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# Rutherford County Historical Society

PUBLICATION NO.10



*Whitehall*  
1842



## Winter 1978

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE 37130





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Rutherford County Historical Society

Publication No. 10

THE COVER

Publication No. 10 has a drawing of Whitehall, home of F. E. Henderson in 1864 when she wrote her diary.

The sketch is by James C. Matheny, a member of the Rutherford County Historical Society. Whitehall was built about 1840 by Albert Gallatin Henderson. During the Civil War, Federal soldiers left the marks of their bayonets on one of the back doors of the old home. After the war the house passed into the hands of the George McDonald family, and they lived there until 1963.

In 1965 the old house was burned by vandals. All that remains is the maple trees to mark the site of this old house on U.S. 70S at the intersection with J. S. Young Road. "Wade," a small railroad substation, was on this farm.

The Rutherford County Historical Society publishes two publications each year in January and July. These publications are not copyrighted, because it is our belief that the history of Rutherford County belongs to everyone. The society would appreciate anyone using articles or material from our publications to give credit to the society and authors.

The Rutherford County Historical Society has tried to present articles on all parts of the county and its people. Anyone having

1. The first part of the document is a header section containing the title and author information. This section is located at the top of the page and is separated from the main body of text by a horizontal line.

an article for the publication is requested to contact Ernest Johns in Smyrna or during one of our meetings at the Police Building in Murfreesboro at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

Thanks to Rutherford County Judge Ben Hall McFarlin and Mrs. Donna Newlon for their assistance in publishing this book.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

1977



RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. 10

Published by the

RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Vice-President.....Mr. W. H. Westbrook  
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Publication No. 10 (Limited Edition-350 copies) is distributed to members of the Society. The annual membership dues is \$5.00 (Family-\$7.00) which includes the regular publications and the monthly NEWSLETTER to all members. Additional copies of Publication No. 10 may be obtained at \$3.50 per copy.

All correspondence concerning additional copies, contributions to future issues, and membership should be addressed to:

Rutherford County Historical Society  
Box 906  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130



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RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. 10

FOREWORD

The founding fathers and mothers of the Rutherford County Historical Society were motivated by one overriding desire: to create among Rutherford Countians an interest in the heritage of their community. Of course there were important subsidiary reasons, the social factor not being the least. Many people in the community have been brought together with historical common interest being the vehicle. It should be said that the profit motive has been one of the least of the motivators. However, the Society has experienced remarkable solvency during its existence. One of the most recent projects, the reprinting of Henderson's Story of Murfreesboro, is a case in point. Publication costs were \$4.25 per unit in addition to the inevitable exigencies of sales tax. The marketing price was and is \$5.00 per copy. Despite this, the magnanimity of Jesse C. Beasley, Jr., enabled the Society to distribute the rare volume with a minimal mark-up and, thus, to show a handsome profit. As a result, revenue has been generated from this and other ventures to finance additional projects and to improve the semi-annual publications.

The series of features that appear in this the tenth publication place historical subjects of community interest in a permanent binding for enjoyment now and in the future. Not enough can be said for the efforts of dedicated Ernie Johns in collecting and preparing for publication the materials that appear here and in those of the past. The Society owes him a deep debt of gratitude.





FOR SALE

THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS ARE FOR SALE BY THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Box 906, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 37130:

Publication # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8: Out of Print.

Publication # 6: Link Community; History of LaVergne; Fellowship Community; and the Sanders Family. \$3.00 + \$.50 postage

Publication # 7: Hopewell Church, 1816-1883; Stones River Presbyterian Church; Cripple Creek Presbyterian Church; Early Militia Order, Petition by Cornelius Sanders for Rev. War Pension. \$3.00 + \$.50 postage

Publication # 9: History of Dilton. \$3.50 + \$.50 postage

1840 Rutherford Census: With index. \$5.00 + \$.50 postage

Deed Abstracts of Rutherford County, 1803-1810. Names of land owners and other genealogical information from early deeds. \$10.00 + \$.50 postage

Griffith: A beautifully illustrated bi-centennial publication. \$2.00 + \$.50 postage

The Story of Murfreesboro. A reprint of C. C. Henderson. History of the town and county, hardbound with an index. \$5.00 + \$.50 postage

Rutherford County Medallion: Approximately the size of a silver dollar with Rutherford County courthouse pictured on one side and the center of Tennessee marker on the back. \$2.00 + \$.50 postage

Commemorative Plates:

Plate # 2: Pictures old Tennessee College in Murfreesboro \$5.00 + \$.100 postage

Plate # 3: Pictures the Rutherford County Courthouse about 1900, before it was remodeled. \$6.00 + \$1.00 postage

AVAILABLE FROM WILLIAM WALKUP, 202 RIDLEY ST., SMYRNA, TENNESSEE, 37167:

Map of Rutherford County showing roads, streams, and land owners, dated 1878. \$3.50 + \$.50 postage

Cemetery Records published jointly with the Sons of the American Revolution:

Vol. 1: Northwest portion of county including Percy Priest Lake area and parts of Wilson and Davidson Counties, 256 cemeteries with index and maps. \$10.00 + \$.50 postage

Vol. 2: Eastern portion of Rutherford Co. and the western part of Cannon Co., 241 cemeteries with index and maps. \$10.00 + \$.50 postage

Vol. 3: Southwestern portion of Rutherford County, 193 cemeteries, index and maps. \$10.00 + \$.50 postage



## Q U E R I E S

Prepared by Mrs. D. C. Daniel, Jr.

IMPORTANT: Publication of queries in this column is free to all members as space permits. Each query must appear on a full sheet of paper which must be dated and include member's name and address. Please type if possible. Queries should give as much pertinent data as possible, i.e. approximate/actual dates of birth, marriage, death, etc. Queries must refer to RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE FAMILIES and immediate connections. Address all correspondence relating to queries to the Society, P.O. Box 906, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

- No. 1 WILLIAMS: Trying to piece together the WILLIAMS families of Rutherford Co. Anyone having any WILLIAMS information please correspond. Particularly interested in descendants of David WILLIAMS, Revolutionary War Pension records states b. 27 May 1754 Orange Co., N.C. moved to Rutherford Co. CA 1799. Will: dated July 1833/proved 17 November 1834 lists children: Elener, Ann, Thomas, Mary, Cecily, John, Joseph, Ralf, William and Elizabeth; Executors: Sons, Thomas and John. Believe Joseph WILLIAMS mentioned by Goodspeed in Bedford Co., TN was David's son. Mrs. D. C. Daniel, Jr., 2103 Foxdale, Murfreesboro, TN 37130 or Mrs. Elvis Rushing, 604 N. Spring Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130
- No. 2 BOWEN: Need information concerning ancestors of Absalom BOWEN (possibly BOLE, BOWIN) in 1830 Rutherford Co. Census. Mrs. J.D. McClanahan, El Patio Motel, Spur Texas 79370.
- No. 3 RAMSEY: Would like to exchange information on RAMSEY of Rutherford Co and Wilson Co., TN William RAMSEY, Revolutionary from Mecklenburg Co., N.C. (Capt. Chas. Polk's Co. of Lighthouse) to TN CA 1800, in 1820 Rutherford Co. Census, d. CA 1824, buried where? m. Mariah Boyd, children: James, b. CA 1768 m. (1) Isabella Hall (2) Martha Hall, her sister (3) Jane Ray; William, Jr. b. CA 1780 m. Polly Overall, his descendants in Gibson Co., TN area; Robert b. CA 1788; John b. 1793, d. after 1855 Franklin Co., ALA m. Margaret Johnston in TN where: served in 1812 War from Wilson Co, TN (Mrs. Dillard is descended from John); David; Mariah; Ann; Polly are other children of William RAMSEY. James and John RAMSEY were in Alabama in 1830. Their descendants live in Franklin Co., ALA. Mrs. Hazel Ramsey Dillard, 1514 Ridge Drive, Sheffield, ALA 35660.



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THE

DIARY

OF

F. E. HENDERSON

1864





## INTRODUCTION

On January 1, 1864 a pocket diary was presented to F. E. Henderson by her father. Not much is known about F. E. Henderson. She was the daughter of Albert Gallatin Henderson, a cotton broker, and Elizabeth Love Henderson and was one of eight children. Most of the days were spent at her much loved home, "Whitehall", one of the stateliest and best furnished homes on the Nashville-Murfreesboro Turnpike. F. E. Henderson was the great aunt of Mrs. Virginia Woodfin, an active and loved member of the Rutherford County Historical Society. It is by her generosity that this diary is being published.

The pages of the diary are yellowed and show the one hundred plus years, but the reading divulges even more compassion and love by this young lady for her family and fellow man. The contents of the diary cover a scope from sewing, ironing, etc., to helping soldiers from both the South and the North. Realizing the fact that something will be lost for the reader by not having the opportunity to feel, hold, and decipher the actual daily entries, we are printing two samples. The first, August 9, 1864, was written in ink with great flair and the style indicative of the era. It suggests a quill or old type pen with split point. The second, December 31, 1864, was done in pencil and let the person use one single stroke and almost make the entries appear to be two different handwritings.

After spending many, many hours with this diary and a magnifying glass, F. E. Henderson became very much a part of our lives, as though we lived each day of 1864 with her. We feel that it will be as meaningful to all who read it.

Betty and Jim Matheny



1864 DIARY of F. E. HENDERSON  
Aunt of Mrs. Virginia Woodfin

Transcribed by Betty and Jim Matheny

Presented to: F. E. Henderson  
By: Her Father, Albert Gallatin Henderson

Friday, January 1, 1864 Very cold. I don't think I ever saw such cold weather.

Saturday, January 2nd One gown. Many men to see for cold yet. Many men to see for cold yet. One pair stockings, one apron.

Sunday, January 3rd Snowing today. I think it has turned warmer.

Monday, January 4th Raining. The rain is melting the snow. Esq. Johns came over and brought a note to me from Tommie. I sent her comb to her.

Tuesday, January 5th Snowing again. Grandma is sick. She was taken with a pain in her side-suffered much.

Wednesday, January 6th Still cold. Have not seen a lady until today. Aunt Nansie Smith came. Grandma has got better.

Thursday, January 7th Snowing again today. Buddy is setting his trap to see if he can't catch some little snow birds. Squire Wade was married.

Friday, January 8th Esq. Bridges came over to see Pa on business. First time I ever saw him.

Saturday, January 9th Pretty day. Snow on the ground. Mr. Jack Ward came over in the evening.



Sunday, January 10th Pa went to Mr. Tuck Davis, also Mr. Bryant. Uncle John went to Mr. Harlen Gilly. Harlen has the measles. Dick Wade came to see Pa.

Monday, January 11th Pa went to Nashville, also Uncle John. Did not go back to school. Commenced to make Ma a dress. Uncle John got us a guard, Mr. Haverfield. John Thomas came.

Tuesday, January 12th Mrs. Warford sent after her things that Pa got her in Nashville. Mr. Hagar got a load of cotton.

Wednesday, January 13th Mrs. Ward came over. Told us she heard Jimmie was a prisoner. Sister went home with her, came back in the evening, and I went home with the girls.

Thursday, January 14th Cloudy and cool. Stayed at Mrs. Wards until everybody came home. The girls came home with me but went back. Miss Addie Sikes and Aunt Nansie Smith to sew.

Friday, January 15th Cousin Frank Atkinson was here today. Buddy went home with him. Cousin John Thomas left today. Mr. Haverfield has left. Snow still on the ground.

Saturday, January 16th Went to Mr. J. J. Ward. Had quite a nice time with those girls playing Old Maid with cards. Commenced to crosia some for a skirt.

Sunday, January 17th Raining all day. Ma and Pa went to Mr. Walden. Heard Mr. Donagon was dead of Nashville.

Monday, January 18th Pa went to Mr. George House. Mr. Peoples, Mrs. Peoples, Miss Mattie People, Miss Kate McMurray came to go to Nashville with Pa.



Tuesday, January 19th Mrs. Peoples came over to see if the girls wanted to go to Nashville. They went down to the station and waited until after dark. Mrs. Wilson and Capt. W came.

Wednesday, January 20th Pa went to Nashville. Mrs. Peoples and the girls left. Isabelle Ward and Vie came. Mrs. Johns and Mr. Johns came. Fannie wrote to me. Cannonading at Franklin.

Thursday, January 21st Mr. Ward came over. Cannonading in the direction of Nashville. Pa returned from Nashville. Alley went home with Jimmie.

Friday, January 22nd Ma went to Mr. J. J. Ward's--took Sister and the baby. Isabella came home with her. Nearly finished my dress. Col. Anderson here today.

Saturday, January 23rd Went to Mr. Wards. Isabella and I went to Mr. Bryan. Stayed all night with Isabella. Mrs. Vardell was here. Mrs. Ben Ward was here.

Sunday, January 24th Came home, found the house full of men as usual.

Monday, January 25th Did not go back to school. Mr. George House was here. Mrs. Best Ward was here.

Tuesday, January 26th Pa went to Nashville also Mr. Prater. Mrs. Hutson and her sister here today. Sister went to Mr. Ward to stay all night.

Wednesday, January 27th Sister came back. Beth and Mr. Ward came with her. Stayed all day. Mr. Prater and Pa got home from Nashville.

Thursday, January 28th Mrs. Vanderford, Nat Nelson, Miss Tea Allen, Mrs. Davis, Miss Mollie Johns, Mrs. Johns, Miss Kate Jobe, Miss Ann Jobe, Sam Maththis buying goods.





Friday, January 29th Mrs. Standavar, Mr. Col. Mannon, Mr. Captain Wilson were here yesterday. Mandy, Mary, Ward, Fannie, Seward, Mrs. Ben Ward were here. Sister went to Mrs. Donaway's.

Saturday, January 30th Miss Sallie White was here. The Federals are going to leave the Stockade and go front to Chattanooga. Mrs. Ward and Josephene were here.

Sunday, January 31st Raining a little. Mrs. Ben Ward was over. Mr. Bryan and Pa went to Lavergne. Miss Tea Allen, Mrs. Davis were here.

Monday, February 1, 1864 Sister and I went to school. Mrs. Blackmoore had many new scholars since I was there. Mrs. Blackmoore employed an assistant, Mr. McClain. I got home sick the first day.

Tuesday, February 2nd Pa has gone to Nashville. Miss Sallie Edwards and Miss Jobe came to see Ma and came to trade. Miss Addie sent me my head dress.

Wednesday, February 3rd Pa has returned from Nashville. Mrs. Ridley and Mrs. Thurston went to Nashville. Tommie Johns and Leroy stayed all night with us.

Thursday, February 4th Cousin Dick Henderson got here from the Southern Army. Says the Rebels have got possession of Knoxville. Heard from brother. Is well--he is Lieutenant.

Friday, February 5th Cousin Tom Atkinson came after us to go home. When we were coming, my horse tried to run away. Cloudy, turning very cold.

Saturday, February 6th Went to Mrs. Best Ward to get Mandy's Algebra. Wrote my composition. Raining this morning.



Sunday, February 7th Cousin Dick, Sister, Buddy, and my self went to Cousin Frank Atkinson's to see Cousin Sue. She seemed very glad to see us. Went to Mrs. Donaway.

Monday, February 8th Went to school. Mrs. Blackmoore was sick. Went to see Tommie Johns and Lucy. Saw Ruf Johns.

Tuesday, February 9th Mr. McClain taught. Commenced studying Algebra. Mrs. Blackmoore not much better.

Wednesday, February 10th A case of Small Pox at Mr. Mitchell's. Very much frightened.

Thursday, February 11th No school. Uncle John and Buddy came after us. Stopped to see Isabella. Saw a company of Negro soldiers.

Friday, February 12th Cousin Dick and Uncle John went bird hunting. Sister and I went over to Mr. Ward's. Isabella and Victoria came to spend the night.

Saturday, February 13th Mrs. Ward came over. The girls went home. Went bird hunting again. Cousin Dick, Uncle John, Mr. Hickman Weekley here. Mr. Bryant.

Sunday, February 14th Cloudy and cool. Ma and Uncle John went to Mrs. Best Ward. Alice and Bessie have the measles.

Monday, February 15th Turning cold, but rained. Mrs. Vaughn and Mr. Vaughn were here. Dick Wade here.

Tuesday, February 16th Very cold. No one here but Miss Sallie White and Miss Johnson.



Wednesday, February 17th Very cold. Pa and Cousin Dick went to Nashville. Cousin Tom and Sue went after Mandy Ward to come and stay all night with us.

Thursday, February 18th Cold, yet beautiful day. Sister and myself walked with Mandy home. All quiet when we left, but very soon we heard that they were conscripting negroes, and all of ours ran away.

Friday, February 19th Many men to see Pa, but he did not come home as we expected.

Saturday, February 20th Spent the night at Mr. Ward's.

Sunday, February 21st Cousin Dick came over. Isabella and Vic came home with us. Cousin Dick and Ma went to Mr. Marlin's. Uncle John came. Walked home with Isabella.

Monday, February 22nd Miss Bettie Pratt to see us. Pa went to Mr. George W. Smith. Carried sister and I as far as Mr. Sikes--had a pleasant visit. Mr. Cook and Will Wade here.

Tuesday, February 23rd Pa and Mr. Cook went to Nashville. Heard Rebel Morgan attacked Gallatin. Mr. White came to guard us.

Wednesday, February 24th Cousin Tom and I went to Mr. Alden's. Went to Mrs. Donaway to get her to knit my rebel. Walked over to Mr. Ward. He was better, I think.

Thursday, February 25th Mrs. J. J. Ward came over to get Uncle John to go with her to Lavergne to see Col. Smith about her negroes they pressed. Mr. Sikes came.



Friday, February 26th Mrs. Huggins and Mrs. Hall came. Miss Lois Jobe and Miss Mollie Carter came. Mrs. Lieutenant Hoke and Sergeant Stansel came to get a bed to take to camp.

Saturday, February 27th Sister went to Mrs. Ward to see the girls. Stayed all night. I went to Mr. Ward's to get some of the girls to stay all night with me, but could not stay. They came to see us.

Sunday, February 28th I went to Mrs. Ward to see how the girls were. Brought sister home. Ma and Pa went to Mr. Sikes.

Monday, February 29th Raining.

Tuesday, March 1st 1864 Rain, hail and snow. Made Ida a apron and Eugene a pair of drawers.

Wednesday, March 2nd Mr. Bryant came over. He and Pa went to Nashville. Cousin Dick and sister went over to Mr. Ward to get the girls to stay all night. Isabella came.

Thursday, March 3rd Big frost. Cousin Dick was sick last night. Isabella went home. Pa got home--brought my braid.

Friday, March 4th Mrs. Ward and Victoria came. Vic brought sister's crosia braid. Gave her the braid to make mine.

Saturday, March 5th Warm day. A Yankee came to hear us play. He paid us five cants apiece. He was drunk.

Sunday, March 6th Cousin Tom, sister, and myself went to Mr. Waldens. Lost my knife, but found it again. Miss Strand.





Monday, March 7th Stayed all night with Mr. Chip. Serance and sister are playing smart now. I went home with Miss Seranah Highton. Pa came after me in the evening.

Tuesday, March 8th Miss Bettie Pratt and Miss Hoke came over--stayed until after dinner. We all walked over to Mr. Ward's. Mrs. Hoke wanted a Confederate bonnet.

Wednesday, March 9th Mrs. Hord and Mrs. House wanted to buy cotton seed. Sister, Cousin Dick, and myself walked to Cousin Mat.

Thursday, March 10th Commenced to make me a dress. Sister finished her dress. Went to Mr. Ward's and got Vic to stay all night with us.

Friday, March 11th Finished my dress. Pa and Ma went to Mr. Davis'. We did not go home until evening. Sister and I went and stayed all night.

Saturday, March 12th Mrs. Davis and Miss Tea Allen came to Mr. Ward's--stayed all day. In the evening Ma and Pa came after us.

Sunday, March 13th Sister, Pa, and myself spent the day at Col. Anderson's. Saw painting of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson that Mr. Macy painted.

Monday, March 14th Went to school. Mrs. Marlin and Mrs. Hoke came. Uncle John and Cousin Dick went to Murfreesboro.

Tuesday, March 15th Pa and Cousin Dick went to Nashville. Ma sent Ida and Ann over to Mrs. Ward's to get Isabella to stay all night.

Wednesday, March 16th Pa and Cousin Dick came from Nashville. Got a letter from Aunt Mat--all's well.

Thursday, March 17th Pretty day. Turning cool. Mrs. Ward came.



Friday, March 18th Pretty day. Miss May and Mrs. Thomas came. Came after us very late.

Saturday, March 19th Cousin Dick, Ma, and Ida went to Mr. Waldens. Sister and myself went and spent the night. Saw Mrs. Owens.

Sunday, March 20th Came home-sister and myself. Cousin Dick and Uncle John and I and V W Mandy Ward all went to church over the river. Grandma came.

Monday, March 21st Went to school.

Tuesday, March 22nd Cool today. Bad rainy weather.

Wednesday, March 23rd Isabella and Victoria Ward came. Esq. Sikes and Miss Addie came.

Thursday, March 24th Grandma and Ida spent the day at Mrs. Marlin's. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. House came.

Friday, March 25th Raining. Esq. Sikes and Miss Addie came--took Allie home with her. Pa came after us in the buggy.

Saturday, March 26th Went to Mr. Ward's. Vic came home with us and stayed all night.

Sunday, March 27th Went to Mr. Marlin's. Finishing writing my composition. Miss Bettie Pratt spent the night with us.

Monday, March 28th Went to school as usual. Miss Lucy Donohue and Jimmie came to stay all night in order to go to Nashville the next morning.

Tuesday, March 29th Pa went to Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant came to go to Nashville. Mrs. Ward came over. Charley quite sick. Miss Serena stayed with Ma.



- Wednesday, March 30th Pa came home from Nashville. Jim Creach's baby died.
- Thursday, March 31st Mrs. Creach's baby was buried. I attended the burial. Sprinkling rain in the evening.
- Friday, April 1, 1864 Raining all day. Uncle John came after us. Mrs. Vaughn came to our house.
- Saturday, April 2nd Mrs. Best Ward, Mary, Sister Jarrel, and Mrs. Rolston were here.
- Sunday, April 3rd Isabella and Vic, sister and myself, and Cousin Tom went to Mr. Walden's.
- Monday, April 4th I was sick--did not go to school. Mrs. Best Ward came. Good deal of rain and hail.
- Tuesday, April 5th Pa went to Nashville. Mr. Davis came.
- Wednesday, April 6th Beautiful day. Very much like Spring. Pa came from Nashville.
- Thursday, April 7th Mr. Sikes and Miss Addie came. Grandma came. I crociaed a net for Ida.
- Friday, April 8th Rained. Charley and Katy sick.
- Saturday, April 9th Sister and I stewed some molasses. I and V came. Mandy, Mary had quite a nice time pulling candy. I went home with I. Stayed all night.
- Sunday, April 10th Came home. I and V came. I stayed at home all day.



Monday, April 11th Going to school. Grandma went to Mrs. Ward's. Monday evening Mrs. Marlin came.

Tuesday, April 12th Pa went to Nashville. Mrs. Farmer and Mrs. Rooker came. Squire Wade and Mr. Bryant came.

Wednesday, April 13th No one came to our house. Mrs. Ridley went to Nashville. Pa returned from Nashville. I took the song, Lilly Dale.

Thursday, April 14th Grandma went to Mrs. Best Ward's and spent the night.

Friday, April 15th Grandma came home. I returned from school. Mrs. Jack Ward came and spent the day.

Saturday, April 16th Pretty day. Grandma, sister, and myself went to Mr. Marlin's.

Sunday, April 17th Mrs. Vanderford came. Mrs. Ward, Isabella, and Vic came. Raining. We went to Sq. Johns' and spent the night.

Monday, April 18th Pa and Mr. Ward went to Nashville. Miss Serana stayed with Ma tonight.

Tuesday, April 19th Miss Serana went home. Ida went home with her. Mary and Eliza House came from Nashville with Pa.

Wednesday, April 20th Warm--very pretty day. Sister, Lucy Johns, and myself went to Mrs. Allen's.

Thursday, April 21st Mrs. Blackmore went to Nashville. Tommy Johns and I taught school. Ma, Pa, and Buddy came after us. Isabella and Mrs. Ward here.

Friday, April 22nd Went to Mr. Ward's to get Isabella to help me make a dress. Did not finish it. Fannie Seward came here.





Saturday, April 23rd I am sick today. Went to Mrs. Donoway's. Stopped at Mr. Walden's.

Sunday, April 24th Raining. In the afternoon Uncle John, sister, and myself walked over to Mr. Ward's. Many Ward, Bettie Jarrel, and Bettie Ward were there.

Monday, April 25th Went to school. Miss Serana came down and finished our dresses.

Tuesday, April 26th Isabella came and stayed all night with Ma. Beautiful day.

Wednesday, April 27th Raining. Isabella went home. Took Katie with her to stay all night.

Thursday, April 28th Went home with Tommie. Walked down on the river bank where Ruffus Johns was fishing. He was going to bring to carry us home, but Uncle J came.

Friday, April 29th The day of our picnic has come at last. I never enjoyed myself more in my life. Had quite a nice ride back. Tommie came home with me.

Saturday, April 30th Raining all day. Miss Serana went home. Mrs. Ward and Mary came. I had a severe headache.

Sunday, May 1, 1864 Sick again. Many and Isabella Ward came. Tommie went home. Isabella stayed all night with me. Pa and Ma went to Col. Anderson's.

Monday, May 2nd It is cool this morning. Sister did not go to school. She went home with Isabella. Vic came home with her.

Tuesday, May 3rd Beautiful day. Pa went to Nashville.



Wednesday, May 4th Pa brought me a nice pair of cloth garters and a muslin dress.

Thursday, May 5th Mrs. Vanderford, Miss Leda, Addie Sikes, Miss Bass, Mandy, and Mary came. Sister and I went home with them and spent the night.

Friday, May 6th Aunt Nancy Smith, Miss Mary Donoway, Miss Bettie Pratt, Mrs. Jack Ward, Vic, Mrs. Rooker, and Mrs. Spyn Ward came. Sister sick.

Saturday, May 7th Pa and sister went to Nashville. Miss Bettie Pratt sent me two little pigeons. Miss Kate Jobe came and spent the day.

Sunday, May 8th Pretty day. Mr. Ward, Isabella, and Vic Ward came and spent the evening. We all walked over to the old fort.

Monday, May 9th Sister and I did not go to school. Miss Tea Allen commenced teaching school. Alley, Ida, and Eugene went to school. Mrs. Vanderford brought Carlie hat home. Mandy and Mary here.

Tuesday, May 10th Raining all day. The children did not go to school. Charlie is sick.

Wednesday, May 11th Cloudy and raining. The children did not go to school. Mrs. Best Ward.

Thursday, May 12th Pretty day. Mrs. Coleman here.

Friday, May 13th Beautiful day. Mrs. Ward, Bessie, Mrs. Ward, and Victoria came. Sister went and stayed all night with Vic.

Saturday, May 14th Pa and I went to Nashville. Saw Mr. and Mrs. Sheperd and Willie Grigg. Received a letter from brother.



Sunday, May 15th Pretty day. Sister and myself went to Mrs. Ward's. I am very sorry to say that Eugene is a bad boy, and that when he goes to school, he idles away his time. He is called a bad and lazy boy.

Monday, May 16th Went to school. Raining in the evening.

Tuesday, May 17th Raining again.

Wednesday, May 18th Mrs. Best Ward came over to see Ma and Grandma.

Thursday, May 19th Pretty day--very warm. Brother a prisoner. Went down on the cars, threw a note off.

Friday, May 20th Beautiful day--very warm. Came home from school--heard Brother was a prisoner.

Saturday, May 21st. Very pretty day. Mrs. Blackmore came and left Mollie Thurston. Her and she went to Walden's. Ma went to Mrs. J. Ward's, Ida and Charley.

Sunday, May 22nd Pa returned from Nashville. Did not get to see Brother but a few minutes. He was well. Sister and I went to Mrs. Sikes'.

Monday, May 23rd Went to school. Mrs. Blackmore sick. Tommie and I taught school.

Tuesday, May 24th Mrs. Blackmore still sick. Tommie and I still teaching. Raining, thundering. Tommie and I went over to get Mr. Bell to get him to teach, but he would not.

Wednesday, May 25th Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. Ridley went to Tommie. Mrs. Blackmore right sick. Raining in the evening. I came home from school.



Thursday, May 26th Sister came home. Lucy and Mr. Johns came home with her. We all walked over to Miss Tea Allen's school house.

Friday, May 27th Mr. Sikes came. Ma and Pa went to Mr. Sikes'. I expect to go home with Lucy and stay all night. Walked down to the sulphur springs.

Saturday, May 28th Still at Esq. Squire John's. Enjoyed myself very much indeed. Mr. Johns, Tommie, Lucy, and myself took a ride down the pike. Came back and went to the sulphur springs.

Sunday, May 29th Miss Mollie Johns sick. I went to church--heard a very interesting sermon. Mr. Johns and Tommie and Lucy came home with me.

Monday, May 30th Beautiful day. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn came and spent the day. I tucked some sleeves for sister. Did not go back to school.

Tuesday, May 31st Very cold this morning. Some appearances of rain. I wish I could see Tommie. I feel quite lonesome. This is the last day of May.

Wednesday, June 1st Beautiful day. Helped Ma to make her dress.

Thursday, June 2nd Mr. Hickman Weakley came here. Ma, sister, Charlie, and Eugene went visiting. Raining very hard. Ma and the children could not get home. Vic and Isabella stayed all night.

Friday, June 3rd They have gone home, and I am so onesome. I wish I could see Tommie, my dear school mate. Mr. Garret was here from Nashville. Ma and the children came home.

Saturday, June 4th Cloudy, I think it will rain. Ann and Mary went to the Yanks.





Sunday, June 5th In the evening Cousin Dick, sister, Uncle John, and myself went to Squire Johns' and Mr. Johns, Miss Mollie, and Tommie went down to the Spring.

Monday, June 6th I went to school. Rained in the evening.

Tuesday, June 7th Aunt Nancie Smith came. Mr. Weekley and Gather went to Nashville. Raining in the evening.

Wednesday, June 8th Raining in the evening. Pa returned from Nashville.

Thursday, June 9th Miss Tea Allen sick. The children did not go to school. Mr. J. J. Ward also Frances Seward. Raining in the evening.

Friday, June 10th Sick yet. I came home from school. Aunt Nancie came here. Rained very hard.

Saturday, June 11th Pa went to Nashville. Cousin Dick, Ma, and I went to Mr. Sikes!. Cousin Dick went to Murfreesboro. I stopped at Mrs. Donoway to give Mary my dress to make.

Sunday, June 12th Meda Davis and Mr. Davis came. Uncle John, Meda, sister, and myself went to Mrs. Ward's. Grandma went to Jack Ward.

Monday, June 13th Beautiful day. Mrs. Ward and Mandy came. Miss Tea Allen sick yet. Eugene sick yet. Tommie is sick.

Tuesday, June 14th Pretty day. No lady came. Very warm. Tommie is sick yet.

Wednesday, June 15th Beautiful day. Mrs. J. Ward here. The Yankees searched Mr. Ewing Jones and Mrs. Ridley's house for arms--found none. I went to see Tom.



Thursday, June 16th Miss Luda Sikes and Miss Bass here. Tommie is better.

Friday, June 17th We had company at school to hear us read our compositions. Sister and I came home from school. Eugene is sick.

Saturday, June 18th Made me a dress.

Sunday, June 19th Went to Mr. Ward's. Looking for Tommie.

Monday, June 20th Went to school. Took a piece of music called Prize Banner Polka. Tommie is sick, and I am distressed.

Tuesday, June 21st She is yet. I wrote her a letter.

Wednesday, June 22nd Sister and myself went to Squire Johns' to see Tommie. We all went down to the sulphur springs.

Thursday, June 23rd Pretty day.

Friday, June 24th We had a great deal of company to hear us read our compositions. Miss Mollie Johns and Mister Ruffus Johns came.

Saturday, June 25th Grandma at Mr. Ward's. I made me a dress.

Sunday, June 26th Uncle John went to Mr. Ward's. He is very sick with the billous fever.

Monday, June 27th Went to school. Rode from home, went to Mr. Walden, and to Mrs. Donaway to get my dress.

Tuesday, June 28th Went to school. Pretty day.

Wednesday, June 29th Raining. Last day of school.



Thursday, June 30th Pa and Miss Eugenia A went to Nashville. Grandma went to Mr. Ward's. He is a little worse. Pretty day.

Friday, July 1, 1864 Beautiful day. Uncle John went to the picnic. Sister and I did not go. Pa and Cousin Dick returned from Nashville.

Saturday, July 2nd Delightful weather.

Sunday, July 3rd Raining. Ma, Cousin Dick, Sister, and Buddy went to Mr. Ward's.

Monday, July 4th Cloudy.

Tuesday, July 5th Pretty day. Esq. Sikes and Guard came. Grandma went to Mr. Ward's. Pa, Kate, and myself went to Squire Sikes'.

Wednesday, July 6th Mrs. Jarrel and Sister came. Mrs. J. J. Ward came.

Thursday, July 7th Raining. Grandma came home. Mrs. B. Ward came.

Friday, July 8th Raining. Cousin Dick went to Mr. Luck Davis' to see Miss Drucia Davis. I wish I could see Tom, my husband. I am so lonesome this evening. Tom came to see me.

Saturday, July 9th Cousin Dick went after Miss Drucia to go to the picnic. I cried all day because I could not go. Beautiful day. I wish I was in Heaven. Miss Mollie and Tom came Saturday evening. Had a very nice time. Tom and I did not go to sleep until 4 o'clock.

Sunday, July 10th Uncle John came, and I went home with him.

Monday, July 11th Sister and I busy at work on her body. Got it done. Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Farmer, and Mrs. Blackmore came. I wish to the Lord I could see Tom, my first my lasting only and my all, with the exception of Izonias.



Tuesday, July 12th Made my body.

Wednesday, July 13th Made me an under dress and tucked it.

Thursday, July 14th Commenced me a body.

Friday, July 15th Pa and Squire Wade came from Nashville.

Saturday, July 16th Miss Blackmore came over. Sister and myself went.  
Miss Pattie Burton and Miss Ellie Winter came from Lebanon.

Sunday, July 17th Took a ride in the morning and also in the evening and came home. Got home about dusk.

Monday, July 18th Grandma, sister, and Ma have gone to Mr. Sikes. I wrote a letter to Cousin Lou Beasley.

Tuesday, July 19th Ma went to Mr. Sikes'.

Wednesday, July 20th Pa and Sister went to Nashville. Sent Brother a box of provisions. Sister stayed all night at Mr. Read's. Mrs. Judge Ridley's house burned.

Thursday, July 21st Sister dined at Mr. Jeff French's. Started home.

Friday, July 22nd Pretty day. Grandma and Uncle John started up the country. Hear Esq. Jobs house was burned.

Saturday, July 23rd I went to Mr. Sikes'--stayed until after dinner. Miss Addie and I went to Murfreesboro. I went to Mrs. Elliott's--saw Miss Jimmie and Mrs. Will Elliott.





Sunday, July 24th Uncle John and I went to Church. Went from there to Squire Johns!. Tommie not there. Saw Mrs. Blackmore, Mrs. Ridley, and Mrs. Brantwell. Lucy came home with us.

Monday, July 25th Ma and Pa went to Col Anderson. Spent the day. Some ladies called to see Cousin Dick.

Tuesday, July 26th Made me a dress to have my photograph taken in. Pretty, warm day. Oh! How I could hug Tom if he was here. That letter from Tom--how I long to see it.

Wednesday, July 27th Pa and I went to Nashville. Went to Mr. Jeff French and spent the night. Enjoyed myself exceedingly well. Had my photograph taken.

Thursday, July 28th Mrs. French and I went to Dr. Reed's. Saw his lady--very much pleased with her. Came home from Nashville.

Friday, July 29th Sister and Lucy went to Squire Johns'. Uncle John went to a picnic on Surges Creek.

Saturday, July 30th Mrs. Ward and Mandy came and stayed until after dinner. Uncle John and I had a frolic throwing water on each other. Uncle John and I went over to Mr. Ward's. He is better.

Sunday, July 31st Rainy, bad day. No company at all. Had fish for dinner.

Monday, August 1, 1864 Mrs. Ridley came. I went up to Mr. Walden's after Miss Pattie Burlow. When I got back, Sister had arrived from Squire Johns'. Looks very much like rain.



Tuesday, August 2nd Pretty day, very warm. Mrs. J. J. Ward came over. Sister went home with her. Isabella came home with her. I went to Col A.

Wednesday, August 3rd Isabella went home. Pa went to Nashville. Rained very hard about dinner. I scolloped some cuffs.

Thursday, August 4th Pretty day, very warm. Pa returned from Nashville. Received letters from Aunt Mat and Brother.

Friday, August 5th Col. Anderson went down to our house to get the papers and letters. Brought me my photograph. Tommy, Lucy, and Scott Winter came down to see me.

Saturday, August 6th Warm, pretty day. Yesterday Mrs. Vanderford and I went to Mr. Sikes--saw Della and Louise Watkins. Pa and Uncle John went to town.

Sunday, August 7th Miss Eugenia and Col. A and myself went to Mr. Mord's. Ma and Sister went to Mr. Wards. Saw Mandy and Mary, the two Rebel Commanders.

Monday, August 8th Miss Eugenia commenced Mrs. A a dress. Pa came for me. Sister at Mr. Sikes. Miss Addie went to Dr. Richardson.

Tuesday, August 9th Made one sleeve of Mrs. A dress. I learned a new piece of music, "Grand Russian March". Pretty, warm day.

Wednesday, August 10th Pa went to Nashville with Squire Wade. Mr. Hite came over and told us that Miss Lottie White shot a negro. She went on the train this evening. Isabella stayed all night.



Thursday, August 11th I made a starch bag for I. She gave me a black ring. Mrs. J. Ward came over and Judge Tinsley came. Commenced me a glove. Pa came from Nashville.

Friday, August 12th Col. A. came down. Mr. Bryant came over. Ma and I went to see Mrs. Blackmore--she is very sick. Went to Esq. Johns'. Tom came home with me.

Saturday, August 13th Uncle John, Tommie, and myself went over to Mr. Ward's. Sister came home from Mr. Sikes. Pa went to Murfreesboro. Somebody stole Mandy W. horse, Bod.

Sunday, August 14th Raining nearly all day. We all took a ride and got some peaches. Tommie went home. Vic and Mr. Ward and Charley came.

Monday, August 15th Mrs. Ward came. Rained. Mrs. Farmer and Mr. James' little daughter came. Uncle John moved to his house. Nearly finished Uncle J's pants.

Tuesday, August 16th Mrs. Vaughn and Mr. Vaughn came, some men from Nashville came, Mrs. Vanderford and Eugene came, and Uncle John and Grandma came. It rained.

Wednesday, August 17th I made a pillow slip for Uncle John. Raining yet. Pa and Mr. Kible went to Nashville.

Thursday, August 18th Mr. King here. Mr. Vanderford, Sister, Cousin Tom, Uncle J, and myself went over to Bachelor's Rest to see the house. Went to the cave. We got some peaches. Pa returned from N. Got a letter from Brother.

Friday, August 19th Miss Fannie Sowards, Miss Farmer came. Col. Anderson came after Mrs. Vanderford. Very lonesome after she left. Ma, Pa, and Ida went to Jim Basken's. Cousin Narcissy came.



Saturday, August 20th Jimmie Jones and Granville Ridley came. Buddy and Eugene went home with Granville and got some pears. Pa and Sister went to Murfreesboro.

Sunday, August 21st Raining yet. Sister and myself bought a watermelon. I wrote a letter to Brother.

Monday, August 22nd Very cool for August. Pa and Mr. Charley Alley spent the day at Dick Wade's. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Ward came. I finished my underbody. Wrote a letter to Aunt Mat.

Tuesday, August 23rd Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Sikes here. Several men here. Grandma went to Mr. Marlin's. Cousin Dick and I went to Mr. Sikes. I made a body to my dress.

Wednesday, August 24th Pa went to Nashville. Pretty day.

Thursday, August 25th Jimmie W. arrived at Johnson's. Cousin Dick, Sister, and myself went to Mr. Ward's. Went to see John. Miss Kate Hicks, Miss Ellen Hicks, and Vic stayed all night. Pa got back from N. Pa received a letter from Brother.

Friday, August 26th The ladies went to Mr. Furgerson. Mrs. Ward, Mandy, and Isabella went to Murfreesboro. Pretty day. Somebody tried to get in the house tonight. Uncle John stayed all night with us.

Saturday, August 27th Great many men. Col. Anderson, Miss Eugenia A. and Eugene came. Miss Eugenia married. Uncle John stayed with us again tonight.

Sunday, August 28th Magnificent day. Miss Eugenia and myself wrote a letter to Willie. We all went to the sulphur springs. Had a delightful ride on horseback. Mr. Ward here.





Monday, August 29th Finished Kate's dress. Pretty day, little cool. Pa, Miss Eugenia, Sister, and myself took a ride. Col. Anderson came, brought Eugene Vanderford with him.

Tuesday, August 30th Mr. Sikes and Miss Addie came before breakfast. Mr. Huggins and Allie Ridley came.

Wednesday, August 31st Pa and Uncle John went to Nashville. Wheeler, the Rebel, came in with 8,000 men. Pa saw Tommie Black and a little fellow called Saterfield.

Thursday, September 1, 1864 Pa came home. Did not see any more rebels. They have gone down towards Nashville.

Friday, September 2nd Cloudy. Miss Eugenia went home. Ma went home with her and stayed nearly all day. Granville Ridley, Allen Gooch, and John Espy joined the Rebels. Hurrah for them!

Saturday, September 3rd Saw some Yankees and in a short time, some Rebels. Then I saw some more Y. They were very much excited. Wanted to know if there had been any grey-backs here. They formed in line of battle in front of the house. They went on to Jefferson. Gen'l Steadman and his staff dined at Squire Johns'. They came back about sundown. Said that they had driven Wheeler out of the state.

Sunday, September 4th Gen'l Steadman and staff suppered here. I played on the piano for them. Sunday, all quiet.

Monday, September 5th Beautiful weather. Rain before dinner very much unexpected. Grandma moved over to King house.

Tuesday, September 6th Pretty day. No one to see us. Evening gathered some cucumbers for pickles.



Wednesday, September 7th Mrs. Ambross Bass and Miss Eliza Bass came and stayed until after dinner. I rained very hard, thundered and lightning. A tree was struck very near the house.

Thursday, September 8th Cloudy, cut Ida out a dress, nearly finished it. Cut out Buddy two shirts. Johnny came over in his cart. I played for some Yanks.

Friday, September 9th Ma finished Ida's dress. Mr. Ward and Vic came. Stayed until nearly dinner. Meda Davis and Miss Kate Hicks came. Mr. Huggins and Allie came. The wagon started to N with a bale of new cotton.

Saturday, September 10th Cousin Dick and Pa went to Nashville. Big Caroline went to Murfreesboro. Got a letter from Brother. He sent Pa a very nice ring.

Sunday, September 11th Mrs. Hord came. Col. A sent a letter down here from Leakward Anderson stating that Aunt Mat and family had gone to Crawfordsville. We all went over to see Grandma.

Monday, September 12th Mrs. Sikes, Miss Luda, Miss Addie, Jeannie J., and Jessie J. came. Commenced to make Ma a dress. Uncle John came over.

Tuesday, September 13th Expected to go with Pa to Murfreesboro, but when I got to Mr. S. Miss Addie was sick and would not go. Mrs. B came to our house. Sister went with her to Mr. Walden's to spend the night. Mrs. V came over to Mr. S. I came home.

Wednesday, September 14th Pa and Cousin Dick went to Nashville. Miss Mary and Martha Donaway came. Col. Anderson and several men came. Cousin Tom and myself went to Mr. Walden's after sister. Pa and Cousin Dick and Mr. Herman Weekley here, just returned from Huntsville, Alabama.



Thursday, September 15th Governor Johnson has called out the militia of Tennessee--from 18 to 45. Miss Eugenia and Col. A came. Mrs. Sikes and Miss Addie and Dr. Black came and told us Mrs. Watkins will take us to board to go to school to Miss Sallie Nelson.

Friday, September 16th Miss Tea Allen, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Ward, Miss Mary, and Martha Donaway came. Sister and myself went over to see Grandma. Mrs. Best Ward, Mr. Ward, and Vic came. The latter stayed all night. I wrote a letter to Brother.

Saturday, September 17th I went to Murfreesboro with Miss Addie. Got several little things. I stayed all night with Miss Addie.

Sunday, September 18th Uncle John and Ida came after me. Pa, Mr. Watkins, Grandma, Sister, and myself went over to Mr..Ward.

Monday, September 19th Uncle John brought Sister and myself over to Mrs. Watkins'. Went down to the school room. Miss Sallie Nelson is the teacher.

Tuesday, September 20th Knew all my lessons. I am studying history of France. Spell and define Arithmetic. Beautiful day!

Wednesday, September 21st Mollie Watkins came to school. Cloudy. I passed under and over a natural bridge yesterday evening.

Thursday, September 22nd Cloudy. Went to school as usual. Knew all my lessons well.

Friday, September 23rd Rained very hard in the night and some rain about 12 o'clock.

Saturday, September 24th We all quilted right smart. Mr. Watkins went to Dr. Black. He was better. I looked for Pa.



- Sunday, September 25th Dobb went home. I wrote a letter to Ma. I spent the morning writing to Brother and Tom. Got my lessons in the evening.
- Monday, September 26th Beautiful day. Two new scholars, Sallie Patent and Mary Eliza House.
- Tuesday, September 27th Cloudy. Coming home from school it rained, and we all got ringing wet.
- Wednesday, September 28th Pretty day. Pa came to Dr. Black's, and I came down to Mrs. Watkins' with him. He brought us some clothes.
- Thursday, September 29th Pretty day. I am very well satisfied up here. I wish I could see Tommy.
- Friday, September 30th Cloudy. Looks very much like rain. It rained very hard in the night.
- Saturday, October 1, 1864 Cloudy again this morning. I hope it won't rain. It has rained.
- Sunday, October 2nd Pretty day. Della, Mary Eliza House, and myself went to Mrs. Rucker. Miss Sue came down to see Mollie Wilkinson.
- Monday, October 3rd Rained when we rode home from school.
- Tuesday, October 4th Rained all day. We rode to and from school. Aunt Nancie Smith stayed all night at our house.
- Wednesday, October 5th Cloudy day.
- Thursday, October 6th Pretty day.
- Friday, October 7th Delightful day.





- Saturday, October 8th Most delightful day.
- Sunday, October 9th Mrs. Watkins, Della, and Mary Eliza House went to church at Mr. Michelle. They saw Miss Mollie Pubbs.
- Monday, October 10th All went to school. Most pretty day.
- Tuesday, October 11th Very pretty day.
- Wednesday, October 12th Pretty day. Brother is sick in prison. Tex Wade.
- Thursday, October 13th Pretty day. Heard Grandma was dead.
- Friday, October 14th Pretty day. Pa. came after Sister and myself to go home. Mary Eliza went home.
- Saturday, October 15th Pa and Cousin Jo Irby went to Nashville. Uncle Pleasant and Uncle John went to Murfreesboro.
- Sunday, October 16th Uncle Pleasant and Uncle Johnny went to Fellowship to church. Great many men at our house.
- Monday, October 17th Uncle John brought Sister and myself to Mrs. Watkins. Mary Eliza had come.
- Tuesday, October 18th Went to school. I got a bad cold.
- Wednesday, October 19th Cold yet. Miss Nannie Black and Miss Sallie Nelson stayed all night.
- Thursday, October 20th Sister and Della came home. Sister cut her dress body. Miss Sallie walked home with us.
- Friday, October 21st Pretty day. Willie and Sammy Butch knocked the girls some hickory nuts.



- Saturday, October 22nd I cut out my dress body. Hemmed Sister's dress skirt. She made my dress body. I sent a note to Ma by Dobb.
- Sunday, October 23rd I got my lesson wrote off the definition. Wrote a letter describing my visit south.
- Monday, October 24th Went to school. Callie Peyton had come back.
- Tuesday, October 25th Pretty day. Knew all my lessons. Sewed my dress on the body and the sleeves in.
- Wednesday, October 26th Rained. Mrs. Watkins sent the carriage after us.
- Thursday, October 27th Rained all night. Mary House would not sleep with me. Della and myself came home. I called Jane and they would not let her come with me.
- Friday, October 28th Pretty morning. Mary Eliza House went home.
- Saturday, October 29th Cloudy and cool. Pa came to bring our clothes. We finished our calico dresses.
- Sunday, October 30th Pretty day. Mrs. Watkins, Louise, and Sister went to Mrs. Rucker's--spent the evening. Louise and Sister stayed all night.
- Monday, October 31st Pretty day. Mary Eliza House came back from home.
- Tuesday, November 1, 1864 Beautiful day!
- Wednesday, November 2nd Rained very hard.
- Thursday, November 3rd Raining. We did not go to school. I cut my delain dress out and made the body.
- Friday, November 4th Raining. Miss Mollie sick.



Saturday, November 5th Pretty day. Very cool. Miss Sue spent the night. Miss Nannie Black and Miss Sallie Nelson came. Received a letter from Brother.

Sunday, November 6th Pretty day. Miss Mary E. House and Miss Della Watkins went up to Mrs. Rucker's to spend the night. Miss Sue sent for me to come. We saw a rebel.

Monday, November 7th Rained all day. We came home and went to school in the carriage.

Tuesday, November 8th Rained all day.

Wednesday, November 9th Raining all day. I am perfectly sick of rainy weather.

Thursday, November 10th Beautiful day. I am very glad it has quit raining, for I am expecting to go home.

Friday, November 11th Beautiful day. Mary E. House' Brother came and we all went to Mrs. Watkins in a few minutes. Pa came after dinner. We were off for home. We stopped in town and got two silk handkerchiefs for Sister and myself and two composition books.

Saturday, November 12th Pretty day. I cut my calico body out and fitted it. Mrs. Blackmore died at eleven o'clock Saturday night.

Sunday, November 13th Beautiful day. Uncle John, Sister, and myself started to see Mrs. Blackmore and met Tommie and Mrs. John. John's cousins, Addie and Nelly, came to our house.

Monday, November 14th Uncle John, Ma, Sister, and myself went to the funeral. Mrs. Nevals stayed at our house while we were gone. Cousin Sue and Lucy came to our house.



Tuesday, November 15th Raining. Uncle John brought us back to school. We stopped in Murfreesboro at Mrs. Elliott's--saw Miss Lilly Brown.

Wednesday, November 16th Raining.

Thursday, November 17th Rained all day. I cut out my under dress and made it.

Friday, November 18th Rained all day. I cut out my blue dress and run up the skirt, hemmed it, put the trimming around the skirt, and made the sleeves.

Saturday, November 19th Rained all day. I sewed on my dress.

Sunday, November 20th Rained all day. The river is rising. It is nearly even with the Mill Dam.

Monday, November 21st Went to school. It snowed very hard.

Tuesday, November 22nd Very cold. Snow on the ground.

Wednesday, November 23rd Very cold. Sister and I came home from school to take a music lesson. Mary E. House is having her teeth fixed.

Thursday, November 24th Dr. Walsh has not finished her teeth.

Friday, November 25th Pleasant. Mrs. Watkins went to town. Mary House went home. I am looking for the rebels.

Saturday, November 26th Raining all day. Finished my calico dress. I washed my silk handkerchief. Little Sue came to see us. Dobb went home.

Sunday, November 27th Raining nearly all day. Miss Sue came. I was kept busy getting my lessons and writing my letter.





Monday, November 28th Cloudy. I took a piece of music called "General Stonewall Jackson". Mary Eliza did not come back. Miss Mollie went to Dr. Black's to spend the night. Heard good news for all rebels. Got two letters from Brother. Pa went to Nashville.

Tuesday, November 29th Cloudy. The rebels are coming. Miss Mollie came home. Dr. Black started to Murfreesboro, but the pickets told him that he could not bring out anything.

Wednesday, November 30th Mary Eliza came. Very warm today--did not wear my shawl to school. Cannonading very distinct. Received a letter from Ma. I am going home in two weeks.

Thursday, December 1, 1864 Beautiful day. Heard some cannonading. Very warm for the season. Pa is coming after us tomorrow.

Friday, December 2nd Raining. Pa came after us. Met Judge Tinsley. He and Pa had a long talk. We came by Mr. Sikes' and stopped. Brought Charley's sack Miss Addie braided for him..

Saturday, December 3rd Very cold. Uncle John went after Grandma. Judge Tinsley and lady to see us. Some men here, not as many as usual. Rebels came here in the night.

Sunday, December 4th Nice day. Some rebels spying around the block house. Among the squad was Dr. Ridley. The Yankees shot at him, but did not hurt him.

Monday, December 5th Pretty day. The Federals evacuated the block house. Rebels everywhere. They burned the bridges and block house. Miss Addie came and brought Annie with her.



Tuesday, December 6th Beautiful day. General Forrest came up from Nashville.

Wednesday, December 7th Pa and Sister went to Esq. Sikes' to hear the news. Mr. Vanderford went home.

Thursday, December 8th Very cold. Uncle Charley went to camps, but came back and spent the night. Enjoyed myself finely.

Friday, December 9th Cold. Uncle Charley went to camp, but came back with General Forrest and spent the night. I had the honor of mending his pants.

Saturday, December 10th Sleeting. Very cold. Went to camps.

Sunday, December 11th Uncle Charley spent the night with us.

Monday, December 12th Snow on the ground. Uncle Charley took dinner with us.

Tuesday, December 13th Cloudy--very cold. Uncle Charley and Capt. Painter. My 16th birthday. Was presented a ring from Ma.

Wednesday, December 14th Very cold. Uncle Charley spent the night.

Thursday, December 15th Warm. Uncle Charley went to camps. Thomas attacked Hood. Great many Yankees killed. Fear Rebels.

Friday, December 16th Warm. Uncle Charley and Major Strains came for his last time. Hood retreated.

Saturday, December 17th Raining all day.

Sunday, December 18th Raining all day. Cousin Dick and I went to Mr. Ward's.

Monday, December 19th Raining all day. Yankees ventured out to work on the railroad.



Tuesday, December 20th Very cold indeed. Ma and I are working on my dress. Rained and hailed. All the rebels gone.

Wednesday, December 21st Snowing. Pa and I went to Mrs. Watkins' after my trunk. A good many federals here today and dined.

Thursday, December 22nd Very cold indeed. Ma and I were working on my dress.

Friday, December 23rd Pa and Cousin Dick went to Nashville. Squire Johns and Mr. King here. Sewing on my dress. Getting ready for Christmas. Quite cold.

Saturday, December 24th Pa and Cousin Dick returned from Nashville with Christmas goodies. I made a pound cake and was kept quite busy preparing for Christmas. We had a nice eggnog.

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day. Ida and Buddy were invited to Mr. Suggs to a Christmas Tree. I went to Mr. Johns' and Lucy, Isabella, Vic, and Miss Lanny Burrus came.

Monday, December 26th Cloudy. Buddy and Ida were invited up to Mr. Griggs to a Christmas Tree. I went to see Tommie. Got home late. Uncle John, Sister, and myself went to Mr. Wade's to a party, my first attempt at dancing.

Tuesday, December 27th Still cloudy. Ida came home. Mrs. Ward here. Cousin Dick went to see Miss Drucia Davis. Ida came home from Mr. Griggs'. Lucy came home with her. Mrs. Ward here.

Wednesday, December 28th Beautiful day. I sewed on my bonnet. Emma Walsh, Nelly Wade, Willie, and Tom Wade came. Also Miss Bettie Wade and Cousin Addie Vaughn spent the night.

Thursday, December 29th Cousin Addie. All of them left. Watt Wade here. Made Jane clean up the parlor. Mr. Wade and Cousin Jo Irby here.



Friday, December 20th Miss Bettie McLaughlin came to go to Nashville with Pa. Raining a little. Grandma came home from Mr. Ward's. Mr. Ward shingled Ida's and Kate's hair.

Saturday, December 31st The whole face of the earth covered with snow. It is shoe mouth deep. I finished my bonnet.





PETER JENNINGS  
by Eugene Sloan

Two hundred years ago, a bitter test of loyalty of the men of the Continental Army was experienced--the "Winter of Despair" at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Following the defeat at Germantown, the army of about 10,000 moved into the little valley among the hills of the Schuylkill River, 27 miles northwest of Philadelphia. With little food and hardly enough clothing to protect themselves against the rigors of one of the worst winters in colonial history, the army morale deteriorated.

On December 23, 1777, General George Washington wrote: "We have this day no less than 2,873 men in camp unfit for duty because they are barefooted and otherwise naked."

But in that brave body of men who endured the harshness of that winter were two men who were to later make their homes in Rutherford County. One of them was Peter Jennings--a black man--and the other, Elijah Smith.

Smith, at age 77, was to appear in the Rutherford County Court in September, 1832 to support the claim of Jennings, age 80, for a Revolutionary War pension.

Jennings was a notable character in his day. According to a story appearing in the Murfreesboro News Banner, November 22, 1900, the first house erected on the corner of Vine and Church Street, a one-story frame building, was occupied by "a free Negro, named Peter Jennings, as a baker." This was during the time Murfreesboro was the capital of Tennessee.



Henry G. Wray, former archivist for the Rutherford County Historical Society, along with Ernest King Johns did considerable research in connection with the study of Revolutionary War soldiers who came to Rutherford County after the war. Mrs. Edna Fry has followed up this work by studying the official records in Washington, D.C. Among her findings is the affidavit of Peter Jennings of August 23, 1832:

State of Tennessee  
Rutherford County  
August term 1832

On this 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared before Henry Trott, V. D. Cowan, and James C. Mitchell Esquires, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarters Session for the county and state aforesaid, now sitting in open court, Peter Jennings, a man of colour, a resident of the town of Murfreesboro in the County and State aforesaid, aged eighty years, four months, and twenty-one days, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States, according to the best of his recollection in the year 1776 with Corporal Edenton and when he entered the service he belonged to the 5th Regiment of Artillery of Blacks in the Continental line, under the following named officers: He belonged to Capt. Vener Angel's Company in which a man by the name of Hawley, whose given name he does not now remember, was first Lieutenant, and man whose name was Ray, second Lieutenant, his given name not remembered. The regiment was commanded by Col. Edward (Oney), and a man whose name was Halsey, was first Major, and he thinks his given name was Joseph. Who his second Major was, he does not remember. He thinks his regiment joined General Washington's army at West Point and, after remaining there a few days,



marched to Saratoga, where they remained a considerable length of time. At the same time they were encamped at Saratoga, thinks that Gen. Dickson or Dickenson was encamped with a division of Virginia militia, and he thinks he remembers Colonels Campbell and Ferguson were there in the Virginia militia. After remaining at Saratoga several weeks, he thinks his regiment was divided and part of it attached to the troops under the command of Gen. Greene, a part of it to the troops under the command of Gen. Gates, a part of it probably to the troops under Gen. (Cadwallader), and a part of it Gen. Washington retained with the troops under his immediate command. He remained with troops under Gen. Washington's immediate command, and he thinks the regiment to which he was attached was commanded by Col. Clifford, to whose regiment a Maj. Talbot belonged, but he does not remember whether he was first or second major. He does not remember the number of Col. Clifford's regiment, nor does he remember the Colonel's given name, nor the given name of Maj. Talbot. He thinks James Starling was at this time his Captain, and that his Lieutenant's name was Bloomfield, but his given name is not remembered. Shortly after this division was made of the black regiment, he thinks the battle of Trenton took place, and he well remembers he was in that engagement. He has a distinct recollection that on the night of the 25th of December after he entered the service as a regular soldier, which would be December, 1776, if it was that year he enlisted, and he thinks it was Gen. Washington who crossed his troops over the Delaware about nine miles above Trenton and marched upon the enemy and attacked them by surprise. A part of the American forces, he thinks, were commanded by Generals Ewing and Cadwallader, the former of whom belonged to the Virginia troops. The forces under their command he thinks were to cross the Delaware higher up than the point at which de la Rive crossed with General Washington, and were to attack the left wing of the enemy, but he well remembers he



did not cross over, which he thinks was owing to the ice, for it was with extreme difficulty that Gen. Washington got his troops over on account of the ice and the extreme cold weather. On account of Generals Ewing and Cadwallader failing to cross the river as had been previously arranged, we were compelled to make the attack with such forces alone as crossed over with Gen. Washington. The enemy, so little expecting an attack from us, were thrown into great confusion, and we obtained a complete victory over them, killing many of them and taking several hundred prisoners, who were principally Hessians. We also took a large amount of military stores, a number of pieces of cannon, and a great many small arms. He thinks the greater portion of the enemy's forces were killed or taken prisoner. He thinks there was a Colonel commanding in the Hessian troops killed, but he does not remember his name. There were but few on the side of the Americans killed and not many wounded; amongst the wounded he thinks there was a Captain Washington, remembered from his being of the same name as his General Washington. After this engagement he states he marched back across the Delaware with the prisoners and captured stores. The prisoners, he thinks, were conducted to Philadelphia. In a few days, however, he returned with Gen. Washington to Trenton. They had not been long in possession of Trenton when the British forces collected and marched toward Trenton for the purpose of giving battle; in fact, they had actually commenced firing on the American troops in the evening and considerable cannonading took place between the two armies. The firing from our artillery somewhat checked their advance upon us, and night coming on, they halted on the opposite side of a creek from us and ceased firing. It was supposed that they intended making a general attack upon us the next morning. We were ordered to light fires along our lines in our front for the purpose, as declared afterward discovered, of deceiving the enemy. However, instead of remaining at the fires, we





were marched off with all possible expedition toward Princeton, where some regiments of the British troops were quartered. We reached there very early the next morning and made a vigorous attack upon them. DeClarent has a perfect recollection of an occurrence which took place during this engagement which will never be effaced from his memory. A part of our troops were driven back by the British and were thrown into much confusion. Gen. Washington, perceiving it, seized a standard and rushed in front of our troops and dashed several paces ahead toward the enemy, exclaiming "Come on boys," or some such expression. His example had the desired effect of rallying our troops, and they followed the commander with renewed ardour. While Gen. Washington was between the two armies, at least one round was fired on each side, and he remained untouched. Soon after this occurrence the British troops gave way and retreated into some public buildings. We pursued them and kept up such a play of artillery upon them, that all those who had taken refuge were compelled to surrender to us. In this engagement the British were completely routed and defeated. Many of them were killed and wounded and a great number taken prisoner. The loss on the American side, he thinks, was inconsiderable. He remembers that General Muger, who he believes belonged to the Virginia troops, was severely wounded in this engagement, and thinks he died shortly of his wounds.

After the battle at Princeton, we marched to Morristown and took up winter quarters. There we remained until some time in the spring. From Morristown, he marched to Middlebrook; from there to Peek's-Kill where some fortifications were erected. From this point he marched toward the Delaware River; and the army was occupied for several weeks in advancing and receding, marching and countermarching, sometimes toward Philadelphia and then toward the Delaware. This lasted for several weeks until the battle finally ensued at Brandywine. This engagement



commenced early in the morning, the attack being brought on by the British who were under the command of Gen. Cornwallis. They crossed the creek about a mile above our forces and made an attack upon our rear. We were about the same time attacked in front by a British General whose name is now not remembered. The American troops were compelled to retreat with great loss. He thinks they retreated towards Chester, and were pursued a considerable distance by the enemy. He well remembers seeing Gen. Lafayette in this engagement and seeing him receive a wound, which he thinks was in his right leg. He also remembers that there was another American General wounded, but he has forgotten his name. He thinks Gen. Lincoln was in the battle. Two or three weeks after the battle of Brandywine, Gen. Washington, having received a considerable reinforcement from Virginia, marched on Germantown and made an attack upon the British stationed there. The attack was made early in the morning, and, from the sudden and unexpected character, the British forces were thrown into great disorder. It being a cloudy foggy morning, it was difficult for our troops to keep in regular order, which caused considerable confusion amongst us. Taking advantage of this, the enemy rallied from the confusion into which they had at first been thrown and drove back our troops. We were, at length, compelled to retreat with great loss. In this engagement an American General--Nash--was killed. After recovering from the defeat, we marched to a place called White Marsh, where we remained sometime in expectation of an attack from the British, who had taken a position not far distant from us. They, however, withdrew without making an attack, and we were marched to Valley Forge, where we took up winter quarters.



Declarant was at the battle of Yorktown. When he reached there, Lafayette had been engaged in some severe fighting with the enemy. The principal fighting, however, after we reached the place was with the artillery, with an almost constant cannonading kept up. He well remembers the position of the French fleet on the occasion, which had taken a stand in the Potomac River to prevent Cornwallis from being reinforced by the British troops under the command of Gen. Henry Clinton. He remembers that about two days before the surrender, fourteen of the British soldiers deserted and came into the American encampment and surrendered themselves, and that from them, we received a good bit of information about the affairs in the enemy's camp. The surrender, he thinks, was on the 18th of October, 1781. He has a most perfect recollection of the circumstances which occurred when Cornwallis surrendered up his sword, for he was present and saw this transaction. Cornwallis offered his sword to Gen. Washington, who stepped back and declined taking it. General Lincoln, who he thinks had been previously agreed should receive it, stepped forward and accepted it from him. Declarant remained at Yorktown several weeks after the surrender. He thinks he marched to Winchester, Virginia with the British prisoners, and that Cornwallis was in company. After he returned to Yorktown from Winchester, he remained there five or six days, at the end of which time, he was discharged from the service. He received a written discharge from Capt. Edgar, by whom his company had been commanded for some time. His former captain had been compelled to retire from the service on account of bad health, when Captain Edgar succeeded to the command. He lost his discharge a few years after the war was over, he thinks, on the eastern part of the Bahama Islands, where he was shipwrecked while on a voyage in a merchantman bound from New York to Teneriff on a trading expedition.



It is impossible for declarant to remember every place through which he marched during a service of five or six years, or to detail all the occurrences with which he met during that time and in which he acted a part. He can only pretend to state important transactions and occurrences to which his attention was particularly directed by some peculiar circumstance upon which the mind would then fasten, so as not to let escape the recollection of the event.

Declarant enlisted in Providence, Rhode Island, where he at that time resided. He was born at Pequannock, three miles east of Fairfield, Connecticut.

He has never received a pension for his services, and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

J. R. Laughlin, Clerk

His X mark (Peter Jennings)

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and had served as he states.

H. Trott, J. C. Mitchell, V. D. Cowan

I, John R. Laughlin, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Rutherford County, Tennessee, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court, in the matter of the application of Peter Jennings for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this 23rd day of August 1832.

John R. Laughlin, Clerk





The attesting affidavits supporting the claim of Peter Jennings, which was granted include the interesting fact that Jennings was recognized by Lafayette.

State of Tennessee  
Rutherford County

On the eighth day of September 1832, personally appeared before me, William Gilliam, as acting Justice of the Peace for the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, Elijah Smith, aged seventy-seven years and twenty days, a resident of said Rutherford County, who, having first duly sworn according to law, doth upon his oath, say that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, that in the winter of 1777 when the American troops were quartered at Valley Forge, he was an assistant forage master under one Cochlerow, and that he knew a man of colour who belonged to the New England troops, and was in the artillery.

He is acquainted with Peter Jennings, a man of colour who now resides in Rutherford County aforesaid, and he believes him to be the man he knew at Valley Forge. He does not remember him by name so as to state him to be the same man, but from his size and general appearance, so far as he can remember, as it would correspond at so distant a period. He believes him to be the same, and on frequent conversations with him in relation to facts and circumstances which occurred then, which said Jennings remembers, and which he is confident he could not have known had he not been there, and especially from his narration of a man being hung there, he is confident he is the same man, whom he then knew.

Elijah Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me

W. M. Gilliam, J. P.

Murfreesboro, August 13th, 1828



Honorable Richard Rush

Sir, I herewith endorse you the petition of Peter Jennings, praying for his dues as a Revolutionary soldier. The declaration set forth by him is done from memory alone, and which he relates with freedom and confidence.

The general opinion here is that he served as a soldier in the Revolution, which opinion was strengthened by his being recognized by Gen. LaFayette in Nashville two years ago.

I believe the evidence set forth here combining partly with the evidence now in possession will be satisfactory. If not, please say what other evidence is necessary.

Hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you soon.

I am Respectfully,

William T. Christy

A record by Charles Ready certifies that Jennings died Jan. 22, 1842. The pension records indicate that during the last ten years of his life, he received a pension from the United States Government.

Mike West, editor of Accent Magazine, a supplement of the Sunday Daily News Journal, uncovered a tombstone in the old City Cemetery bearing the name of Peter Jennings, identified as a Revolutionary War Soldier. The modest oval stone is inscribed with a cross and was apparently erected by one of the patriotic societies some years after Jennings' death.



Henderson King Yoakum  
by Eugene Sloan

There are two marble shafts of comparable size and close proximity in Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas. Each marks the resting place of a prominent Tennessee soldier, politician, and lawyer. There is no evidence that the one from Lebanon and the other from Murfreesboro ever met in the "Volunteer State". Each, beset by unfortunate circumstances in Tennessee, was to rise to undying fame following the "lone star" of Texas.

Henderson King Yoakum (1810-1856), a West Point graduate, politician, and historian, was a lawyer and six-year mayor of Murfreesboro. In 1845 he left Tennessee, by his own admission impoverished by political activity.

In a single decade he was to gain fame as a soldier, real estate entrepreneur, lawyer, and Masonic leader deep in the heart of Texas.

Samuel Houston (1793-1863) practiced law in Lebanon before being elected to Congress in 1823 and later Governor of Tennessee. Disillusioned and dishonored, he went to live with his old friends among the Indians. Called to become the military leader who defeated the Mexicans, he was elevated to the presidency of the Republic of Texas and later to the Texas governorship. When he lay dying Sam Houston requested that he be "buried beside my good friend, Colonel Henderson Yoakum". Houston is known to have practiced law in Rutherford County courts while maintaining his office in Lebanon, but this appearance was while Henderson Yoakum was a cadet at West Point.

Dr. Homer Pittard, Rutherford County historian, spent months in travel and correspondence to compile a remarkable story of a man who is remembered



in Texas by having a county named in his honor, but who has few roots left in Tennessee.

An abridgment of a biographical sketch of Henderson King Yoakum appearing in numerous publications has been put into local perspective in a presentation by Dr. Pittard, made at a Rutherford County Historical Society meeting in 1975.

Texas school children learn of Colonel Henderson King Yoakum in such a factual sketch as this:

Henderson King Yoakum, the Texas historian, oldest son of George Yoakum, and his wife Mary Ann Maddy, was born at "Yoakum Fort" in the famous Powell's Valley section of Tennessee, September 6, 1810. At the age of 17 he was appointed to West Point Military Academy, where he graduated in 1832. He married Miss Eveline Cannon, daughter of Robert Cannon, near the little town of Philadelphia, Roane County, Tennessee in 1833.

Soon after his marriage, Henderson Yoakum moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and entered the office of Judge Mitchell as a law student, soon was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession in that town. He entered the military service again in 1836 and served against the Indians on the western frontier, as a captain of a company under General Edmund P. Gaines.

In 1838 he commanded another company in the Cherokee War. Then on October 7, 1839, he was elected as a member of the Senate of the State of Tennessee. He made a splendid record in the legislature, supporting both Jackson and Polk, and stood strongly in favor of the annexation of Texas.





On October 6, 1845, he and his family and relatives arrived in Huntsville, Texas. The following year he volunteered as a private, but soon made first lieutenant, in the company of Captain James Gillespie and took an active part in the war with Mexico, distinguishing himself in the Battle of Monterey. After the close of the war, he returned to Huntsville and resumed the practice of law.

He formed a close friendship with Peter W. Gray, a prominent Texan, who encouraged him in writing a comprehensive history of Texas. In 1853 Yoakum established a home seven miles out from Huntsville, called "Shepherd's Valley", and it was here that most of his work on the famous history was done. (Southern History Research Magazine, 1936)

The Shepherd Valley house was constructed on lines of southern architecture, with a wide hall through the center, large rooms with high ceilings, and open fireplaces.

A Yoakum is said to have been in the Henry Hudson expedition in the New York area in 1611. Certainly, Valentine Yoakum appears in Peach Creek, New York before moving to Greenbrier County in the present state of West Virginia. There he established Yoakum Station in 1771, where he and his family (with the exception of George) were massacred by Shawnee Indians.

George killed three Indians with an iron skillet and, being "swift of foot and great strength", escaped. At the age of 25 he married Margaret, the daughter of Isaac Vanbebber. Among their children was George II, who moved to Powell's Valley in Claiborne County, Tennessee about 1790.



Twenty-nine Yoakum families now live in Claiborne County, but none in Roane County or in Monroe County, where Henderson King Yoakum's father was a Justice-of-the-peace between 1815-1825.

Yoakum attended the "common schools of his community" before being recommended for West Point appointment by an Athens, Tennessee Congressman, James Coffield Mitchell. The young Philadelphia, Tennessean, Henderson K. Yoakum was duly admitted April, 1828 to the United States Military Academy at West Point on a cadet warrant.

In 1833 he was graduated 21st in a class of 45 from the Academy. He was the 682nd cadet to graduate from West Point.

Soon after his commissioning, he married Miss Eveline Cannon, daughter of Robert Cannon in Philadelphia, Roane County, Tennessee and moved to Murfreesboro. In 1833 he resigned his commission in the army.

Congressman Mitchell reappeared in Yoakum's life when he became his legal mentor after Yoakum resigned from the army and brought his young bride to Murfreesboro. Mitchell had become circuit judge in the eleventh district, including Rutherford County, where he served from 1830 to 1836. There is no record of how the 23 year-old, ex-army officer financed his studies or provided livelihood for his family while studying law under guidance of Judge Mitchell.

Two interesting hints were discovered in a letter Eveline Yoakum wrote to her mother. One of these leads to the conjecture that the Cannon family was aiding their daughter. The letter has the cryptic statement that, "Henderson started a French school, which will occupy but little of his time and be of some profit to us".

On July 4, 1834, Yoakum delivered an hour and a half address to the "young men of Murfreesboro". Fortunately, this discourse has been preserved



by a contemporary newspaper. The speech was preceded by reading the Declaration of Independence. In the flowing rhetoric of this period, this panegyric is illustrated from this excerpt:

"Our Revolutionary Fathers are nearly all in a peaceful grave. Those illustrious men, who bequeathed to us the noble inheritance that we now enjoy, have nearly all gone to try the realities of another world, to reap the glorious fruits of a well spent life allotted to the noble and worthy . . . . others from their age it is plain, that a few revolving suns will carry them to another and better world--and when it shall please the GREAT SPIRIT so to do may they be able to report in Heaven that all is well..They see before them no halycon years, no sweet moments of repose. The bird of Jove was about to grapple with the Lord of the Ocean, the invincible lion of Britian."

Unfortunately, the Rutherford County court records of the 1835-45 era were destroyed, but there is evidence in the Register's records of ample practice by Yoakum. These indirect references reveal speculation in real estate, the administration of estates, and mortgage work.

In the 1840 census records, Henderson and his wife are listed as thirty years of age, having five daughters under 15 years of age and one female slave. The slave was apparently obtained from one William Bryant, who had pledged "Milly" as collateral on a \$300 note Henderson and an associate held that was unpaid.

The Yoakum residence, according to Dr. Pittard's finding, was located on about the 1977 site of the Tennessee Employment Security Office on the corner of Vino and South Spring streets in Murfreesboro.



In 1837 Yoakum was elected the mayor of Murfreesboro and served for six years. A Democrat, Yoakum's political activity was not confined to local interest. He was the friend and loyal supporter of Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk and Sam Houston. James K. Polk announced he would run for governor at a party given in his honor in Murfreesboro in 1838. President Martin Van Buren was a visitor in Murfreesboro in 1841. During the bitter 1839 struggle between the Whigs and Democrats, Yoakum was elected to the Tennessee Senate. Among the bills he introduced was one to abolish the office of superintendent of public instruction. He was successful in his opposition to the State Aid Act for internal improvements. As co-sponsor with James C. (Lean Jimmy) Jones from the House of Representatives, he recommended the use of convict labor for the "lunatic asylum". This predates by more than 135 years a "pre-release for labor" plan for use of convict labor in Tennessee today.

He canvassed the state on behalf of candidates for national office and debated John Bell as a champion of Martin Van Buren. He accused the Whig candidate, General William Henry Harrison, of "selling white men into slavery".

In 1842, when the General Assembly was in special session for the purpose of redistricting the state, Yoakum appealed to James K. Polk, requesting that, "Rutherford County not be sacrificed to political expediency". Polk took the steps necessary to insure the success of Yoakum's plea.

Yoakum was a staunch foe of alcohol, recording in his diary shortly after moving to Texas that "liquor and profanity are at present the distinguishing faults of the great men of Texas." How he reconciled this philosophy as a member of the Sons of Temperance with the hard drinking of his close friend, Sam Houston, is one of the perplexities of this military man, politician and religionist.





There are a few scattered references to Yoakum in microfilm copies of Rutherford County newspapers.

He frequently purchased land at sheriff's sales, and he is listed as a surety on a \$100 note for Allan Jarnegan.

In 1840 he was an attorney for the reclamation of a slave. In the same year he was named as an elector from the eighth district (Rutherford County) for the Martin Van Buren-Richard Johnson presidential ticket.

He was given the power of attorney by W. M. Earthman for the William Webber estate to provide for Earthman's mother. He handled a deed of trust relating to slaves for Francis S. Manning and a similar duty for Thomas Yardly.

A conveyance of six acres of land purchased from John Fletcher for \$35.30 is recorded.

One evidence of closing his affairs in Murfreesboro in October, 1845 is the sale of lot number 69 in Murfreesboro (possibly his residence) at Church and Vine Street to James B. Blockington for \$1,500.

Henry King Yoakum never lost his feel for the military. The "Alamo fever" struck Murfreesboro in 1835 with reports of Davy Crockett's death. When volunteers were called to support the war for Texas independence, sixty-four men were enrolled in the Murfreesboro Sentinels, a cavalry unit, with Yoakum serving as captain. After less than a month, when it appeared Texas would be successful, the Sentinels were mustered out. However, on June 29, 1836, Yoakum enlisted for six months service under Gen. Edmund P. Gaines and served on the Sabine frontier. Returning to Murfreesboro, he was elected mayor, a kind of hero's award.

In 1838 the Cherokees were removed from East Tennessee and Georgia. When the Cherokees refused to move west from the Hiwassee Purchase, a call



for 2,500 volunteers was made. On May 13, 1838 Yoakum enlisted in the First Regiment, Tennessee Infantry. Thirteen days later he was named regimental colonel. In that capacity, he led the regiment into the heart of the Cherokee country and ever after bore the title, "Colonel Yoakum". He was mustered out July 12, 1838.

What in Murfreesboro was contemporary with Henderson Yoakum, less than a decade after it had been the capital of Tennessee?

It was a community of about 1,000 population with established Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Yoakum was a trustee in the Methodist Church, established in 1836. Bradley Academy was well established and Union University was founded in 1841. William Ledbetter was clerk and master, William Lillard, sheriff and Charles Ready, postmaster. The Murfreesboro Female Academy was just opening. A slave market was on the north side of the courthouse yard. There were at least three hotels--Washington on the east side of the square, Lytles on the south, and Allman's on the west.

Edwin Keeble was editor and publisher of the Central Monitor, a weekly newspaper. That editor Keeble maintained the legend of Fourth Estate conviviality is suggested by a bulletin in one edition of the Monitor that read:

"The gentleman who unceremoniously took E. G. Keeble's umbrella from Colonel Smith's tavern on the 5th inst., is particularly requested to call and get his cloak also".

Yoakum made a hurried trip to Texas in June, 1845 and wrote his friend, Martin Van Buren, "To ask how I like Texas is to ask how I like the United States--for variety of soil, climate, etc., it is equally as great".



Having decided on Huntsville, Texas as his future home, Yoakum spent the period from June to October 1845 in closing out his business interests, selling his residence for \$1,500, and embarking on the journey that was to bring him fame and fortune in the Lone Star State. Accompanying him were his wife, Eveline Cannon Yoakum, daughters Eliza, Martha, Mary, Anne, and Emily. In Texas four other children were born to the Yoakum's--Houston, who married Fannie Dailey; Robert who never married; George, who died while in service with the 5th Texas regiment C.S.A. in Virginia; and Henderson, who died at the age of ten. Mrs. Yoakum lived until 1867.

In his diary Yoakum records the stage coach trip to New Orleans and then the steamboat journey to Huntsville. On his arrival he wrote:

"Yesterday we went house hunting--the house is old, open, leaky and smoky. In addition to all this, there has been a severe, "northern" winter. Yet we have some sweet potatoes and coffee, upon which we must make ourselves as comfortable as we can."

Eight years later he recalled the circumstances of the early winter arrival in Texas with the statement, "When I arrived here eight years ago, I had but a single dollar, and neither house nor land where-with-all to feed and clothe my family; and besides a constitution broken down in political warfare". In the letter to a friend, Thomas J. Rusk, he said, "I threw down the glove against White Whiggery. I followed politics as a profession and practiced it with the zeal of a lover . . . until I had spent all I had made and my children cried for bread when I had it not to give them".

On December 2, 1845 he obtained a license to practice law in Texas and quickly established himself as a successful lawyer. He became the personal



counselor for Sam Houston. He counseled with Houston on all types of personal and political problems. He defended Mrs. Houston on an assault and battery trial and gained a mistrial.

He appeared once again in uniform, serving from May 16 until October 2, 1846 as a lieutenant in the 1st Regiment, Texas Mounted Rifles, participating with distinction in the battle of Monterey. He was mustered out a colonel in the Texas Militia, a rank he retained until his death.

An inventory of his estate in 1856-57, a decade after he came impoverished to Huntsville, revealed the success of his law practice and land speculation. In addition to his residence in Huntsville, he owned 3,720 acres of land in Walker County, 1,065 acres in Polk County, 1,085 acres in Houston and Cherokee Counties, 17 slaves, and other personal property valued at \$2,901.23.

Certainly this was a remarkable achievement for the former mayor of Murfreesboro who had left Tennessee, "broken in health and fortune, the victim of White Whiggery".

He aided in establishing the Andrew Female Academy in Huntsville and with Sam Houston served as a member of the official board until the time of his death. He served on the Board of Aldermen in Huntsville, and in 1849 was appointed Attorney General by the Governor of Texas. He also served as an active trustee of Austin College and became the High Priest of the Texas Masonic Lodge.

Perhaps his most lasting fame came in the writing of a two-volume History of Texas, From the First Settlement in 1685 to its Annexation to the United States in 1846. Dr. Pittard states that "it is a mystery how Yoakum found time to compile this work, which the historian, Hubert H. Bancroft, described as 'one of the best, if not the best history of Texas'."





In November, 1856 Colonel Yoakum accepted an invitation to deliver a Masonic address in Houston. While there he was stricken with a "tubercular attack" in the home of Judge and Mrs. P. W. Gray. On November 29, at the age of 46, he died. The body was carried to Huntsville and interred in Oakwood Cemetery. The monument in Oakwood Cemetery reads: "In memory of the high appreciation of his character as a man, his usefulness as a citizen, his ability as a lawyer, his fellow citizens have erected this monument to Col. Henderson King Yoakum.

Yoakum County, Texas, of which Plain is the county seat, located against the New Mexico border was named in honor of Henderson King Yoakum.

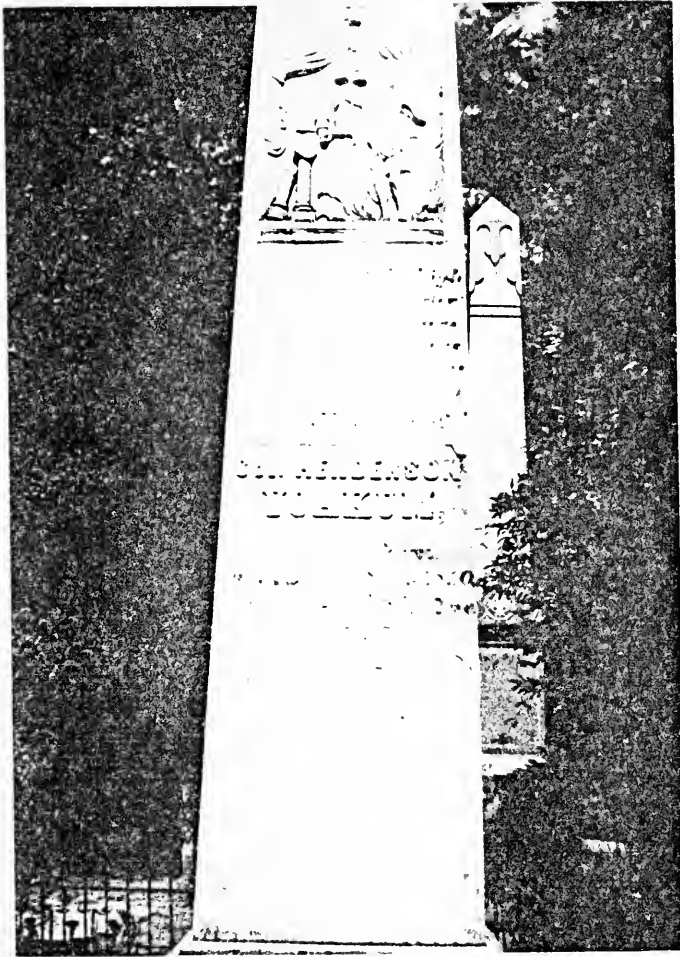
When Sam Houston was dying at his "Steamboat House" in Houston, Texas, July 1863, he requested that he be buried beside his friend, Col. Henderson King Yoakum.





Col. Henderson King Yoakum, transplanted Tennessean who became a close friend and legal advisor for Sam Houston.





Gravestone marker for Col. Henderson King Yoakum in Oakwood Cemetery,  
Huntsville, Texas. Sam Houston is buried nearby.



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## UNCLE AGGIE McPEAK'S GRIST MILL

Mrs. Pauline M. Dillon

Uncle Aggie McPeak's grist mill was located in Rutherford County, 16th district, on a farm about 1/2 mile north of the Bradley's Creek Baptist Church on Bradley's Creek and was owned by P. A. McPeak (Uncle Aggie).

It was a two-story wooden building that partly hovered over a thick rock-cemented square wall or sluice-way with gates that could be raised or lowered at each end to control the flow of the water. This sluice-way contained the water wheel which was at the end of the mill dam. This mill dam was made up of big thick rock-fence type rocks and covered horizontally and securely with long wooden planks. The top of the dam was much higher than the banks of the creek and was shaped like the half of a house top that went sloping downward to the creek bed. The dam formed a mill pond above the dam which reserved the water for the power used in the grinding.

On the front of the building was a porch. The patrons came to mill on horseback with their huge sacks of shelled corn behind them and would unload them on this porch.

Uncle Aggie would then roll the sacks of corn into the mill with a two-wheeled, steel-tire push wagon or cart, take out the toll corn with a small red cedar square box measure and pour it into a big unused hog-scalding box with the other toll corn.

He would take the rest of the sack of corn and pour it into a big



wooden hopper that was built above the big mill stones to be ground into meal. As the corn was being ground or crushed between these huge mill stones, the meal came out beneath in a little trough onto which the patron's sack was fastened. When finished grinding, Uncle Aggie, the dusty miller, removed the sack of meal, tied it securely and the patron would be on his way. Then came the next patron and so on.

Sometimes the mill stones needed sharpening, and it took a skilled mill wright to do the job. The one that came here was an old Frenchman by the name of DeHaven who was a traveling mill wright. He came by once or twice a year and sometimes would stay a week while doing the job.

Uncle Aggie (P. A. McPeak) died in 1912. After that, his son, Charlie W. McPeak, probably operated the mill intermittenly for a few years, maybe until about 1918.

Now the mill is gone, also the mill dam and rock-wall sluiceway. The heavy rains with their high flood waters gradually washed them away.

There's nothing left of the old mill but the two huge mill stones which are reserved and kept in memory of the old Uncle Aggie McPeak grist mill that he operated from 1878 - 1912.

Mrs. Pauline M. Dillon  
Granddaughter

From Down Memory Lane



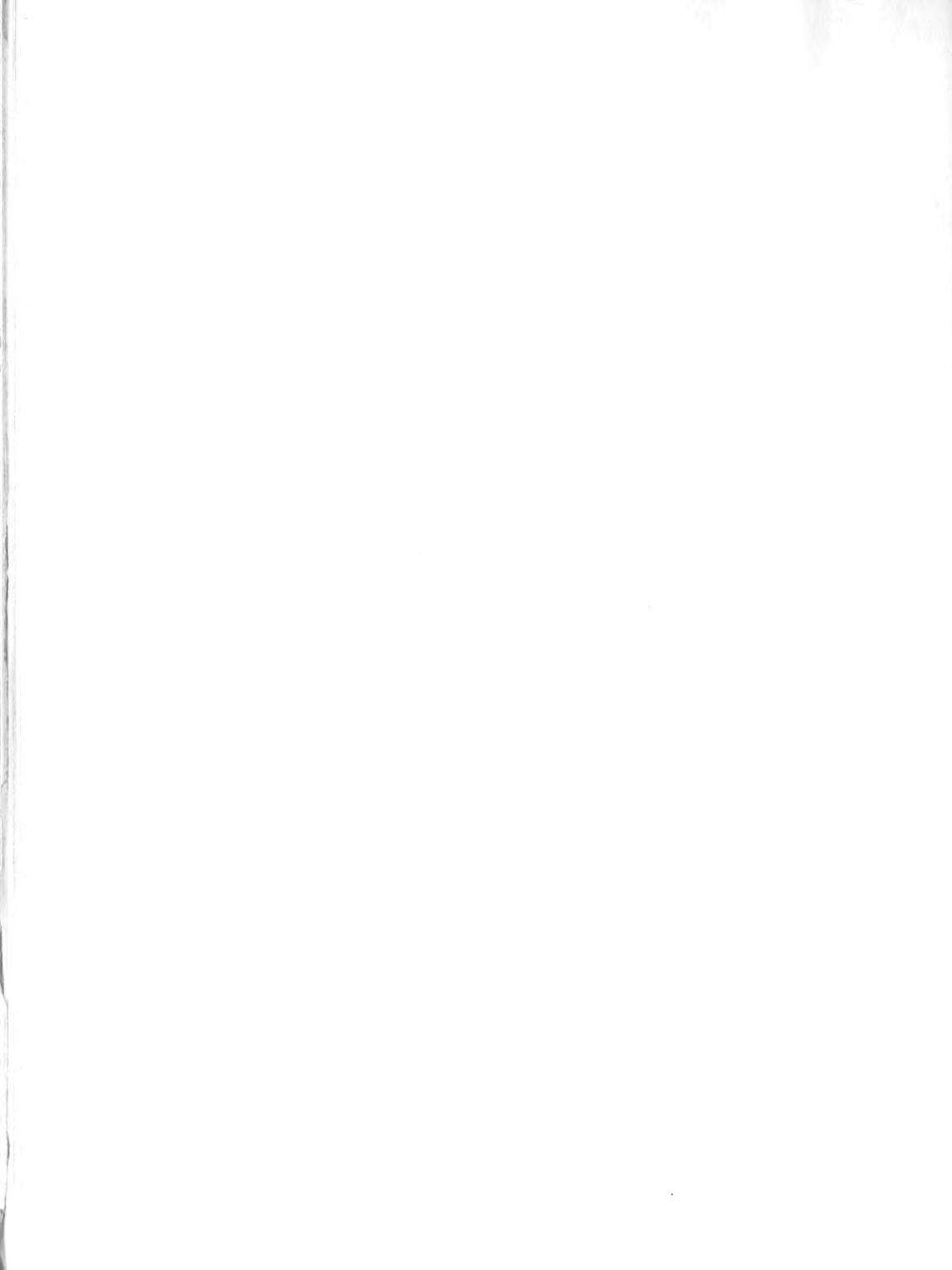
## METHODISTS AND MURFREESBORO IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

by Jerry H. Brookshire

Murfreesboro and the nation experienced a critical and fascinating period during the three decades of the 1840's-60's: the late antebellum era, Civil War, and Reconstruction. The conditions during this period can be partially revealed through studies of the various facets of life at the time. This paper will examine one such aspect -- Methodism in Murfreesboro -- with particular emphasis on membership patterns as affected by slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Some brief introductory comments about the Methodist organizational structure may be in order. The Methodist Episcopal Church had a quadrennial General Conference. The church was divided into many subgroupings, called "conferences," most of which were the size of a state or portion of a state. Each conference held a yearly meeting called the Annual Conference; the Tennessee Conference usually met in October. A conference was divided into districts, over which were presiding elders (district superintendents). Then there was the local charge or circuit, consisting of one or more churches, and to which would be appointed a pastor(s). In the Tennessee Conference, appointments were usually changed every year.

In 1844-1845 a major split in the Methodist Episcopal Church occurred; the church throughout most of the slaveholding states formed itself into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the remainder throughout the nation continued with the original name. Slavery was one significant issue



which brought about this split,<sup>1</sup> and directly involved in this separation were several men closely associated with Murfreesboro Methodism.

Methodism in America had struggled with the problem of slavery for many decades. The 1784 conference which organized the Methodist Episcopal Church for the newly independent United States forbade slave trade or ownership by members and established a procedure for the gradual emancipation by Methodist owners. At first, most preachers and laymen took this provision seriously, but over the next three decades the General Conference gradually modified its anti-slavery position and even provided some local options by Annual Conferences on the issue. In the Tennessee Conference there were some heated debates, especially in 1819, but generally by the 1820's slavery was becoming tolerated for several reasons. Throughout the south the cotton economy was growing and slavery was becoming more pervasive, and particularly in Tennessee, Methodists were evolving from "frontiersmen" to more settled, more affluent people. Some preachers in Tennessee were marrying into slave-owning families, and moreover, some of the most vocal, anti-slavery preachers were recognizing the change and were moving to non-slave states.<sup>2</sup> Following the 1824 General Conference, the position was that Methodist laymen could own slaves, but that slavery was considered an evil and an official within the church could neither buy and sell slaves nor own slaves (unless the law in his state prohibited emancipation), and even this provision was not enforced.

<sup>1</sup>Two important secondary sources on the church separation are the pertinent sections of William Warren Sweet, The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War (Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern Press, 1912) and Emory Stevens Bucke, gen. ed., The History of American Methodism, 3 vols. (New York: Abingdon Press, 1964).

<sup>2</sup>Rhoda Lee Kennedy, "The Methodist Church in Tennessee, 1800-1824" (Thesis, George Peabody College, 1929), pp. 59-62.





Within the United States during the 1830's and 1840's, abolition movements became significant. Slavery became a very controversial issue among Methodists, although the abolitionists gained little support in the 1836 and 1840 General Conferences. In the early 1840's, the anti-slavery movement grew stronger, and the issue at the 1844 General Conference precipitated a split in the church.

The General Conference met in New York in May and June of 1844. All four delegates from the Tennessee Conference are associated with the Murfreesboro church. Robert Paine had been its first pastor two decades earlier, Thomas Madden became its pastor six years later, and A. L. P. Green was twice the presiding elder (district superintendent) of the Murfreesboro district. John B. McFerrin was never assigned to Murfreesboro, but he often preached there on special occasions and was a close relative of later pastors there; McFerrin edited the Southwestern Christian Advocate located in Nashville and used it in 1844-45 to print letters and articles by himself and others which strongly favored the separation of the church and which criticized northern Methodists.<sup>3</sup>

The 1844 General Conference experienced a heated debate which centered around Bishop James O. Andrews of Georgia, who through marriage and inheritance became owner of a few slaves in a state in which emancipation was illegal. One motion at the General Conference proposed to remove him as bishop since he owned slaves; the amended version which passed 110 to 68 retained him in office but suspended him from performing any duties as bishop while he continued to own slaves. All four Tennessee delegates

<sup>3</sup>Lewis McCarroll Purifoy, Negro Slavery: The Moral Ordeal of Southern Methodism, 1844-1861 (Lake Junaluska, N.C.: Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 1966), pp. 81-82.



voted with the minority, and Green spoke passionately during the debate.<sup>4</sup> The long debate was not on slavery itself, for most delegates considered slavery a sin; that debate, as well as an earlier one at the Conference, centered on the power of the General Conference to interfere in areas affecting the duties of bishops. In fact, even after the split in the church, the Methodist Episcopal Church included slave-holding states (border states), and only in 1864 did its General Conference prohibit slave ownership by members.

At the 1844 General Conference, following the defeat of the southern position on the Andrews case, McFerrin's motion was passed that a "Committee of Nine" devise a method for a possible division of the church if Annual Conferences in slave-holding states chose to form their own organization. Paine chaired the committee and then explained and defended its "Plan of Separation" in the resulting debates. The General Conference accepted it before adjournment.<sup>5</sup>

Delegates from the southern Conferences then continued to meet for another day in New York and agreed that their Annual Conferences should determine their positions on separation and appoint delegates to a special convention in Louisville in May 1845. The Tennessee Annual Conference later in 1844 strongly supported separation<sup>6</sup> and sent to Louisville ten men. Four had attended the 1844 General Conference and had signed the call for the Louisville convention; of the other six, five are associated with Murfreesboro as pastors or presiding elders: Fountain E. Pitts, J. W. Hanner,

<sup>4</sup>History of the Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with the Journal of Its First General Conference (Nashville: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1925), pp. 95-96, 47-49. This is a collection of pertinent documents.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., pp. 101, passim.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., pp. 182-85.



Joshua Boucher,<sup>7</sup> Robert L. Andrews (its then presiding elder), and Ambrose F. Driskill (Andrews' successor the next year). At Louisville, Paine and Pitts served on the important Committee of Organization and all ten voted with the overwhelming majority to create a separate church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.<sup>8</sup>

Slavery and the relationship of white and black members within the church was a crucial concern for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Its first General Conference strongly recommended that there not be separate black congregations (called African missions or colored missions) within districts; rather, blacks and whites should belong to the same congregations and worship together even though there would be segregation in seating. Most supporters of that arrangement considered it better spiritually for blacks and whites alike (many clergymen stressed the equality of souls) and also financially (for whites would have to support the "missions").<sup>9</sup> Despite that appeal, many churches and districts did not follow that pattern. In antebellum Murfreesboro, where about half of the members of the Methodist church were slaves, the worship arrangements for the blacks varied throughout the period.

At times, apparently there were joint worship services by the two races, for the old church building (constructed in 1823<sup>10</sup>) and the new one

<sup>7</sup>Boucher had signed a vigorous protest following the 1819 Annual Conference for its refusal to admit on trial to the clergy a slave-owner. John B. McFerrin, History of Methodism in Tennessee, 3 vols. (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1869-73), 3: 160-161.

<sup>8</sup>Organization . . . M. E. C., South, pp. 239, 248, 262-63.

<sup>9</sup>Purifoy, Negro Slavery, pp. 146-147.

<sup>10</sup>History of Tennessee . . . Rutherford . . . (Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886), p. 840.



which replaced it in 1843<sup>11</sup> each had a gallery for slaves. Even so, most services were separate according to G. T. Henderson, once its pastor and a long-time Murfreesboro Methodist during this period. Henderson wrote that "negroes worshiped in the [1823] church every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with Thomas Hartwell as their preacher," and in the 1843 building, the "basement was used by the negroes for general services and Sunday school purposes."<sup>12</sup>

For most of this period, the whites and blacks were considered part of the same "congregation," whether or not they actually worshiped together. For other years, though, they were separate congregations. For the first time in the official church membership records, in October 1845 no blacks were listed on the Murfreesboro church rolls; they and blacks from other churches in the vicinity were in the "Stone's River African Mission" circuit. Although that special circuit continued (with some interruption) until the war years, from 1847 until 1853 the Murfreesboro membership records again included both whites and blacks. In 1853 the pastoral assignment specified a "Murfreesboro' and col'd mis," indicating that there were two separate congregations sharing the same pastors.<sup>13</sup> The next year (1854) the two races were separated into different charges with the creation of the Rutherford colored mission," which lasted only one year and whose preacher was Elisha Carr. For the next

<sup>11</sup>Carlton C. Sims, ed., A History of Rutherford County, [Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Carlton C. Sims, 1947] p. 196.

<sup>12</sup>C. C. Henderson, The Story of Murfreesboro (Murfreesboro, Tenn.: News-Banner Publishing Co., 1929), p. 131. Sims states that the basement was "sometimes used for Negroes." Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>There is no indication whether T. W. Randle or his assistant Abraham Overall had specific responsibility for the black congregation.





three years (1855/56-1857/58) whites and blacks were listed in the same Murfreesboro congregation, but the next two years (1858/59 and 1859/60) Murfreesboro was again an all-white congregation, and its blacks were included in the Stone's River African Mission. During the remaining two years (1860/61 and 1861/62) before the war interrupted, whites and blacks were again listed in the same congregation (the 1862 membership figures recorded 243 whites and 267 blacks).<sup>14</sup>

Apparently in antebellum Murfreesboro, only occasionally did the blacks and whites worship together in segregated seatings; the pattern was separate worship services, especially by the 1840's. The constant separating of the two congregations during the two decades before the Civil War indicates that these were probably merely organizational or administrative changes and that the races worshiped separately even when technically part of the same congregation (or "station" or "church").

Preachers assigned to black congregations were white.<sup>15</sup> A glimpse into the worship services is found in a series of essays on Elisha Carr, who served about half his ministry in black missions, including one year in Murfreesboro. He disliked what he considered excessive or feigned emotionalism of blacks during worship; he also was reputed once to have carried pebbles to throw at those who slept during services. He believed he understood the "black character,"

<sup>14</sup>The information found above in this paragraph is from the various Tennessee Annual Conference reports in the yearly Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South... (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House). Unfortunately, figures on membership totals may not always be accurate, especially on black membership when at times "round numbers" seem to be used. Black membership in Murfreesboro in the 1840's and 1850's generally ranged between 130 and 180. Since the Annual Conference usually met in October each year, a church year is from October to October. Membership figures are supposedly for that time of year; however, if whites and blacks are listed in the same congregation then, that does not necessarily indicate they were part of the same congregation for the entire preceding year.

<sup>15</sup>No information has been located on Thomas Hartwell though most likely he, too, was white.



and he preached to them to end their faults, be honest, and obey their masters.<sup>16</sup> His views on blacks may have been very similiar to his friend, A. P. L. Green, a slave-owner preacher who believed the system of slavery under good masters was beneficial to blacks for he felt that they were inherently incompetent to control themselves.<sup>17</sup> Within the black Murfreesboro congregation were some members who had leadership positions and preached some sermons. The postwar black congregation was listed as having four [black] "local preachers"; the pastor, Braxton James, had been such a preacher there while a slave.<sup>18</sup>

The Civil War came to middle Tennessee and Murfreesboro in 1862. In late February, the Confederate army abandoned Nashville, and Murfreesboro became the temporary headquarters of General Albert Sydney Johnston before he moved south to fight and die at Shiloh in April. The Federal army took control of Murfreesboro from the spring until the autumn of 1862, though possession was temporarily interrupted by Forrest's raid in July. In the autumn, General Braxton Bragg's Confederate army withdrew from its campaign in Kentucky to Murfreesboro in anticipation of an attack on Nashville. Instead, the Federal forces advanced from Nashville and defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Murfreesboro (or Stone's River, December 30, 1862 to January 2, 1863). Bragg's army was forced back toward Chattanooga, and the Federal army occupied Murfreesboro

<sup>16</sup>A. L. P. Green, "The Rev. Elisha Carr," The Home Circle 7 (July 1860): 28-29. William M. Green, "Pleasant Recollections of Rev. Elisha Carr," The Home Monthly 4 (February, March, April, and May 1868): 88-90, 111-13, 154-56, 219-21.

<sup>17</sup>William M. Green, Life and Papers of A. L. P. Green, ed. T. O. Summers (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1877), pp. 167-68. Future research into slave ownership and views on slavery by Murfreesboro Methodist laymen and other preachers could prove rewarding.

<sup>18</sup>Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church..., (New York: Methodist Episcopal Church), for 1866, pp. 258-59. From the records, it is not clear whether or not James was included in that number of "local preachers." See also James' obituary in the same publication, 1885, p. 342.



thereafter. The Union forces built the massive Fort Rosencrans to protect its major supply depot there and maintained effective control over the city and its people.

The Murfreesboro Methodist church and the entire Tennessee Conference was greatly disrupted by the war and enemy occupation. The Annual Conference of October 1862 met in Cornersville, which was accessible and not in Union hands, and then it did not meet again until three years later, after the war was over. Because of the confusion and uncertainty, practically no changes in pastoral appointments were made at that 1862 conference. Actually, many pulpits were not being filled, for almost one-fifth of the clergymen of the Tennessee Conference were serving in the Confederate army.<sup>19</sup> Many others left this area for Confederate controlled territory or remained "quietly at home"; A. L. P. Green in 1869 asserted that Federal troops "arrested and sent off to prison a considerable number of the Methodist preachers in Nashville and its vicinity."<sup>20</sup>

In 1862 George L. Staley was reappointed as the Murfreesboro pastor, but there is no evidence as to how long he continued to serve, since Conference records were not kept between October 1862 and October 1865.<sup>21</sup> Reappointed as his assistant in 1862 was E. J. Allen, a "supernumerary" preacher who had been the assistant in Murfreesboro since 1857 and who continued to serve within the district as an assistant pastor in the postwar period. Allen was apparently a permanent resident of Murfreesboro,<sup>22</sup> and perhaps he led the congregation

<sup>19</sup>Carter, History of the Tennessee Conference, pp. 147-51.

<sup>20</sup>Green, Life and Papers of A. L. P. Green, p. 508.

<sup>21</sup>Information gathered by Martha Ison, "Traveling Connection, Murfreesboro First Methodist," 1: 90. No obituary exists to shed any light on the question.

<sup>22</sup>See Minutes . . . M.E.C., South for the appropriate years.



during much of the war period. G. T. Henderson, a former Murfreesboro pastor and by then a permanent resident and a publisher in Murfreesboro, served as a chaplain in the Confederate army until "disabled by rheumatism . . . near the close of the war." He then returned to the ministry, and though it is not clearly stated, he may have led the local church toward the end of the war.<sup>23</sup> There is not, thus, any solid information on whether or not the Methodist congregation had an ordained minister during the last two and a half years of the war.

The Civil War and Reconstruction affected church attendance and membership, both of whites and blacks. One obvious feature was that some members served in the Confederate army<sup>24</sup> and thus were not in Murfreesboro during part of the war. Another is that overall white membership seriously declined beginning with the report of October 1861: 1859 (278), 1860 (308), 1861 (251), 1862 (243), 1863 and 1864 (no records), 1865 (229), 1866 (215).<sup>25</sup> One may only speculate as to the causes of that decline: reduction of religious interest, economic disruption, social instability, etc. Other features involving membership and attendance were political controversies, loss of the church building during much of the war, black members forming their separate congregation(s), and the Methodist Episcopal Church's attempt to establish a second, and rival, white church in Murfreesboro.

At least one member withdrew from the church in a very passionate and controversial dispute over loyalty to the Union or the Confederacy. Most of

<sup>23</sup>This portion of Henderson's "obituary" was written by him. Ison, "Travelling Connection," 1: 27-32.

<sup>24</sup>This obvious generalization is based on a few pertinent biographical sketches, especially found in Goodspeed's History . . . Rutherford . . ., pp.1019-76, and *ibid*.

<sup>25</sup>Minutes . . . M.E.C., South, appropriate years.





the white members of the church strongly supported the Confederacy. One who did not was James M. Tompkins, a prosperous farmer and merchant and successful county political figure; he had served in several political positions, including one term (1855-57) as a member of the General Assembly. In December 1861 he was elected a city alderman, and when in May 1862 the Federal authorities in Murfreesboro required all officials to take a prescribed oath, he was one of the few who did; those who did not were removed from office. The remaining aldermen then elected him mayor, a post he held for several months until the war conditions ended the municipal and civil government. His political activities were very unpopular in Murfreesboro in that chaotic year of 1862; he even had two sons in the Confederate army. This tension was reflected in the Murfreesboro Methodist church, where he was a member and a steward. The controversy became so intense that he withdrew his membership from the church that year, and although he expected to re-enter the church later on, he finally decided against that and in 1868 joined the Cumberland Presbyterian church.<sup>26</sup>

Worship service was further interrupted by the war as the congregation lost control of its building in 1862. As with many other large, sturdy, brick structures in Murfreesboro, the Methodist church building was taken over as a hospital, first by the Confederates and then by the Union which held it until 1865. The structure was severely damaged, and in 1873 it was so completely remodeled that it was rededicated. For at least part of the time that

<sup>26</sup>James M. Tompkins, "Memoirs of James M. Tompkins ('Written by Himself') and Homer Pittard, "Occupation Mayor: The Honorable J. M. Tompkins," Publications of the Rutherford County Historical Society 2 (Winter 1973), pp. 32-36, 30-31; Biographical Directory, Tennessee General Assembly, 1796-1967 (Preliminary, No. 6) Rutherford County (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, (1968), p. 57; and biographies of two of his sons (Robert and Albert G.) in Goodspeed's History . . . Rutherford . . ., pp. 1067-68. The blurred Tompkins memoirs have dates which may be read as 1882 and 1888 or 1862 and 1868; the latter are obviously correct since he died in 1870. Tompkins wrote this memoir for his children to explain his actions to them. Apparently he was deeply concerned about the religious controversy, for he ends with that topic and he wrote this memoir only four months after he decided to join the Cumberland Presbyterian church.



the Methodists were without their building, they used the still incomplete but "less damaged" Cumberland Presbyterian church for Methodist services.<sup>27</sup>

A similar problem affected the black members. A history of a black Methodist church founded after the Civil War states that during that war, the blacks worshiped in some of their houses, in the basement of the Methodist church building, and finally in the Primitive Baptist church.<sup>28</sup>

By the end of the war there was the new question of membership of now freed black Methodists. Throughout the south, there was by the whites the general acceptance of separate black congregations, with their own officials and often their own [black] pastors. Most white Methodist leaders hoped that these black congregations would remain within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; special circuits and African missions were established or continued. The white Methodist leaders believed that the ending of slavery did not mean that they should end their concern for aiding and perhaps controlling the religious development of blacks. But black membership fell drastically, especially as individual blacks and often entire congregations joined the (independent) African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, or the Methodist Episcopal Church which sent "missionaries" to the south to serve both whites and blacks. To counter or reverse this loss of membership, the Methodist Episcopal

<sup>27</sup>Based mainly on Goodspeed's History . . . Rutherford . . ., pp. 837, 839-40; also J. B. McFerrin, History of Methodism in Tennessee, 3: 347 (on his dedicating the building), and C. C. Henderson, Story of Murfreesboro, p. 131 (on its return to the congregation in 1865).

<sup>28</sup>Mattie D. Bracy, "The Development of the Negro Church in Rutherford County" (undergraduate paper, Tennessee A. and I., 1944), p. 14. One of her sources is a now lost work by Mrs. J. P. McClellan, "History of Key Memorial Methodist Church," [n.p., n.d.]. The sequence of the locations of worship is as given by Bracy, but one may wonder if not the loss of the church building to the Methodists caused the black members to then worship in various houses and then finally in the Primitive Baptist church.



Church, South, made an unsuccessful attempt to merge with the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866. Then in general recognition that most blacks wanted complete control of their own church organization, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, helped sponsor in 1870-71 the establishment of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>29</sup>

In 1865 in the Murfreesboro district (of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South), an attempt was made to include all black members (200, obviously an estimate) within one "African mission" circuit attached to a white circuit. This failed, and from 1867 on there were very few black members,<sup>30</sup> some having joined the Colored Methodists, the African Methodists, or the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>31</sup>

By the end of the war, the black Methodists in Murfreesboro were no longer associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Episcopal Church sent a northern missionary to Murfreesboro in 1865,<sup>32</sup> but the local black congregation was at first independent. It soon became affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which ordained as elder its local pastor, Braxton James. In October 1866, the Methodist Episcopal Church held the founding meeting of its Tennessee Conference in Murfreesboro. Probably while in town for the event, W. H. Pearne (presiding elder for the Memphis district and a missionary to the south from a New York conference)<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup>Hunter Dickinson Farish, The Circuit Rider Dismounts: A Social History of Southern Methodism, 1865-1900 (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1938), pp. 163-76.

<sup>30</sup>Minutes . . . M.E.C., South, appropriate years.

<sup>31</sup>Sims, Rutherford County, p. 189.

<sup>32</sup>See footnote 42.

<sup>33</sup>Minutes of . . . M.E.C. for 1866 (pp. 258-59 for the Tennessee Annual Conference, and p. 89 for Pearne, a missionary from the Wyoming Annual Conference in New York state).



preached to that local black Methodist congregation. He offered aid to the church, including aid to build a chapel (and probably to help pay the pastor and help develop a Sunday School). All but eleven of the congregation of about sixty to seventy agreed to join the Methodist Episcopal Church. The eleven who remained as African Methodists were the nucleus of the future Allen's Chapel; the bulk of the congregation which joined the Methodist Episcopal Church later became Key Memorial. At this October 1866 Tennessee Conference, the local minister, Braxton James, was "appointed" to the Murfreesboro "second charge," located in the Nashville Mission District.<sup>34</sup>

The Methodist Episcopal Church obtained for the congregation a lot for the church building, and federal government allowed it to dismantle the Fort Rosecrans commissary and rebuild it for its church, which was used until about 1880.<sup>35</sup> A northern Methodist missionary to New Orleans about this time explained and defended the Methodist Episcopal Church activities in the south, especially because blacks needed financial support for church buildings and educational programs.<sup>36</sup> By 1867, the Radical Murfreesboro newspaper, Freedoms Watchman, noted a flourishing Sunday School at the "colored congregation of 250 students and 24 teachers."<sup>37</sup> The church building was also used for a school, its teacher being first a missionary from the north, then the pastor, Braxton James, and later employees of the public school system.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., and Bracy, "Negro Church in Rutherford County," pp. 14-15, 30. In describing the Pearne visit, her sources gave the date as 1867; the Minutes . . . M.E.C. indicates 1866.

<sup>35</sup>Bracy, "Negro Church in Rutherford County," p. 15.

<sup>36</sup>L. C. Matlack, "The Methodist Episcopal Church in the Southern States," Methodist Quarterly Review 54 (January 1872): 103-27.

<sup>37</sup>November 17, 1867.

<sup>38</sup>Bracy, "Negro Church in Rutherford County," p. 15.





The local church was active in other ways too, for in 1867, a brush arbor revival greatly increased its membership, apparently both through new members and by regaining some others who had been members while slaves.<sup>39</sup>

The Methodist Episcopal Church also tried to create white congregations in the south. During the war, the Federal government allowed its pastors (missionaries from the north) to take over some buildings of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in occupied cities,<sup>40</sup> a practice which was stopped when the war ended. Although one of Nashville's Methodist churches experienced this,<sup>41</sup> the Murfreesboro Methodist church did not. Northern missionaries were sent to Murfreesboro. The Ohio Annual Conference in October 1865 listed one of its pastors, Wesley Prettyman, as a missionary to Murfreesboro, but if he did actually come to the town, he failed to establish either a black or a white congregation. In October 1866 he was assigned to Atlanta.<sup>42</sup> A white congregation was organized in Murfreesboro during or just prior to the founding meeting in the town of the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in October 1866.<sup>43</sup> The pastor of this "Murfreesboro first charge" for its initial two years was Amasa A. Brown, a missionary from the

<sup>39</sup>Ibid. Bracy mentions a "hundred conversions and two hundred added to the church." This increase (though not the base number) coincides generally with the records for appropriate years in Minutes of . . . M.E.C. which listed 1866 (424 members), 1867 (500), and then 1868 (650 members).

<sup>40</sup>Street, Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War, pp. 98-99.

<sup>41</sup>McFerrin, Methodism in Tennessee, 3: 149-50.

<sup>42</sup>Minutes of . . . M.E.C. (Ohio Conference in 1865, Tennessee Conference in 1866).

<sup>43</sup>Freedoms Watchman, November 30, 1867, states it was organized "a little over a year ago."



North West Indiana Conference who moved on to the Kansas Conference in 1868.<sup>44</sup> The church had "many obstacles to contend against."<sup>45</sup> One was the lack of a church building; it held its services in McFadden's Hall.<sup>46</sup> The most important problem was membership. White Methodist Episcopal churches in southern states were expected to serve northern Methodists who were in the south and local Methodists who opposed the church separation two decades earlier.<sup>47</sup> Apparently there were few of either in Murfreesboro,<sup>48</sup> for the church soon died. The membership figures were as follows: in 1866 when founded (40 members, 3 probationers, and 1 local preacher), 1867 (48, 47, and 2), 1868 (26, 1, 0), 1869 (21, 0, 0), and thereafter no pastor nor membership figures were given and no mention of the church was made after 1871.<sup>49</sup>

The Civil War thus had a tremendous effect on the Methodist organization in Murfreesboro. The Methodists in antebellum years, while divided into black

<sup>44</sup>Minutes of . . . M.E.C. for appropriate years and annual conferences. When Brown was mentioned as the Rutherford County Superintendent of Public Schools, he was described as a "Negro Methodist Episcopal minister" in Martha McCullough Bouldin, "A Decade in Rutherford County, 1865-1875" (Thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1973), p. 24. No source was given, but it seems incorrect considering his past and future assignments as well as his Murfreesboro pastorate for the white congregation.

<sup>45</sup>Freedoms Watchman, November 20, 1867.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid. Also, listed were "0" buildings in the Minutes of . . . M.E.C. for the appropriate years.

<sup>47</sup>Matlack, "The Methodist Episcopal Church in the Southern States," p. 106.

<sup>48</sup>One may speculate if Tompkins was a member. He left the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1862 and finally joined the Cumberland Presbyterian church in August 1868. It was the autumn of 1868 that the white Methodist Episcopal Church seemed to be failing; its membership was only half of the October 1867 figure, and also its missionary pastor left for a northern conference.

<sup>49</sup>Minutes of . . . M.E.C. for appropriate years. Freedoms Watchman, Nov. 20, 1867, fully displayed its bias by claiming that the membership was "almost the average equal of any of our city churches."



and white congregations, were within the same church (Methodist Episcopal Church, South), shared the same building, and often were within the same "charge" and shared the same pastor. Shortly after the war there were at least four congregations: a small black African Methodist Episcopal Church (future Allen's Chapel), the larger black Methodist Episcopal Church (future Key Memorial), the struggling and soon terminated white Methodist Episcopal Church, and the white Methodist Episcopal Church, South. That latter congregation ("First Methodist") did experience some reduction in its white membership, which averaged about twenty percent lower in the first five postwar years than in the five years preceeding the war, although by the next decade its membership surpassed its prewar numbers.<sup>50</sup> Though long lasting, not all the divisions within Methodism in the mid-nineteenth century were permanent. In 1938 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Methodist Episcopal Church merged. This again brought Murfreesboro's white Methodists and most of its black Methodists into the same denominational structure while still maintaining separate congregations.

<sup>50</sup>Minutes of . . . M.E.C., South for appropriate years.



William, Robert and Nathaniel Overall, Pioneer  
Settlers at the Bluff

Copied from a handwritten report by: Lula Virginia Ramsey McGee,  
Jackson, Tennessee, February, 1908.

The Overalls were of Saxon origin. The first of whom we have any knowledge was George Overall, who settled in Thuxted, Essexshire, England during the reign of Henry the Eighth. He died in 1561 leaving two sons, William and John. John was born in 1559 and died at Norwich in 1619. He was educated at Johns College but later went to Trinity College where he became noted for his piety and great learning. Dr. Overall became Dean of St. Pauls in London in 1601 and at the Hampton Court Meeting held by King James the First in 1604 was the second man chosen of the fifty appointed by the King James to translate the Bible. As everyone knows this is the King James Version used for almost three hundred years. Dr. John Overall wrote much, but his best known work was his Convocation Book. Dr. Overall was made Bishop of London in 1614 and died five years later in 1619.

There are many Overalls in England at the present time; and all, both in England and America, are descended from the same English stock. Many claim descent from Bishop Overall, but others say that all in both countries are descended from his elder brother William.

The Overalls came to America in 1698, settling in Prince William and Stafford Counties, Virginia. William Overall of Stafford County, Virginia had four sons, John, William, Nathaniel and Robert. John went to Frederick County, Virginia and married Sara Jane Froman. Their old homestead is now a railroad station and post office called Overall, though since the divisions made of the old Frederick County, it is now in Page





County. The old place is still occupied by one of the name, Miss Harriet Overall.

John and Sara Jane Overall had four sons and three daughters; John, William, Nathaniel, Robert, Mary, Nancy, and Christina. Of these seven, only John remained in Virginia, the others all coming to Tennessee. John married Elizabeth Waters, and they had three sons; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Two of these, Abraham and Jacob, came to Tennessee in 1804. Isaac remained in Virginia, and his descendants live in Washington, Philadelphia and Virginia.

William Overall went from Virginia to the Watauga settlement in East Tennessee, and we find his name among those who signed the petition for annexation to North Carolina, which bore no date but was received in Raleigh in 1776.

When James Robertson set out from Watauga for the Cumberland to found a settlement in a fairer land, he was accompanied by seven other white men. These were George Freeland, William Neely, James Hanly, Mark Robertson, Edward Swanson, Zachariah White and William Overall. They left Watauga in the early spring of 1779 and reached the Cumberland on Christmas Day. They made a crop of corn that summer near where Nashville now stands. After the corn was made, Overall, Swanson and White were left to keep the buffaloes from the corn, while the others returned to Watauga with Robertson for their families and to induce others to come with them, that they might have a strong colony to make defense against the savage foe when they would attack their forts. How fearless must have been these three who remained in the wilds alone!



They were not molested during this time, but during the battle at the Bluff, White was killed by the Indians and Swanson had an extremely narrow escape; and many years after the 1794 Overall was killed by this foe who he fought against so long and bravely.

Surely braver men have never lived than these Tennessee pioneers. Gilmore in his "Advance Guard of Western Civilization", says "Nothing more heroic is recorded of these people than the migration of three hundred and eighty of their number from Watauga into the wilds of West Tennessee under the lead of James Robertson in the winter of 1780." Every name should be rescued from oblivion and placed among the names of the heroes of our Volunteer State.

They must have realized to some extent that they were laying the foundation stones to a great commonwealth, for Robertson is said to have explained to Sevier when the latter was trying to persuade him to remain at Watauga, "We are the advance guard of civilization and our way is across the continent." From this utterance, Gilmore must have obtained the title for that intensely interesting book, "Advance Guard of Western Civilization."

Robertson returned to Watauga by the Kentucky trace as before, the journey extending from November the first, 1779 to Christmas Day. They began at once erecting the fort and ten log houses at French Lick, as to have them in readiness for their families. This was the beginning of our fair Capital City.

The women and children were coming by the long river route under the leadership of John Donelson and a guard of thirty men. These women and children numbered one hundred and thirty, ready to share the dangers and toils and brighten the new homes for fathers and brothers and husbands.



Their trip by the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland rivers took four months and was attended by many dangers. Thirty three perished by the way. This journey has no parallel in the history of our country.

Among the several hundred returning with Robertson and his party to the Cumberland settlement were William Overall's two brothers, Nathaniel and Robert and the Thomas brothers, John and Joshua. The Thomas and Overall families became closely connected by marriages. William Overall married Susanna Thomas, sister to John and Joshua. Nathaniel Overall married Annie Thomas, another sister; and Nancy Overall, sister of the three Overalls, married Joshua Thomas. There were two other Overall sisters; Mary who married James Espy, and Christina who married a Mr. Williams and moved to South Carolina. Within a few months after their arrival at the Bluff early in 1780, Robert Overall was killed by Indians. Joshua Thomas was killed during the Nickajack expedition, the only man killed in that raid; William Overall was killed in 1794; and James Espy, while Sheriff of Sumner County. These were the sorrows the Indians caused these families. Indeed few there were, if any, but experienced at some time a like tragedy. It is said that, "from 1780 to 1794 they killed within seven miles of Nashville one person in about every ten days."

Robert Overall was never married. Overall's Creek, a beautiful stream in Rutherford County, was named for him. William Overall had been a noted Indian fighter since the foundation of the colony. He was in the battle at the Bluff and many other encounters with the Indians. He left a family of four sons and one daughter.



Nathaniel Overall died in 1835 and his wife, Annie Thomas Overall, died in 1844. He was in the battle at the Bluff, April 2nd 1781, when about seven hundred Indians attacked the fort, which at this time had only thirty-five men to defend it, some being away to protect other forts. Annie Thomas was in the fort during this battle and helped to mould bullets and otherwise assist the men in defense of their lives. She delighted in after years to tell her children and grand children the thrilling accounts of those perilous times and of how the women and girls so bravely assisted the men, moulding bullets, even at times taking a man's place at the port holes.

We need not search outside our own state annals to find examples of the finest heroism. These men were as true patriots as those nearer the coast who had battled with another enemy to gain freedom for their land. These had a cruel and treacherous enemy to deal with, and their families were in greater personal danger. Many of these pioneers had been Revolutionary soldiers too, in North Carolina and Virginia, and their lands on the Cumberland represented the pay they had received for their services.

Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall had eight children; Mary, Robert, Nace, John, Sally, Abraham, Lorenzo Dow, and James.

Mary, called Polly, was born in 1783 and died in 1849. She married William Ramsey, Jr. in 1805 and they had ten children. The father of William Ramsey was William Ramsey, Sr. a native of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and a Revolutionary soldier and came to Tennessee just after the close of the war. William Ramsey, Jr. died in Aug. 1833. Their oldest child was Eliza who married Wm. Mathes and reared a large family. The second child was perhaps Ann who married John McKee. She reared





five or six children. The third was Nathaniel Jefferson who married Frances Young Davis of Davis County, Kentucky. Nathaniel Jefferson Ramsey was born March 3, 1809 and died June 28, 1871. Frances Young Davis was born March 16, 1812 and died February 25, 1862. They reared five children; their eldest, Polly Ann, dying in infancy, 2nd William Baxter; 3rd Nathaniel Preston; 4th Vibella; 5th John Wesley; 6th Ava Amelia. These five all married and reared families. The fourth child was William Franklin who married Nancy Knox. They had ten children; George W. H., James W. L., David A. K., B. F., Granville J., M.S.T., Robert N., Daniel B., Sarah E., N. Emilie, Emma J., and G. F. The fifth child was Nace Preston who married Polly Ann Davis of Davis County, Kentucky. They reared four sons and five daughters: Greenville Henderson, Thomas Joiner, Robert Newton, Mary Frances, William Davis, Corilla, Rachel Leona, Sophronia and Ira. The sixth child was Sarah Lucretia who was born March 16, 1815 and died June 21, 1870. She married first William Elder and had one daughter, Martha, and two sons, John Summerfield and James Monroe. These all died unmarried. The seventh child was Nancy B. who was born May 16, 1816 and died Dec. 30, 1891. She married John C. Berry and they had twelve children; Mary Elizabeth, James L., Parthenia, Martha Jane, Sallie E. Tennie C., Texas A., Aurelia, William Robert, Vitula F., Lucy A. and the 12th died in infancy. The eighth child was Blackmon Asbury born September 20, 1818 and died March 25, 1891. He married Eliza Jett and they had four sons and three daughters. The daughters all married and reared families, but the sons died when small. The daughters were: Mary Alice, Eliza Josephine and Susan Ella. The ninth child was Martha who married Daniel Waddley. They had one daughter, Martha, who died young. The



tenth child was Pauline Jane who was born April 15, 1825 and died April 22, 1884. She married first Albert Kelly and had two sons William D. and Albert. She married second \_\_\_\_\_Smith, and third, Rev. George Johnston.

The second child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was Robert who was born June 11, 1785 and died in 1862. He married his cousin, Mary Espy, and they had twelve children.

The third child of Nathaniel and Annie Overall was Nace. He married Amelia Davis of Davis County, Kentucky. Nace Overall was a Methodist Minister, as were two of his brothers. He had three sons and four daughters: Baxter, Lee Ann, Nathaniel Webb, Robert A., Mary Frances, Elizabeth and Vistula. Rev. Nace Overall and three of his nephews married sisters. These were the daughters of Baxter and Mary (Webb) Davis of Davis County, Kentucky. James G. Overall, son of Robert and Mary (Espy) Overall married Rachel Webb Davis; Nace Preston Ramsey, son of William and Polly (Overall) Ramsey married "Polly" Ann Davis; Nathaniel Jefferson Ramsey, son of William and Polly Overall Ramsey, married Frances Young Davis. Perhaps all were of the same type of womanhood as the writer's grandmother, Fanny Davis, a gentle, lovely, Christian, who lived with a song and died with shouts of praise on her lips. Never having seen her, yet her grandchildren appreciate her influence, and will ever cherish the record of her life.

"She reaps as she sowed  
Lo, this man is her son."

Two of her sons were ministers, and the other and his sisters repeated in their lives the qualities of their sainted mother and father.



Nathaniel Jefferson Ramsey was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, March 3, 1809 and died in Gibson County, Tenn. June 28, 1871. Frances Young (Davis) Ramsey was born in Davis Co., Ky. June 10, 1812 and died in Gibson Co., Tenn. Feb. 25, 1862. They were married August 15, 1828 and had six children ; Polly Ann (born Sept. 20, 1829, died May 24, 1830), William Baxter (born Feb. 15, 1831, died July 14, 1865), Nathaniel Preston (born Dec. 22, 1833, died Mar. 13, 1895), Vibella P. (born Aug. 27, 1838, died Dec. 6, 1871), John Wesley (born Oct. 7, 1840, died Nov. 4, 1901), Ava Amelia (born Aug. 16, 1843-yet living NOTE: THIS WAS WRITTEN IN 1908). William Baxter married Mary Winfrey Askew, and they had two children: Henry H. Ramsey (now living at Dawson Springs, Ky.) and Willie Etta Ramsey, who died at age thirteen.

Nathaniel Preston Ramsey married three times: first Callie McConnel, and had one son, Alney Winfrey (born 1862 died 1903); second Judith Demaris Waddy, and had three sons and three daughters; Robert Waddy, Jefferson (both living in Memphis Tenn.), Eugene Duncan (living at Clinton, Ky), Mary Clark (married S. H. Mann and living at Forrest City, Ark.), Frances Davis (married Clayton Porter and living Clinton, Ky.), and Gertrude Mahon (married \_\_\_\_\_ living in Baltimore, Md.); third N. P. Ramsey married Mattie Holmes Waddy. She lives at Clinton, Ky.

Vibella P. Ramsey married Elisha F. Askew and had three children: Emma, Ava and David.

John Wesley Ramsey married Victoria M. Heard, Jan. 3, 1866. She was born June 21, 1846, now living in Bedford Co., Tenn., at Trenton. Their children were: Lula Virginia, the writer of this sketch (she married



W. B. McGee of Trenton, Tenn.); Wm. Walter who married Jonnie Robbins of Jackson, Tenn. and now lives in Racine, Wisc.; Katherine Ewell Ramsey; Frances Irene (who married Herbert N. Davis and lives at Trenton, Tenn.); Minnie Lee (who married Homer S. Lain and lives at Trenton, Tenn.); Tommie Heard (who married Edwin E. Russell of Racine, Wisc. and now lives in Paris, France; Martha Davis (who married Webb H. Herbert and lives at Ruston, La.)

John Wesley Ramsey was a loyal Confederate soldier, serving the four years of the war. He was an honest upright Christian, beloved by all who knew him. To no man could words be more fitting-"His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, This was a man."

Ava A. Ramsey married J. W. Phillips. Their children died young except two daughters: Ione married J. D. Wrather, and four \_\_\_\_\_ Joyner.

William Ramsey, Jr. who married "Polly" Overall was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, the date not known to the writer and died August, 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee. He was a Methodist minister and a very consecrated Christian. His father, William Ramsey, Sr., was also a native of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served three years in the Revolutionary War, coming to Tennessee just after the close of the war. The father of William Ramsey, Sr. whose name is not known to the writer was one of that large company of Scotch-Irish who came from North Ireland by way of Pennsylvania to North Carolina and other Southern colonies before the Revolutionary War. His sons whose names





are known to the writer were; William, Robert, John, David, James and daughters, Anne, Maria and Polly.

The fourth child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was John who married a Miss McLin. Some of their descendants live in Gibson County, Tenn.

The fifth child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was Sally who married John Doak and moved to Texas. She was born September 15, 1800.

The sixth child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was Abraham who married a Miss White. He was a Methodist minister of some note. His descendants live in Rutherford County, Tenn.

The seventh child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was Lorenzo Dow, born July 8, 1802, a noted Methodist minister and one of the founders of McKendree Church, Nashville. He died unmarried.

The eighth child of Nathaniel and Annie Thomas Overall was James, who married Lucy Butler. Their descendants live in Tipton County, Tennessee.

Thus we see that three of the sons of Nathaniel and Annie Overall were ministers, and if any of their descendants have been a dishonor to the name, it is not known to the writer. That she is able to relate so little of these brave noble ancestors and Cumberland pioneers, Nathaniel and Annie Overall, the writer regrets exceedingly; but those who have heard those thrilling accounts of Indian attacks and slaughter and those tales of pioneer life, have passed away and left us no written accounts of these things. But it is with pride we may name them for their courage, their patriotism, their refinement, their gentle blood, and best of all, for those finer



qualities characteristic of the disciples of the Savior of men.

Lula Virginia Ramsey McGee

Jackson, Tennessee

February, 1908

Two books have been written on the Overall Family. The first by Mrs. T. O. Kiger, 4029 Sunbeam Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37411 contains about 500 pages and sells for \$15.00. In a letter from Mr. Erkin Overall, he states that the article by Mrs. Virginia Ramsey McGee on the Overall Family contains two errors. "John Overall Jr. married Maria Christa Froman, not Sara Jane"; also, "Bishop Overall and his wife had no children."

The second book is by Mrs. F. Earl Britton, 133 Kingwood Drive, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412 and is on the family of William Jefferson Overall. It contains about 250 pages and costs \$15.00. A copy of this book is in the Tennessee Room at Linebaugh Library.



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