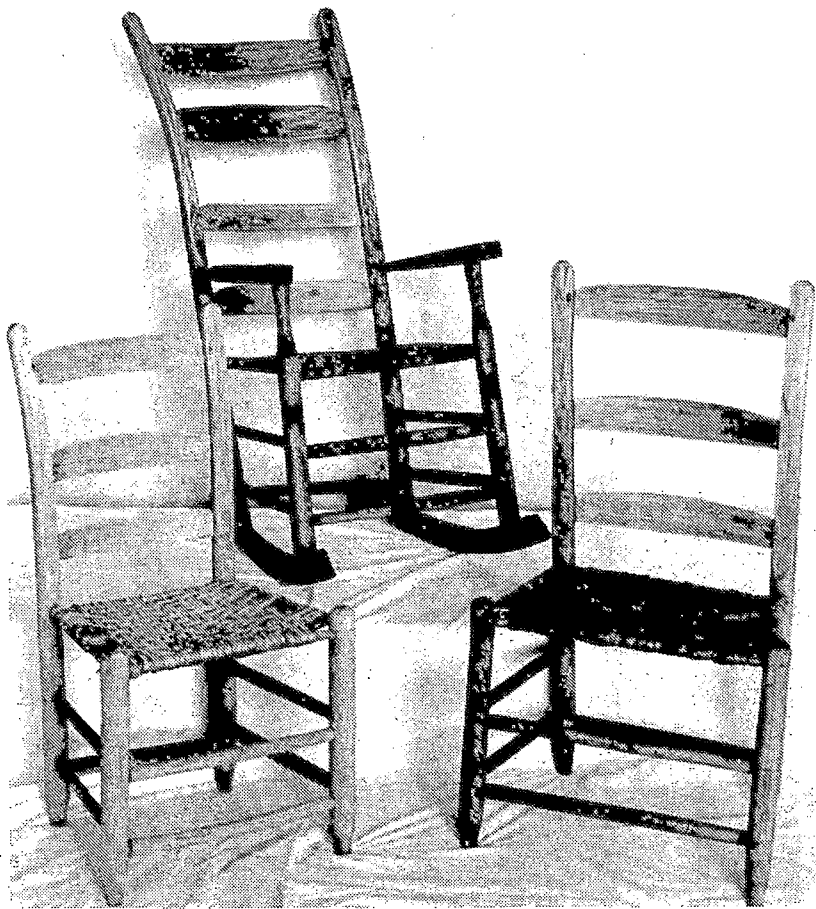


19th Century Williamson
County Chairs

Littleberry Beasley chair
Benjamin Wadley chair (top)
William Beasley chair



Dick Poyner Chairs
Williamson County Classics



Perry Southern chairs -
Craigfield

Billy Spencer chairs -
Coldwater





Littleberry Beasley and 3rd
wife, Margaret Pugh Beasley



William Beasley, chairmaker
from BearCreek near Boston,
grandfather of Ann Beasley
Johnson



Perry Southern, chairmaker
from Craigfield, with wife
Jane Pridle Southern

Southern armed rocker belonged
to McLemore Hardison. Commode
chair made for C.C. Daugherty's
grandmother. Child's chair
made for Daugherty children.





Walter Kelley
with father,
John Kelley
1910

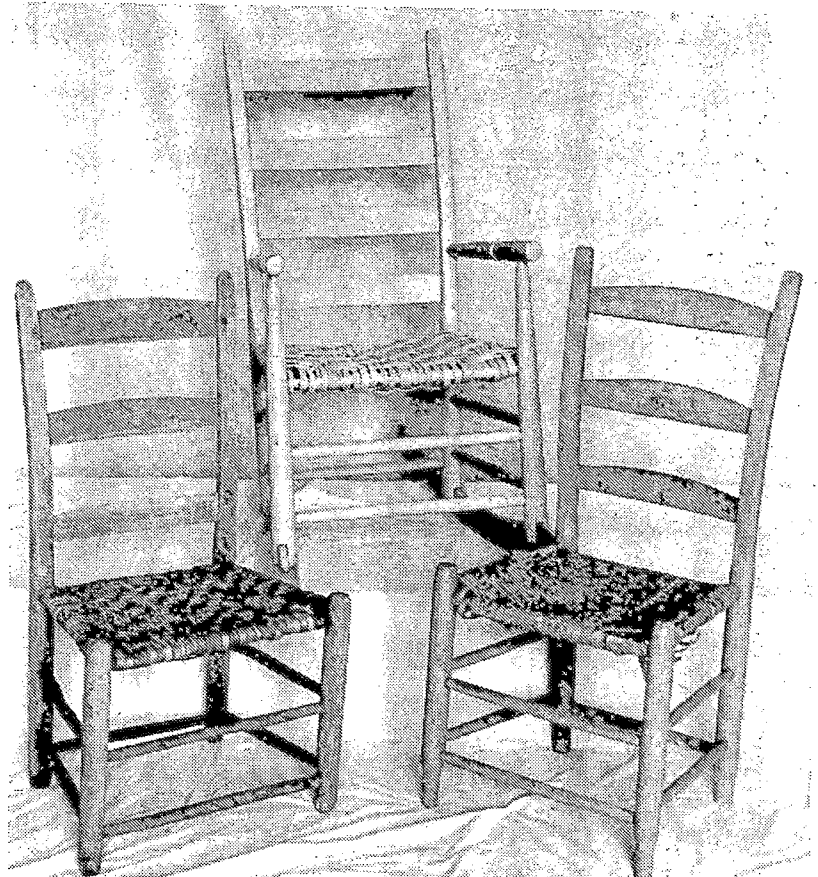


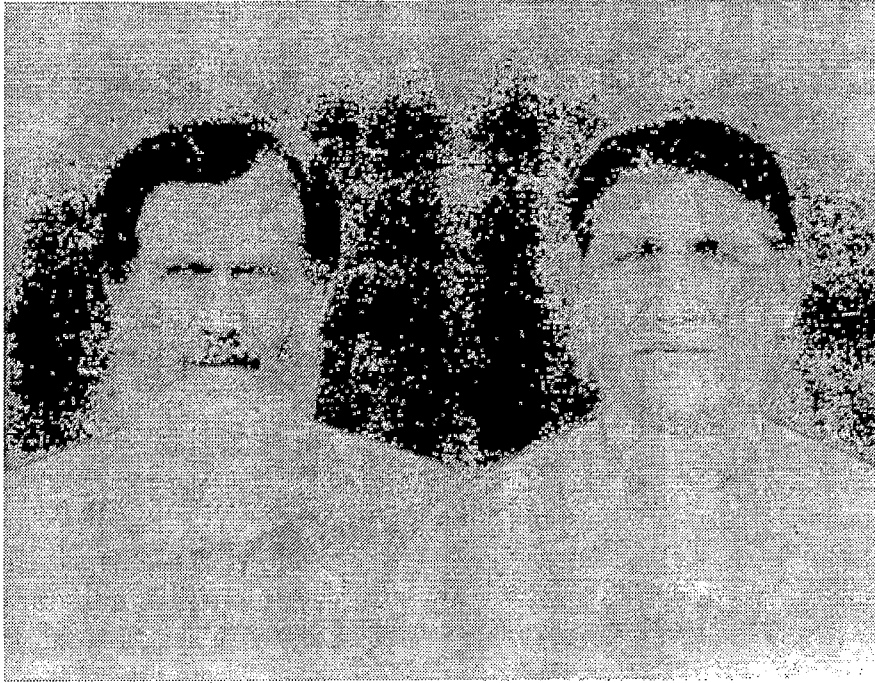
A.B. Baker with wife,
Dora Jane in 1958

Walter Kelley Chairs
1930's



Robert Baker Chair
with son, A.B. Baker's
Rocker Chair and
Straight Chair





Hugh Beard, chairmaker from Bending Chestnut, with wife, Mary Ellen



John Henry Beard, chairmaker and basketmaker from Bending Chestnut, with wife, Mandy Turman Beard



George Irwin rocking chair -
Lick Creek

Eddy Scott chair - Kinderhook



Lem Parker chair - Bingham
Hugh Beard chair - Bending Chestnut
John Henry Beard chair -
Bending Chestnut
John Hotsinpillar chair -
South Harpeth

ADDENDUM TO A CENTURY OF CHAIRMAKERS 1850-1950

After the chair exhibit in the Williamson County Library auditorium during the first of January, 1990, additional interest and information concerning local chairmakers surfaced. With more chairmakers to investigate, I felt compelled to broaden my survey. This addendum will update my research but never finalize my interest or end my search for more information.

My first visit and interview with Buster Sullivan in his Pinewood Road store yielded the names of Monroe Swanson and Benny Gordon as possible chairmakers. After months of searching, I was unable to find any examples of their work or anyone to corroborate the fact that these two men made chairs. Last spring, while searching court records on a totally different subject, I discovered Monroe Swanson mentioned in a court case involving the estate of Granville Inman of Arkansas Creek. In the court case, John Inman gave testimony that Monroe Swanson's only income was "the making of a few chairs from time-to-time." To date, a Swanson chair has not surfaced.

The Warf cemetery reunion is held annually on the second Saturday of August. The Lick Creek families who buried in the Warf settlement cemetery meet for lunch, friendship, and to collect money for the maintenance of the cemetery. I accepted an invitation to attend the gathering with the hope of gleaning more information about the area and with the knowledge that Mrs. Eva Potts would bring my favorite, fried apple pies. The event proved rewarding in that I met Clarence Tyler and I visited Clint Sullivan in his home.

Clint Sullivan lives on Lick Creek Road near Shoals Branch and my visit with him identified two more chairmakers. He had four chairs made by Benny Gordon and two chairs made by his father-in-law, Sam Moss. Gordon's chairs are characterized by octagonal posts indicating that he did not use a turning-lathe but relied on a drawknife or spokeshave to shape the posts and rounds. Sam Moss's chairposts were turned on a lathe with simple form but fine craftsmanship.

My introduction to Clarence Tyler resulted in identifying chairs made by the Warren family. Upon meeting Mr. Tyler, I inquired if he knew of a chairmaker named Warren. He boasted justly that he once knew everyone in Hickman County, then directed me to Mrs. Lucy Warren of Locust Creek. Mrs. Warren owns a rocking chair made by Claude Warren, her brother-in-law, and a set of six chairs made by Munroe Warren, her father-in-law. The Warren family lived at Willow Springs in Hickman County. A chair made by Lum Warren, brother of Monroe, is owned by Myrtle Warren Grimes of Lyles. Munroe's father, W.C. Warren apparently made chairs, also. Mrs. Ruby Tatum of Lyles remembered an auction in which chairs made by W.C. Warren were sold.

A visit with Howlett and Effie Lee Osborne on Bailey Road yielded the name of Benny Haskins. They remembered a Haskins chairmaker from Barren Fork in Hickman County. With directions from the Osbornes, I ventured into unknown country once more. An interview with Bill Turman on Locust Creek led me to J.T. Beard, whose mother, Mrs. Clayton Beard, had a set of Benny Haskins chairs. From these examples, the Haskins chair can be characterized as being well constructed of hickory with octagonal posts. Haskins apparently made chairs without the benefit of a turning-lathe.

As discovered early in my initial survey, the Beard family of the second district of Williamson County was both numerous and poor. Living in the best timbered section of Middle Tennessee, the Beards survived by cutting timber, hewing railroad ties, riving boards, making baskets and chairs. The most popular basketmaker and chairbottom weaver was William B. Beard. Nicknamed "Fiddlin' Will" for his musical talents, he also grafted trees and practiced his knowledge of medicinal herbs. His great-granddaughter, Faye Beard Page, remembered Will Beard making her a child's rocking chair.

Morris and Berry, sons of Will Beard, were chairmakers. Clyde Beard of Centerville has a rocking chair and straight chair made by his father, Morris. Clyde reported watching his father make chairs with little more than a pocketknife. Clyde has carried on the family skill by making small chairs for his grandchildren. Instead of hickory, the preferred wood of his ancestors, he uses sassafras.

Berry Beard made chairs for many of his neighbors along Younger's Branch. Mrs. Clara Barnhill has a chair made by Berry in 1928. Mrs. Eula Beard had a Berry Beard chair with original white oak splint bottom. I discovered a child's highchair used by the Francis Harris family of North Lick Creek that has designs and construction techniques used by Berry Beard. His chairs are plain but well constructed.

A distant cousin of the Will Beard family, Joe Beard was reported also to have made chairs. A grandson, Ulys Beard detailed watching Joe shape the chair parts and split the white oak for chair bottoms. A Joe Beard chair has not been located.

Additional information has been collected on Dick Poyner since the chair exhibit in January. Thanks to Mrs. Alma Short, a granddaughter of Colonel Moscow Carter, I have established that the original dining-room chairs used in the Carter House were Poyner chairs painted black with a thin gold stripe on the backposts and top slat. Unfortunately, Mrs. Short stripped the black paint to reveal the natural maple and replaced the worn oak splint bottom with cane.

Mrs. Rebecca Gentry has a set of Poyner chairs from the Miss Agnes Bennett estate. Being rosewood grained with gold stripes, these Poyner chairs could be called "fancy" dining chairs. Similar chairs have survived from Mooreland in Brentwood.

With the help of Herbert Harper, director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and Virginia Bowman, county historian, I applied for a state historic marker to honor Dick Poyner. Fortunately, the state legislature had appropriated money earmarked for historic markers to recognize Afro-Americans. In May of 1990, a marker was erected on Pinewood Road near Dick Poyner's home and workshop. Personal satisfaction was attained insofar as an obscure Williamson County ex-slave has now been recognized by the state of Tennessee as a master craftsman. A chair made by Dick Poyner has been placed in the Tennessee State Museum in memory of the John M. Meacheam family. Now, an example of Poyner's skill can be seen and enjoyed by the whole state.

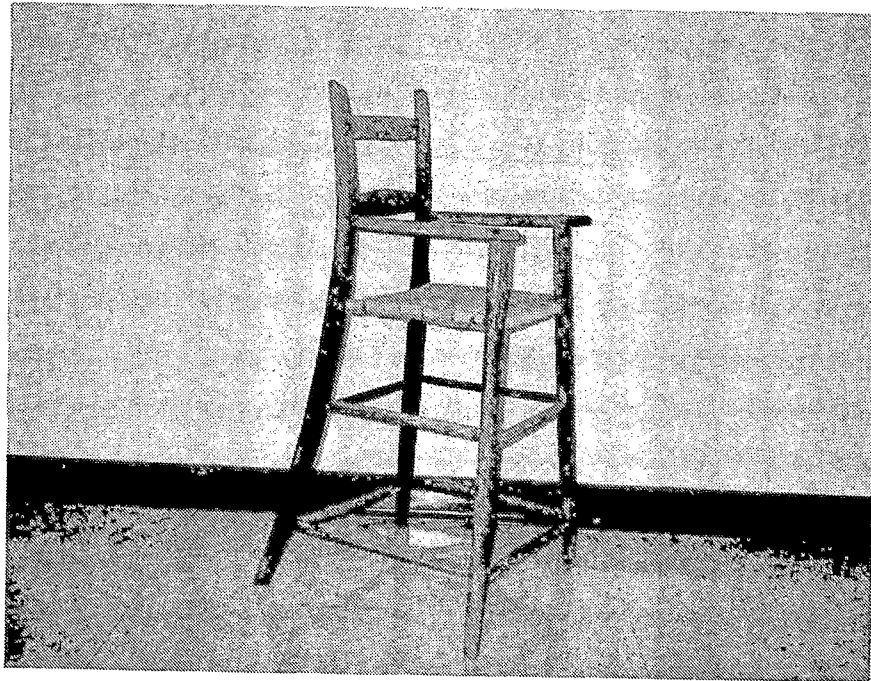
The U.S. History homework assignment in 1971, which introduced me to the legend of Dick Poyner, has given me untold hours of pleasure in research and miles of travel on the backroads of Williamson County. This being one time the teacher benefitted more from a homework assignment than the student.



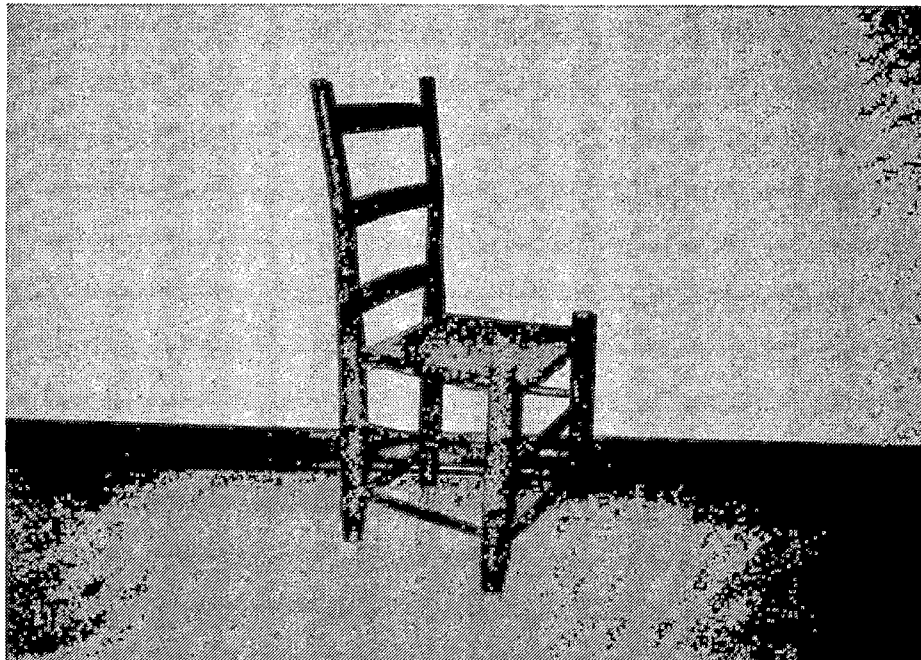
William M. Beard and Martha Morton Beard
famous fiddler, chairmaker, basketweaver
from Younger Branch - 2nd Civil District



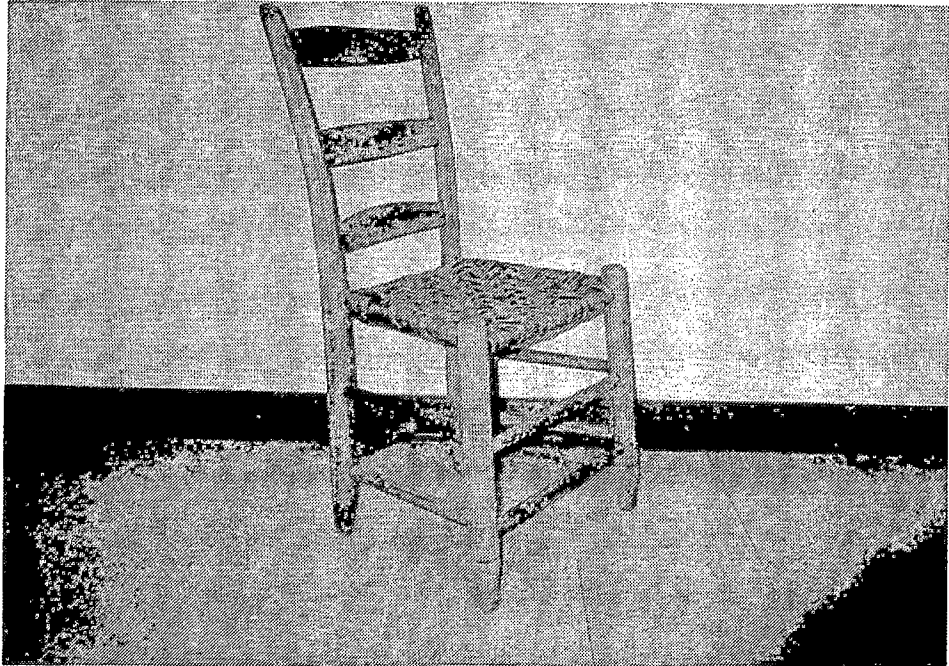
Berry Beard family
Chairmaker - Basketmaker
Younger Branch -
2nd Civil District



Highchair made by Berry Beard
Used by the Thomas Francis Harris family of Lick Creek



Benny Haskins - Barren Fork, Hickman County
owned by Clayton Beard



Munroe Warren - Willow Springs, Hickman County



Claude Warren - Willow Springs - Hickman County
Rocking chair owned by Mrs. Lucy Warren

John Poynor, Father of John Smith Poynor

Frank Poynor

It was December 7th, 1851, when John was speeding along the Franklin Turnpike from Franklin to Nashville, Tennessee. He was riding in his four-wheel "carry-all". The road was graded smoothly, graveled, and well cared for. It was cool and the horse was ready to go. John had paid his toll and was on his way, passing the fields, where cotton and tobacco were recently harvested, and the hills of oak woodlands.

Who would have imagined that John, only forty-two years old, would be making his last trip, that his life would be ended on the return trip? Hindsight reveals that he should have stayed in his Franklin home. He made too many mistakes, too many bad decisions on that day.

Being in a hurry, he chose to harness a spirited, insufficiently trained horse to his covered "carry-all" rather than the one that was slower, more experienced, and better trained. He thought he could handle this spirited steed and rapidly speed to Nashville and back. He did make it to Nashville but he did not make it home.

His second mistake was that he already had consumed too much alcohol.

John Poynor was going from Nashville in his carry-all; was a little excited by the use of spirits." (Sneed Reports, Franklin County Company vs. Joseph Crockett, Nashville, 1854, p. 167.).

Often I have asked the question: "Where did John's money go?" Earlier, he seemed to have money. Why was he so broke when he had been raised in relative affluence?

His grandparents, John and Elinore, were successful farmers near Halifax, Virginia, owning over 2,300 acres. Their children, Robert (John's father), Jessie, David, Lucy, William, Steven, Mary, and Betsy, were well cared for, owning substantial acreage themselves.

John's father, Robert, left Halifax in 1816 for Williamson County, Tennessee with his wife Sally (Smith), his children Milly (16), Susanna (14), William (12), John (7), Steven (4), and Robert (1), and with other Poyyors, including Charles Mack and James. Robert then proceeded to buy land in the Franklin area of Williamson County, accumulating over 1000 acres as well as slaves and other assets. One of John's grandsons, Sam, reportedly repeated his father's recollections of pleasant visits to Robert's plantation, hearing his slaves beautifully singing spiritual songs late into the evenings. Robert grew not only cotton and tobacco but also did mason work and had chairs made at this

plantation. One of his slaves, Richard (Dick) Poynor, became very well known by making chairs and gaining his and his wife's (Milly) freedom by selling them. When Robert died, the inventory of his estate still included "chair making" equipment.

No matter that his grandfather, John, had been wealthy and his father was "well-to-do", John was flat broke. What happened? Was there a drinking problem? Did this affect his farming? Did this cost him his wealth? There is no doubt that he lost it and was deeply in debt. His brother, Ashley Banks Poynor, who became a medical doctor, tried to collect debts from John. He wrote that John admitted the debts but did not pay them. Even his father, in 1837, loaned him substantial amounts of money and "took a trust deed" on his 800 acre farm to help him and his wife Charlotte hold their land and care for their three children.

It is very interesting that these children, though raised in hard circumstances, were extraordinarily intelligent and successful. On this fateful day, December 7, 1851, James William was 21, John Smith 18, Mary G. 10, and Charlotte was pregnant. John never saw on earth his youngest son David Ashley, born in 1852 shortly after his death.

John Smith Poynor, his son, despite hardships, somehow managed to graduate from Franklin College and then receive his medical degree from Nashville Medical School. The intelligent man served as an instructor in Franklin College while he took his medical instruction. In the Civil War, serving as a surgeon under General Johnson, he invented a very efficient bullet extractor. After the war he helped stem the deathly tide of a typhoid epidemic in Nashville. After his medical degree he taught in several colleges including Add-Ran College, Thorp Springs College, and Texas Christian University, and also practiced general medicine in Tennessee and Texas. Papers report that he spoke seven languages fluently and was honored for many papers he wrote for various medical journals.

David Ashley also graduated from college and became a well-known and respected civil engineer. Working for Texas Pacific Railroad, he laid out railroad lines and stations. Poynor, Texas is named for him. Later he became the City Engineer for Dallas, Texas, having supervision of the streets, water, and sewers. Newspaper articles stated that he supervised several employees and served in an exemplary way.

Charlotte, John's wife of Scottish descent, surely must have been a very, very good mother. The family survived without a father, were well educated, religious, industrious, and successful. All the family joined the Christian Church and became active in the Campbell-Stone movement, leaving the family's traditional Predestinarian Baptist Church.

The third mistake John made that fateful day was his reckless attempt to pass a slower wagon. He was in a hurry! The wagon ahead was going too slow! Never mind the telegraph pole that stood up ahead dangerously close on the right side. Both wagons could get by. So speed the horse up! Pass the wagon!

Court notes refer to the accident stating that when he was passing "his horse took fright and ran the wagon against a telegraph post situated in the drain on the margin of said road, by which the deceased was precipitated against said post with such violence as to produce his death a short time thereafter." (Sneed Reports, p. 264).

Another reference states: "On the 7th of December, 1851, while the plaintiff's intestate was passing on said road in his carry-all, his horse became suddenly frightened, and said intestate was thrown violently against said post, receiving such injury thereby that he died of the same soon afterwards." (Ibid., p. 265). And again: "His horse was not perfectly gentle, he passed a wagon, taking the left side; his horse was frightened, and started suddenly to the right side of the road, and passing between said post and fence, the inner wheel struck the post, the deceased was thrown forward violently against the post, his head striking it, which caused a fracture of the skull." (Ibid., p. 267).

John was picked up and rushed to Doctor Eve who observed the "four inch hole" in his skull. He removed splinters of bone but he could not save him. John died a short time later.

Other courthouse notes state roughly and plainly: "Charlotte was left in very embarrassed circumstances." This strong woman surely was an outstanding lady, a good mother, having tremendous beneficial influence on her children.

Some of the intelligence of John, Charlotte, and their children has been evident in some of the Poynor descendants. Also, the excitement of speed and "rush, rush" has appeared in some Poynor lives. Hopefully the "spirits" that John "imbibed" and that affected John in such a detrimental way will forever lie with him buried in the grave never to again affect the life or death of another Poynor.

Sallie Perkins Marr Ellis
Plantation Mistress of Forty-three Slaves
Dorris Callicott Douglass

On July 7, 1847, Sarah Agatha Perkins, the youngest child of Nicholas Perkins, ran off to Columbia, Tennessee, and married her cousin Nicholas Lafayette Marr. Another cousin, Claudius Perkins of Columbia, appears to have helped the couple make their getaway. At the time Sallie had been staying in Franklin at the home of her sister Margaret Ann Bradley. Robert Bradley, possibly anticipating the wrath of his father-in-law, was furious over the elopement. His indignation would not be curbed and he immediately wrote a seething letter to Claudius.

Sir

Your shameful treatment of us, who have extended to you our best hospitality, by your late conduct in bringing, as you well knew it would, unjust censure upon my family, prompts me to warn you to put again your foot on my lot at your peril. I shall take no other or further notice of you.

Robert H. Bradley

Bradley then made a copy of the letter for himself. At the top he wrote "Copy," and across the bottom he wrote, "To Mr. Claudius Perkins, sent by a Negro." It would be interesting to know who among the Bradley slaves was the trusted and reliable servant who promptly left on horseback with the letter. It appears that he overtook the wedding party before they reached Columbia. Nevertheless the young couple married. Sarah, or Sallie as she was called, was sixteen and Nicholas twenty three.

Both Sallie and Claudius replied to Robert Bradley's letter. Sallie wrote:

My Dear Brother & Sister

More than likely the Negro Rodin was Rodin Jr. who was one of the slaves that Nicholas Perkins would later give to Sallie. It may have been that Rodin had already been promised to Sallie and for this reason he was selected to take

the note and trunk label to Robert Bradley. He may have also taken the two trunks to Bridges Tavern.

As Sallie was Nicholas Perkin's youngest child we can be assured it was her marriage that prompted him to write his will a week later. However, one gets the impression that Perkins had not yet been able to bring himself to accept the marriage. In his will he recorded when and to whom each of his other eight children had married, but made no mention of Sallie's recent marriage to Nicholas Marr. Of course it may have been that he had already written the will, but had never gotten it witnessed. In either case, no doubt it was Sallie's marriage that encouraged him to write or complete his will.

In the will Perkins verified the land and slaves which he had given to each of his nine children, from 1828 to the present. A total of 163 slaves were named in the will. He further instructed how his remaining land and Negroes were to be divided upon his death. The estate records show that he owned an additional 250 slaves. The Nicholas Perkins will and estate records are indeed marvelous documents of slave history representing more than 400 individual blacks designated on nine plantations.

In his will Perkins explained that he had never given his three daughters any land or Negroes, but had designed for their use certain plantations and twenty Negroes each. This was done with his daughters' best interest in mind, for married women had few legal rights.

Concerning Sallie, he wrote:

I wish my sons [executors] to convey to her said land and Negroes in such a way she can not sell them or [they] be subject to the payment of her husbands debts, or any of the Negroes taken out of the County of Williamson.

Perkins identified the land and Negroes as follows:

I have given to daughter Agatha Sallie the land called the White house, the land on the south side of the West Harpeth nearly opposite the stone quarry, the Echols tract & the land south of the tract given to Nicholas [son Nicholas Edwin] to my western boundrey and east of South Harpeth and the following named twenty Negroes to wit,

Solomon Sr.
Robbin
Isham Ciely

Ciely Sr.
Louisa Jr.
Sarah Ciely

Dempsey
George Ciely
James Gracey
Rodin Jr.
Hickman
W. Wesley

Mary Jane Ciely
Grace James
Ciely Jr.
Tempy Jr.
Lydia Hickman
Edith
Nanny Eliza
Betsy

The order which Nicholas Perkins used in recording the slaves was all the males by families, followed by all the females by families. The first male in the list was the husband of the first female listed. If Perkins owned two slaves by the same name, he would add Sr. for the older, or Jr. for the younger, whether the slaves were related or not. If two slaves by the same name were about the same age, or if he owned three or more slaves with the same name, he added the name of the mother, wife, or husband, whichever best identified the Negro.

The first one named was Solomon. Solomon and Ciely and their children had originally belonged to Sallie's maternal grandfather Thomas Hardin Perkins, Sr. of Meeting of the Waters. Sallie's parents were first cousins and thus Hardin Perkins was both Nicholas Perkins' father-in-law and uncle. Nicholas Perkins had inherited Solomon and his family in 1838. At that time Solomon and Ciely's children included, from the oldest to the youngest, Grace, Robert, Isham, Ephraim, George, Dempsey, Louisa, and Joseph. There had been one more child, who was listed as "dead," in the Hardin Perkins inventory. A later record gives Ciely's name as Celia, but she had always been called Ciely, for in the Hardin Perkins inventory she was listed as "Sely."

The list of the family as found in Nicholas Perkins' will in 1847, reveals that Robert was now called Robbin; that Solomon and Ciely had had two more children, Sarah and Mary Jane; that Grace or Gracey had married James and was the mother of Ciely Jr.; and that Nicholas Perkins did not give Sallie the other two brothers Ephraim and Joseph. Later records show that Ephraim, whom Nicholas Perkins kept for himself, was at this time fifteen years old. Since the order of Dempsey and George was reversed in the Hardin Perkins inventory, it is possible that these two were twins.

At the time that Nicholas Perkins wrote his will, Ciely was evidently pregnant. When a receipt was given for the slaves after Perkins' death six months later, the name Amy was inserted between Mary Jane and Grace. This would have been yet another child of Solomon and Ciely, their twelfth.

A court record pertaining to July of 1849 reveals that Ciely was a house

servant and that Gracey was the cook. There is no question that Solomon was named first in the will because his wife and daughter were house servants. The position of Solomon is not exactly known, but he too was a slave of some importance, for on July 20 and 21, 1849, he was away from the plantation with the overseer, presumably on plantation business.

The same court record identifies a second slave family, as it reveals that Hickman and Lydia were husband and wife and that they had children. Though the names of their children are not given, by examining the inventory we find that Wesley and Edith should be the children. Hickman was the foreman, the next highest position to house servants. His wife, Lydia, was a field hand, who was chopping down trees on July 20, 1849.

No information has been found on the other three Marr slaves, Tempy Jr., Nanny Eliza, or Betsy.

Receipts were recorded for the twenty Negroes given to Sallie's sisters Margaret Ann Bradley, April 1, 1846, and Mary Elizabeth Bradley, April 30, 1846. However, no receipt was ever made during Perkins' lifetime for the twenty Negroes he gave to Sallie. It is thought that their mistress remained in Alabama through the fall and winter of 1847, and did not plan to take possession of the plantation and Negroes until spring.

However, Sallie and her husband were in Williamson County on October 14, 1847. On this date Nicholas Perkins loaned Nicholas Marr a Negro girl Agness (for which there was a receipt.) Most likely Agness was loaned to Sallie as a personal servant to go back to Alabama with them for the season. Sallie and Nicholas were in Alabama the following year when she wrote, "Tuscaloosa has been unusually gay this Winter ... I have attended several parties." Surely she was comparing that winter to the previous one.

Nicholas Perkins died January 6, 1848, and on February 22, Sallie and Nicholas Marr received from her father's estate the land and Negroes set aside for her use. Perkins' will stated that he had already given Sallie twenty named Negroes, and that at his death she was to have twenty more in addition to the ones she has. After writing his will he loaned her Agness, and Amy was born to Ciely. Sallie's brothers, as the executors of their father's estate, counted Agness and Amy as an advancement, and gave Sallie eighteen additional Negroes.

The same situation had occurred in the settling of the estate of Sallie's grandfather in 1838. Thomas Hardin Perkins Sr. had given by his will twenty Negroes to his grandson William O'Neal Perkins. In the meantime he loaned William seven Negroes. Nicholas Perkins, as executor, thought the seven Negroes should be an advancement, but William evidently was greedy and apparently did not trust his father's judgement, for, as Nicholas Perkins explained, "on this question the openions [sic] of counsel learned in the law

Francis B. Fogg and John Marshall Esquires were procured and they gave their opinion in writing ... that the seven were to be considered as part of the twenty." This was all explained in Nicholas Perkins' will in connection with the Negroes that he himself had given to William. Perkins furthermore attached Fogg and Marshall's statement to his will. If Sallie's brothers questioned what to do in her case all they needed to do was to look at their father's will. But this was not really necessary, for William knew. After all he had not gotten the seven extra Negroes he wanted.

In addition to the Negroes named in her father's will, Sallie received:

Amy [after Mary Jane]	Ephraim
Daniel (P)	Eliza
Nicey	Margaret
Nathan	William
Shadrick	Patience
Tom	Agness (E)
Eliza	Martha (Hickman)
James	Glasgow
Gentry	Eve
Ann (Eleanor)	Ruth

The Negroes Daniel and Nicey are the first listed in the group of slaves selected for Sallie from her father's estate. They were husband and wife, and like Solomon and Ciely, had also belonged to Thomas Hardin Perkins Sr. While Solomon's family is an example of a slave family kept together, Daniel's family is example of a family split apart. In 1838, Daniel and Nicey were the parents of nine children, six girls and three boys. They included, probably from the oldest to the youngest: Nanny, Elly, Charity, Delila, Ruth, Phillis, Daniel, Hickman, and Shadrack. When the Nicholas Perkins' estate was divided Sallie got the parents and possibly three of the children, Ruth, Hickman, and Shadrack.

Either Sallie's brother Constantine or her brother William O'Neal Perkins got the slave Nanny. Constantine received a Negro listed as "Nanny (BP)" valued at \$475.00 and William got a Negro named Nanny valued at \$536.00.

Constantine got Elly valued at \$500.00; Stiver got Charity valued at \$500.00; and William got Delila valued at \$535.00.

Sallie received a slave named Ruth, but so did Constantine. Sallie's slave Ruth is the probable daughter of Daniel and Nicey, for if Sallie had received the other Ruth, the Negro should have been listed with the addition of her mother's name, to distinguish her from Nicey's daughter Ruth. On the other hand, the Ruth whom Constantine received was valued at \$500.00, which was the same

value as the other members of Daniel's family.

The slave Phillis may have gone either to Mary Elizabeth Bradley at Mount Pier or to Nicholas Edwin Perkins at Meeting of the Waters. The Phillis whom Nicholas Edwin got was valued at \$500.00.

William got Daniel, who was listed as Daniel Jr. and valued at \$355.00.

Both Sallie and her sister Margaret Ann had slaves named Hickman. Margaret Ann received her Hickman on April 1, 1846. Their grandfather, Thomas Hardin Perkins, had owned three slaves named Hickman. There was Hickman the son of Daniel and Nicey, "a boy" Hickman, and Elijah Hickman. It is difficult to say which Hickman, Margaret Ann's, or Sallie's (the foreman), was the son of Daniel and Nicey.

Both Sallie and Mary Elizabeth received a slave named Shadrack. In the list of Sallie's slaves, there is only one slave in between Nicey and Shadrack, suggesting that this Shadrack was indeed Nicey's child and that the slave in between, Nathan, was likely was a child of Nicey's born after 1838.

Even though Daniel and Nicey and their nine grown children were divided between five or six of the Perkins heirs, they were not very far from one another, but lived on adjoining plantations and could visit one another, with permission, on Sunday, the slaves' day off.

The next slaves in the inventory are Tom and Eliza, followed by James and Gentry. The court record of 1849 discloses that Tom and Eliza were husband and wife, and that Tom was fifty years old and a field hand. On July 20, 1849, he was plowing. If Tom and Eliza had any children they were likely James and Gentry.

The slave Ann is listed next. The 1849 record shows that she was then fifteen years old and lived in Solomon and Ciely's house. According to the inventory her mother's name was Eleanor. It appears that Ann was separated from her mother when the estate was divided, for Nicholas Edwin Perkins received a slave named Eleanor, valued at \$481.00. He also received Jack (E) valued at \$590.00, whose name preceded Eleanor's and is assumed to have been Eleanor's husband and the father or step-father of Ann. In 1849 Ann was considered a house servant, employed in watching the Marr's baby.

Ephraim, who had not been named in Perkins' will, has now joined his parents and nine brothers and sisters on the Marr plantation. It is not known what became of his brother Joseph. He may have been dead, which is reasonable assumption since the rest of the family were kept together. It is possible but unlikely, that he was the same Joseph that Nicholas Perkins gave to Margaret Ann Bradley in 1846. Joseph was the youngest child of Solomon and Ciely in 1838 and thus in 1846 could have been as young as eight years old, but might have been as old as ten, the legal age at which a slave could be separated

from its mother. Joseph might have been among the forty slaves allotted to William O'Neal Perkins from his father's estate in 1848. William received a Negro named Joseph Jr. valued at \$162.00, and another named Joseph valued at \$615.00

Eliza and her two children Margaret and William, like Solomon's and Daniel's families, had belonged to Thomas Hardin Perkins in 1838. The family then included as its head Harry Sr. However, Harry was not designated as either "husband" or "father". On the other hand, Eliza was listed as "mother". Harry may have been the children's step-father or grandfather. By 1848 he was no longer with the family and was likely dead. The children Margaret and William were now over ten years old, but may have been in their early teens and thus kept with their mother.

Nothing is known about Patience.

Agness had been loaned to Sallie in October of 1847. The "E" after her name may have been for Eleanor, who was Ann's mother. The 1849 court record reveals that Ann had a sister.

Nothing is known of Martha or why her name was followed by "Hickman" in parentheses.

Glasgow had also belonged to Thomas Hardin Perkins and most likely was born at Meeting of the Waters. In 1838 his family was listed as "Patience - dead, Margery, Glasgow, Betty." Later census records reveal that Glasgow was six years old when Sallie's father inherited him. He was sixteen when he came to the Marr plantation. At this time he was separated from his two sisters. Sallie's brother Peter inherited a slave named Margery who must have been Glasgow's sister. It is not known what became of Betty. Even though Glasgow was very young when his mother died he must have remembered her, for, in 1867, he named his daughter Patience.

It appears that Glasgow lived his entire life within a couple of miles of where he was born. On January 28, 1909, sixty-one years after he was inherited by Sallie Marr, he bought twenty acres of her former land. He was then known by the nickname of Glass and had taken the last name of Sallie's second husband, Radford Ellis. His property was on the ridge near the present High Point Ridge Road.

To return to 1848 and the Marr slaves, Eve evidently had belonged to Sallie's brother William, who sold her, with eight others to his father on May 30, 1840. William may have inherited Eve from his grandfather, or she may have been among the slaves whom Nicholas Perkins gave to his son William.

As mentioned Ruth may have been the daughter of Daniel and Nicey.

Besides the slaves whom Sallie inherited, there were three others who belonged to her husband Nicholas Marr. In February of 1854, Marr included his

three slaves and all his household furniture in a trust deed to E. C. Cook, to whom he was heavily in debt. If Marr did not pay the money he owed within six months, then the slaves and furniture would belong to Cook. It has not been discovered what the final outcome of the deed was, for Nicholas Marr died two months later. His slaves included Jacob, about 45 years old in 1854, Lyla, about 40 years old, and Emily, about 17.

On May 24, 1848, Nicholas and Sallie Marr became the proud parents of a baby girl, Ann Green Marr. Family records show the child was called Nancy, but Sallie called her Nannie. In the fall, after the crops were harvested, the couple and their baby went to Alabama for the winter. They took the fourteen year old slave girl Ann to watch the baby.

In late January Sallie wrote her sister Margaret Ann Bradley.

Tuscaloosa January 20, 1849

My dear sister

It is now Sunday and all have gone to church except Mr. Marr and myself, who have remained at home to nurse a sick brother and allow Mother [Sallie's mother-in-law] to go to church. This is only the third time she has been to Church since her return from Tennessee. She does not leave his bed for anything; she sleeps in his room, and stays with him all the time. He is not so well now as he was several weeks ago, he has not left his room in two weeks, and only sits up long enough to have his bed made up. For this reason I have not enjoyed myself so much as I did before he grew worse. Until then I enjoyed myself very much. Tuscaloosa has been unusually gay this Winter. I have attended several parties and enjoyed it very much. I feel very much flattered at being the only married lady that was invited to any of them.

Well I must stop writing to see what Nannie is crying about as she's sly the matter. Nannie is one of the most interesting little things you ever saw. She says Mama & Papa and Ann very distinctly. She stands alone very well and can push a chair and walk after it, and is only seven months old. I never take a nap without dreaming she has several teeth. "But when I awoke I found it a joke." for she has none at all. I suppose you are all so much taken up with your new sister-in-law [Nicholas Edwin's wife] that you forget to write to me entirely. I know no other pleas upon which I can excuse you at all. But I won't scold for I have tried that effectually and I have never gained any thing by it. I am all ready

to start to Mobile on the next Boat if Brother George is no worse. We will be gone about a week, and as soon after our return as convenient we will start home. I expect we will be at home by the last of February or the first of March, though that depends entirely upon the weather.

Do write to me soon and tell all the family to write. Give my love to all and particularly sister Bet. Kiss all the children for me. I must now bid you farewell.

I am as ever your affectionate sister

S. A. Marr

Sallie and Nicholas returned to Tennessee and shortly afterwards their baby Nannie died on March 26, 1849. The child's death notice appeared in the *Western Weekly Review (Review Appeal)* The announcement was concluded with the words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, was God's kind command."

Two and a half months later, the couple's second child, Mary Elizabeth was born on June 17, 1849. Dr. A. B. Ewing probably delivered the baby, but there is reason to believe that afterwards Sallie was cared for by a Negro midwife. If there was not midwife on the plantation, then they hired one, possibly from one of Sallie's brothers. It was customary for a Negro midwife to care for the slave mothers and mistress alike, for exactly one month after the birth of a child. Such midwives were called by the nickname Sucky, for they took care of the "sucklings," as well as the mother. Two of Sallie's brothers inherited Negro women named Sucky. In his will Nicholas Perkins gave "Sucky Paw Paw", as well as the Paw Paw Plantation, to his son Peter. When the remainder of the Perkins estate was divided Nicholas Edwin got a Negro woman Sucky, who was worth \$170. Judging from her low value she may have been "Old Sucky" who had belonged to his grandfather in 1838. Sallie's midwife, whoever she was, evidently left late Wednesday afternoon, July 18, 1849, one month and one day after the birth of the baby, Mary Elizabeth. It is of record that on Wednesday night July 18, the slave girl Ann took charge of the baby as "nurse".

Due to a tragedy that occurred on the Marr Plantation July 20, and the court case which ensued, the actual words of Sallie and Nicholas Marr, of their overseer and his wife, and of several slaves, are of permanent record. These quotes are in the form of depositions taken for the Circuit Court of Williamson County. Five slaves were questioned, Ciely, Gracey, Lydia, Hickman, and Solomon. Three others, Ann, Tom, and Eliza were quoted by their fellow slaves and the overseer, and still others were mentioned, Jim, George, and Ephraim.

The original depositions are written in the third person using the phrase "the witness said that he, or she ... etc. " In the following account all quotes have been changed to the first person, that is "he" and "she" have been replaced with "I", and the necessary changes made in the verb form. Also each deposition has been divided into parts, and the parts of all rearranged to relate the events in chronological order.

Sallie Marr:

Gracey, Ciely and Ann are the house servants. [On July 20] Ann had only been in the house two nights and one day. She was brought in the house Wednesday night and this happened on Friday. Ann had been taken in the house to nurse [baby sit] another child, that died at eleven months old. ... After its death she was sent back to the quarters under the overseer where she had remained until the Wednesday night previous.

Nicholas Marr:

I think Ann sleeps at Solomon's house. She did not sleep in the house, nor had she when she nursed the other child.

Solomon:

Ann has slept in my house ever since Marr owned her.

Ciely: (Solomon's wife)

Ann sleeps in my house but is sometimes away.

William O'Neal Perkins:

I know Ann. In a division of the estate of my father Nicholas Perkins, Ann was assigned to my sister Mrs. Marr. I have the bill of sale to my father for Ann's mother and a child named Annica. If this is the girl now called Ann she is in her fifteenth year. If not the same girl, then she would be her younger sister.

Gracey:

I am the cook. ...[On the morning of July 20] Ann came in the kitchen to warm a napkin [diaper]. The child [Mary Elizabeth] was then crying about as usual.

Ciely:

After breakfast I had carried my butter to the spring house and came back to the kitchen. Ann came in there to warm a diaper. I heard the child crying. I asked Gracey what was the matter with that baby. I told Ann she should not nurse a child for she was too mean. I then brought some water and went off to my house about 20 yard off to scour the knives and forks.

Nicholas Marr:

I left my wife and Ann and Gracey in the room where the child was, and went into the room across the passage to write a note or letter. When I had finished writing I called my wife to me to let her read it and see if she wished to add anything. She read it and said she did not. I then sealed it and sent it off, and walked to where some women were at work cutting down trees about 400 yards from the house.

Sallie Marr:

On the 20th day of July 1849 I had got my child to sleep and laid it in the cradle and left Ann to nurse it. I went into another room to put some clothes in a drawer where I remained, I believe, about fifteen minutes. This room is separated from the one in which the child was left by an open passage. After my return into the room I told Ann to sweep the room.

I heard some slight noise and thought the child waking and went to it, to take it up. I took it up and smell laudanum. I discovered a stain on its bosom and the pillow and something seemed to have run from the corners of its mouth.

Ann was standing by the cradle rocking it, and the cradle was near the bureau, in a drawer of which was a vial of Laudanum and of paragaric. I told Ann she had given the child something. Ann said she had not, that no one had been in the room since I had left and that it had nothing.

I then smelled of the stain and called in the cook Gracey and asked her to smell it, and get out the Laudanum and paragaric and smell the two vials and to tell me which of the two vials the child smell like.

Gracey:

The kitchen is but a few steps from the room where the child was and a door opens towards the kitchen. My mistress called me in the room and asked what Ann had given the baby. I said I did not know. Mistress asked Ann two or three times what she had given. Ann said she had given nothing. Mistress told me to smell the child and the vials. The child smelled like the short vial. I was told to send for the doctor which I did and then came back.

Sallie Marr:

I also smelled the two vials and thought it smelled like laudanum. I became alarmed and sent Ann for my husband who had gone out in the field where the hands were at work.

Nicholas Marr:

I discovered Ann coming towards me. I asked her what was the matter. She said "Nothing, but Mistress wants you."

When I first got in the room I found my wife crying with the child in her arms. She asked me to look at it and said she thought Ann had given it some laudanum. I smelled of the stains upon its bosom and pillow but had a bad cold and could not distinguish the smell. The child looked pale and sick and seemed trying to vomit. It seemed weak and gradually sinking. I tried to keep it awake. I sent for [Dr.] Ewing immediately.

Sallie Marr:

As soon as my husband came he sent for doctor Ewing.

Hickman:

I am the foreman and went for the doctor. Ann came for me.

She came in a great hurry and told me to go as fast as I could, that the baby was very bad off. I was the second messenger sent. Jim or George had been sent before.

Gracey (who was told by Sallie to send for the doctor, before Nicholas ever got to the house):

When going to send someone I saw Tom at his work in the field.

Nicholas Marr:

I first saw Tom towards night, and don't know if anyone sent for him to the house. Gracey had sent him for Dr. Perkins and wife [a cousin Dr. Nicholas Perkins] and when he came back he came to the house.

Gracey:

When I first came in [back] Ann was not in the room. My master had sent her to tell someone to go for the doctor. She sent Hickman, the foreman. When going for Hickman, Ann was as fast as she could, walked back fast. Master asked Ann two times what she had given the baby. She was crying and said she did not do it.

Ciely:

While there [at my house scouring the knives and forks] I was called by my master to see what was the matter with the baby. This was about an hour after Ann warmed the diaper. I was sent by my master for Mrs. Nichol. When I came back Mistress asked me to smell the child. Then Mrs. Nichol got the vial and all smelled alike. Master then sent me to meet the doctor and hurry him on.

Lucy Nichol:

I am the wife of the overseer of N. L. Marr and our house is some three or four hundred yards from his. The cabins of the Negroes are near our house.

I arrived at the Marr's house about half an hour after they

discovered what had happened. No one was there but Marr and his wife and Ann. Mrs. Marr asked me to smell and I did smell of the pillow and the mouth and busom of the child. I thought it was laudanum. ..The laudanum vial had been at my house the day before and was then about half full. About a tablespoon full was missing. Marr tried to get Ann to own up to it, that he might do something for it, but she denied it. I don't know that Ann knew the vial of Laudanum. ...I think Ann is about fifteen years old. ...I got there about half past eleven o'clock. Marr was then trying to get Ann to admit what she had given. He was much excited. Slapped her twice lightly and told her if she did not tell she would be put in jail and hung, as they then thought the child would die. Ann stayed in the room but a few minutes after I got there. I think Ann is a very sprightly girl, more so than common.

Sallie Marr:

The paragaric was in a long vial and the Laudanum in a short thick one. The laudanum was left there the fall before by Dr. Ewing for me. It had been at the overseer's house, Mr. Nichol, for several days and was brought back the day before. Hickman the foreman had a pain in his ear and it was carried there to be put in his ear. When brought back the vial was about half full and about half of this was missing. During the life of my former child I kept the paragaric on the mantle and Ann had seen me give it very frequently to that child. Ann had been ordered never to give a child anything whatever. ...I heard no noise in the room while I was in the other room.

Nicholas Marr:

Dr. Ewing brought the laudanum the fall before for Mrs. Marr. The vial was about two inches long, about 2/3 full and about a tablespoon full missing. It had been brought back the day before from the overseers house. The paragaric was in a long slender vial. The stains were of the color of laudanum or paragaric. I don't know if Ann had seen either the laudanum or paragaric used. I don't know that she knew the laudanum was there. I think she knew the paragaric because she had seen a good deal used with the other child. The bureau drawer was generally locked.

...When I came to the house I set the vials on the bureau, and took Ann in the passage and told her that I thought she had given it laudanum, that if she had it was best for her to tell, that then we might perhaps save it, that Dr. Ewing was coming and that he could tell if she had given laudanum. And if she had and it died she would be hung. I asked her to point out the vial she had taken it from. Two or three times she started in the room towards the bureau as if she intended to point out the vial, but always stopped and said she had not given it. She was crying and asked if I thought she would give anything to hurt a poor innocent baby, that she would not give laudanum to kill the baby. I and my wife and the servants were very excited. I slapped Ann several times, threatened to shoot her, and started at my gun but my wife interposed. I cannot remember whether I ordered her off or not. I think it probable I did, as that is usual with me when I whip a slave...

Before Ewing got there I started four different Negroes for him to hurry him on.

Sallie Marr:

Before the arrival of the doctor we gave warm milk and such things to try to destroy the effects of the laudanum. ... The child seemed to sleep before the doctor came. I roused it once to open its eyes but it closed them immediately.

Dr. A. B. Ewing:

On the 20th day of July 1849 I was sent for in great haste to visit the infant child of Nicholas L. Marr. I found the child breathing badly, extremities cold, purple color, pulse low, had convulsions, and seemed dying. I was told it had taken laudanum. I saw laudanum in a vial in the room. I began an emetic but it had no affect. It died about two hours after my arrival. The first effect of a large dose of laudanum is hilarity and then stuper. In poison from Laudanum death ensues in from five to twelve hours. This child could not have borne more than 1/2 a drop. If I had not been told it had had laudanum I think I could have detected it. The child died from an overdose of laudanum.

Lucy Nichol:

[When I arrived] the child was then asleep and never waked, had about a dozen spasms before its death.

Nicholas Marr:

The child lived about four hours.

Sallie Marr:

The doctor came in about two hours and the child died in about two hours after the doctor came.

Hickman:

I got home about 2 o'clock [from going for the doctor]. I then went to Leland Bradley's for him and Mrs. Bradley. Jim had been sent for them before I was.

Mary Elizabeth Bradley:

I arrived at the house of my sister Mrs. Marr about two hours after the death of the child. I found Mrs. Nichol there and met Dr. Ewing leaving.

I know Tom and when I got there Tom was absent, having been sent for Dr. Nicholas Perkins and wife. After he came back he seemed desirous to stay about the house and made a fire in the parlor. ...Tom belonged at the quarter and those Negroes were not allowed to come about the house.

Mrs. Nichol:

I did not see Tom till about dusk. He then brought some wood and made a fire in the parlor and asked me to let him see the child. I showed it to him. He looked at it about fifteen minutes. He brought some water. I never knew him to do this before.

Mary Elizabeth Bradley:

When I got there Ann was in the kitchen. I think Ann is smart.

Lydia:

On the day of the death of the child I was over on the road cutting down some trees. ...I went to the house at 12 o'clock. ... After the death of the child Ann was in Ciely's house. Master had sent her out of the house.

Gracey:

Ann left the house about dusk. Master told me to tell Ann to leave the house.

Ciely:

When I came back [from hurrying the doctor on] I saw Ann in my house. I asked her if she had given laudanum. She said no.

Nicholas Marr:

Towards dusk I sent for Hickman the foreman and told him to take charge of Ann. That I held him responsible for her forthcoming when called for.

Hickman:

I got home about sunset [from the Bradley's]. I saw that my stock was all fed and went to my house at the quarter. Ann came to my house. ...No one was there Friday night but Ann, myself and my children. ...Marr told me next morning to confine her [Ann] until the overseer came. I then chained her around the waist and fastened the chain to the joist...

I came to town Saturday morning. I did not send the hands out to their regular work on Saturday until after breakfast, as the ground was very wet.

Lydia:

I am Hickman's wife. I went to my house next morning to get

breakfast for my children. I found Tom standing at the door. Ann was chained inside. I never heard either say a word. I gave my children breakfast and left Tom at the door. This was Saturday morning. The ground was wet and Hickman had gone to town. The hands had not been put to regular work before breakfast. They were walking about, some at the quarter and some at the house.

Solomon:

On Friday the day the child died I was away from home with Mr. Nichol the overseer and came back Saturday evening. I saw Ann chained in Hickman's house. She had three locks on the chains. I asked her what she was doing there. She said because she had given Miss Sarah's baby laudanum. I asked her what made her do it. She said she thought it was paragaric and did not know it was laudanum. I asked her why she did not confess it to the master. She said she was afraid he would kill her..

In the conversation with Ann I stood at the door and talked to her. I had been there but a few minutes when the overseer came up and I left.

George Nichol:

I am the overseer for Nicholas L. Marr. I was away from home on Friday, the day the child died. I came home Saturday evening and about dusk went to Hickman's house where Ann was chained. I found Solomon there. I asked her what she was doing there. She said nothing and Solomon spoke and said she had given Laudanum to his mistress' baby and killed it. I told her I expected that. It was then getting dark and she was lying down and crying. I then left her.

I went back in an hour or two. Hickman and Lydia his wife were there. I said to her, "Ann tell me if any one was with you in this matter."

She cried and said, "They will kill me."

I then told her if it was Solomon, Gracey, or the Devil, it made no difference to me who told her to do it, to tell me any how.

She then said Tom had told her to do it, that he had some bread in his box if she were to eat some of it, it would make her trail and

follow him like a dog as long as she lived. ...

I think I told her it was best to come out and tell the truth after her first [this] confession, but can not be certain. ...

In the first conversation with Ann she said she did not know it would kill it.

William Giles (husband of Lucy Nichol's sister):

I am the overseer of N. E. Perkins and live on the adjoining farm. I heard on Saturday that the child was dead and went to Nichol's house. I got there about sunset. After supper Nichols proposed to go and see Ann.

When we got there she was lying on a blanket chained. Nichols told her to get up. She was chained around the body. I asked her how she came there. She seemed slow in speaking. Nichol told her to speak.

She then said she had given laudanum to the baby and it had killed it. I asked her how she came to do it. ...She was told she had better come out and tell the truth, it would be better for her... She said Tom had been at her to meet her out at nights and had told her if she would give it laudanum it would sleep until she could get back. That she had asked him if it would hurt. He said no, he had given it many times to his wife Eliza, and it never hurt her. She was asked if she would say the same before Tom. She said she would...

I can't say that she had got through when I told her twas best to come out and tell the truth; can't say whether I spoke harsh or not, but my feelings were not good.

George Nichol:

Mr. Giles and I then went to Tom's house. Tom was sitting near the door and his wife near the fire place. We hear loud talk. His wife said, I have told you they would break your neck, here you are sitting here asleep and Ann telling lies on you. Tom said nothing, groaned and stepped out the door, where I took hold of him.

William Giles:

Nichol and I then went to Tom's house. Tom was sitting near the door and his wife near the fireplace. We heard his wife say to him, better not be there asleep, Ann was telling lies on him. That it made no difference, that she had told him to keep away from that house, he would get his neck broke yet.

Tom said nothing, but groaned and came out the door, where Nichol took hold of him.

George Nichol:

We carried Tom to where Ann was. I told Ann to proceed. She said, "Uncle Tom if it had not been for you I would have not been here. You did tell me how to give it. You told me to take a teaspoon full and put some brandy in it and that would take away the scent; to warm it and give it, and it would be two or three days before it would kill."

Tom denied all this.

She said he told her if she did not do this she would have to go to Alabama. She said she said to Tom, "What do you reckon I want to kill the child for?" Tom said, "You fool, you want to stay in the house?"

Tom denied all this.

Sallie Marr:

My husband and I had intended to go to Alabama in the fall, and had spoken of it in the presence of the house servants, but I can not say that Ann was present when it was talked of, and we had not spoken of taking Ann with us.

Solomon:

The Negroes generally knew that Marr was going to Alabama in the fall, but we have not heard anything said about who was to go as nurse.

Nicholas Marr:

I did not intend to take Ann from the house as a nurse if I could get another, because I consider her shrewish.

William Giles:

We took Tom to the house where Ann was and told her to tell her tale again. She then said that Tom had recommended her to give it and it would make the baby sleep till she could get back, and she had asked him if it would hurt.

Tom denied all this.

She said she thought she would try and see if it would make it sleep and had poured some in her hand and given it. That since she had been chained Tom had been there and told her she had given it wrong. She ought to have put some brandy in it and sweetened it, warmed it, and then the child would not have died in several days. That he told her she must admit she had given it but not call his name or he would shorten her days.

Tom denied all this.

George Nichol:

Mr. Giles was with me in both visits after night. After We brought Tom, Giles said something and Tom disputed it, and Giles struck him in the face. This was in the presence of Ann. Giles did not shake Ann nor use high words.

William Giles:

I struck Tom when Ann had got through for disputing my word. Ann said that she was afraid to stay there all night, that Tom would kill her. Nichol put a Negro man there to stay with them [in the room].

George Nichol:

When I first came to the house Ann was chained around the waist and around the neck or ankle. I can't remember which, if it was around the neck I moved it to the ankle, if it was around the ankle I moved it to the neck. I moved it but can't say from which place. This removal occurred after the first confession which caused me to go for Tom. She did not complain of the chain being too tight till the next morning. I was sent for in the night of Sunday

[a.m.] because the chain choked her...

Sunday morning as I approached the cabin I overheard Ann say, "You did, you did Uncle Tom tell me. And you need not deny it." I heard no more words. I then went in the cabin.

I think Tom was intimate with Ann because two or three weeks before, I was going to my house one night and saw Tom have her against a beech tree. I went near enough to see who it was and passed on. I said nothing as it was no business of mine and I did not care what they did.

Solomon:

I was told of Tom's arrest between midnight and day by Tom's wife...

Ann has slept in my house ever since Marr owned her and I know of no intimacy between her and Tom. Tom came to my house but very seldom. He lives about 150 yards off.

Wednesday night before the child died [on Friday] I watched my son Ephraim, about 17 years old. Saw him go in the open passage. Went there, found Ephraim lying right across someone. Went out and got brush, came back, hit Ephraim one lick, two lick, three lick. Ephraim jump up and run off. I said nothing, just put my hand down to see who it was. Found twas Ann, lying on Masters saddle blanket, pretending to be asleep.

Ciely (Solomon's wife):

Tom and Ann were very friendly. I thought it might make a difference between Tom and his wife. Once after night I saw Tom and Ann near my house alone talking. Presently Ann came in and said, "Aunt Ciely, Uncle Tom wanted to give me a ten cents."

Nicholas Marr:

[Tom] is as smart as usual and very cunning. He is about fifty years old and has a wife on the place...

[When the baby was poisoned] Tom was at work in an opposite direction from the place where the women were chopping and where Ann came for me. He was plowing in the Ledge field. The nearest part of this was two hundred yards from the house and if he

was in that part where he ought to have been he was about a quarter of a mile from the house.

It is assumed that Ann and Tom remained chained to joists in Hickman's house for the next three weeks. On August 9 they were taken to jail in Franklin to await trial for murder. Their case came before the Circuit Court four months later on December 4, 1849. The Court minutes for this date read, "Ann and Tom having no counsel to assist them in their defense the court appoints John B. McEwen esquire as counsel..., who accepts said appointment."

The Negroes were returned to jail. Their case came up again three months later. The particulars are not known but McEwen never represented them. On March 19, 1850, as "the said slaves having no counsel", the court appointed John Marshall and Thomas N. Figures Esquires as counsel. The lawyers had three days in which to prepare their case, which was tried before a grand jury on March 22nd. Ann was found guilty and Tom not guilty. The basis for Tom's acquittal was that he was not present when Ann gave the laudanum.

A short time afterwards the jailor Michael Cody submitted an account of the cost of keeping Tom in jail. The total cost was \$92.25 for "August 9, 1849 to March 22, 1850, 226 days, and 15 turn keys." The cost per day was 37 1/2¢. The jailor was paid an extra 50¢ for each time he unlocked or locked the cell door, which was called a turn key. The state was to pay Tom's cost.

Ann's sentence was delivered on April 5. It was ordered by the court that "The said Ann to be taken to the jail of Williamson County from where she came and be there securely kept until Saturday the 20th of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty and that on that day she be taken thence to some place to be designated by said Sheriff and there between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day be hanged by the neck until she be dead."

However, immediately upon sentencing, Ann's lawyers asked for and were granted an appeal to the Court of Errors to be held in Nashville in December. In the eight months that followed Ann remained in jail while her lawyers skillfully prepared her case. The legal aspects of the case as presented by Marshall and Figures and ruled on by Judge J. McKinley's are found in Humphrey's Reports. The case was appealed on two grounds; (1) that Ann's confession was not admissible as evidence and (2) that the charge of murder was "clearly erroneous," as there are various grades of homicide.

By law "a confession, to be admissible as evidence, must be freely and voluntarily made, and not under the influence of promises or threats." In the opinion of the judge, to be told "she had better come out and speak the truth" was an influence exerted upon the mind of Ann, whom he described as "a timid

girl, of tender age, ignorant and illiterate, a slave and in chains, whose life had been threatened by her master, and against whom the hand of everyone, even those of her own color and condition, seems to have been raised."

With respect to the charge of murder, Judge McKinney claimed the Williamson County circuit judge Thomas Maney had wrongfully instructed the jury. The Williamson County judge had stated that "if Ann... was ordered by her master not to administer anything to Mary E. B. Marr, [and] if she, without authority, willfully administered laudanum to said Mary, intending thereby to produce unnecessary sleep, and contrary to her expectations, it caused her death, she would be guilty of murder."

Judge McKinney had strong words concerning the circuit judge's statement. According to McKinney,

It assumes, that if the prisoner, administered the laudanum in violation of her master's order, for the purpose of "producing unnecessary sleep" and death ensued, contrary to her intention, she is guilty of murder. This is not law. In the first place, the charge puts the disobedience to the master's order on the same footing with a violation of a command or prohibition of the law. This is a great mistake. Such violation of the master's order, is not an "unlawful act" ...It is no offense against the law of the land ...It is an offense simply against the private authority of the master and is... punishable alone in the domestic forum. Again the criminality of the act is made to depend upon the intent.

"Intent" was the difference between murder and manslaughter. According to the law, "to constitute the crime of murder... the killing must be with malice aforethought." Ann's actions had not been with malice, and Judge McKinney explained,

The tenderest of mothers might administer laudanum to her infant incautiously, in order to be enabled to attend to some pressing call of household affairs ...or a gay and thoughtless matron, devoted to the pursuit of pleasure, ...might give a similar dose in order to have the opportunity to attend the theater or ball-room for a time. And although in both the latter cases, the motive, ...is different, and less offensive to morals and propriety, yet the purpose or intention ...is the same ...to "produce unnecessary sleep." And yet, perhaps, no one would contend that, had death ensued, in either case, the mother would have been guilty of either

murder or manslaughter.

In the case of the prisoner, her relation as a slave, taken in connection with her disregard of her master's positive direction, and the gross heedlessness and incautiousness of the act, might constitute her offense manslaughter, but certainly nothing more.

Judge McKinney was even more supportive of Ann elsewhere in the report, when he stated,

Judging from this avowal of the overseer [who he did not care what Ann and Tom did], the morals of the slaves, under his dominion, were in bad keeping; and it is not much to be wondered at, that the prisoner - who was brought up at the quarter - had a more imperfect sense of obligations of morality and common decency than is even usual among those of her own cast and social condition.

McKinney ruled that the Williamson County Circuit Court had no jurisdiction in Ann's case. He cited three laws. (1) Jurisdiction is given to the circuit courts of all offences committed by slaves which are punishable with death, Act of 1835, Chapter 19, Section 9. (2) The offences when committed by slaves, declared capital and to be punished with death are: murder, arson, burglary, rape, and robbery, Act of 1819, Chapter 35, Section 1. (3) Special tribunals consisting of three justices and nine freeholders and slaveholders are authorized to pass judgement on all offences committed by slaves, that are not capital, Act 1815, Chapter 138. As manslaughter was not punishable by death, the circuit court had no jurisdiction and thus Judge McKinney reversed the judgement.

While the Court of Errors began on the first Monday in December, it seems that Ann's case was not ruled upon until February 5, 1851, and then she was not released until March 17th. The Franklin jailor submitted an account of her cost at \$206.00 for 528 days from August 9, 1849, to December 10, 1850, and from February 5, 1851, to March 17. Ann was in jail in Nashville from December 10 to February 5.

Nicholas Perkins had clearly specified in his will that none of the slaves loaned to his daughters were to be sold. This meant that Ann would have to be returned to the Marr plantation. Consequently Nicholas and Sallie Marr submitted a lengthy petition to the circuit court. It read in part,

Said slave [Ann] has be prosecuted in this court for the crime of murder and upon a hearing in the supreme court she has been

acquitted of the crime, and is now discharged to be taken back to the farm of your petitioners Marr and wife. Petitioners say that although it appears from the proceedings in said prosecution that said slave can not be punished by the laws of this state, yet your petitioners Marr and wife are very unwilling to receive her again in their family as one of their slaves, ...and although the said slave may not be guilty in law yet under the circumstances of the case it is most repugnant to their feelings to have said slave upon the farm with them, and they are very desirous that said slave should be sold, and the proceeds invested in the purchase of another slave.

By now Sallie and Nicholas had another child, a nine month old son, Nicholas Rowan Marr. They certainly did not want Ann around this baby.

On March 22, 1851, the circuit court of Williamson County issued a decree allowing William O. N. Perkins, Constantine Perkins, P. G. S. Perkins, Peter A. Perkins, and Nicholas E. Perkins to sell the slave Ann and with the proceeds buy another for use by Sallie Marr. They sold Ann for \$600.00 to John W. Richardson. Interestingly enough, he was the husband of their niece. His wife, Mary Malvina, was about the same age as Sallie or older, being the child of their oldest and deceased brother Thomas Hardin Perkins II.

On May 31, 1851, Sallie's brothers, with the \$600.00 from the sale of Ann, bought for Sallie "a Negro girl slave named Vina, about 21 years old." Vina was bought from Charles and John Merrill. The bill of sale read, "We said Charles A. Merrill and John S. Merrill warrant said slave Vina to be sound and healthy in body and mind, and a slave for life." A month later Sallie and Nicholas Marr signed a statement for the court, which read, " We are perfectly satisfied with the selection of the above named Negro by the Executors of Nicholas Perkins dec., having had her in our possession ever since the purchase, this 27th June 1851."

In recent years it has been mistakenly thought that the Marr baby died in the house now owned by Claude Callicott. The Callicott land was indeed part of the plantation which was set aside for Sallie's use, but the present house was not there. According to Nicholas Marr there was "no comfortable dwelling house thereon." He wanted a better house but did not wish to build one on land which was not his. Therefore on September 17, 1852, he sued his wife and her brothers for the right to buy ten acres of her land, on which to build. At this time their son was two years old and Sallie was expecting another baby in December, all the more reason for a better house. According to the petition to the court:

The said Agatha Sallie and your Orator [Nicholas] and their said

child [Nicholas Rowan Marr] reside upon said tract of land. The erection of a commodious and comfortable dwelling house upon said tract of land is, as your Orator verily believes and charges, necessary to the comfort and enjoyment in a proper manner of the said tract of land... by the said Agatha Sallie. And your Orator is willing and desirous to erect such a dwelling house thereon and to pay for its erection out of his own means. But as your Honor will percieve upon an inspection of the state of title thereto, if your Orator should do so he would in certain contingencies which may occur, be in danger of losing the money he might expend upon the erection of such house. He is desirous to become the purchaser of ten acres of said tract of land as a site for a dwelling house and is ready and willing to pay for the same.

The legal process was slow. The setbacks included, among other things, the appointing of a guardian to represent the interests of the Marr child. A year and three months later, on December 8, 1853, Nicholas Marr submitted a revised petition which now included the name of his daughter Sarah Perkins Marr, who would be a year old in two weeks. Sallie was again "in the family way" and they were expecting their next child in March. When Nicholas Marr died in April of 1854, it appears that he had never been granted permission to buy the ten acres of his wife's land on which to build his dream house. The antebellum house which stands on the property today was either built by Sallie, shortly after her husband's death, or by her second husband Radford Ellis, whom she married in 1856. In either case it was built with slave labor. The exact location of the house that Sallie and Nicholas Marr lived in is undetermined.



Reminiscence of Dr. George Hunter

from Miss Susie Gentry's Historical Papers

Reminiscence of Dr. George Hunter, formerly of Leiper's Fork, Franklin, now of Nashville.

At the age of 21 Dr. George Hunter decided he would attend medical lectures in Philadelphia, Pa. By invitation he joined a party at the head of which was General Winfield Scott, General Zollicoffer, Edwin Swanson of Williamson County and private secretary to General Scott, who were on their way to Washington City to be present at the inauguration of President-elect Franklin Pierce. They left Nashville on a steamboat going to Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dunkirk and other points. At each place the party was royally entertained. General Scott made addresses at all places where they stopped. They went from Philadelphia to Washington arriving there one day previous to the inauguration. Pierce stopped at the Merchant's Hotel arriving to it being a democratic rendezvous - in preference to the Gerard House, an up-to-date newly completed hotel. The inauguration took place in the rear portions of the White House. The crowd assembled was comparatively small to such as seen of later years on similar occasions. He described him (President Pierce) as wearing a cutaway coat, a black dress suit, lined with white satin and [he] wore a beaver hat. He was driven to the White House in a very fine carriage drawn by two fine bay horses, the outfit having been presented to him by citizens of New Hampshire. Two bands of music led the procession, one of the bands being from New York City.

While in Washington City, Dr. Hunter called on Thomas Hart Benton at the Senate, of which Benton was a member from Missouri at that time. Benton met him in the lobby and gave him a most cordial greeting as he did everyone from his former home. His brother, Samuel Benton, married an aunt of Dr. Hunter and Mr. Henry Hunter, father of Dr. George Hunter, who purchased a portion of the old Benton homestead. Benton inquired after many of the old citizens that he associated with in Tennessee. In alluding to Andrew Jackson, he spoke of delivering to him the first news of his first nomination to the Presidency of the United States. Benton was in Nashville at the time - some 12 miles distant from Jackson's home. On arriving there he found Jackson nursing a sick lamb. He spent several days with him arranging and planning the presidential campaign for him - during which Benton made quite a number of speeches. After the

election of Jackson, Benton spoke of writing his inaugural address for him. This was owing to the extreme nervous condition of Jackson at the time.



Letter to General Grainger

Dr. J. S. Park

Maj. Gen. G. Grainger, Commanding the forces of the U. S. at the post of Franklin, Tenn.

Sir,

On yesterday, sabbath evening, I learned a verbal order had been left at my residence by Lieut. T. G. Beaham of your staff, by your order, requiring that myself and family should in three days remove beyond the federal lines. The state of health of my wife who has been seriously sick for more than eight weeks, and now unable to sit up an hour at a time will not admit of compliance in so short a time.

I further represent that to do so without protest would give tacit assent to the truth of the presumed charge of disloyalty, which, I suppose in the absence of any specific one, is meant; and which I emphatically deny. I offer that at no time during the occupation of this place by the federal forces, have I performed any act inconsistent with the duty of the noncombatant; and had my native citizen rights of protection been forfeited by any act, or residence in what is considered a disloyal state. I consider that they were restored on the 20th of August 1862, when I was induced to take the oath of allegiance to the United States under the protection of its authorities, that I should thereby become entitled to and receive the full protection of an American citizen under the Constitution. I have ever kept it in as good faith as those who have ever styled themselves and been considered good Union men.

By the act of United States authorities in arresting me and requiring expurgation of presumed disloyalty by oath and penal bond with presumed security, they have not only acquitted but contracted to protect me in all the rights of loyal citizens.

Having never taken up arms, nor permitted any one over whom I have control to do so, I am and have been strictly a noncombatant. I do not regard myself as embraced in the class of persons contemplated in Maj. Gen. Rosecrans' order as liable to be exiled. Gen. Halleck says of noncombatants, "such persons so long as they commit no hostile act, and confine themselves to their private avocation are not to be molested by the military forces" and further, "noncombatant inhabitants of a country [undetermined word] and by one of the belligerents are entitled to the military protection of the occupying force." Not having broken that contract, I regard it equally binding on the United States as

myself. Although I have been deprived of the services of all my male (four) slaves, or persons of African descent, by the acts of the military, in taking them away and inducing them to go from me, and, have been and am now restricted and prevented, as is my constitutional and noncombatant right, from pursuing my peaceful and humane avocation of ministering to the sick, I have not heretofore complained.

Holding to the maxim that allegiance and protection are reciprocal obligations, if notwithstanding this protest I shall be driven into exile by the acts of the United States authorities, I shall hold the United States and its officers by whom I am exiled, responsible for any and all damages that may accrue by reason thereof, to person, profession, family and property.

Respectfully submitting these circumstances and facts to your attentive consideration, so soon as the health of my family permits, I hold myself ready to obey your orders.

Unwilling to be condemned unheard, I refer for my standing and character to the more respectable members of this community with whom I have associated for forty years.

Respectfully yours,
J. S. Park
Franklin, Tennessee
May 11, 1863



Garrison - An Historic Settlement in Williamson County, Tennessee

Miss Susie Gentry

In 1785, the United States made a treaty with the Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians, fixing the Indian Boundary at Duck River ridge, the watershed dividing the Duck area from the Big Harpeth area. Garrison Fork Creek rises right at this ridge. West Harpeth runs almost parallel with Big Harpeth, but unites with it a short distance from Franklin; both have tributaries, the largest and best known being Leiper's Creek, which enters West Harpeth not far from the little historic village of Hillsboro, or Leiper's Fork.

Garrison Creek is in the south western portion of Williamson County, and runs eastwardly towards Leiper's Fork, and under Cunningham's Bridge, at the end of the Hillsboro Pike.

The Natchez Trace enters the County near Harpeth Church, through districts Nos. 7, 6 and 3, by way of Hillsboro; this was the old Government Road.

In this bend of the waters and fertile valley, the United States, by the treaty of 1785, agreed that the white people should not settle on the Indian side of that line.

In Article 4 of the Act "the boundary allotted the Cherokees for their hunting grounds between the Indians and the citizens of the United States within the limits of the United States of America, is and shall be the following, viz: Beginning at the mouth of Duck river in Tennessee, thence to the Ridge, etc."

The Treaty provides: "That if any citizens of the United States should settle within the prescribed Indian domain, and not remove within six months after the conclusion of the Treaty, he should forfeit all rights from the government;" but many white settlers began afterwards going across the Line and building shacks. The United States ordered them to move off the Indian lands, some did not heed the order; so the Government sent soldiers to move them and all others who were found breaking the stipulation of the Treaty.

The Government built a few forts near the Line, and established small garrisons in them, and at other places, near the line; sometimes a mile or so from it, at places where water and other necessaries could be found.

One of the small garrisons was located on this fork or Garrison Creek, a short distance from Cunningham's Bridge. It was on the place now occupied by Mr. M. A. Meacham, Justice of the Peace. There are still two or three rough tombstones close to the Meacham's residence, but "the tooth of Time" has made illegible the inscriptions; they are the graves of soldiers who died there; now

unknown and unsung, yet men who served even unto death for their country. They probably date from 1785 to 1800. At different times other bodies were buried in this Garrison Settlement, by years and years ago.

The name Garrison Creek, Williamson County remains today, because the government wanted to do justice to the Indian, and preserve peace and order between them and the white man; and to see that the white man strictly complied with his promise to an ignorant people.

Don't you think there should be a marker at this historic, but unknown settlement? I do.



Central Grammar School

Mary Louise Osburn Stallings

Central Grammar School came into existence soon after George W. Sanford bought the old John Cowles Place in 1887 from W. M. Pollard and wife, Susy Cowles, and Sally Cowles Chapman which consisted of 280 acres. Then in November, 1890, Mr. Sanford also purchased 16 acres, formerly the Crawford Place, from Burrell Warren and wife. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Sanford gave to Mr. J. A. and R. B. Glenn and Mr. McIntosh, who were Directors for the Public Schools in the 27th School District, a one acre parcel of land. This tract was located on McCanless Road about one quarter mile from Nolensville Pike in the 18th District. The deed specified that the land was to be used for a school for white children only, which was customary in that time, and to be returned to the owner when it was no longer of use as a public school. These were the exact words Mr. and Mrs. Sanford placed in the deed: "for consideration of the love and interest we have for the children of the said 27th School District."

Central School was an excellent name choice not because of its geographic location, being only two miles from the Rutherford County line, but because it was truly central in the lives and affairs of the students and their families who surrounded it. The years that Central existed were mainly the Depression years when times were extremely hard. School functions were the only recreation and activity most of Central's families enjoyed. The Christmas program was the year's big event, but we enjoyed ice cream suppers, box suppers, cake walks, wiener roasts, womanless weddings, and school plays. The school plays were more of a community production with, at times, adult participation. These functions, with their interaction, seemed to bond our people into a closely knit group

The one-room building had a front door, three windows on each side (no screens), a pot belly stove, and a stage. Enrollment varied, especially during the Depression years when families moved frequently. Most of the time there were only about twenty students. When a large group of about forty students were attending the school, they draped a sheet over the stage portion of the room and made another classroom. On one end of the stage was a bookcase that was the library. It was a wonderful occasion when someone donated a new book to the library.

The community served by the school was known as Mint Springs. The spring itself was widely known by people who travelled Nolensville Pike; travellers would stop for a drink of cool, clear water. Trucks hauling produce

and animals would stop to throw a bucket of water on the hogs to cool them, and to sprinkle the produce so it would arrive at the stock yards and market in good shape. Central got its drinking water from Mr. Ike Thomas's well, but when it was very dry, the lucky boys, chosen to be water boys because of their deportment, got the water from Mint Springs. This generally entailed two boys and two gallon-sized pails, bringing back 4 to 5 gallons of water each trip.

Outdoor toilets were built by W. P. A. workers and located in extreme corners of the playground. The phrase "May I be excused?" preceded by an upheld hand was heard often and loudly. It was usually accompanied by a boy and girl who were sweet on each other asking to be excused at the same time so they could wave as they went to opposite corners of the lot. What a thrill!

The teacher rang the bell at 8 o'clock, after which she called chapel which consisted of a scripture, the Lord's prayer, and songs. Among the favorite songs were *America*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *My Darling Nellie Gray*, *Old Black Joe*, and *Dixie*. Of course all the early Grand Ole Opry songs that were sung by Uncle Dave Macon and Sam and Kirk McGee, who all came from our area, were greatly appreciated. Classes followed with the teacher calling out each subject and each grade. When she called fifth grade reader or sixth grade arithmetic the class would come up in front of the pot bellied stove to the recitation bench and remain there until completion. One benefit of the one room school was that the primary grades were exposed to the older children's lessons, and the upper grades got constant review of the previous lessons. While the teacher was hearing eighth grade geography, the fifth graders would be working problems on the board and the seventh graders would be working on some type of art project.

Physical education, art, and music classes were required. The teacher must have been nine-tenths magician because when the children came out of that school we knew the primary and complementary colors, how to do charcoal drawing, the difference between bass and treble clef, and found time besides, during the last month of the eighth grade, to preview algebra to get a good start on high school. Can you believe that some eighth graders had extracted the cube root of numbers with only a pencil and paper when they graduated? This proves that education is not bought with money. The salary of the teacher around the 1940's was about \$50 a month. When the school had two teachers the principal received an extra \$10 per month. The teachers would take money from their small earnings to buy the little extras like art paper, crayons, and the like. Teachers in that day as well as this have never received a salary commensurate with the task entrusted to them.

Recess was a great time, especially the noon one which lasted an hour. The lunches, brought from home, were mostly smokehouse ham or shoulder meat on homemade biscuits. Very few had "store-bought" light bread sandwiches. A lot of swapping went on as they sat in the shade of a tree or the school house

eating lunch. Everyone ate in a hurry to begin the games. Teams were very competitive and popularity depended on how good a player one was. There never seemed to be enough money for basketballs or footballs, and anyway there was not a very suitable area for those games. The school and playground were on a hillside. Baseball was played the year round with whittled bats and string balls. It was overheard at the recent reunion that the boys spent much of their time sailing rocks down on Mr. Ike Thomas's tin roof barn. They would get a good chewing out when he would catch them in the act. Another game enjoyed through the years was "Annie Over" which consisted of throwing the ball over the school and catching it on the other side and running for home. "Hide and Go Seek", "Fox in the Window", "Red Rover", and "Drop the Handkerchief" were also played a lot. The boys had an "acting pole" on which they did acrobatics. This was nothing more than a horizontal pole tied to two trees, but it afforded many hours of pleasure. One boy said that he, as a barefoot country boy, had "arrived" when he was able to hang upside down by his heels from this pole. The wonder is that no one ever fell and broke his neck. In fact, in my eight years there, I only remember one person getting seriously hurt. Granville Sanford, Jr., broke his arm, and Milton Puckett carried him home in his pony cart. Both boys and girls participated in most games including the ball games. This was necessary because twenty-five students was a large enrollment.

Often some of the eighth grade graduating classes only had two to four students in them. When there were only two in the graduating class there would be a valedictorian and a salutatorian, and they would prepare and deliver their addresses at graduation. Some years the teacher would invite the graduating students to spend the night at her home, and in later years when times were a bit better she would take the class to a movie in Nashville. At the reunion in 1988 several of the students said that was the first movie they had ever seen.

After graduation some students went to Triune Junior High, College Grove High, Central High in Nashville, Battle Ground Academy, or Franklin High School. Bill Johnson's father, Dallas Johnson, bought a Model T for kids to ride to Triune and on to College Grove High School. Later Audie Simmons built a school bus body on a 1933 one-and-one-half ton Ford truck. He placed benches inside for the passengers who paid a weekly subscription fare. Bill Johnson bought the truck and the route from him and continued to run it until he was inducted into the Army in 1942. It is rumored that the bus even took a graduation trip to Florida. The children who went further away to other schools had to find a ride with someone they knew who worked in Nashville or Franklin.

The size of Central was small but the education we received was of excellent quality. As we went on to enter other schools we found that we had a very

good background from that one-room school. It played a very important role in our lives.

Saturday, September 17, 1988, all students and all teachers who attended Central Grammar School were invited to a reunion. There were about 70 students attending, some coming from states as far away as Arizona and Florida. The teachers who attended were Mildred Arnold, Thelma Thomas Jones, Cecil Johnson Holtsford, Minnie Patton, and Lula Brittan Scales. We had a wonderful time seeing old friends, catching up on what has happened over these fifty odd years, and vowing to have another reunion before another fifty years pass.

Contributors to this article: James McCanless
John Morris Williams
George W. (Bill) Johnson
Louise Lynch



History of Genl. James Wellborn Starnes of Williamson County

by Tom Tulloss

Kinsman — Franklin, Tennessee

(from the historical papers of Miss Susie Gentry)

Genl/Col. J.W. Starnes parents moved from Augusta Ga Some time about 1817-1818. I dont remember whether he was born at Augusta Ga or at the family home near Harpeth river, in what is now known as the 23rd Civil Dist of Williamson Cty. Lucugus Mosely married one of the Starnes girls, and lived there a good many years before moving to Franklin Tenn. Mr Richard Beech bought the greater part of the place, and it is now owned by him and his children.

The Starnes family that moved to Tenn at that time consisted of Dr Saml S Starnes lovingly known as "uncle Dr," by every one, Jno Starnes Starnes who settled about one mile down the Harpeth river and was for that time a very wealthy man, owned Several farmes, built a grist mill and Saw mill on the river, and owned Slaves enough to run them all. They had a widowed Sister called Aunt Watson, who lived about 1/2 a mile from her brothers. Another sister Mary Starnes was married to Capt Rodham Tulloss and they moved to Tennessee at the same time and settled near where Arrington is now.

Col Starnes was a young and Successful Dr, and had a large practise and was very popular. A man named Hill lived at the old brick house known as the Crockett house at Arrington Tenn. In some way Dr Starnes and Mr Hill had a misunderstanding and became very hostile to each other. One day they met in a narrow lane near where Arrington is now and Mr Hill attacked the Dr with a heavy hickory stick. The Dr to protect his head, threw up his right arm which was broken and he was knocked from his horse. Hill jumped from his horse and was over the Dr before he could get up and struck him several times over the head. When the Dr got to his feet he had a large knife in his left hand, with which he attacked Hill, cutting him badly and made it so hot for him that he made for home which was near by. Dr Starnes followed as fast as his condition allowed. There was two rail fences to cross and his broken arm impeded him greatly. He finally got to Hills door, which was fastened. The neighbors gathered there and carried the Dr to his Aunts the widow of Capt Rodham Tulloss.

Fortunately they found there Dr Richardson an emenant Surgeon from Rutherford Cty who set his arm and dressed the wounds on his head. Dr Richardsons wife was a cousin of Dr Starnes and he was the father of James

Richardson afterwards Congressman for that Dist and Judge Jno Richardson who has been and is now Circuit Judge of that Dist.

Dr Starnes went home with his kinsman and staid a few days untill his arm was well enough to ride and then went to Memphis horse back on his way to Mexico. His cousin Jno E Tulloss went that far, to care for him and to bring back his saddle horse. From Memphis he went by boat to Mexico which was then at war with the U.S. It was said of him that while a Surgeon and not expected to fight he was often found in the midst of battle, and his right arm being useless, he used his left arm and became an expert shot with a pistol and in our war between the states, he always used both hands and could shoot as well with his left hand as his right. Mr Hill was badly hurt in this personal difficulty and was confined to his bed for months, but it was Said to his credit, that as soon as he was able to go to Franklin, he went before the Circuit Judge, and said it was all his fault, that if he had not made the attack, there would have been no....

[Four pages of text are missing from the original manuscript here.]

During the Spring of 1862 "in May I think" Col Starnes determined to attack a large force of the enemy who were quartered at Wartrace on the N&C RR. After an all night ride he came in Sight of their camp about sun up. It seems the plan was to dismount the segment and fight on foot, but as we were dismounting, Jno W Lee a private in Co F let his gun go off. This created Some confusion, and the whole segment except about 30 men of Company F commanded by Leut T.F.P. Allison charged the camp horse back. When Allison and his men reached the camp they attacked vigorously and drove the enemy back into the bed of the creek but having So few men he finally had to retreat up hill through a clover field, clover about two feet high. He lost several men badly wounded. Leut Buck Fleming died from wounds Soon after, Wallace Alexander had both legs broken, Champ Marable shot through the lungs, Tom Vaughn, W.R. Haynes and other badly wounded. Col Starnes was with us on his horse and how he escaped being killed I could not tell. The enemy suffered badly. We were right among them, and Shot guns at close quarters very deadly.

The first six months of 1862 was passed by Col Starnes in the retreat from Russelville Ky to Nashville, there bringing up the rear of General Floyds brigade and other Straglers that escaped from fort Donelson to Chatanooga, then returning north of the Cumberland mountains, in recruiting his segment to 10 full companies. Up to this time his segment had never been in a brigade.

About July 1, 1862 Col Starnes was ordered to report to Gen E Kirby Smith at Knoxville. Before reaching Knoxville he was ordered by Gen Smith to proceed

as quickly as he could to Big Creek Gap, to protect a segment of Sappers and miners who were then on the way to that place for the purpose of opening the road through that gap which had been thoroughly blockaded by the Federals. Starnes arrived about the same time as the Sappers and miners and guarded them from the enemy for some time.

The Federals had a large force of infantry cavalry and artillery at Cumberland Gap on the main road from Knoxville into Ky. This made it necessary for a segment of cavalry to protect them. Big Creek Gap was a narrow defile with the largest trees—poplar and oak all of which in reach of the road had been cut and the road thoroughly blockaded.

This segment of workmen knew their business and in a short time opened the road. Gen Smith was ready and commenced his march into Ky.

Col Starnes moved through the gap as soon as it was passable, and moved rapidly over the mountains. He was joined in a few days by Col Scott with his segment of cavalry. This was all the cavalry with Gen Smith's command, at least all we saw. Both of these segments were well armed with Shot guns, full quotas of men, and each segment had a battery. Col Scott had 4 brass guns pulled by two horses each also caissons with ammunition. Col Starnes had six guns. One mule pulled each of these and one mule carried the ammunition on his back. These guns could go where even a mule could walk, Scott's guns were all smooth bored four of Starnes were smooth bored and two rifles. Capt Huall commanded the 6 gun battery. These guns were called Mountain Howitzers and could go anywhere over a path 5 ft wide. It was a good long march over the mountains, but we met no regular Federal Soldiers until where we left the mountain. This was called Big Hill, and it had the right name. We camped at Big Hill, and sent out Scouting parties to the Valley in direction of Richmond Ky. These parties left early in the morning and sent back dispatches telling of their progress. About 10 am a dispatch came telling of a large cavalry force that was advancing from the direction of Richmond.

Scott and Starnes men were dismounted, horses sent back out of sight. Batteries put into position. The Soldiers were placed where they would do the most good. Then came a good long wait. Finally we could hear the guns as the Federals drove our men slowly back.

The plan was to get the enemy to attack Scott and Starnes on the hill. Orders had been given for the Scouting parties to give way, retreat up the hill as fast as they could. When they came in sight they were putting in their best legs running, never slowed down for the hill but came as fast as they could.

The Federals were allowed to get nearly to the top of the hill, before a gun was fired. Then from every direction, artillery and small arms opened on them. The slaughter of men and horses was terrible. A large detail was left to bury the

dead, and to burn the horses. Cols Starnes and Scott followed immediately to near Richmond where a large force of Federal infantry were encamped but returned to near Big Hill and camped for the night. The next morning Cols Scott and Starnes advanced on Richmond, drove in every thing, went into Richmond, but did not attack the infantry as they were in large force. Both Regts returned in direction of Big hill a few miles and left the pike, Col Scott turned to the left and Col Starnes to the right and camped for the night. Gen Kirby Smith came up in 4 or 5 miles of Richmond that night. Col Starnes went to Gen Smith quarters that night; we supposed to get orders about the battle that was fought the next morning. Col Starnes had a large bay mare that he never rode except when he expected a battle. That morning he was riding this mare. The Regt was at work early the next morning, Starnes was on the right of Smiths Army and placed his men well around to the left of Richmond and carried Hualls Battery close to the pike that ran from Richmond to Lexington and placed it in position to command the Lexington pike for about 1/2 a mile. In the mean while Gen Smith attacked with his whole force and was consuming every thing before him. Col Starnes Stationed his old Co F Capt W.S. McLemore commanding on I think the Salem pike. Capt McLemore had about 40 men that morning. He and his men were exceeding nervous. We knew nothing of what was going on except that a big battle was being fought about 3 miles in front of us. Before 12 m. Stragling parties of Federal soldiers began to come along. There was a lot enclosed by a high plank fence probably 2 acres. We opened the gate and said to these parties "throw your guns down there and go into that lot."

They were badly demoralized and made no attempt to escape.

Brig Gen Manson and 10 privates were captured by Joe Balanfent of Culeoka. He took the Gen before him on his horse and marched the 10 privates to the lot and made them go in.

Gen Manson was in command of this army, had lost his horse and was trying to get away on foot. When the wagons and artillery began to go towards Lexington, Huall by a few well directed Shots blockaded the road with "broken wagons dead horses" So that no more wagons and artillery passed that way, and all fell into the hands of Gen Kirby Smith.

Capt McLemore and his Co Stoped all the men and wagons on that pike. Stood guard all night. Capt McLemore Sent two men towards Richmond late that evening to find out about the battle, with orders to return as quickly as feasible. He had so many prisoners that it was imposible to guard them properly and not knowing how the battle had turned out, he was naturally restless. These men went into Richmond and forgot to return, with the report wanted.

Early next morning having heard that Kirby Smith had won a great victory the wagons were hitched up driven out on the pike headed for Richmond. Capt McLemore with Gen Manson by his side rode in front of the wagons with a few of his men, the prisoners all fell in behind the wagons. The rest of McLemores company brought up the rear. Col Starnes gave Co F the credit of capturing 1000 prisoners beside many wagons. Col Starnes followed closely after Gen Bull Nelson "who had brought reinforcements but to late to help Gen Manson" right through Ky.

About this time Col Starnes was sent towards Munfordsville to get in touch with Gen Bragg. He met Gen Bragg at Munfordsville.

Starnes parted his regiment just across the river from the fort on a high bluff from there we witnessed Gen Chalmers attack on the fort with a Small brigade of infantry. He attacked about 5000 federal Soldiers in a Strong fort, just before dark. It was fool thing to do but it looked for a while like they were going to take the fort, but failed with heavy loss. The next morning the fort surrendered to Gen Bucker with nearly 5000 men.

The day we got to Munfordsville a young man named Jno Cartright who lived nearby joined Co F. He was one of the men who witnessed Gen Chalmers charge. When Chalmers withdrew, the federals fired one shot at Starnes men on the high hill across the river and killed one man. Jno Cartright who had enlisted a few hours before. Jno Cartright was a kinsman of Judge Carright who held Court in Franklin Tenn some years back.

Col Starnes was sent to Frankfort Ky and was some where near there when the battle of Perryville was fought. Bragg commenced his retreat and a large force of cavalry was sent after Col Scott and Col Starnes who gotten together again. They retreated before there and about night they got to Frankfort and crossed the river on a heavy Stone bridge. The road went up a steep hill with a heavy Stone fence on the left, no fence on the right.

A Small force was left at the bridge, the rest dismounted, the horses sent on over the hill, and the men placed over the Stone fince to the top of the hill. The bridge was held as long as posible, then the men retreated at a rapid gait closely followed by the enemy. Not a gun was fired untill the defenders of the bridge reached the top of the hill and then the fire was awful. Shot guns loaded with buck shot was what our men had and at a short distance like this no men could stand them. What was left of them fell back across the river. When the dismounted men came up the hill they were asked did you hurt any body. They said yes we killed them all. They followed us no farther, we were on our way to Tennessee and were not molested.

We never knew what became of Col Scott, but he was as gallant a Soldier as ever rode a horse. Col Starnes brought his command to Nolensville Tenn 15

miles to Nashville. The enemy had a large force of infantry at Nashville.

About October 1863 the Forrest Brigade was organized. Col JW Starnes with the 4th Tenn Col Geo G Dibrell with the 8th Tenn Col J.B. Biffe with the 9th Tenn and the 4th Alabama Cav Col Russel, one battery of artillery Capt Sam Freman and Leut Jno W Morton Gen Forrest was made commanding officer. Forrest Brigade was ordered to Columbia Tenn about the Dec 1 1862. In a few days Col Starnes with the rest of the Forrest Brigade was ordered to Clifton Tenn. They arrived there about the 15th of Dec and immediately began to cross the Tenn River which was done in two days and nights Cox & Battalion Col Woodward & two Ky Companies, Capt Bill Forrest Scouts and Forrest Escort, had been added to the brigade making a force of about 2000 men. Col Starnes men were better armed than any Regiment, and they were armed with muzzle loading shot guns. Terrible guns at short range. At least one half of the other troops had flint lock muskets, Capt Fremans Battery of 6 Guns.

Col Starnes was sent towards Lexington Tenn but was stopped before reaching that place and moved rapidly toward Jackson Tenn where a large force of the enemy were quartered. Starnes & Biffle attacked these troops at day break on the 18 or 19 and drove all out lying parties into Jackson and held them there till the next morning, when Col Starnes was sent to capture Humbolt. Starnes on arriving near Humbolt charged the yankees who surrendered at once. He captured the stockade with over 200 yankees. Burnt the supplies at the RR station. Four caissons with their horses harness over 500 new Enfield rifles and large quantities of other supplies were brought off. The entire day and night was spent in destroying RR bridges trestles tearing up tracks etc. etc. Early next day Starnes moved his regiment over to near the Obion river and began to cut down—burn and destroy the large trestle work and bridge over the Obion river. He put in a day and night there. For the next few days Col Starnes put in all his time in scouting and destroying RR trestles bridges & incidentally having fighting to do every day. This brings us to the bloody battle of Parkers + roads. On the evening before this battle a detachment of Yankey Cavalry dashed right into our camp. The 4th Tenn was 9 miles from the main body of Gen Forrest troops.

They came in with the pickets and things looked bad for a few minutes. Col Starnes was with his old Co ordered them to mount and charge, and led the charge. They gave way at once, Col Starnes ordered us to crowd them till we came up their main force. Leut Jno Norris and myself happened to be some distance in front, and came right-up to the Yankey infantry, I would say 20 or 30 yards. They were lying down on the ground. An officer ordered us to surrender but we wheeled and ran. Leut Norris horse was killed my horse was shot through the lower part of her left ear. Leut Norris grabbed my left stirrup

and we moved away as best we could. In a short distance he got up behind me and we returned to our camp.

The next morning early we heard cannon firing. It was nine miles to Parkers + roads. We ran our horses every foot of the way Leut Norris still riding behind me. I don't think we were an hour on the way. We passed Cox's horse holders, then rode through his men who were in line of battle supporting Fremans battery. Gen Forrest met us at the battery and said Col move around behind them. I got them going and charge them at once. Col Starnes moved around them charged them and they surrendered but before we could disarm them another brigade came up got Cox's horse holders and then onto Cox they came. His men put up a good fight, but there was only 250 of them, the fight they made enabled Freeman to get his guns off the field. Cox and his whole battalion were prisoners. Col Starnes fell back a short distance and awaited orders, in a very short time Gen Forrest rode up and at once took the road to Clifton some 30 or 35 miles away. Co F was in front and Leut Norris was still riding behind me.

About a mile from Parkers + roads a body of cavalry was seen coming towards us. They were too far off to tell who they were. Col Starnes was certain they were Yankees and ordered Co F forward to meet them. I said to Leut Norris "No drop off here if they are Yanks I will sure get you a horse, in five minutes we were sure and our commanding officer Leut J.T. Pierce ordered a charge. They stood their ground until we were nearly on them and then broke in much confusion and we got them all about 50 men all splendidly mounted.

I was on the look out for a good horse for Norris and ran up on the Leut in command who was riding a splendid horse. Leut Norris rode this horse the balance of the war. Starnes rode on ahead to get things ready for crossing when the main force got there. The river was crossed as soon as it was possible. Two flat boats carried the battery and wagons and the horses were driven in and they swam across. The men crossed in skiffs mainly, some went over on the flat boats.

Thus ended the two weeks we were in West Tenn. Starnes men all had new guns, many had good pistols and to a man they had new army saddles and bridles and good woolen blankets, these we got at Humbolt. In a few days we were back at Columbia and Springhill.

For nearly one month Starnes did picket duty, had Scouts in the Yankee lines every night, this was the extreme left of Bragg's Army.

Then came orders for a raid on Cumberland river below Nashville to break up as far as possible the navigation of that stream.

Col Starnes was soon down below Nashville doing what he could to carry

out his orders. The weather was very bad first rain and then a real big Snow. Still he moved down the river until about Feb 1 we came to Fort Donelson.

Our line of battle was formed on a ridge just up the river from the Fort. In falling into line we soon came into full view from the fort and were under a heavy fire from the big guns in the fort. Leut Hughes and Orderly Brittain had their horses killed by the same shell. The regiment was dismounted and expected to assault the fort on foot, but we were ordered to mount our horses and charge. Col Starnes led the charge. They gave way and ran into the fort, and as we could not get at them we were forced to retreat. Col Starnes was wounded in the face. Leut Col Haynes was shot in the mouth a very severe wound. Two men, privates from Co F were instantly killed, Bro Hunter a Cumberland Preacher, a good man and a good soldier, and James Scruggs. The regiment was dismounted, at once, and commenced to approach the Fort on foot, taking every precaution to be under cover as much as possible. We had some protection in the little town and approached the fort from behind their barracks and got up right to the big ditch filled with water. We laid so close to the ground that some of us got away unhurt, but we were in a bad way. Col Starnes found out that Co H stopped in the town and went himself and led them to the attack. They were in plain view of the rest of us and when they got in about 100 yards of the fort it worked like every gun and the small arms were fired at once.

We thought that our Col and all of Co H were killed. We were ordered back and took all the cover we could and went back to our horses. We left two more dead men right at the fort. William Pillow Rucker one of the best men and as fine a soldier as ever shouldered a gun, was instantly killed. We brought out his army letters and every thing that was in his pockets. The other man I don't recollect his name.

Starnes' regiment was badly hurt that day. Every field officer wounded and nearly all the Co officers killed or wounded. Col Starnes was greatly grieved at our losses and said this is a gun wheelers fight.

We camped a few miles back in the deep snow and spent a miserable night. The next morning we found that our supply of ammunition was very low and we had to go 50 miles out of our way on account of it. Starnes finally got his regiment back to Columbia in low spirits thinking of the brave men our friends we left lying on the hills around that fort. In a few days we were moved to Springhill to a fine new camping place East of Thompson Station, near where a man named Banks lived. Plenty of good water Col Starnes staid there about two weeks. Scouting and picketing in the direction of College Grove and Triune and doing all he could to make his regiment as good or better than it ever had been.

One morning about March 1st he moved over towards Thompson Station on the road that runs towards Bethesda. The command was dismounted, the horses sent back, ammunition given out 40 rounds to a man and every thing looked like fighting. Col Starnes rode down the line and marched nearly to the Columbia pike. All the troops except the Forrest brigade were west of the pike. Kings battery that belonged to Whitfields Texas brigade had been placed in a very commanding position just in front of Thos H Bonds house. Heavy fighting was going on about 400 yds north East of Thompson Station, and to our surprise our men were being forced back, and did fall back to the road that runs from the pike to the Station. We were placed behind a rock fence and held their position. Gen Forrest came along in a great hurry and gave his orders in loud tone. He said Col Starnes the Yankees are on that hill, move up at once and drive them off. This hill was just east of where Dr Law now lives. Forrest said their main force is on the hill across the pike. Col Starnes immediately advanced charged the hill drove off the Yankees who retreated by Dr. Laws house. Starnes was right after them round the pike onto the RR. The men were placed in the RR cut near the pike.

Capt Dysart was killed as he came around the Laws house. Private Will Allen was also killed here. Amunition wagons were placed in a low place on the Pike about 1/4 of mile south. One man from a Co was sent after amunition. The amunition was quickly brought. Col Starnes said boys the Yankees have got to be driven off that hill, will you do it. The old rebel yell was the answer. While the amunition was being distributed Kings battery of 6 guns came up the pike as fast as the horses could run, turned into Dr. Laws front lot and were firing over our heads at the Yankees on Coburns hill. At this time we were lying in line of battle ready to charge. The 4th Miss was in the RR cut, before we got there, Col Starnes invited their commanding officer to go in with us but they seemed to have enough and declined to help us. While this fighting was going on Gen Forrest had moved around towards Franklin placed Fremans battery in a good position near the Bufords brick house and drove off all the Yankees except the ones in front of us. This was Col Coburns brigade, and good fighters they were. Col Starnes notified Capt King that he was ready to charge the hill, and to please stop firing. The charge was made, the Yankees gave way, going up the hill West till they reached the top then turned north towards Franklin. They met Gen Forrest with the balance of the brigade and surrendered after a sharp fight. A bout 1500 prisoners were taken. After this for a week or two Col Starnes was kept busy in his old camp looking after the interest of his segment. He sent out scouting parties every day, picketing the roads and in addition he had 20 picked men to go into the Yankee lines every night, in search of any information that might be important. Had files of the Nashville papers every

morning.

About this time Col Starnes moved his camp to Maj W. F. Cheaires woodlot, but Still kept his pickets North of Thompson Station. The pickets on the Columbia and Lewisburg pikes were much much heavier at least a Company at a place. One day Co F Leut SS Hughes in command was Stationed at Bowdens toll gate Seven miles from Franklin on the Columbiaroad. This was the reserve picket post. A Sargent had charge of things in front of this and kept the Leut in command posted about the conditions of things in front.

Col Starnes came to the picket post that morning and was very insistant about being kept posted, and said boys dont go back on me I am looking for something to happen. The Sargent was on his horse all the time about the Jas P Johnson place. Some one was always where they could see the road where it went over the Winstead hill. About 3 pm a heavy rain fell, and during the rain the Sargent reported a large body of cavalry coming over the Winstead hill. This was reported to Co. Starnes. His reply was do your best help is coming. It must have 4 pm before the pickets were fired on. The pickets about 20 men made a pretty stiff fight, and it was sundown before they were forced back to the reserve picket post at the toll gate. Our men had good Enfield rifles and kept them back till nearly dark, there fell back just South of Ross Alexanders place. It was now dark and very dark, and still no help. In an hour Col Starnes rode up with the old 4th Tenn Cav. Co F was on the pike and the segment fell in line Some on the left about where Jno B. Ridleys house now Stands and others on the right of the pike. Co F. Skirmish line was posted north of Ross Alexanders place on both sides of the pike.

The Yankees had gone into camp at the old Bowdens place, had bigbright fires, we were keeping quiet. Col Starnes rode out to our skirmish line and sent T.M. Andrews and TR Tulloss to see if they could learn any thing. In 5 minutes Andrews was captured. Tulloss succeeded in Slipping through the pickets, after that all was easy. Tulloss staid long enough to find out from the Yankees talk that this was the advance of two brigades of Cavalry and an infantry column of 4 or 5000 men. Col Starnes was surprised when Tullos returned and said he heard them when they captured Andrews and thought they got both. Col Starnes Said from the reports of his recent Scouts he expected this and Said it was reported that Gen Phil Shereden would be in command. Col Starnes was on the Skirmish line nearly all night. There was only one alarm and that was a false alarm, on our left near the RR one gun was fired and we thought the Yankees had gone around our Skirmish line One of the boys heard something coming up in his front and ordered a halt, but no notice was taken so he fired and killed one Mr. Fitzgerald's fine jacks.

Starnes 4th Tenn was in line of battle all night. Before light the segment fell

back 1/2 mile their left on the RR and the line extended across the pike. The Skirmish line had been reinforced by the balance of Co F. The Yankees as Soon as it was light advanced on foot and soon drove Co F back. But they retreated in good order and repulled every attack made on them. Just North of Springhill Col Starnes posted Maj McLemore with orders to charge them as Soon as they came up Maj McLemores line was formed just north of Jno Wades house on the right of the pike facing the Yankees. Soon the Yankees came up riding in fours. McLemore charged with so much vim that they fell back in much confusion and were forced back north of Thos B. Bonds. This gave Col Starnes a little time to get through Springhill.

On the hill South of Springhill two pieces of Fremans batery was posted and here the 4th Tenn was placed in line of battle and repulsed the Yankees. This went on all day, Starnes resisting Stubornly, kept his men well in hand. Late that night he crossed Rutherfords Creek on an Old Wooden bridge which was burned at once. Here he found Gen Forrest with his Division ready to dispute the crossing of the creek which was very high. Early the next morning the Yankees commenced to move up the creek, and did go about 2 or 3 miles, and at one place succeeded in crossing a small force but they were quickly driven back. Late in the evening Col Starnes moved his brigade hurriedly towards Columbia, turning to the left on the Rally Hill road going about 25 miles to a bridge across Duck river and then to Columbia. Duck river was so high that the pontoon bridge broke loose. This was the cause of our long ride.

The bridge had been placed in position and Starnes was at once in pursuit of the Yankees who were in full retreat.

In a day or so Starnes was back in his old camp near Springhill.

About March 20 or 25 Gen Forrest hearing about the remnant of Col Coburns command being in a camp at Brentwood Midway between Franklin and Nashville determined to capture them and ordered Col Starnes to take part of the old Forrest brigade, cross Harpeth river 5 miles above Franklin and proceed by way of the Wilson pike to Brentwood sending part of his command over on the RR near Hollow tree gap cut the telegraph wire tear up the RR track and any other thing needed to be done. Gen Forrest was to meet Starnes at day break at Brentwood to help in the assault on the camp at Brentwood and at the RR bridge over little Harpeth river. There was a courier line from Franklin to Triune Post no 1 at Dr Dan Germans place No 2 Dr. Jno Crocket No 3 at G.W. Pollards place. This courier line was directly on Starnes line of march. There Squads of men were sent to capture the couriers and were told exactly where the couriers Slept, unfortunately an Officer from Franklin rode out that day to the posts an ordered the men to sleep near their horses, when these squads of men arrived at their posts they could not find the couriers. The couriers at post no

one got away on their horses with out being seen and alarmed Franklin, post no 2 the horses (4) were found in a barn saddled and bridled and the men in the loft over them. The horses were led out by Sagent Tulloss and as he cleared the barn the couriers fired on him and wounded him in the right leg. The other men who were with this Squad were in the barn and made it so hot for them that they ran off in direction of Nolensville. Post no 3 was in strong log barn securely fastened and the attack was abandon.

By Some means Gen Forrest was much delayd and did not arrive at Brentwood on time and Col Starnes withdrew his troop toward Nashville on the Hillsboro road. In a short time Starnes found out that Gen Forrest had gone on to Brentwood, and he at once hurried back to help him. Gen Forrest demanded the Surrender of these garrisons and they did so with out any fighting. They were hurriedly moved out towards what is known as the union Bridge. A detachment of Federal Cavlry rushed out from Franklin and came up with Gen Forrest rear guard captured a lot of the wagons that were being taken out, when Col Starnes fortunately came up and charged them and they rapidly retreated. There was no more trouble and the prisoners over 500 and all the captured property except a few wagons which were burned were safely brought to Columbia.

About April the 10 or 12 Gen Van Dorn moved towards Franklin to attack the Yankees there. Gen Forrest by this time was in command of a division, Gen Frank Armstrong, brigade and the old Forrest brigade commanded by Col Starnes and Capt Jno Fremans battery. Gen Forrest moved his division down the Lewisburg pike, Gen Armstrong at least one mile in front of Col Starnes command. This brings us to the battle of Douglass Church. I have a copy of Col Starnes report of that battle which will be filed with these papers.

Battle Of Douglass's Church

from the historical papers of
Miss Susie Gentry

Official Report of Col. James W. Starnes.
Brigade Headquarters, Camp near Spring Hill, Tenn.,
April 13, 1863.

Major Anderson:

In making a forced reconnaissance of Federal forces at Franklin by the 1st Cavalry Corps, my brigade moved down the Lewisburg Pike. General Armstrong's brigade was some half or three-quarters of an hour in advance of me. In conformity to General Forrest's orders, I ordered Captain Groves' company, with five or six guides, on the right side of the pike to scour the country for some distance, throwing videttes well out on either side. On reaching Douglass's Church six or eight of General Armstrong's command came back at the top of their horses' speed and in great alarm, hotly pursued, as they said, by cavalry. I immediately threw forward Company F of the 3d. Tennessee Cavalry, numbering thirty men, which I had ordered up to serve as guides should it be necessary, also Captain Gray's company of thirteen men, at the same time ordering Colonel Biffle's regiment to the left, across Reams's battery (Freeman's) to take position on Dr. Oden's hill, to be supported by Captain McLemore's regiment.

By the time Colonel Biffle's rear had reached the church I discovered a heavy force of the enemy in the wood, one hundred or one hundred and fifty yards to my right, advancing upon me. I sent back for the rear regiments to move up. Discovering that the enemy was on three sides, the battery captured, and all in rear cut off from me, I ordered a few of Colonel Biffle's men to post themselves behind a stone fence at the church, who held the enemy in check until Colonel Biffle could dismount his men, load his guns, and get ready for action.

At the moment that Colonel Biffle's regiment started forward, Captain Allison, my aide, came up to me with Company F and Captain Gray's company. I ordered Colonel Biffle to move on the enemy on the right. With his support I charged the enemy with the command that Captain Allison had brought up, sending him around the regiments in the rear which had been cut off from me. The enemy were then moving down from Dr. Oden's hill in heavy force and another force of cavalry, supposed to be a regiment, which I directed Colonel Biffle's men at the stone fence to hold in check at all hazards. The charge was made in the most gallant and determined style, driving the enemy back from my

right in confusion. I turned then on the force that was moving firmly and steadily forward with a mounted force on the pike, I ordered Colonel Biffle forward and to shelter himself behind trees as he went. I made a charge upon them with Company F, commanded by Lieutenant Pierce, and Captain Gray's company, which routed and drove them back. Being checked by a woods lot fence, some little delay was occasioned, at which time I ordered Colonel Biffle with part of his force to check the enemy, which had appeared in pretty strong force, moving up the pike. Another charge by gallant Gray and Pierce completed the victory, dispersing the enemy in confusion, retaking our battery and most of the artillerists. At that moment the 4th Mississippi Cavalry came across Dr. Oden's field from the northwest, and I ordered them up for a pursuit of the routed enemy, but they did not come.

In the meantime I sent couriers back to the front to learn what was going on there. All reports agreed that the enemy was moving upon me from Ream's plantation, when I moved up my artillery and opened fire on General Armstrong, being unable to distinguish him from Yankees on account of the duskiness of the evening and the amount of dust floating in the air. The enemy had made a simultaneous movement against the 3rd Tennessee Regiment, immediately in rear of the battery, and charged in on horseback. The horses of the rear caissons, taking fright, ran through one third of this column and threw it into confusion. Owing to the fact that their guns were not loaded, they fell back some distance to the right and rear, and other regiments partook more or less of the same confusion.

I ordered a squadron forward, and to the right under the command of Capt. William Forrest, son of General N. B. Forrest, to drive off the enemy who had appeared in that direction, which he did in handsome style. Colonel Biffle is entitled to great credit for his prompt and determined action during the whole of the fight. My thanks are also due to Captain Allison, for the valuable services he rendered; also to Tullos and Parke for coolness and promptness in carrying out my orders. Without distracting in the least from Colonel Biffle, whose action in the engagement was invaluable, I will say that my success was greatly due to the gallant charges and persevering movement of Lieutenant Pierce and Captain Gray, the latter having four men wounded out of thirteen and seven horses killed and wounded.

Among the many individual instances of gallantry and daring which deserve particular mention, as he does in every battle in which he participates, is that of Sergt. John Norris, of Company F, of the 3rd Tennessee; Lieutenant Lyle, of Captain Gray's company, who carries a crutch from a wound received in a previous engagement, distinguished himself in charging and shooting down the enemy and in recapturing our prisoners. Notwithstanding the precaution of putting out scouts on my right, and other precautionary measures, the enemy captured my videttes, and was upon me without notice. With all of these

advantages, the force which fought them did not exceed two hundred and twenty-five men, yet they whipped General Stanley's brigade and drove it from the field in most handsome style.

Most respectfully,
James W. Starnes,
Colonel Commanding Brigade.

P.S. My loss was six killed, seventeen wounded, and thirty-one captured. The enemy's was seventeen killed, fifteen taken prisoners, wounded unknown.

General Starnes was a physician. A short time after his return from the Mexican War, he was happily married to Miss Christena Rudder. The care of his farms became so great that he gave up the practice of medicine and devoted all his time to his farms. He had a large cotton plantation near Fryars Point, in the Mississippi bottom. He and his good wife were both members of Old Thomas Church, M. E. Church South.

In 1861, he raised a cavalry company, and in October he was in camp, at Camp Cheatham; (he) was there just long enough to form a regiment, as there were only nine companies, not a full regiment; no colonel was elected, but Starnes was elected Lieutenant Colonel, and at once went to the front which was a line of railroad from Bowling Green, Ky. to Clarksville, Tenn. He had his headquarters at Russellville, Ky. till after the fall of Fort Donelson, then fell back to Nashville. While camped at Russellville, Ky. scouts were out all the time and during Christmas week, 1861, Col. Starnes took a detail of forty or fifty men from Company F and went out scouting, having heard that a regiment of Federal cavalry was not far off.

A short time after the affair at Douglass's Church, Col. Starnes was taken seriously sick. He was sent to Mr. Parkes who lived on the Hampshire Pike, near Columbia. He was there for some weeks, and while there the Streight Raid came off. Col. Starnes rejoined his command the last of May or the first of June. This was just before the Yankee army, under Rosecrans, made their advance on Bragg's army. Starnes brigade saw service on pickett and scout duty on the left wing of Bragg's army, and you may be sure they were busy. About June 23 or 24, Starnes with his Brigade was at Triune; he camped at College Grove that night where all his scouts were ordered to report before midnight. At One A. M. Starnes moved in the direction of Shelbyville, and did not halt until near Shelbyville, where, finding that the Yankees were at Shelbyville, he turned about the way he had come, until he came to the road that led to a bridge on the Duck River. "Maj. T. F. P. Allison came to where I was, and said the Col. wanted

me at once and to bring my man Blunt, an old and faithful Negro man, who had been with me all the time. We went at once and found him at the junction of the roads. He said he had promised his wife that if it looked to him like the army was going out of Tennessee he would send for her and carry her with him. He said she had not been well for some time, and may not be well enough to make the trip. I said she might prefer some older man, I was just nineteen. He said we went all over this the last time I saw her and she suggested you, wanted you. He said, 'There are no horses at my house to work the barouche; can't Blunt hitch up your horses and drive her out?' This was the last time I ever saw him. We rode the best part of the night, stopped at a wheat field, fed our horses on wheat and slept in the corner of the fence. The next evening we rode up to his house and found Mrs. Starnes fast in bed. She wished to consult my father about her trying to go to the Colonel. I went on home and my father went to see her. They decided she was not able to make the trip, and Blunt and myself left at once for the front. I promised her I would come for her as soon as she was able to travel. On December 28 he came up with Col. Bedford Forrest who had a small force with him. Forrest also had heard of this regiment of cavalry and was looking for them.

A few hours later, scouts reported Federal cavalry estimated at five hundred men going in the direction of Sacramento, Ky. A rapid pursuit was at once commenced and about one mile from Sacramento they came up with the rear guard and at once attacked. Some of Forrest's men were dismounted and advanced on foot to attack the enemy. Col. Starnes, with his small force, was sent to the left of the enemy, Maj. D. C. Kelly to the right, and when the fighting in front showed that our men were advancing, Starnes and Kelly charged from their respective sides, and Forrest charged in front. The Federals could not stand this and gave way in great confusion. In this, the first cavalry engagement in the Western army, it was said that Col. Starnes killed two men. He had a sabre cut on his head, and one on each shoulder. William Terry, a close neighbor of Col. Starnes, was killed by his side, by a sabre thrust. This is one of the things that Company F is proud of; that gallant charge led by Col. Starnes and Capt. Wm. S. McLemore, which helped to rout the enemy, and all through the streets of Sacramento they were the front troops. Starnes old Company F was composed mostly of Williamson County men.

We were two days on the road from Russellville to Nashville. General Floyd, who had made his escape from Fort Donelson with his brigade of infantry, was in Nashville when we arrived. Starnes spent one day in Nashville, then moved out on the Nolensville Pike just south of Nolensville. I think he spent one day there then joined Genl. Floyd who was in full retreat from Chattanooga. Floyd's men were inclined to straggle and drop out anywhere. It was Starnes' business to keep them up and going, this he did until Chattanooga was reached. Col. Starnes at once brought his regiment back across the mountains and scouted the

country over from Sparta to Winchester. At this time another company, K., was formed by Capt. Rice from Franklin County. This made a full regiment and Starnes was made Colonel. At one time, we were camped at Bersheeba Springs for a day or so. Some of Company F got permission to go to McMinnville to get their saddles mended, while there the Federals dashed into town and got nearly all of them. It was fifteen miles to our camp and one of our boys carried the news. Col. Starnes determined at once to follow them. The mountain roads were very bad, but no time was lost, down they came, and when we got to McMinnville, the Federals had been gone for hours. The road was good now and we travelled rapidly, and in the early morning we came to their camp. Fires were burning and we thought we were close after them. A mile or so from Readyville, we captured their pickets, eating their breakfast at Mr. Jettons. Two of them were killed, the rest made prisoners. Company A was in front and all went to Jetton's house after the pickets; it was a large picket, at least ten men. Company F was now in front; we moved rapidly and came to a bridge across Stone's River; the road turned square to the left and there they were, feeding their horses.

The first files were rushed up the pike to cut them off from Murfreesboro. They surrendered at once; none escaped but the advance pickets. The prisoners were brought back to where we camped for that night. The officers were allowed to keep their horses and side arms. We had over two hundred fine horses taken from the citizens of Rutherford and adjoining counties. The captain in command had a strange name, Captain Unthank.

On the 30th of June Col. Starnes was mortally wounded near Tullahoma; as usual he was on the skirmish line. He was buried by members of his old company, J. E. Couch (still living at eighty-one years), Bud Westbrook, and two others, names not known. Esquire Jas. Patton, an old neighbor and friend, was present. He was buried at Winchester and (his) grave marked by Jas. Patton; after the war he was brought home, and now lies buried with his loved ones in the "Starnes Cemetery", near Franklin, Tenn.

The above information furnished by Genl. Starnes kinsman, Mr. Thos. Tullos of Williamson County, Tenn.

My father, Watson Meredith ("Dr. W. M.") Gentry, Surgeon and Physician, was with Genl. Starnes when he died, and notified his wife; and being an old friend, did all possible for her when she arrived at Camp, near Tullahoma.

Susie Gentry,
Honorary President, Tenn. Div., of U. D. C. (for life.) - 1932.

Sketches of Antebellum Churches of Williamson County

Lula Fain Major

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1989 and the spring of 1990 the Williamson County Historical Society presented a series of talks planned to acquaint newcomers to the county, teachers in the county school system, and any other interested persons with some of the county's history. I was assigned the subject "Churches and Schools" for March 27, 1990. This was an illustrated talk using colored slides. For this article, I have retaken them in black and white.

Resource materials used for the church sketches were: 1) original records of several of the churches, such as those of Leiper's Fork and Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Churches, Bethlehem United Methodist Church and Harpeth Presbyterian; 2) written histories of individual churches published in our annual publications, in our local newspapers through the years, and in individual booklets; 3) deed records of our county for land transfers and information pertaining to them; 4) early newsletters of the Williamson County Historical Society; 5) other sources which I identified as I talked.

The Churches I am going to talk about meet two criteria. First, they all are active churches now, and secondly, they all were established before the War Between the States. As I have worked on this, I have learned of others which had their beginnings between 1800 and 1861 but which disbanded for various reasons. The slides will show current buildings, but I have several old pictures on the table.

By 1807, three denominations of Christians had been established in Williamson County—the first being the Baptist followed closely by the Methodist and the Presbyterian.

BAPTIST

Garner McConnico, a Virginian and a Baptist, came to this county about 1797 and is said to have been responsible for the establishment of eight or nine Baptist churches in this county and surrounding areas. I have learned of only one in another county and that is Turnbull in Dickson County which church was organized May 20, 1806. Mitchell Beard told me his grandfather preached there.

In the beginning, each of these churches was simply a Baptist church. It was

not until the early to mid-1830's that there was a split over the issues of Sunday School and missionaries. Those who believed in these were called Missionary Baptist while those who adhered to the original teachings came to be called Primitive Baptist.

Lanieve Eudailey in her history of Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church, published in 1986, states that the Missionary Baptist split from the Baptist church in 1836. She explained it this way: "The Missionary Baptist, who are now First Baptist, left our church because they wished to send out missionaries and to have Sunday School. Our people believe that if God sends a minister, he is to go, but not to the ends of the earth at the decision of a church board."

In the county today there are six Baptist churches that were established before the outbreak of the War Between the States. Four are Primitive Baptist, that is, Big Harpeth, Wilson Creek, Cool Spring, and Leiper's Fork; the two Missionary Baptists, or just Baptists, are Concord Baptist and First Baptist in Franklin.



Big Harpeth Primitive Baptist Church

On the Saturday before the 4th Sunday in May, 1800, the Big Harpeth Baptist Church, the second or third church of any kind organized south of Nashville, was constituted with twenty members, one of them being Garner McConnico who was their pastor for the first thirty-three years.

In August, 1813, Mr. McConnico deeded 4-1/2 acres from his farm east of Franklin to "John Parks and Abel Garret, Deacons of the Calvinistic Baptist

Church of Big Harpeth." This lot lay on the north side of Donelson's Creek opposite Mr. McConnico's house, and on this lot was an old dwelling house.

The deed further states that the public road from Franklin went by the lot and by the old dwelling house which this time was called the "said old meeting house." For this reason, it would seem that the church in 1813 was meeting in this former residence. This tract is on 96E joining Darrell Waltrip's Honda dealership on the East. The cemetery lies between the church site, now filled in, and this business.

At least three church houses stood here—a log, a brick, and a frame. Professor Clayton in his history of Davidson County wrote, after interviewing Jesse Cox in 1876, that the church's first building was shaken off its foundation by the earthquake of 1813— should be 1811-1812.

The one room brick was destroyed by a tornado April 29, 1909; the members rebuilt a frame structure. By this time, however, a large part of the congregation had bought land on Liberty Pike in the 9th District and built there.

The frame building on the old site was used as a residence after it was no longer used for worship, or after 1936.

I mentioned earlier that by the time the tornado blew down the brick building in 1909, a big part of the congregation had moved. In the early 1890s there was a split in the church, and on April 9, 1894, John H. and Mittie Truett sold to John W. Harvey and Thomas C. Harvey, deacons and trustees, about 2-1/4 acres on the Franklin and Nolensville Turnpike, now Liberty Pike. Here they were to build a church house for the primitive or old order of Baptist and known as the Big Harpeth Church. That building is the one they presently use.

Each May the Big Harpeth Primitive Baptist Church marks its anniversary of continual active service from 1800 with communion and foot washing.

Now hanging in this building is the oil painting of Garner McConnico; it was given by Mrs. K.T. McConnico to Milton Lillard, and after Mr. Lillard's death Mrs. Lillard presented it to the church.

A third congregation of Baptists which Garner McConnico helped establish, Concord being the second, was Wilson Creek Baptist, first known as Arrington Baptist Church. Mr. McConnico was their pastor for the first five years. It is now Primitive Baptist Church.

The picture shows a side view of the original section of their church building; and, as far as is known, it is the oldest church building in continual use. The building overlooks Nolensville Pike near the intersection of that pike and 96E in Triune. It was built in 1815 of handmade bricks; one hundred fourteen years later the brick was beginning to crumble and the twenty-two inch thick exterior walls were covered with stucco. To the original structure has been added a front entrance and a room at the back.



Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Wilson Creek Baptist was constituted on the second Saturday in October, 1804, with forty-six members from the Arrington Creek and Nelson Creek areas by Joshua White, Ebenezer Rice, and Garner McConnico. There were thirteen white male members, nineteen white females, and fourteen blacks. Most of these members had been attending Big Harpeth Baptist Church.

Before moving to the present location, the members met in a church building on what was then the Hartwell Hyde farm, now the Copeland Baker farm. The building sat to the left of Mr. Baker's house and about two miles east of the present church building. Mildred Arnold has shown Lanieve Eudailey the site since the latter wrote a history of the church.

The church records, which go back to their beginning, show that the church's name was changed to Wilson Creek November 16, 1816, because the new location lay above Wilson Creek. Although the members had moved into their new building, the land was not conveyed until February 1817. John D. Hill made a gift of 2 acres 15 poles to "Archer Jordan, Thos. Fowlkes, and Johnson Wood, Senior Commissioners for the Baptist Church, called Wilson Creek, for and in consideration of the Good Will and Affection which I bear unto the church of the following faith and order, viz: Election by Grace, Effectual calling, and Final perseverance of the Saints."

During the Civil War Union soldiers occupied the building and kept Confederate soldiers under the floor; there was a trap door, now sealed, through which the Confederate prisoners were pushed.

Lanieve Eudailey wrote that they still have foot washing twice a year, and, as do all Primitive Baptist preachers, their pastor holds a regular job in addition to serving as their minister.



Cool Spring Primitive Baptist Church

The church building of the Cool Spring Primitive Baptist Church started out in 1839 as a one-room frame structure and is located on Cool Spring Road in the Peytonsville community.

The church no longer has its early original records, but Milton Lillard thought it was constituted in 1818 and that originally their building was near a big spring, hence the name.

They have Communion Day in June and October and foot washing.

Cool Spring and Big Harpeth are both active members of the Cumberland Association of Primitive Baptists. Cool Spring hosted their 175th annual session in August 1977 when about two thousand attended. Milton Lillard remembered these meetings as a child when as many as eighty people would sleep at his grandmother's on straw pallets. One of his jobs was to haul the straw and make the pallets in the large farm house.



Leiper's Fork Primitive Baptist Church

The sign on the front of this building shows that Leiper's Fork Primitive Baptist Church had its beginning July 22, 1824. However, they did not have a church building of their own until 1916 when, through a swap, this building became their church home.

A church meeting house was already on this lot when Thomas F. Perkins deeded an acre here in 1848 to the denomination, called Disciples or Christians; and these Christians in 1916 deeded their interest in the building to the Primitive Baptists.

This brick building faces Carter's Creek Pike; Perkins Road is on its south side and Murfree's Fork of West Harpeth on the other. It is unusual that the two front doors are on a long side rather than at one end. The church's records of Saturday before the third Sunday in August 1916 state that this building was known as Pleasant Dale, or the Brick Church.

Dick Poyner, a black man and well-known chairmaker, and his wife were received into this church in April, 1865, and were members for some years.

The Concord Baptist Church building is on Concord Road almost to Nolensville Pike. The red brick building is on 4-3/4 acres of land conveyed January 1, 1845, by Dr. Lafayette Ezell. The building was unfinished when the deed was made and was near an old campground. The deed was good only as long as the land was occupied as a house of public worship by Missionary or United Baptists. By this time the Concord Baptist Church had split.



Concord Baptist

The original Concord Baptist was the second Baptist church established in the county. It was constituted August 11, 1804. Elders Garner McConnico and Joshua White formed the Presbytery. The first meeting house was on an acre of land given by John Buchanan in 1816 and had been erected prior to the deed.

Mrs. Wilson in the recently published book on Nolensville gives the beginning of the Concord Baptist Church as May, 1836. The Concord Primitive Baptist Church, according to George Watson's history of Concord Church, was still active in 1860, but not in 1896.

Members of First Baptist Church in Franklin worshiped in the pictured building until about two and one-half years ago when they moved out on 96E. It was built on halves of two lots, 108 and 118, which were bought in 1849 from John Marshall for \$1,200, and most of the church's history was here.

It would have been in the square brick building first erected here that Alexander Campbell preached in 1851 when he came to Franklin the second time. The Christian Church, or Church of Christ, did not have a building at that time. As a result of his preaching, all the members of the Baptist Church except four left their church and went to the Christian Church. Two of these four moved, leave John C. Wells and his seven-year-old daughter, Fannie, later Mrs. Begbie. From these two, the membership rebuilt.



Franklin First Baptist

It is interesting to note that a deed made in 1855 and registered in 1866 states that the house of worship for the Missionary Baptist Church of Franklin was completed, and that the church could now have complete control as long as it was used for the worship of Franklin Missionary Baptist.

This control did not apply to the basement of the church or to the blue house; they were leased to Robert Courtney to pay a debt due him from the church.

The first known Baptist church house in Franklin was on Third Avenue South on the town side of the present Pioneer's Corner. A replacement deed was made to the trustees of this lot in October, 1834, as the original deed had either been lost or misplaced. The 1834 deed does not give a date for the first deed—just says lot was deeded "some years ago." This deed calls the church "The United Church at Franklin."

This in all probability was the Baptist church house in Franklin where Alexander Campbell preached in December, 1830, and of which he later wrote. He spoke of how cold the weather was and that the building had a stove but no pipes and how smoke filled the building.

I cannot help but wonder if it were not to this first congregation of Franklin Baptists to whom Garner McConnico preached across the river. Wherever I have read a biography of Mr. McConnico, mention is made of his being a great orator and the story told of how one Sunday he had an appointment to preach under some shade trees but that when he got to Big Harpeth River he could not get across as the waters were so high. Raising his voice, he told the people

gather on the other side that if they would sit down and be quiet, they could hear him. He preached and they heard. Mr. McConnico died in 1833.



Liberty United Methodist Church

METHODIST

Of the active Methodist churches today that were established before the War Between the States, the first two seem to be Liberty and First Methodist here in Franklin.

Vance Little, in his history of Brentwood, wrote that Lorenzo Dow, an early itinerant Methodist preacher, visited Liberty Church in 1804 on his way from Ohio to Natchez, Mississippi. Mr. Dow wrote in his Journal, "Camp meeting commenced at Liberty; here I saw the jerks and some danced; a strange exercise indeed; etc."

This church house is on Liberty Church Pike off Concord Road. The sign in front says that it was established in 1807 and that the building was erected in 1834. We have seen that the church was established by 1804, and it is thought soon after Green Hill came to Williamson County.

Green Hill, who was born into the Church of England and who came to our county from North Carolina about 1799 with his family, started the church in his home. He was not an ordained minister but was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Asbury in 1792 and as an elder by Bishop McKendree in 1813. His tombstone reads:

Rev. Green Hill; Born in the old County of Bute, N.C., Nov. 3, 1741;

Died Sept. 11, 1826. He was a Rev. War Colonel, a generous philanthropist and a Methodist preacher for over 50 years. He was a Major in the Provincial army and a member of the first and each successive session of the Provincial Congress.

On October 1, 1808, the Western Conference of the Methodist Church met at Liberty Church. This not only was the first annual conference held west of the Alleghenies but was also the first conference William McKendree attended as bishop. He and Bishop Asbury stayed in Green Hill's home, while visiting preachers are said to have been housed in tents on his grounds.

The church house in which Liberty hosted this conference was about one to one and one-half miles from the present location on land deeded in August, 1806, by Nimrod Fielder to the trustees who were to erect a house of worship.

In August, 1837, land was given by John Hamer for the erection of the present building so the marker should say 1837, or later, instead of 1834 for its erection.

The Tennessee Conference Board of Archives and History met at Liberty Church on October 13, 1970, at which time the church members formally presented the church building for a historical shrine. Not only is the church under the supervision of this board of the United Methodist Church but also the Green Hill Cemetery.

The earliest record I have found on the Methodist Church in Franklin comes from Vol. II, *The Journal and Letters of Frances Asbury*. On Wednesday, November 4, 1812, he wrote, "We had an appointment in the neat little brick house, town of Franklin, upon Harpeth River. After meeting the society, we hastened away to escape the rain; the storm in the night was made awful by the thunder and lightning."

A second early item found on First Methodist was an article that appeared in the *Independent Gazette* on January 25 or February 1, 1823.

"The bad state of the Methodist meeting house, at which only we could hear preaching in the winter, requires some attention from the members of the church.

"The roof, from age begins to leak, the plastering begins to fall and unless something be done to amend the state shortly, it will not be fit for divine worship.

"The fire is also badly arranged. [Then the writer goes on to say the church had two fireplaces and a stove, but not enough wood and the fires were not started early enough.]

"Sometimes when fire is kindled in the stove, some large fat man will place himself right in front and a parcel of children who know no more of the use of



First United Methodist Church

preaching or what the preacher says than the man in the moon will get around the stove and the fire might as well not have been in the room for all the good it does the congregation.”

This writer suggested that small children be kept at home in winter and that a collection be taken up to buy enough wood for the fires and to employ some person to make fires early on worship days.

After Frances Gibbs, for our 1982 *Journal*, researched the buyers for all the lots Abram Maury sold after he laid out the town for Franklin, she wrote about the Methodist Meeting House lot which was outside of the original plan of the town. She wrote, “It is said that Abram Maury gave the lot for the “Methodist Meeting House” which was located on the East side of what is now First Avenue South. It was established in the early days of Franklin and the name is mentioned in many of the deeds. However, the transfer to or from Maury has not been located. In addition, when the inventory of the estate of Abram Maury was filed by his administrator after Maury’s death in 1825, the lot of the “Methodist Meeting House” was listed as belonging to the estate as well as Lots 134 and 144.”

So, we know the church was established early in 1800 even though we cannot pinpoint the exact date.

In September, 1827, James Russell sold Lot 46 to the church trustees upon which they were to erect a house of worship. Lot 46 in the Town of Franklin

was on the northeast corner of 2nd Avenue South and Church Street.

The present church lot was bought in the spring of 1869 from the heirs of the late Robert Courtney, and the original part of the building you see has been occupied by the Methodist congregation since 1871.



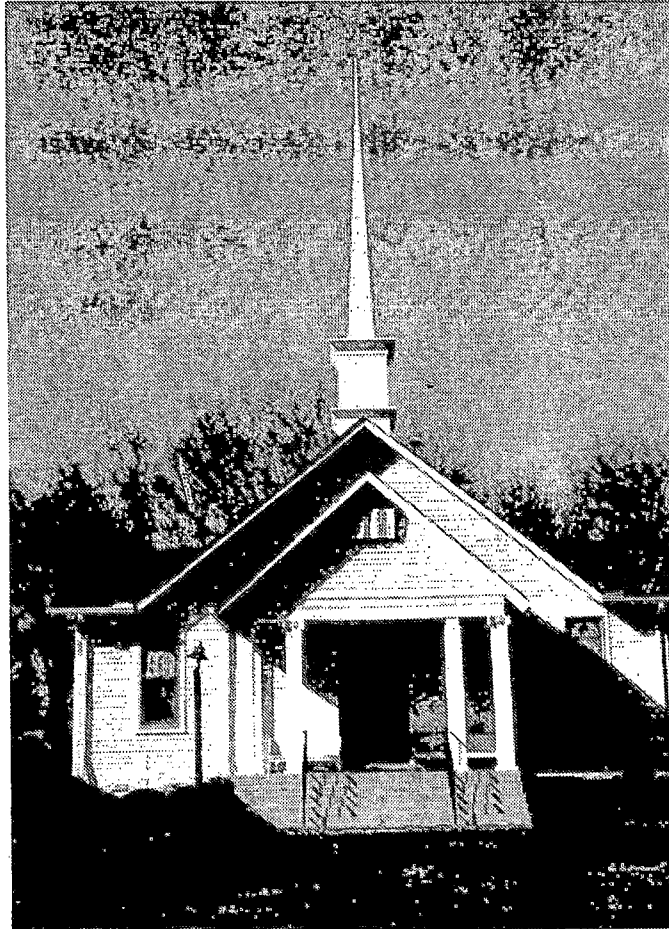
Burwood United Methodist Church

In the summer of 1818, John Pope gave one-half acre of land to Samuel Akin, John Moore, and James Patton “for the good cause and express purpose of encouraging and promoting useful knowledge and the Religion of Jesus Christ.” Trustees were to have a house built for worship of God “and School house when the same may be occupied in that way.” This acreage was on the headwaters of Murfree’s Fork near Anderson’s Big Spring.

Rev. Pope was a circuit rider minister of the Methodist faith, except he did not believe in missions and bishops, according to one descendant, Mrs. Robert Dedman.

It was on the acreage John Pope gave that the Methodists and other denominations worshiped. The church came to be called Pope’s Chapel as did the road.

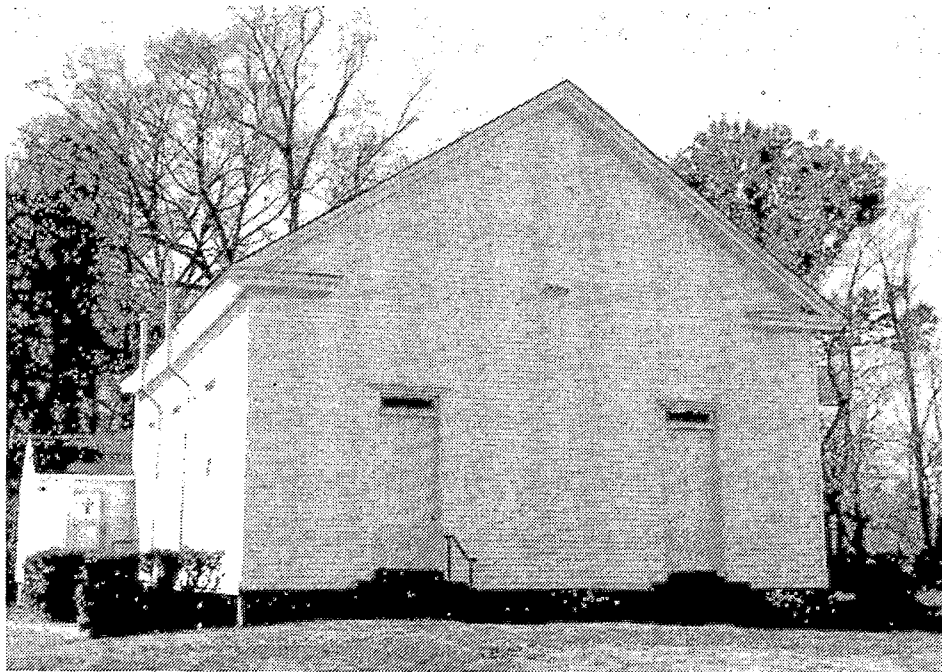
About 1910, a tornado damaged the building. The congregation then worshiped in a school house. In 1913, the present sanctuary was constructed on 1 acre 18 poles bought the year before for \$167.80 from Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Shaw. It, too, was on the headwaters of Murfree’s Fork. At this time it was renamed Burwood. It is within sight of Huff’s store.



Johnson's Chapel United Methodist Church

Johnson's Chapel was named for Matthew Johnston who in February 1831 sold the land, 18 poles by 10 poles, on which this building sits for \$20. Along the way the "T" in Mr. Johnston's name was dropped. This building was erected in 1925 to replace an earlier one. The 1831 deed reads like there was already a meeting house there. The Methodist trustees then were Daniel Hamor (Hamer), Turner Williams, and James Moore.

Elizabeth McClanahan Mayfield is working on an in-depth history of the church. From her grandmother she understood that there was a log church building back of where the old Johnson school house is, and that all denominations met there together. She has heard, and so have I, of the camp meetings held in early days on Little Harpeth River not far away. She believes the Methodist Church met here as early as 1803. To date, no records have been found back of the 1831 deed.



Cowles Chapel United Methodist Church

The Cowles Chapel church house is on Lewisburg Pike on land deeded by John Cowles in August, 1871, to the trustees of Cowles Chapel. The building had already been erected when this deed was made.

The members of this church had earlier worshiped in a building on a two-acre tract deeded them in 1848 by Oscar Reams. "The house thereon shall be for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South to worship in and also for the use of a Female School." The church was called Prospect; it is thought to have been established between 1825 and 1830.

Mr. Cowles bought the Reams farm, and in 1871, when he deeded the 1 acre 75 poles to Cowles Chapel trustees, he bought back two acres Mr. Reams had deeded for the first church building for \$261.20.

Members of Prospect cut the logs and sawed them for the new building and also for the pews. Since 1871, Sunday School rooms have been added, and the church grounds have been expanded.

Bethesda Methodist itself dates back to 1832, but the present building on Bethesda Road was constructed in 1960 and 1961 on one and one-half acres of land given by sisters, Cleo Grigsby and Vivienne Watson. This is Bethesda Methodist's fourth church house and third site.

The first was a crude log building on land deeded in 1839 by Henry C. Horton and Mark Andrews and was on Rutherford Creek which often overflowed; the second and third were on a new site and were brick and frame,

respectively. The third building had two stories and the upper floor was used by the Masonic Lodge, Harmony Lodge 201 Bethesda.

From this congregation have come several preachers and two missionaries.



Bethesda United Methodist Church

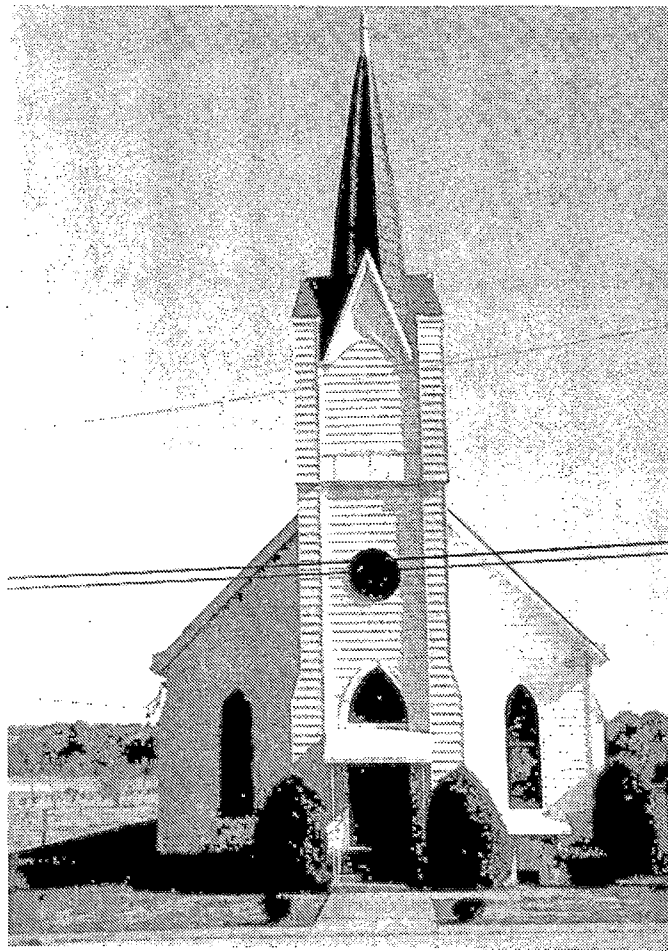


Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church

The first known Wesley Chapel Church building was on Owen Hill Road on an acre plot deeded February 21, 1835, by William Rucker. A house, said in one account to have been started as a barn, was partially finished when the deed was made. It was dedicated May 24, 1835, by Rev. Henry North, according to a church history. Trustees were William Rucker, William Burns, William Hatcher, and William Lanier. This building was of handmade brick and was located near a spring. The deed specified that at no time could the lot be used for the interment of the dead.

In 1907 the old building was dismantled, the brick was sold, and all suitable lumber was used in a new frame building dedicated in May 1908. In 1962 this present brick structure was erected modeled after the frame.

This church building is on Arno Road in the Arno community.



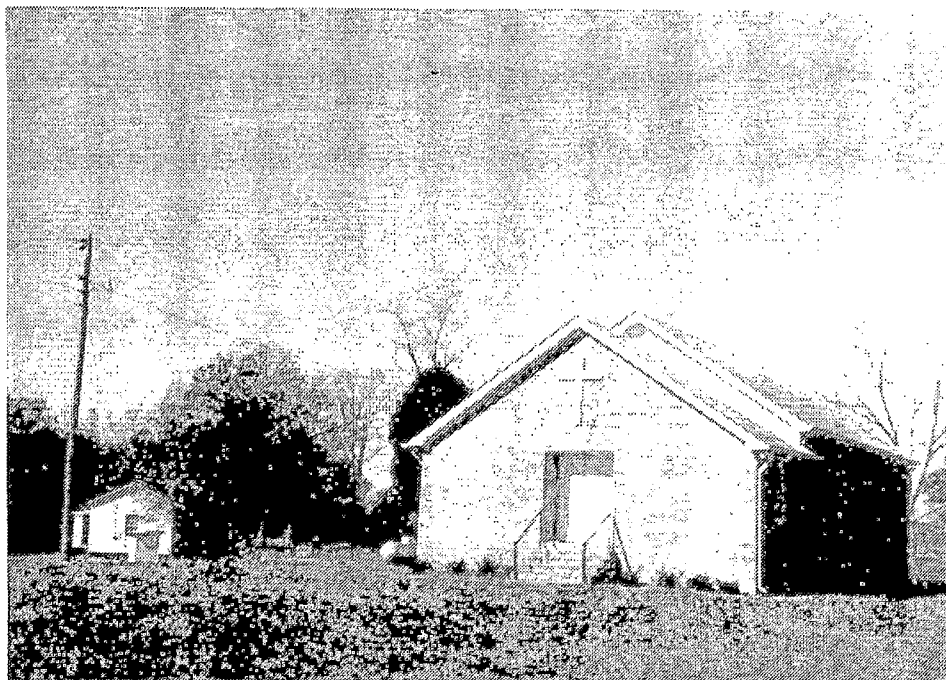
Nolensville United Methodist Church

This above church house is in Nolensville and was built in the 1890s—probably soon after September 9, 1893, as they had lumber on hand then for a building, on a lot bought from the J.A. Fitzhugh estate and a second small lot given by B.W. Bennett at a cost of \$2,850. After the congregation

moved to this present location, the name was changed.

When it was first organized, it wore the name Mt. Olivet. A church history says that Mt. Olivet started out with thirty-seven members in 1837 in a log building about one and one-half miles south of Nolensville.

An 1858 deed shows that William D. Bittick sold for \$125 three acres to the Mt. Olivet trustees, nine in all, on which they were going to erect a building. It, too, was on the Nolensville Turnpike Road.



Greenbrier United Methodist Church

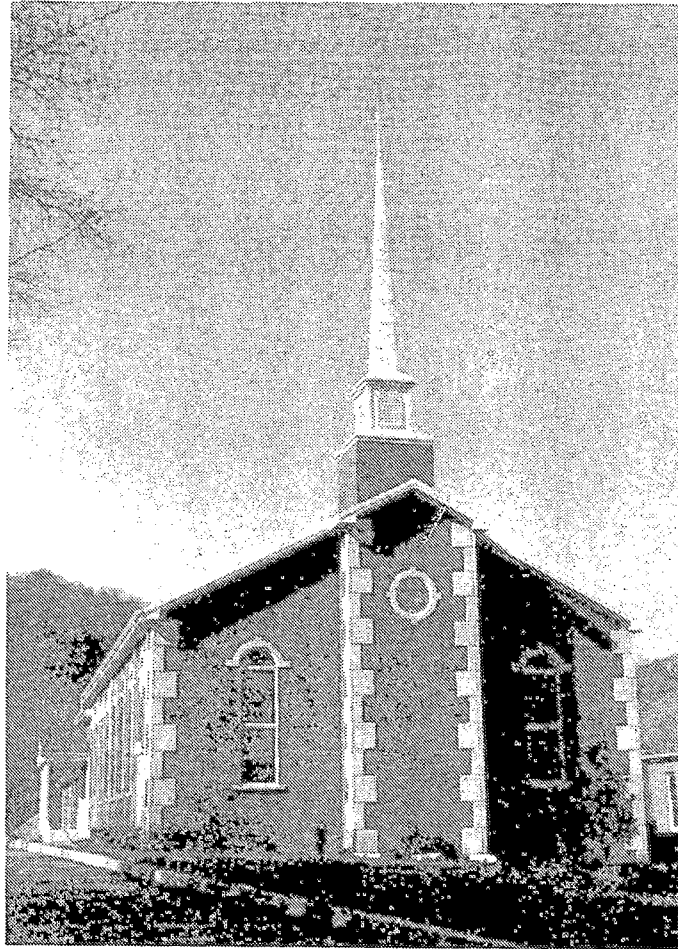
Greenbrier Methodist Church was organized in 1840, and the church met in a log building which sat about two hundred yards from the present one. It served for both the church and a school.

In 1881 Thomas W. Prowell gave five acres where this church building and the Greenbrier Cemetery are now located. The old portion of the cemetery was back of where I stood to take the picture while the newer section is back of the church building.

Mr. Prowell's deed was made to the trustees of the Green Brier Society—Hugh A., E.M., and Milas Fox, Andrew Prowell, and George W. Thompson.

Mrs. John H. Fox learned for me that a building was erected in 1894, that it was wrecked by a tornado in 1909 and was not rebuilt until 1924.

The present church building is in the 2nd District in the Greenbrier community not far from the Maury County line.



Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Bethlehem Methodist was established in 1848 through the merger of two other churches in the community—Union and Beech Grove. Land was given in 1819 for the Union Church which was north of Sneed Road and for Beech Grove in 1833; it lay east of Hillsboro Road.

Bethlehem's first building was dedicated in 1849 and served the congregation until 1962 when it was replaced by a brick structure about the same size. The church membership and building have grown as the community has grown, the latest addition to the building being the new sanctuary you see in this picture.

This church building is on Bethlehem Loop off Old Hillsboro Road and Hillsboro Road.

The Triune Methodist church building, surrounded on three sides by the cemetery, is on Nolensville Road north of Triune. It was erected in the late 1860s to replace the building burned in 1863 by the Federal soldiers under Gen. James Stedman who were camped there. It is said that they wanted the bricks

for floors for their tents.

Rev. Benjamin R. Gant is said to have organized the church in 1849 with members coming from King's Chapel, Wesley's Chapel, and possibly Mill Creek. King's Chapel, not far from Triune, was organized in 1804.



Triune United Methodist Church

Two acres eighty-nine poles were bought from Joseph E. Crichlow in the spring of 1849 for \$80. The deed was made to the church trustees who were to have exclusive use and control of the lower floor and to Lodge 135 and Williamson Division No. 7 Sons of Temperance who were to use and control the upper story. This was the building that burned. The church house built after the Civil War was damaged by a tornado in the 1920's which blew away the second story where the Triune Masonic Lodge met. It was never replaced.

Pictured below is the Fernvale Methodist Church building located on Old 96 in the Fernvale community; the road separates the church grounds from the South Harpeth River. The first Fernvale Church building was up South Harpeth River about a mile from the present location.

This congregation was organized October 10, 1849, with their first minister being C.C. Mayhew; charter members were from the Smith, Inman, Givens, Hughes, King, Allen and Fudge families. In 1933 M.A. Meacham, aged 80, in writing a history of Garrison Methodist Church spoke of C.C. Mayhew who preached in the Nashville Circuit 1847-1849. During that time, Mr. Meacham wrote, the Rev. Mr. Mayhew had a great and celebrated revival at Smith's Springs

schoolhouse, the springs afterward being known as Fernvale Springs and the religious organization as Fernvale Methodist Church.



Fernvale Southern Methodist Church

I was told by a member that the present building was constructed in 1885. It was built on land donated by Samuel and Eliza C. Smith to trustees—Thomas Stovall, William Anderson, and James H. Hughes. This deed called the church McEwen Chapel. John B. McEwen of Franklin bought Fernvale Springs from Mr. Smith.

The Garrison United Methodist church house is in the 3rd District on Garrison Road and opposite the entrance of Peach Hollow Road onto Garrison Road. The church was organized in 1851 by Carroll C. Mayhew who held a revival meeting in the Garrison community at Barr's schoolhouse. Two of these original thirteen members were black men who worshipped there as long as they lived.

Matthew Alexander Meacham, age 80, in 1933 wrote that the name of the church came from its closeness to an old fort or military garrison which was occupied from 1779-1802 by soldiers who were stationed there to keep the Indians west of the Natchez Trace Road. This road was the dividing line between the white American settlers and the Indians.

This church became a member of the Tennessee Conference in 1853. Two faithful members, S.B. Peach and T.W. Locke, held the church together during the War Between the States.



Garrison United Methodist Church

Below is the fourth church house for Brentwood Methodist Church and they moved into this building in 1972. Robert I. Moore sold the beautiful 11.2 acre site to the church in 1968; he had already conveyed to them three acres.

The church seems to have been organized about 1851. Six years later in October the trustees were deeded lots 42 and 43, according to the plan of Brentwood as printed by a Mr. Harris. They paid \$200 and the trustees were to erect a house of worship with a basement story for a school. The trustees were Robert Reams, Thomas H. Oden, Sterling Brown Frost, D.L. Drake, and Stephen Tucker.

This building was taken over by the Union army for a hospital during the Civil War and the army did considerable damage. However, it was a windstorm that destroyed it. Two writers have said in 1884, but it must have been earlier as Hugh C. Moore, Sr. and wife, Kate, gave land for the erection of a church building, a school, and a parsonage in 1879. The 3.82 acre lot began at the northwest corner of the mill lot; the school house was to be built at the eastern end, if at all. The deed stated that if the parsonage was not built in three years, then the land was to revert to the grantors. The school was never built; that church building burned in 1936 along with their relatively new education building—all just paid for. This was in the summer. Herbert Calloway cut locust posts from his farm; the men built an open shed, put down sawdust, and here they met until the weather became too cold. Then they met at Mooreland,

Robert Moore's home.

During this same storm, two large oak trees on the McGavock Hayes farm, where the Brentwood Country Club is, were blown down. Lumber from these was used for the hardwood floors in the new building.



Brentwood United Methodist Church

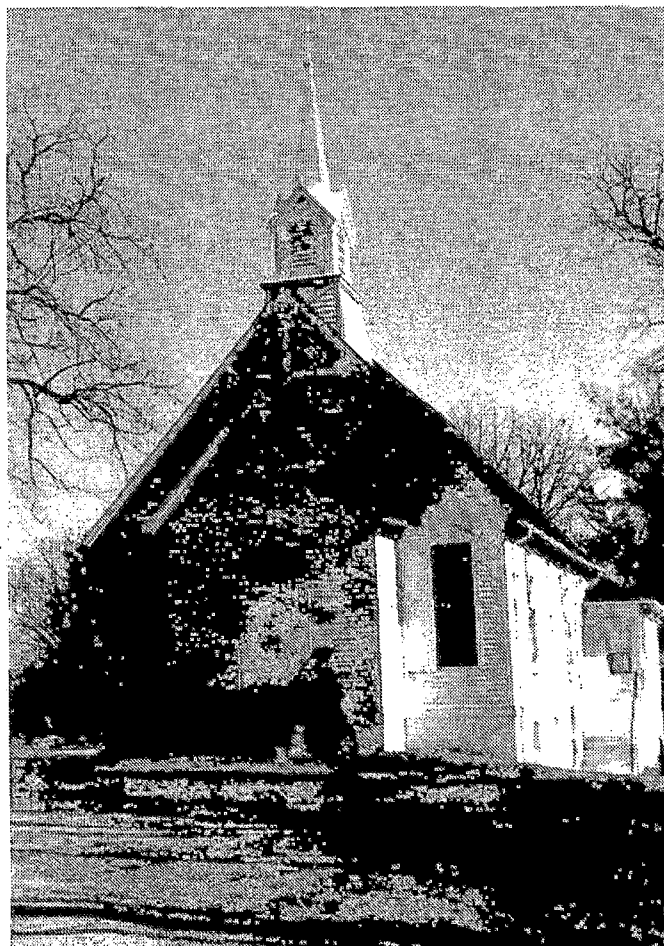
Rosalie Calloway Batson wrote, "A unique note in the history of this church is that, in 1859, it was the first group in the United States which, by vote of the congregation, permitted men and women to sit together for worship services."

The original members of Brentwood Church had come from Old Smyrna Methodist Church which disbanded in the 1920's and from Johnson Chapel Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church in College Grove is on Highway 31A. When Samuel Webb deeded 2 acres 64 poles for a Methodist Church and for College Grove Seminary for Young Ladies, this pike was called Farmington and Fayetteville Turnpike; this was in March 1860. There were separate sets of trustees for the

church and for the school

The present church building was erected in 1888 and dedicated the next year. The church's parsonage is on the grounds of the former girl's school.



College Grove United Methodist Church

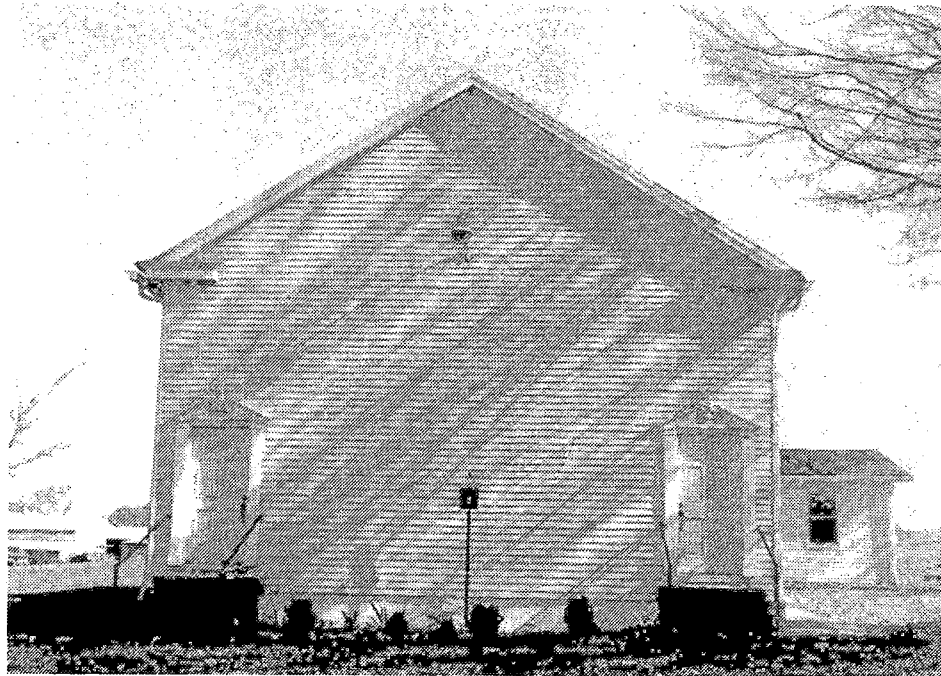
Marie Crunk, a member of this congregation, said that last year they rededicated the church building when they celebrated its 100th anniversary and also put up the plaque showing that it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The church has an average attendance of 100 to 125.

PRESBYTERIAN

The Presbyterian closely followed the Methodists in establishing a church in the county. Today there are three Presbyterian churches that were organized

before 1861— New Hope, First Presbyterian in Franklin, and Harpeth.



New Hope Presbyterian

The New Hope church building is on the east side of Lewisburg Pike. The marker there by the road gives a thumbnail history of the church. It reads:

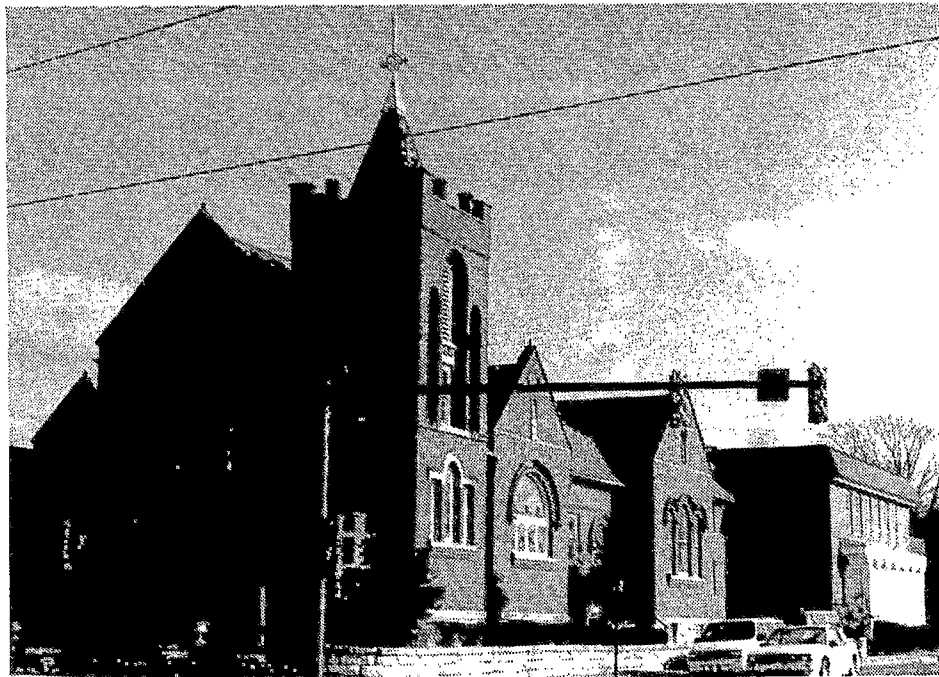
Rev. Duncan Brown organized the Presbyterians in the Duck River Ridge region in 1806. The first log church, called Ridge Meeting House, was erected 1 mile south of here 4 years later; this was the first church south of Franklin in Williamson County. The congregation moved into a new frame building in 1829 and possibly changed name to New Hope then. The third and present church was built in 1869.

Rev. Brown was from South Carolina, and I believe lived in Maury County. He preached at New Hope sixteen years. When the 1810 church house was erected, each family made its own bench and placed it in the building. Before 1810 the congregation worshipped on Duck River Ridge in a grove.

In 1879 Bethesda Presbyterian was organized with many of New Hope's people as charter members.

The First Presbyterian congregation was organized in June, 1811, by Gideon Blackburn, a Scotch- Irish Presbyterian, with forty-six members. Helen Potts, in writing of this church, said that by December, 1810, Rev. Blackburn was preaching in Franklin and five other places, including Nashville. He came to Franklin from Maryville, Tennessee; he had been a missionary to the Cherokees.

After coming to Franklin, he became Harpeth Academy's first headmaster.



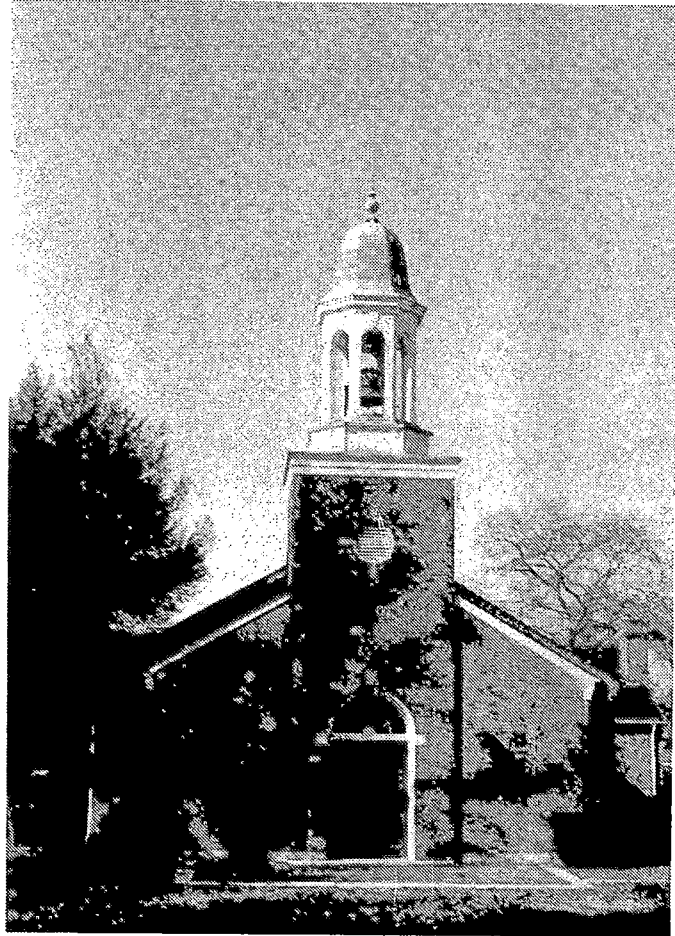
First Presbyterian Church in Franklin

The present church building was dedicated in 1908; it replaced an 1887 structure which had burned three years earlier. The first of three church houses on this site was built after the deed was made March 2, 1842. The three trustees, Christopher E. McEwen, George Gillespie, and Darice (?) Youngman purchased part of Lot 186 in the Town of Franklin for \$500 from Samuel F. Glass, John W. Allen, and Eli McGan. Mr. McGan, upon request, was to remove the house from the lot.

Union soldiers occupied and severely damaged this building, which, they used as a hospital. It was not until 1887 that the congregation was able to rebuild. At that time they sold the iron fence around the churchyard to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Before moving to this location, the congregation worshiped on 4th Avenue North.

In 1818 the church trustees, Elijah Hamilton and George Gillespie, bought a lot, 412-1/2 feet by 103-1/8 feet, next to the graveyard lot from Andrew Johnson. The trustees paid Mr. Johnson one dollar and the congregation paid him fifty dollars. From the deed one also learns that the Presbyterians already had a church house on the lot. From the calls in the deed the graveyard would be Old City Cemetery.



Harpeth Presbyterian Church

This church building stands on the north bank of Little Harpeth River on the Hillsboro Road just south of the Williamson-Davidson County line.

The church now believes that it was established in 1811 by Gideon Blackburn. Their session minutes only go back to 1837.

The first church building here was a log structure which was replaced about 1836 by a rectangular brick which you can identify in the picture. It had two front doors, three windows on the north side, two windows and a door on the south side. This side door was used by the black members. The bricks for the walls are said to have been molded by Robert McCutchen and his slaves. The outside appearance of the building saw no change until after 1948.

Until after Priestly Miller came October 1, 1948, as the church's first full-time preacher, the membership was never large and preaching was held only once or twice a month. As far back as I remember, this was on Sunday afternoon. When Mr. Miller came, there were nineteen members. Since then, the membership has grown along with the county population, and both the building and grounds have been enlarged.

Even when the congregation was small, the church had able and well-educated ministers. One of these was Oliver Bliss Hayes, Adelia Acklen's father.

A deed for the land on which the original part of the church building stands has never been located, but tradition has it as a part of the Samuel McCutchen tract.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

There are also three Cumberland Presbyterian Churches that were active before the War Between the States—Mt. Carmel, Harpeth Lick, and Belleview.

Goodspeed's *History of Tennessee* says that the first Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian church was formed on February 4, 1810, at the residence of Rev. Samuel McAdoo in Dickson County. This small log house is preserved in Montgomery Bell Park.

The division of the Presbyterian Church came about as a result of the great religious revival when there were not enough ministers with a classical education to fill all the pulpits. The Cumberland Presbyterian Churches grew rapidly.



Mt. Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church

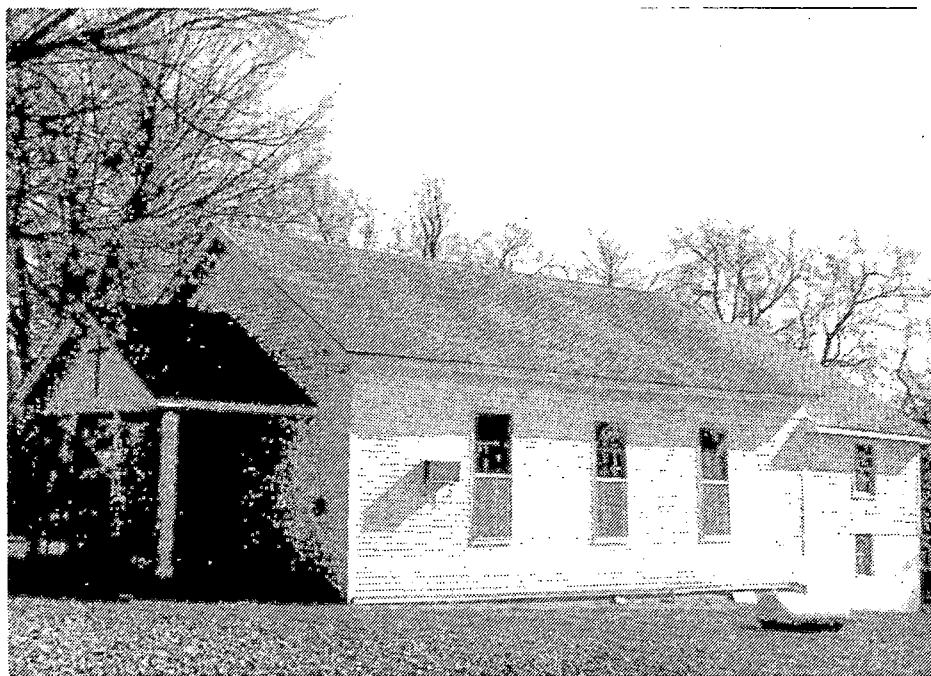
The Mt. Carmel building dates back to 1913, but the congregation itself is the oldest Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the county, having been established

between 1824 and 1827.

Mt. Carmel is located on the west side of the Lewisburg Pike in the Duplex community on the waters of Rutherford Creek. There is a cemetery at the church.

On October 16, 1827, Allen Bugg made a gift deed of 3-1/2 acres to trustees Thomas E. Kirkpatrick, Clement Wall, Newton Ball, and William W. Bond; a meeting house was already there. Members were to have free use of the spring. Before the first building, the grounds had been used as a campground.

This first building served as their meeting house until it was burned by Union soldiers. R.C. Thompson wrote that the second building stood until a storm in 1913 turned it around. It had to be completely rebuilt. Today, the main part of this building stands much as it did then.



Harpeth Lick Cumberland Presbyterian Church

The Harpeth Lick church house is on the Arno-Allisona Road about a mile from Highway 31A and near Giles Hill Road. It is on the eastern edge of what is called "the Cove."

The building is on an old campground called "the Harpeth Licks"; this was the location of a mineral spring or springs where wild animals came to "lick."

Mrs. Marvin Kinnard wrote of this church when the Columbia Presbytery met there April 8, 1971. She said the church was established in 1833 and that in September of that year the Elk Presbytery met on this historic spot while it was still a campground.

The first log church building was about a mile from the present location.

Fearful of an epidemic, the congregation burned the building. I have read two versions of why it was burned. One said an epidemic of smallpox broke out among the blacks in the community, and many of them were nursed in the old log church house. After the disease abated, they burned the contaminated building.

In the history of Flat Creek it is stated that after a service many members became ill with a fever and the church members burned their meeting place.

I was not able to learn when the present building was erected. It is said to be log covered with clapboard; square nails were used in its construction. It has its original pews with wooden partition.



Belleview Cumberland Presbyterian Church

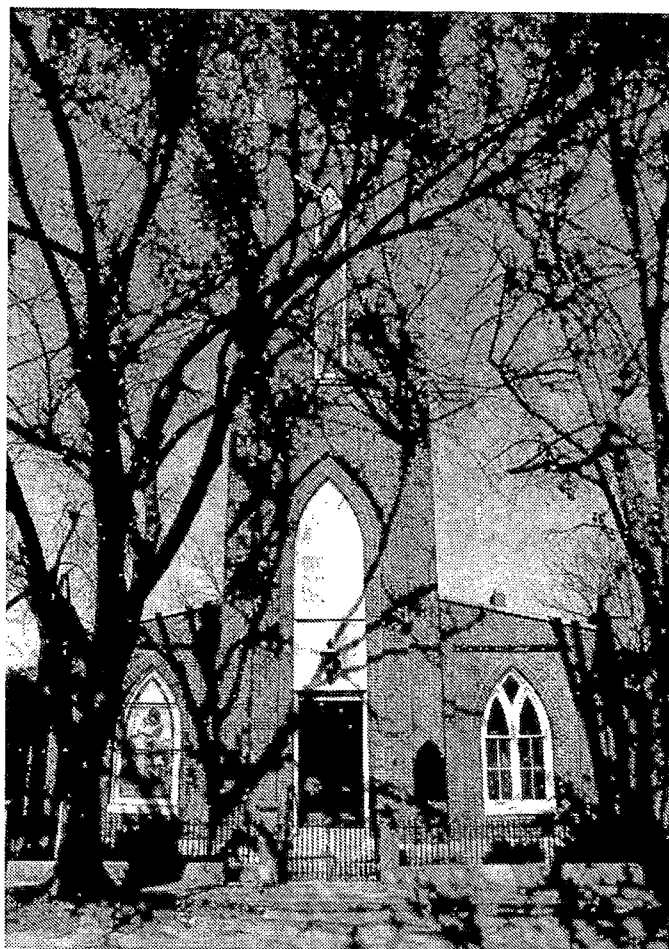
The Belleview Cumberland Presbyterian church building is on 96E in the Arrington Community. Both Eileen Plummer and Mattye Jackson have written a history of this church for the *Williamson County Historical Society's* annual publication.

The congregation of this church is still meeting in their original building. They were organized in 1852, and the first two years worshiped in a grove not too far from the present site. They only met the first Sunday of the month, but during those two years there were only three Sundays when they did not meet outdoors. Two Sundays they met in a cabin. The third Sunday there was a heavy snow, and they did not meet at all.

The white frame building was constructed for \$525 by J.H. Lampkin on land

given by L.L. Waters. (I was not able to find this deed in our county records.) Today, they use the same handmade pews. A cluster of four brass kerosene lamps still hang from the ceiling. To the original structure, a new entrance and Sunday School rooms have been added. In 1980 there were about 50 members.

EPISCOPAL



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

James Hervey Otey organized a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Masonic Hall on August 25, 1827. He himself was a Mason. He preached in the Masonic Hall until their church house was erected, and he also held services for six people in Nashville; this congregation became Christ Episcopal Church.

Mr. Otey, a Virginian, came to Middle Tennessee from North Carolina, and late in 1821 followed Gideon Blackburn as headmaster of Harpeth Academy. After a year or so, he returned to North Carolina where he taught in a boys' school. He was baptized into the Episcopal Church, was confirmed in 1824,

ordained in October 1825, and became a priest June 17, 1827. He and his family then returned to Franklin with the idea of establishing a mission church.

In January, 1831, the vestry appointed a building committee, stipulating that the site and the building were to cost no more than \$2,000. The building was completed in 1834, and in January of that same year Mr. Otey was consecrated as Bishop Otey; he resigned from St. Paul's in November, 1835, and moved to Columbia.

St. Paul's building suffered considerable damage during the Battle of Franklin period when it was used by Federal troops as barracks and as a hospital. The congregation was compensated for damages in 1907 in the amount of \$1,960.

In 1869 there were twenty-one communicants. About this time the building was reconstructed. Early in this century the Tiffany stained glass windows were added.

As late as 1950 there were only thirty members, but when they celebrated their 150th anniversary in 1977, it was written that they had five hundred members.

St. Paul's is the "Mother Church of the Diocese of Tennessee," and their church house is the oldest Episcopal church building west of the Appalachians.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

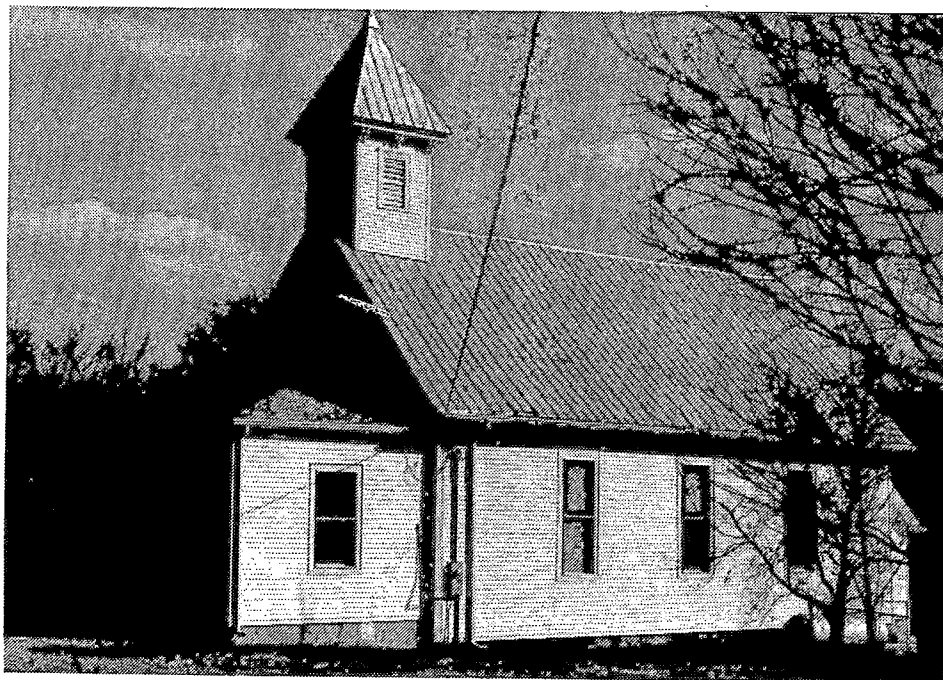
Shown below is the building of Leiper's Fork Church of Christ, earlier called the Union Church building. The first Union Church building was erected before 1821, and this second building before 1877.

Leiper's Fork Church of Christ was the first Church of Christ established in the county and the oldest south of Nashville. H. Lee Boles in 1930 wrote that in 1829, Andrew Craig and Joel Anderson, Baptist preachers, were withdrawn by neighboring congregations for preaching heresy or Campbellism. They had been preaching to the Baptists regularly at the Union Church building. As a result, they assisted in forming a church of disciples after the New Testament pattern from the excluded Baptists of the community and the neighboring vicinity. They started with five men and eight women.

From this church came the churches at Boston and Berea and probably Thompson Station and Burwood. Three men from each of these five churches signed the deed in November 1916 when these Churches of Christ conveyed to the Leiper's Fork Primitive Baptist Church this brick building.

The Christian Church of Leiper's Fork, as the Church of Christ was then called, met one Sunday morning a month in the Union building; as did the Methodists, the Primitive Baptists, and the Cumberland Presbyterians; on the other three Sundays they either met here in the afternoon or evenings or met in homes or school houses. In 1877, they bought the interests of the Methodists

and the Cumberland Presbyterians, but it was not until 1916 that they acquired the interest of the Primitive Baptists. For that interest the Christian Church conveyed their interest in what is now the brick Leiper's Fork Primitive Church building.



Leiper's Fork Church of Christ

In 1953, Herman Sweeney, a member of the church, wrote its history. He brought out a point that too often is forgotten. In 1899, the church had a protracted meeting with few responses. Of this meeting he wrote, "So far as eternity is concerned, it was one of the best meetings there for in this meeting Oscar Parham and his sister, Florence, were baptized." He went on to say that Mr. Parham became a preacher and taught many people the way to Christ. Florence married George Lewis. They had seven children; three of the sons became preachers and a daughter married a preacher.

The Fourth Avenue Church of Christ, first known as the Christian Church, had its formal beginning in 1833 when Absalom Adams and Tolbert Fanning held a meeting in Franklin. There were fifteen professions, and a church was organized with seventeen members. Until 1852 the members met in homes and in the Masonic Lodge.

The first service in their first building was conducted on September 5, 1852. Two people spoke—two hours each.

This first brick building sat where the parking lot to the left of the present

building is now. It was built on two lots bought in 1836 and 1851. The deeds were made to John Harding of Davidson County and Andrew Craig of Williamson; the first deed also included Thomas Hardeman, of Williamson County.



Fourth Avenue Church of Christ

A second building was erected on the same site, and the first sermon preached November 29, 1914. It was badly damaged by a storm in 1926, and a third house of worship was constructed. The building in the picture is the fourth and seats fifteen hundred. Two lots on the north side of the first two were added, and it was on these last lots that the present building was constructed. The church has occupied this building since March 19, 1978, with its dedication being on April 9.

The stained glass windows in the present auditorium were originally installed in the 1914 building and then in the 1928 church house.

I do not know whether you have ever noticed the small bell tower on the present building. You can only see it from the 5th Avenue side. It was first on the 1852 building and for years summoned worshippers to service. In the 1914 building the bell hung in the large bell tower, but when the third building was erected, the bell was sold.

Many members missed it; a drive was begun to find the bell and buy it back. A Mr. Fox had bought it and he gave it back to the church. It is rung every Sunday morning.



Thompson Station Church of Christ

The Church of Christ at Thompson Station is said to have been organized in 1845 with fifteen members, and to have first worshiped in a schoolhouse. This building in the picture sits next to the Methodist Church and was there before the Civil War.

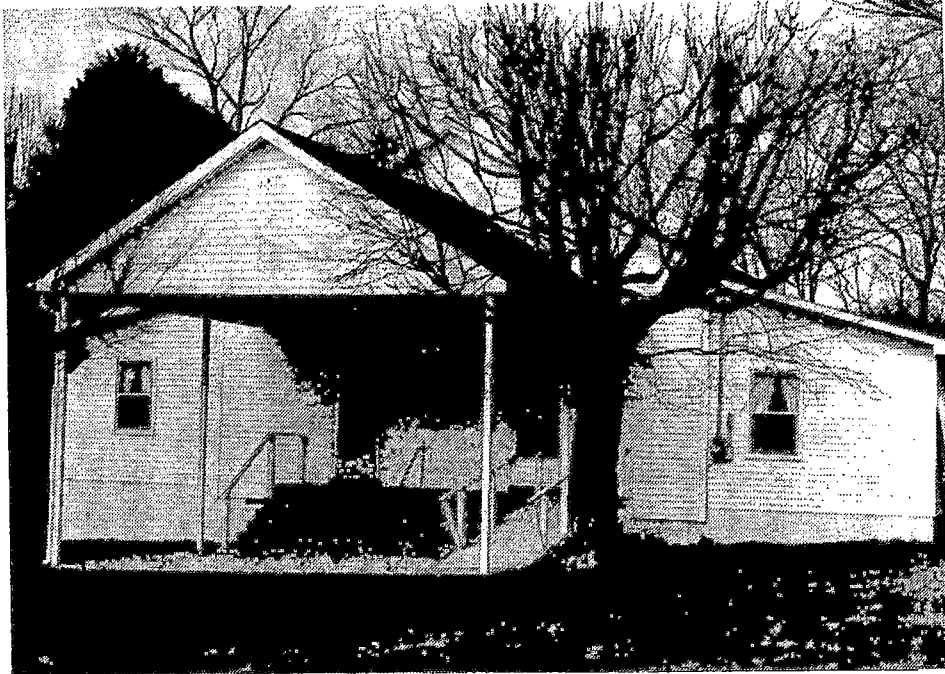
Following the Battle of Thompson Station the building was used as a hospital. A 1975 article written on this church said that A.B. Church reported removing bullets from the weather-boarding.

In the early 1900's Thompson Station schoolhouse burned, and the church opened its doors for the school until a new building could be erected. Mrs. Kennedy Gibbs said this was when her husband was a boy.

This church building shown below is on Bear Creek Road just east of Leiper's Creek Road and the store at Boston. Just south of the church house Robinson and Boston branches came together to form Leiper's Fork Creek. This is on the north side of Duck River Ridge.

Boston Church was an outgrowth of Leiper's Fork Church of Christ. Some of the members there wanted a meeting place nearer their homes.

In June, 1854, Seth Sparkman deeded 1-1/4 acres in the 2nd District to be occupied as a place of worship for the benefit of the Christian Church, and this house of worship was already being constructed when the deed was made. The trustees were Littleberry Beasley, Jesse J. Sparkman, Charles R. Sparkman, G.W. Cone (or Core), Williams Burnes, and Seth Sparkman.



Boston Church of Christ

Seth Sparkman and wife, Rebecca, are buried in the family cemetery of Leiper's Creek Road not far from the store. Their tombstone says they were "the first two persons immersed for the remission of sin south of Nashville." This was by Andrew Craig at Union Church in March, 1831.

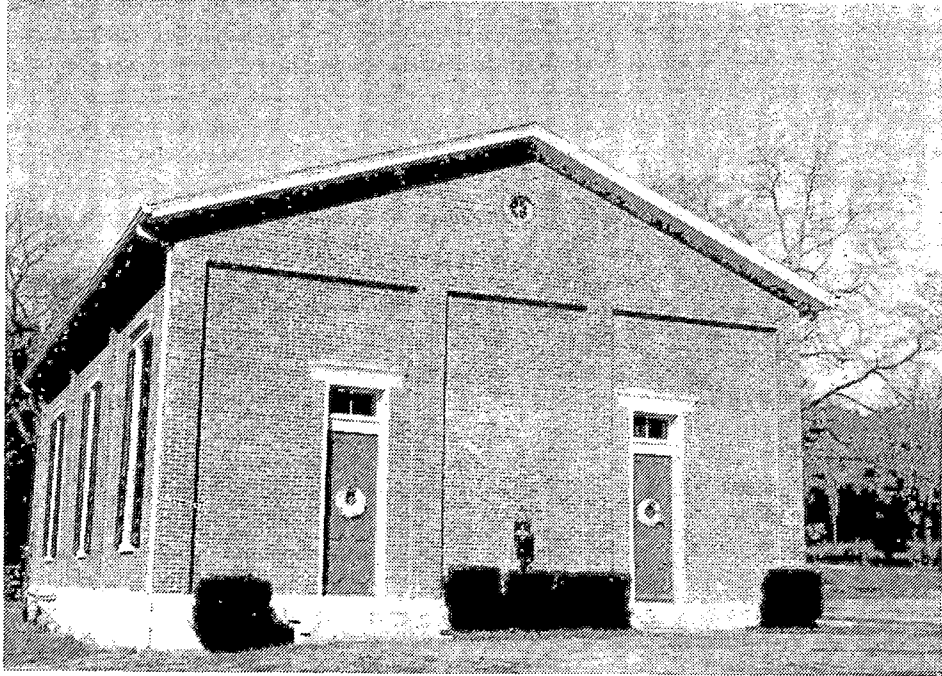
The Owens Chapel congregation began in July, 1859, when Tolbert Fanning preached to a group in the Euclid schoolhouse; the church was known as Euclid until the present church house was erected.

James C. Owen, on September 7, 1867, for "\$5 and love and affection for his brethren and especially his sacred regard for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ" deeded 2 acres 3 poles in the vicinity of Owen's Station for a church house. The toll gate lot lay on the south side. This is on the Franklin to Nashville Pike.

This building has seen little change. The bricks for the solid walls were made on the site; the original roof of tongue and groove tin was imported from England. The building still has its original two front doors, pulpit and pews. The pews are in three sections with a partition down the middle of the center row.

This has always been and still is a small but faithful congregation. Sam Richardson who lives close by and is a grandson of Lancelot Johnson, one of the original trustees, keeps the original records and looks after the building.

Some of the greatest preachers of the Church of Christ have preached here on a regular basis. In addition to Tolbert Fanning, a well-known educator, some



Owen Chapel Church of Christ

of these were David Lipscomb and E.G. Sewell, founders of the *Gospel Advocate*, and J.C. McQuiddy, founder of McQuiddy Printing Company.

Preaching was not every Sunday, but the church records show that the congregation only missed meeting three times and two of those were when the Yankees were foraging in the area.

