

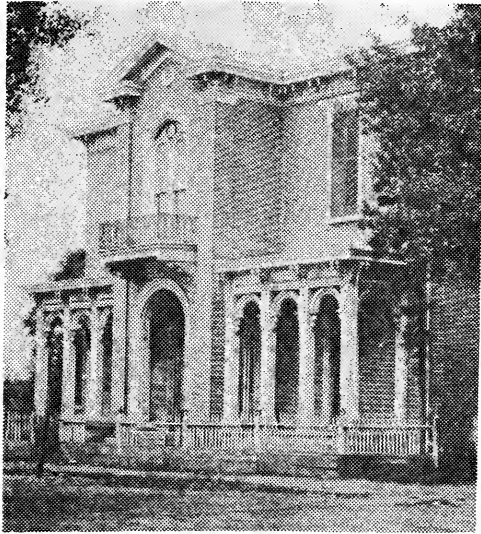
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# RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publication No. 26



**BASSETT HOUSE**



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**WINTER 1986**

**Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130**



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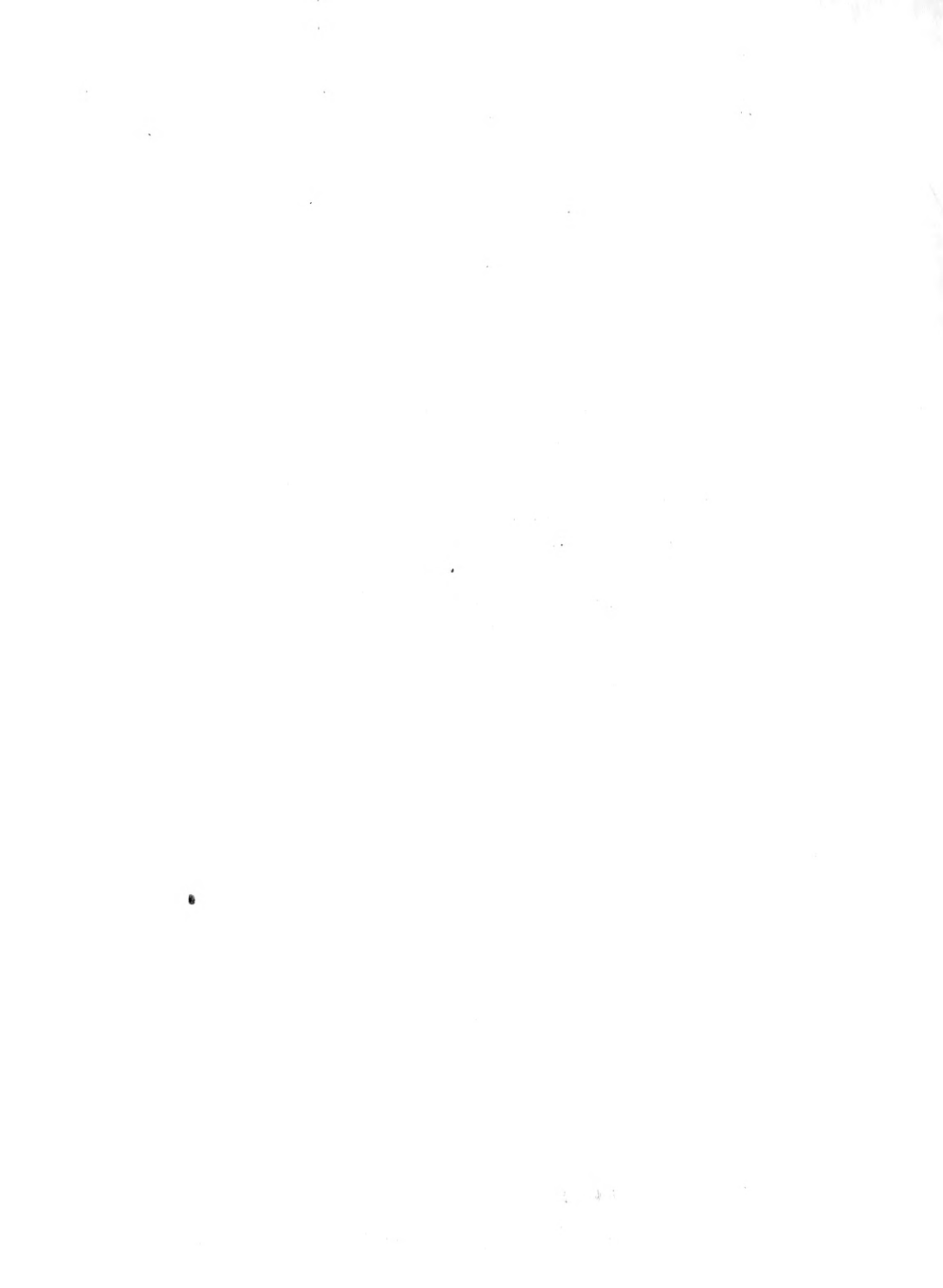
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THE COVER

THE WOMEN CLUB BUILDING  
221 East College  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

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RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. 26

Published by the

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Daniel C. Miller

A YANKEE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

by Mabel Pittard



#### Foreword

Several years ago my husband, Homer Pittard, discovered the above carving on a large boulder along Stones River near the present-day Stones River Country Club. Through official records he was able to locate descendants of Daniel C. Miller. These relatives gave him information concerning this young Union soldier who had left his name carved with a scroll-like effect on an over-hanging cliff along Rutherford County's main stream. These relatives made available to Dr. Pittard some thirty letters written in German which Miller had sent to his family in Ohio during the one and one-half years that he was assigned to guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans. Ortrun Gilbert of Middle Tennessee State University translated these letters

into English for Dr. Pittard. It is hoped that members of the Rutherford County Historical Society and others will find these letters to be of interest.





## A YANKEE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

On the cold night of January 3, 1863, General Braxton Bragg and his Army of Tennessee headed south from Murfreesboro, Tennessee to take up winter quarters at Tullahoma, Winchester, Shelbyville, and other towns in that vicinity. This retreat on the part of Bragg and his army was interpreted by the opposing Union general, William Starke Rosecrans, as a victory for the Federal forces in the two-day Battle of Stones River which ended on January 2, 1863.

Rosecrans and his army were to remain in and near Murfreesboro for almost six months during which time he reorganized his army and allowed their wounds to heal. Like other generals before him, Rosecrans was faced with the problem of keeping his men occupied and in good physical condition during this period of inactivity and rest. This problem, in part, accounted for Rosecrans' decision to erect a high fortress just to the southwest of Murfreesboro that would serve as a supply depot for the coming operations that lay ahead for the Federal troops as they penetrated deeper and deeper into southern territory.

The Army of the Cumberland was 215 miles away from its main supply base in Louisville, Kentucky and was dependent

upon the Louisville and Nashville railroad line for military rations and supplies. Enemy raiders and flash floods could easily disrupt this line of supplies, and Rosecrans, who was planning a forward movement toward Chattanooga in late spring of 1863, realized the value of fortifying Murfreesboro and establishing a depot in that Middle Tennessee town. Also, Murfreesboro, if well-fortified and stockpiled with supplies, would serve as a good point to fall back on in the event the Army of the Cumberland was forced to retreat.

The design and location for the fortress, later to become known as Fortress Rosecrans, was assigned to the chief engineer of Rosecrans' army, Captain James St. Clair Morton. The site chosen by Morton surrounded the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad bridge over Stones River and enclosed an area of approximately 200 acres.

The Pioneer Brigade, a brigade of engineers who specialized in the construction of fortifications and railroads, performed the duties of supervising the crews assigned to building block-houses, magazines, railroad spurs, saw mills, grist mills, and missionary buildings.

By mid-April of 1863 the fortress was almost completed and had been stockpiled with huge stores of food substances and forage. Also, by this time Rosecrans and his

staff were making plans to march on the Army of Tennessee which by June would be in retreat toward Chattanooga.

By the time Rosecrans and his army had left Murfreesboro, Fortress Rosecrans had received a garrison of some 2,500 men. These soldiers were for the most part convalescents, thus freeing able-bodied men to be sent to the front. However, many of these soldiers were unfit for duty and soon it became evident that other troops were needed to help garrison the fortress. Among such troops sent to Murfreesboro to help man the depot was the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, a unit that after its organization had seen no combat but had been used solely for guard duty at prison camps and supply depots. One of the members of this 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, Company B, was Daniel C. Miller a 23 year-old German immigrant who had come to the United States at the age of 19.

Daniel C. Miller was born in Germany in 1838 and came to the United States in 1857. His parents settled in Cleveland, Ohio and their German name of Meuller was changed to the American version, Miller. At the outbreak of the Civil War Daniel was employed as a marble cutter with a monument company in Cleveland. Official records indicate that Miller was mustered into the Union Army on August 11, 1862. His regiment was organized at Camp

Massillon, Ohio. On the fourth of October, 1862 the regiment reported to Major-General Wright at Cincinnati. On the ninth of October, 1862, Company B of the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry was sent to Camp Chase to perform guard duties. It remained at this prison camp until November of 1862 at which time it was ordered to Maysville, Kentucky and placed under the command of Colonel Lucy. In December of 1862 the batallion was ordered to Covington, Kentucky where it performed provost duty until October of 1863 at which time it was ordered to Murfreesboro, Tennessee and stationed in blockhouses along the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad with orders to prevent guerillas from destroying the rail line. Miller remained in Rutherford County for the remainder of the Civil War and with the defeat of the Confederacy and the conclusion of the war, he was mustered out of service at Murfreesboro on June 22, 1865.

During the one and one-half years while Miller was on guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans, he frequently wrote letters to his family in Ohio. Dr. Homer Pittard was successful in contacting descendants of Daniel C. Miller who made these letters available. They give interesting insights into the life of a Yankee soldier assigned to guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans from October 1863 until

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



STATE OF OHIO

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Columbus, O., March 13, 1861

Know Ye That the records of this office show that

Daniel C. Miller

was enrolled as a Corporal in Company "B" 115th. Regiment, Ohio Vol Infantry on the 11th. day of August, 1862, at \_\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_

and was mustered into the United States service as such for the period of 3 years, on the 18th. day of September, 1862 at Camp Massillon, Ohio, by Captain Alexander E. Drake

U. S. A. Mustering Officer, and that he was twenty three years of age at the time of his enrollment in the Civil War, August 11, 1862. He served with the 115th. Regiment, O.V.I., Infantry, in Company "B". His enlistment was for a period of three years. He was appointed January 1, 1865; He mustered out with the Company June 22, 1865, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Adjutant General of Ohio

June of 1865. The first such communication was written the day before Christmas 1863 and relates how he and other members of Company B were assigned to make railroad ties. He also tells how he and some of his friends obtained turkeys and chickens from a rebel farmer. The letter follows:

24 December 1863  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

I do not know much news. 36 men from our company B went twelve miles toward Nashville to make railroad ties 8 ft. long from cedar trees. It will probably take us 3 to 4 months because they want us to make 16,000 ties like those, but they are not pushing us and we are taking our time and we have enough to eat. Tomorrow is Xmas day and we don't do anything. We have already finished 1300 of those ties. Monday a week ago while we went through the woods to our work we saw four bushwhackers on horses in front of us but they were too far away to shoot at, but since then 3 of them have been caught by our Cavalry and will probably hang.

The Christmas day went by quietly and peacefully. We didn't have any candy like we did for the last two yrs. It rained last night so we won't get much done again today. But tomorrow we will go deeper into the forest. Last night we went to a rich Rebel farmer who had many chickens and turkeys. We asked him for some. He gave us 1 turkey and 16 chickens. If he hadn't done so freely we would have taken them by force. They tasted real good. This farmer still has 150 slaves but every day some flee to enlist. In Murfreesboro we have a whole regiment of about 1300 of such slaves who have escaped from their masters.

With this I will close and wish you a healthy and happy New Year 1864, hoping to be with you again. Here they have cotton seeds which are planted like corn and when it reaches one foot it is hoed.

On January 10, 1864, Miller explained how members of his company tried to warm their tents during the bitter cold weather. He also relates that he had obtained cotton seed from an old barn and mailed some of these seeds home to his parents. In the letter he makes an effort to explain to his parents how the cotton plants grow.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
January 10, 1864

Dear Parents, brothers, and sisters,

Received your letter and heard that all of you are well, so am I. This time I don't know any news except that we have enough to eat, as much as we need. Since Christmas we have hardly been able to do anything because of rain and snow. 4 days ago we had 4 inches of snow, which still has not disappeared yet. It was rather cold recently so that the snow froze again over night and we could not do anything because the trees were too slick.

We read this evening in a Canton newspaper, that the State of Ohio has written to Washington and gotten permission that we receive 25 dollars per month which the State of Ohio will give voluntarily to its soldiers who are in the war. That would be fine and the State of Indiana will give its soldiers 20 dollars per month. I think Congress will permit it. I believe that the war will soon be over because one sees that the people at home are more peaceful, they see that as long as they rebel at home there cannot be peace. I

for my part would like to march 15-20 miles per day with knap sack and rifle if I could know that there will be peace in 4-5 months. Some at home can sit a long time in their warm rooms and make calendars and we are here like the wild Indians in the woods, who don't see anyone for weeks except our comrades. We have made our tents quite warm, we have ovens under our tents covered with big flagstones, so that they get almost glowing hot. We can sleep warm the whole night and get up in the morning without to rub an eye.

With this I want to close, stay well, hope to see you soon and speak to you.

Just one more thing, is it true that they have made a fort in the town under Bank Street and that there are canons in it?

The cottonseed I took from an old barn in which I found more than 50 bushel, it will rot if it does not get to a dry place. There are still large fields of it, which have not been picked. The plant gets 2-3-4 feet high, when it gets ripe it becomes brown like a chestnut. There are 10-20-30 seeds on one plant as large as an egg. They open when they get ripe, like a chestnut.

In this letter dated January 28, 1864, Miller reveals his remedy for a cold. Near the end of the same letter, in very poetic language, he expresses his desire for peace.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
January 28, 1864

Dear brother-in-law and sister,

I received your letter tonight, well and with joy, and learned that you all are healthy and well which I like to hear only that Fritz is sick for so long is bad and I wish he will get better soon. As far as I can tell, I am still o.k. and



have been that way as long as I have been in the U. S. Army. I only had a cold for three days. I couldn't speak for 2 days and had to drive everything away with red pepper and vinegar, since then I have been fine. I wish the same to you all. There is no news except that we will have to wait 6 to 7 weeks until we get our 16,000 ties. And we still have enough to eat. We get good spring water, the General has told us that we should take our time for that which we certainly do. One only has to make 10 ties per day. I can easily do them in 2-3 hours, then I am free for the rest of the day. As we have heard definitely we are under a French general with the name of Rousseau and belong to the 2nd Bridage, 4th Army Corp and the 3rd Division, 4 Reserve. We also got tonight new in-Field Rifles and one old musket which we got in Cincinnati we have stored with pleasure in a box.

We have had over 8-9 days very warm and beautiful weather. You can imagine when the wild doves are flying and the ants are crawling in big masses and the birds are singing their praise songs in the morning--that there should be peace soon in this country so that the Bluecoats cannot destroy all this. We have also shot more than 50 hares since we are here and when a young pig comes to our lines, it will be seized and treated like a rebel. With this I would like to close hoping that you will receive these few lines in as good health as they have left me. Write me soon, I have not had a letter for more than 3 weeks. You must believe that I am astonished at not having heard from home for such a long time. Keep well. Many thousand greetings and wishes from your loving brother and brother-in-law.

P.S. Verenell you can send this letter to Cleveland if you want to.

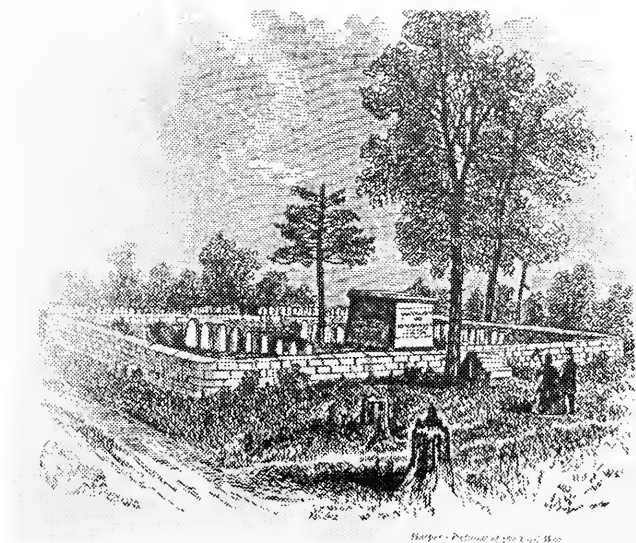
On February 15, 1864 Miller stated that he and one of his comrades, Bauhof, had been working on a monument. This monument to which he refers is undoubtedly the Hazen

Brigade Monument which is located on the Stones River Battlefield at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In the same letter Miller refers to Hazen when he says, "I can't tell yet whether we shall get extra payment for this, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Hazen will treat us well."

The Hazen Brigade Monument, the oldest Civil War Monument anywhere in the United States, was erected in 1863 by members of Colonel William B. Hazen's Union Brigade as a memorial to 55 of their comrades who fell during the terrific on-slaught of the Confederates on Union troops as they sought refuge in a clump of cedars referred to as "Round Forest."

Since Miller came to Fortress Rosecrans in the late fall of 1863, it is very likely that he began carving the inscription on the monument in the latter part of that year. Miller's experience as a stonecutter in Ohio before his enlistment in the Union Army made him a likely choice to perform this task. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

"Hazen's Brigade to the memory of its soldiers  
who fell at Stones River, December 31, 1862.  
Their faces toward heaven, their feet to the foe  
The blood of one-third of its soldiers  
Twice spilled in Tennessee  
Crimson the battle flag of the Brigade  
And inspires to greater deeds."



Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
February 15, 1864

Dear parents, sisters and brothers,

I received your last letter today at noon all right and with much joy, and I read that you are still well. I also am well and all right and wish the same for you with all my heart. There is not much news, only that I and Bauhof are working already for 2½ days at the monument of which I have talked in my previous letters. We like this work very much and can work when we want to. We start in the morning round 8:00 or 8:30 and finish at 4 PM or so. I can't tell yet

whether we shall get extra payment for that, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Hazen will treat us well. I could get a vacation for 30 days to come home, but I need the \$15.20, yet if you want me very much to come home, I will gladly do it. I would like to come home, for it is long ago since I saw you last. I got a letter last week from Fuchs. At that time he was still in a Camp Division 15 miles from Cincinnati, and are already waiting for them to get the order to leave. His address is:

Mr. Sergt. Joseph C. Fox  
Co. H. 2nd Bat. 9th O.V.C.  
Camp Division Ohio

In a letter dated March 3, 1864 Miller once again mentioned that he and C. B. (Bauhof) were working on the monument and had become the best of friends. He made his first reference to ringmaking, "Mother will be very happy because I made her a pretty ring." Miller made these rings out of silver coins (usually dimes) by hammering out the center and smoothing and flattening out the rim. Often he etched orange blossoms on the outer rim and sold these rings to soldiers for their brides. At times his family mailed him the silver coins when it became difficult for him to procure them. In this letter he made mention of the increased activity of the Union Army as it moved more and more men to the front.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
3 March 1864

Dear Parents and brothers and sisters,

I received your last letter at noon today and was overjoyed to hear that you are all well. I can say the same about me. I have no news as of now but I think something is up. Because every

railroad train which comes by here is loaded with soldiers and freight to be transported to the Army at the front line.

I do not know when I will be able to come home, because I have to wait til some others come back who started leave on Friday (30 days). At the beginning of next month you may expect me. Mother will be very happy because I made her a pretty ring, and for you Vernell I have a crest pin and for you father I have a Rebel shell or a big cannon ball that I found on the battlefield, and for you sister something too.

Last Saturday we got paid for two months. I was thinking about sending you some of it which I don't need until I am with you. But maybe we will get paid again before I leave here.

I and C. B. are working together on a monument and we are the best of friends together. I have worked already five days and Christie four days.

Now I will close these few lines with the hope that this letter will arrive there and find you in as good health as it left me. Many greetings and wishes from your loving son and brother.

In the following letter dated March 22, 1864

Miller described a trip that he had made to Nashville with supply wagons. He described the city and the heavy fortifications that surrounded the state Capitol.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
March 22, 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

Our captain said that none will be able to go home until the sick and wounded are gone home from the hospitals. These orders are supposed to come from the General, but it should not be long until we can come home and I will be one of the first. So be patient, for a short time, it

will all be good in the end. I send you here 10 dollars. Perhaps we get paid next week. Otherwise no news. I heard from Casp~~e~~r Fuchs, they were in Nashville, 30 miles north from here. He thought that they would come by here, but has not been here yet. Last week I was in Nashville, hoping to find him there, but there are too many troops. I could not find him. I think they have gone another direction. I went to Nashville with 100 wagons, each wagon had 6 donkeys in front, it didn't cost me a cent. (Nashville is quite a big town and the streets are narrow and beside the town runs the big Cumberland River and across this river about 60-70 feet high goes a bridge, like the one in Cleveland, but twice as long and the railroad goes over it. The town hall stands on a big hill. In the middle of the town, around this big building they have built brick walls with 5 big cannons inside. Around this whole town they dug a deep ditch. With this I must close, hope all are fine. When I come home I will tell more.

Love from your son and brother

In this letter dated April 7, 1864 Miller stated that thousands of reinforcements were daily passing through Murfreesboro on their way south. He said, "Today again 6 thousand new soldiers from Indiana came, they too are going farther to the south, will only be here 1-2 days." He mentioned again his work on the monument and said, "But we cannot do much work because of the spring rains."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
April 7, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

Each day there passes by 1-4-5 thousand soldiers going to the front. Today again 6 thousand

new soldiers from Indiana came. They too are going farther to the south, will only stay here 1-2 days. I and Bauhof still work on the monument. But we cannot do much because of the Spring rain. We have about 3-4 days rain each week, but the wet season will soon be over and the dry and warm days will begin. We heard that we will probably stay here all summer long, perhaps also the coming winter. We hope that we will soon have opportunity to list as veterans, then we will be able to come home for 30 days. Write me what you think about that the war cannot last a whole year, as the rebels say themselves.

You say that you would like to buy us a lot more. I think so too and want to do my best for you. According to the newspaper we get from you we will get 15 dollars per month, which would be fine, yet I cannot see it, but hope it.

I wonder where Fuchs is now, I have not gotten any letter from him since they were in Nashville. Has he written to you where he is now? I can read your writing well. I want to send you a ring as payment. We still have enough to eat and drink. Since Feb. 19th I have worked 14½ days on the monument. Otherwise we have nothing to do. We have very good times. Last week I weighed 166 pounds. Hope all are fine, greetings and best wishes.

Your son and brother

In the following letter dated April 19, 1864 Miller noted that the big Army of the Cumberland was moving out of Murfreesboro and moving south and said, "We expect to hear about a great battle." He told his parents that he did not plan to re-enlist, "for I have no more than 16 months to serve and these are long enough." He also stated that they were still working on the monument.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
April 19, 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

Last Sunday night at 9 o'clock 30 rebels came close to our outposts, but they disappeared soon. From our regiment, from Company PC, 35 got on their horses but they didn't find them because the rebels were also on horses.

We also expect to hear about a great battle, because the large Cumberland Army is moving further into the South. Also two long railroad trains came by last Friday filled with planks, moving toward the army. This answers that something is going to happen. I decided not to re-enlist, for I have no more than 16 months to serve and these are long enough. If they pass as fast as the 18 past ones, I will be glad. We still work on the monument. The silken cord pleases me very much, it is long enough. I have exchanged my old watch which I bought from Rudolf for \$11.00 for another watch, for which I could get 20 dollars. But below \$25 I will not give it away. I payed \$14.00 for it. I hope that we get paid next week again, then I will try to send home \$20. I have not gotten father's letter yet, I would like to get a letter from Father. I have not gotten a letter from Fuchs, since he was in Nashville. I won't write him until I get a letter from him. I got a letter from Rudolf, they are all well. There are still passing by so many soldiers, going South to the front. Also a regiment of Negroes came by last week. They are so proud to carry a rifle, most of them have been slaves.

Greetings . . . . .

In a letter written on May 21, 1864, Miller told how he and Bauhof did not feel like working on the monument and took a walk through the woods "in a part of the woods where a part of one of the hottest battles was fought (Stones River)."



Dear Parents,

Your last and first letter I received in good health and was glad to know that you were well too. I do not know much news this time, only that we will probably stay here all summer because there are a lot of bushwhackers in this area. Last week nineteen of our Company R went 12 miles through the wilderness after those bushwhackers. They met up with them in a little village called Shelbyville. We killed two Rebels and took 2 donkeys and 1 horse. We lost one of our good men who was shot through the heart, he died after 15 hours. We shipped him home to his home eight miles from Canton. He was the first one we lost because of the Rebels. Three weeks ago Bauhof and I were at the monument which is 1½ miles away from our outpost but we didn't feel much like working on it that morning. So we walked five miles through the woods until we reached a road then back again to our camp. We didn't carry any rifles or pistols with us, only our lunch. The bushwhackers sure could have caught us, but we didn't see any. And we were in a part of the woods where a part of one of the hottest battles was fought. But we are getting used to all this shooting.

Please write again soon. I can read your letters well but do not forget to sign them. Here are ten dollars. Farewell til we see each other again. When we do we will drink several glasses of beer again.

In a short letter dated June 4, 1864, Miller told his parents that "60 men of each company will go to the railroad between here (Murfreesboro) and Nashville to guard it."

June 4, 1864

Dear parents,

There are many news, but I have not time to tell them all, for this Sunday morning 60 of each

company will go to the railroad between here and Nashville to guard it. I don't know where our company is supposed to go. But I think we will get to the place where we made railroad ties last summer. I believe that it will soon be over and the time will come when we can go home. The 33rd Indiana Regiment is at this fortress and depot from Murfreesboro to Nashville. I also think that it is time it is almost over.

With this I will close . . . .

Miller's June 28, 1864 letter revealed that he and 30 of the men in his company were sent to Stockade #6 at Stewart' Creek to guard the railroad bridge. He mentioned that his company was eating well, having had strawberries, blackberries, apple pie, biscuits, and fish. "Our Lieutenant," he said, "borrowed a net from a farmer for as long as we want. We catch enough fish for all 30 men almost every day." He stated further, "We live like Lords here--are getting fat."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
June 28, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sister,

Received your last letter and was so happy to receive it and was glad to hear that you are all well and I am happy to say that I am well. Everything seems to be going well at the front. Today it is 2½ weeks since I left Murfreesboro where we were to watch a railroad and a railroad bridge at Stewart's Creek. We are in a block house or stockade. It is a place where the cannon balls can't do any harm. We are in the shade. I only have guard duty every three or four days. You will be surprised to know that the strawberry

season is already three weeks past--also the blackberries are all gone and some apples are ripe. We make apple sauce, pie and biscuits and we always have something green. Also we have fish. Our lieutenant borrowed a net from a farmer for as long as we want. We catch enough fish for all 30 men almost every day. The weather is very beautiful here. The farmers are already harvesting. In another letter I will send you a drawing of our house. I want you to save the drawings. I haven't received a letter yet from my brother Jacob. I would love to hear from him. William has already written two or three letters to Bauhof--he says they are having a bad time in Camp Chase, that they have to be on guard duty every other night and have to drill so often. We live like Lords here--are getting fat. Casper Fuchs owes me a letter and I will not write until he writes me first. With this I wish to close.  
Your loving son, D. C. Miller

Co. B. 115th O. V. I. Regt.  
Stockade #6 near Murfreesboro,  
Tenn.

July 12, 1864 found Miller and his comrades still at Stockade #6 at Stewart's Creek. He related how he and his fellow soldiers celebrated July 4, "Our Lieutenant bought us a barrel of beer which cost him 28 dollars. He is a real nice young man." He made reference to another pastime of his--that of making canes out of cedar. "I am making a cane now, but instead of putting a snake design on top I am putting a grapevine on it." He mentioned making rings and selling them for 50 cents each. On these rings he carved two hearts and a star. He said,

"I have only ten cents in silver. Whenever you get a 3 or 5 cent coin send it to me to use."

12 July 1864  
N Stockade #6

Dear parents, brother and sister,

Same greetings as before. Health, happiness, etc. I would have written you 3 days ago but we were waiting for the Paymaster every hour. He just came and we got paid. This time I will send you ten dollars, and ten dollars in my next letter. Week before last I received a letter from my brother Jacob which I answered right away, but I didn't know if he got the letter. Not much news here. I am making a cane now, but instead of putting a snake design on top I am putting a grapevine on it with leaves and grapes. It will be the prettiest one ever made in our Regiment. I have worked on it almost a week now. I will send it to Canton. There are 5 or 6 men working on cane like this. We will make a little box for mailing all of them which wouldn't cost us much. I had a good time the 4th of July with all the others. Our Lieutenant bought us a barrel of good beer which cost him 28 dollars. He is a real nice young man. We can tell him what we want and do what we want to. He goes swimming in the creek with all of us. We have very good well water about 300 feet away. I will close with these few lines. Greetings and wishes from your loving son.

I have to make four or more rings for 50 cents each and I have only ten cents in silver. I will put on two hearts and a star. Whenever you get a 3 or 5 cent coin send it to me to use.

On July 20, 1864 Miller wrote to his brother Jacob who was stationed as a guard at Camp Chase near Cincinnati, "Dear brother, I wish that you could be with me, we are having it good. We 40 men have hired two black women to

cook for us for 7-8 dollars a month." He further stated, "I am busy making rings--I already made seven for three dollars and a half and have four on hand to make for a half a dollar each." He remarked that the cedar cane with the grapevine design was almost ready.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
July 20, 1864

Dear Brother,

Received your letter last evening and see that you are well, for which I am glad and I too can say that with God's help I am well. I don't know anything new to write this time, only that last night we caught a lot of fish with our net. Our Lieutenant bought it for us for \$2.00. We were saddened last week when we heard that our Col., 2 Captains and 4 Lieutenants of our regiment were let out because they didn't pass the exams as well as some others. It hit our second Lt. who is in command here. He is going home happy and says that he will go to the 3rd Battery where he had formerly been 9 months. Dear brother, I wish that you could be with me, we are having it good. We 40 men have hired two black women to cook for us for 7-8 dollars a month. We are divided in two messes. I am very busy making rings--I already made seven for three dollars and a half and have four on hand to make for half dollar each. I am also making a cane again out of Cedar wood--instead of a snake design I am making a grapevine--it is almost ready. I wouldn't sell it for \$8.00. The days are going by like an hour--I have one year yet from the 18th of Sept. to serve. I think this year will pass as quickly as the others. With these few lines I will come to an end and hope this finds you well and that we will meet again at home soon, if God wills it. Your loving brother,

D. C. Miller

In this letter dated July 24, 1864 Miller stated that they were building another stockade closer to the railroad bridge. The first one was 300 yards away from the bridge and the new one would be 60 yards away. He related that 20 men were sent there to build the new stockade. He said, "We sleep the whole night and stand no guard, and I am glad of that." His concern for a younger brother who was contemplating enlistment was evident when he said, "I think it hurts parents to lose three sons at once."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
24 July 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

I got your letter this evening and am happy to hear that you are all in good health. We had to leave our Log House because it was about 300 yards away from the railroad bridge. Now we are going to build another one about 60 yards from the bridge which is octagonal in shape. We have about 20 men here who will build the new house and we have a much better time here. We work from 5 to 7 and then eat our breakfast, then from 7:30 til 9:00 we have a rest period and work again slowly in the evening. It should keep us busy about 5 or 6 months. We sleep the whole night and stand no guard, and I am glad of that.

I think it hurts the parents to lose three sons at once. That is about all the news for now except that the pears are ripe now. 1000 greetings from your loving son and brother.

Here are still \$10.50 for your daughter Vernell. Thanks many times for the silver. I have enough of it now. If you see Fred Smith sometime tell him to send me a letter again about his health and all the news. Greetings to him also.

In a July 25, 1864 letter to his brother Jacob, Miller expressed his pleasure that Jacob had left Camp Chase and was now at Covington either guarding forts or the city. He again said to his brother, "I wish that you were here. You would have a better time with us." Daniel Miller described the stockade in which he and 29 other Union men were living and guarding the railroad. He concluded by saying, "We live like gentlemen from Cincinnati." He mentioned the apples, plums, cherries, potatoes, and strawberries that he and his comrades had been enjoying.

Stockade near Murfreesboro  
July 25, 1864

Dear brother,

Glad to have received your letter and am glad to know that we are both well. Also happy to hear that you are in Covinton where life is much easier than at Camp Chase. We too had to do a lot of training when I was there, but now we live like gentlemen from Cincinnati. Almost three weeks now have passed since we left Murfreesboro to guard the railroad and bridges between Nashville and Murfreesboro. We are staying in a big log house or stockade as they call it here. This building is made out of big tree trunks which are about 20 to 25 inches thick and 15 feet high with an 8 ft. deep cistern in the center of the building. There are many holes in the walls through which to shoot and room enough for about 200 men. In my next letter to our parents, I will send them a drawing of this stockade. I don't believe that you have ever seen anything like this. I only have to stand guard every 3 or 4 days, but it is not so bad

because I can sit rather than stand. There are 30 of us and we have a good 2/Lt. in command. I was wondering whether you guard the forts on the hill or the city of Covington. If you have the time why don't you go to Newport and ask where the Cligsendern Pike is. That is where we were. There was a drawing in one of the magazines here about it. It is about 2 miles from the bridge which crosses the Licking River between Covington and Newport. You say that it is warmer in Kentucky but I believe that it is warmer here. Because the apples, plums, cherries, potatoes, are all ripe, but the strawberries have been gone for 4 or 5 weeks. We have a net here and catch fish every other morning for a breakfast for 30 men. I wish you were here. You would have a better time with us. Closing now with the hope that these few lines reach you in good health, and hoping also that I can talk to you in person pretty soon. Nothing new this time. May God bring us home safely together again. 1000 wishes and greetings from your loving brother.

Daniel C. Miller in a letter to his younger brother dated August 10, 1864 said to him, "To come back to your enlistment, I would rather let you and our parents decide that." However, Daniel remarked that if the younger brother decided to enlist that perhaps he might be able to join the Company B Regiment to which Daniel belonged. Daniel mentioned the scarcity of newspapers since Generals Grant and Sherman had forbidden that any news or newspapers should get out beyond the lines of Kentucky. He again mentioned the good life with peaches and watermelons and a rebel pig to alter the menu.



Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
August 10, 1864

Dearly beloved brother,

Again I was glad to hear that you are well. I too can say with God's help that I am well. News is very rare here at the moment, because we have not received a newspaper for over a week because the Generals Grant and Sherman have forbidden that any news or newspapers should get out beyond the lines of Kentucky. So that when our troops make another move the Rebels will not know it as fast as our old Abraham Lincoln. Today we received the first newspaper again but without much news in it. We still have a good life and even better now because peaches and watermelons are ripe besides that we caught a Rebel pig that helped to alter our menu. To come back to your enlistment I had rather let you and our parents decide that. I believe our company is filled up now, but I will check again with our Lieutenant or orderly and will let you know in my next letter. I believe that you will be able to get into our Regiment, but I would not advise you to get into another.

There is one other thing I want to ask you, William Akerman told some days ago to Christie in his letter that he was busy for two days carrying dead soldiers off of the battlefield, but I cannot believe it because you know he is a liar and a put-on. Let me know about it in your next letter. Please be so kind and give this address to Mortimer Manfeld and tell him that James Kanady is in Company D, 115th Regiment and that he is well, but had been sick for several weeks.

I am closing with 1000 wishes and greetings,  
your loving brother.

P.S. Farewell, hope we see each other soon.  
Write soon again.

Daniel C. Miller's love and concern for his family was evidenced by the frequency of the letters which they

received from him--sometimes three or four a month. In this letter dated August 17, 1864 he mentioned his sadness in learning that his mother was sick again. He pointed out the extreme August heat in the South and said, "I walk almost always barefoot, not that I don't have socks or shoes, no I have a good pair of shoes and 2 pairs of socks." His reference to Sherman in Atlanta indicates the successes of the Federal forces in penetrating the Southland. Miller said, "We heard that Sherman's army is lying still because of the great heat. Near Atlanta the temperatures are around 100 degrees." In this same letter, Daniel Miller described the intricate work which he had put into a picture frame. His sense of humor comes forth when Daniel said, "It is a very beautiful frame and especially will be when I will be behind it." Also, in this letter Miller made a reference to a rumor he had heard concerning the loyalty of Mary Todd Lincoln, the President's wife.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
August 17, 1864

Dear parents and sister,

I received your letter this morning before I got up, but I was so sad while reading it. I am so sorry that Mother is sick again, but what can be done? The Lord knows best, and I hope that this letter will meet you feeling as well

as I am when it left me. Dear parents, there is not much news this time. We heard that Sherman's army is lying still because of the great heat. Near Atlanta the temperatures are around 100 degrees, here it is also very warm, but I got used to it quite well and run around in this heat. I walk almost always barefoot, not that I don't have socks or shoes, no I have a good pair of shoes and 2 pair of socks. I have also made 6 dollars from rings, since you have sent me the silver coins, and this week I have to make 5 more rings, and one person wants that I shall make 10 rings for him, so that he can use them as Christmas gifts at home. You also and Mother shall each get one; for Father I made a traveling suit, there is more work on it than on the first. I could have gotten \$5 for it before it was ready, but \$10 could not have bought it. I will soon have ready the picture frame. It is made thus: On top the coat of arms, underneath two cannons, on both sides is a rose with 6 leaves. It is a very beautiful frame and especially so when I will be behind it.

Dear parents don't believe everything the people tell that the 100-days volunteers cannot come home when their time is over. The government has the power to do this. After their 100 days the government has to work 1-2 months before they can come home. I also cannot believe that Lincoln is such a blockhead that he lets his wife go across the border and betray himself. For more than one night he is occupied to study how he could make an end to this war. Seven days ago I had been for 2 years in the army. I think this year will be over soon. Otherwise I don't know anymore to write. Greetings to Mama and Louise Kefer and all who ask about me, also Jacob Hirt. Many thousand greetings and wishes for better health for Mother. I hope that I can see you all as well as I have left you. Amen.

D. C. Miller  
Co. B. 115 Regt. O. V. I.  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

In this letter of September 9, 1864, Miller gave a dramatic account of the Confederate attack on the Stewart's Creek blockhouse carried out by General Joseph Wheeler and his troops. At the time of the attack, the Union soldiers were still in the process of tearing down the old stockade which was 300 yards away from the railroad and constructing a newer one 60 yards away from the rail line. The Union soldiers had just torn down about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their old headquarters when the attack occurred. Miller along with 30 other Federals was captured and taken to Nashville where they were held in a "very big house that belonged to the Rebel General Zollicoffer."

Nashville, Tenn.  
Sept. 9th, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

I was sorry not to get a letter from you for so long. You perhaps heard that the Rebel General Wheeler destroyed and burned 30 miles of railroad track.

This Rebel General with 6 or 8,000 men encountered us just as we had torn down  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our headquarters, because we wanted to use the wood or material for our new blockhouse. He came at night and at seven in the morning we already shot at his cavalry which destroyed and burned the railroad. I fired the second shot and I am sure I didn't miss. We fought til one o'clock when the Rebel General fired twelve pound cannon six times at us, but he only hit the blockhouse twice. Since we had lost all ground we had to give ourselves up. He burned down the blockhouse containing everything that he didn't want. He took us with him and let us go

after forty miles. We did not get anything to eat except twice fat bacon or bread. I had two ears of corn and an apple besides which were very good and I wouldn't have sold them for ten dollars. The corn I had stolen from a donkey at night. Now there are 31 of us in Nashville in a very big house which belonged to the Rebel General Zollicaffer.

Here now we get enough to eat. Perhaps today or tomorrow we go back to our old place. The Rebels took us with them 2½ days til our artillery and infantry were on their heels, then they let us go. But the Rebels got beaten up pretty much. Black soldiers took from them 3 cannon and some 100 soldiers and horses. On our way back we met the ninth Ohio Cavalry and I met Casper Fox again. They were after Wheeler.

Will close now and write you a longer letter next time.

In this letter dated September 11, 1864, two days after his capture by the Confederates, Miller and his comrades were back in Murfreesboro. Again, Miller recounted very dramatically the attack on Stockade #6 and explained that after being held prisoner for two days the Yankees let them go. When it became imminent that the Union guards must surrender the blockhouse, Miller said that they burned or twisted their rifles so as make them useless to the Yankees. In a regretful tone Miller related, "We had to leave everything behind--my pretty cane and the picture frame I broke in two--I cut some of the design off of the cane so that they couldn't use it." He concluded by saying, "If the Rebels come back later we will show them how Yankees can fight."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Sept. 11, 1864

Dear parents,

Arrived safe and sound in Murfreesboro today. We were all in the blockhouse on Aug. 31 when at 7:00 o'clock we saw about 50 men on horseback about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile behind our house marching to the railroad. Then a fellow named Martin Stimmel and I went to see what they were doing and saw them start to tear up the railroad ties--we each fired 5 or 6 shots and they left after four or five ties were torn up. As we turned to go back to our blockhouse their pistol shots rang out and we had to jump back. When we got back we saw 6,000 around our house about 1000 yards, so that we couldn't do very much with them. 8 or 10 of us went to the railroad bridge which they were trying to set afire and we made them jump. Several fell and we could see them as they raised their hands before they fell. I am sure that I hit one of them because as soon as I shot at him, he fell. This was about noon--then five men came with a white flag and they wanted us to give up the blockhouse or they would put a cannon on it--which later did happen. We said we wouldn't give it up and they left. In five minutes we saw that they had a 12 lb. cannon brought out of the woods and they put it behind a little rise where we couldn't do anything to them and it was too far for our rifles. Then came shell after shell over our blockhouse--two of them hit a bean and shattered it. They shot at us six times and only hit twice--then our Sargeant put up a white flag and they quit. You should have seen the Rebels coming out of the woods from every angle, but didn't fire anymore. They plundered our house and we had to stand in ranks. We burned our rifles (or twisted) so that they couldn't use them. They made us go with them for two days and two nights about 40-50 miles. Then they let us go--we had to leave everything behind--my pretty cane, and the picture frame I broke in two--I cut some of the design off of the cane so they couldn't

use it. When we were 1 1/3 miles away from the blockhouse we could see the smoke as they burned it down and they had hacked down the railroad bridge. . . . . If they would have arrived one day later, they could have taken us with one cannon shot. The log house where the other 30 men were was shot into twice, and from these 30 men there were 3 dead and 8 or 10 wounded. If we would have had an officer there instead of a sergeant there would have been more dead. The battle really went hot there. We are all very happy that we are back here again. If the Rebels come back later we will show them how Yankees can fight. They held back their Cavalry until the big dog which is a big cannon was used on us. We were very hungry on our trip but I made it well. I had to laugh when the others showed long faces and talked bad. They kept us in a house in Nashville and we walked back to our regiment in Murfreesboro some 30 miles away.

The trauma which Miller experienced during his capture is still evident in this letter dated September 18, 1864. He said, "I am thankful to God who has kept me well and kept the fiery bullets of the enemy away from me." He described the joyful reception which awaited him upon his return to Murfreesboro and his regiment. He further said, "That Rebel Wheeler got licked good after he let us go." Here he was referring to Wheeler's raid into Kentucky following the attack on blockhouse #6.

Hurrah for Old Abe and Old Andy  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Sept. 18, 1864

Dear Parents and sister,

Your letter was received ten minutes ago and was joyfully received. I see you are all well

and I am thankful to God who has kept me well and kept the fiery bullets of the enemy away from me. On the 11th we again arrived safely with our regiment in Murfreesboro. They were glad to see us because they didn't know that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler had let us go and that we had arrived in Nashville, when our Captain saw us he began to laugh and said, "Hello, what does all this honor to my boys mean?" He was so happy he could hardly talk for laughing. He is a good man. We had to leave everything when the Rebs came, except what we had on. I still have my watch--I could have sold it for \$22.00 but I will not do so under 25.00 or \$28.00. We don't have to pay for the clothes we lost and have already received new ones. I don't have the cane and frame anymore either--when the Reb came it was broken, but I have another made just about like the other was. I haven't forgotten the rings I promised you. I don't know if we will be paid this time since we were taken prisoner--since the pay papers are sent in ahead and we were not here to sign. The next time we will get that much more. But if you need money, I can borrow some and pay it back. Write me. I am glad that Jacob is working in Canton--he is better off than in the Army. He doesn't have to kill himself and is free as the birds which we aren't. The Rebel Wheeler got licked good after he had let us go--I don't think he can bring many out of Tenn. with him. With this I will close and hope that these few lines will reach you in good health. With a thousand greetings, Your loving son, D. C. Miller. Co. B. 115th Regt. O. V. I., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The fall of 1864 brought increased activities to Tennessee from the standpoint of both Union and Confederate armies. General W. T. Sherman ordered 30,000 men to General Thomas at Nashville on the chance that General John B. Hood, Confederate commander, would attempt to invade Tennessee. The Confederate general, Nathan Bedford Forrest, stepped up his raids in Tennessee destroying



railroad tracks, blockhouses, bridges, and telegraph lines. In the next three or four letters Miller makes reference to many of the incidents that took place in Tennessee during the last few months of the Civil War. In his letter of September 28, 1864 he is at Stockade #10 on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. In this letter he made an appeal to his father. "If you love freedom, vote again for our old Abraham Lincoln. He is the man for our land. Hurrah for Old Abe."

Stockade #10 Tenn. on N. & C. RR  
Sept. 28, 1864

Dear parents,

Received your last letter and am glad to hear that you are all well. I too am well. Nothing new except that the Rebel General Forrest was around here and where he is now we can't say-- for ten days the railroad has not been running. Our fifty men went on the first train to Tullahoma. The night before when we were already in Murfreesboro by the depot, we received notification that the railroad had been torn up and the telegraph had been cut 27 mi. from Murfreesboro. The next morning at half past five we went on the train as guards and the Rebels had gotten to the place an hour before and had torn it up. The Negroes were busy at it and trying to fix it up so we could pass. Now 15 of our company are 23 miles from M'boro at Stockade #10. How long we will be here I can't tell you. We have it real good here. Tuesday we butchered a one year old calf which came too near us--it was nice and fat. Today we ate the last of it. Dear sister, I want to make you some rings when I get the time and send them home with the cane. Our Lieutenant says we probably will be mustered out in Cleveland and that will be a little over ten months. Dear

father, if you love freedom, vote again for our old Abraham Lincoln. He is the man for our land. Hurrah for Old Abe. With that I will close. Lots of greetings until we see each other soon. Your loving son, D. C. Miller.

P. S. We haven't been paid yet--but it shouldn't be long.

In Miller's letter of November 18, 1864 he had been sent to a blockhouse in Christiana, Tenn. The election was over and he remarked, "The voting went off well here. We thought that the Rebs would bother us, but they didn't." Miller rejoiced at the election of Old Abe and had this to say, "Our old Abe was voted in again for the next four years--now the War will soon be over--the Rebs themselves say they can't stand it."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Nov. 18, 1864

Dear mother, sister Kamerad and worthy friend,

Received your letter and was glad to hear all are well. With God's blessing and help I too, am well. As soon as I saw the letter I realized it was Caspar Fuch's handwriting and I wondered if he was in Cleveland, Tenn. or Ohio. If only I could be with you we would both have a nice time.

Dear Friend, I don't know if I will be here because our Co. those that were left, day before yesterday--half went to Christiana, nine miles from here--the others to Fosterville where I am going in five or six days--it is also on this railroad to Chattanooga. If you come to Christiana, ask after me. I was glad to hear that my father went to Canton, I believe he went once before. I think this week I will send two canes and a picture frame home. The voting went off well here.

We thought the Rebs would bother us, but they didn't. It was about 100 miles from here, three of our boys were several miles in the country to find some U. S. horses, when they were attacked by this band--one of them got away on his horse, but the bullets flew and buzzed like bees in a basket. He made it safely to camp and reported it at once. Then 80 men from Co. K. went after the Rebs and took a Captain, a Lieutenant and four men, besides our two boys. These Rebels belonged to Rebel Gen. Wheeler's Command--they were at home on furlough before they were taken prisoner--one of them I knew. I believe if this one had not received word, all three would have been hung or taken to Dixie. Our Old Abe was voted in again for the next 4 years--now the War will soon be over--the Rebs themselves say they can't stand it. With a thousand greetings and wishes, Daniel C. Miller

Miller's letter of January 3, 1865 stated "for over four weeks we didn't receive any letters or newspapers because the Rebels were between our blockhouse and Murfreesboro. We have only a little news but it is good news, because the Rebels were badly beaten at Nashville, Franklin, and Murfreesboro." He mentioned that 195 of his regiment who were in a blockhouse between Murfreesboro and Nashville were captured. He further said, "The Rebels desert by the hundreds every day and they say that the South would be better off to give up because they do not have a chance."

Christiana, Tenn.  
January 3, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

Your two letters I received last night. For over four weeks we didn't receive any letters or

newspapers because the Rebels were between our blockhouse and Murfreesboro. I am still well and hope you are too. We have only a little news but it is good news, because the Rebels were badly beaten at Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Franklin and are now on their retreat to the Tennessee River where they got beaten again. The Rebels desert by the hundreds every day and they say that the South would be better off to give up because they do not have a chance. When the battle of Franklin began which is about 27 miles from Nashville and 15 miles from Murfreesboro we received an order that our forty men were to go to the blockhouse #16 which is 41 miles from Murfreesboro to wait out the year there. On the first of January we returned to Christiana which is 11 miles from Murfreesboro. We have it nice here. Every five days I am on guard for four hours. We do not know how long we have to stay here. We were not involved in any battles, but our Captain and part of our Regiment was captured by the Rebels. 195 of our Regiment who were in the blockhouse between Murfreesboro and Nashville including some dead and some wounded ones were also captured by the Rebels. Our Captain with 70 men who were in a little fort near Lavergne had to give up after a five hour battle.

Our Captain had been ill for four months and it is going to be hard on him. Casper Fuch was with me when the battle began at Franklin. He told me all about you. Yarn is short here too. Sometimes you have to walk ten or twenty miles before you see a sheep. The pound (wool) costs over two dollars and it is hard to get. I am thinking about sending my coats home in the spring with my overcoat. If my Captain hadn't been captured, I would have received a furlough. With these few lines I will close hoping that they find you well as they have left me. I wish all of you a happy new year and good health. Write again soon and farewell.

On January 18, 1865, Daniel C. Miller was still at Christiana, Tennessee. Of the plight of the South he

said, "Our Rebel Hood is far into the State of Georgia. Our cavalry is always on his back." He mentioned that he was now making ax handles which he sold for 50 cents each." He also said, "We have enough to eat as long as we have the chance to visit the Rebels on their large farms. They don't have negroes anymore--they are all working for Uncle Sam in the woods, cutting wood for the railroad."

Christiana, Tenn.  
January 18th, 1865

Dear parents.

Received your letter and was pleased to note that you are all well. I also received a letter yesterday from Elizabeth and Jacob. There are a lot of news but I cannot write everything. Our Rebel General Hood is far into the State of Georgia. Our Cavalry is always on his back, he can't be still for a day's rest. It will not be long before the States of Georgia and Alabama are back in the Union because they are tired of fighting and are hungry. Today we heard that a large important Fort was taken by us--this is something big because this fort and the city of Wilmington which also will be taken in a few days, is the key to Richmond. I think I have written you that we are in a new place again--10½ miles south of Murfreesboro. A real nice place. Every five days I get 4-hour watch. For that I need only a little wood to cook with. Yesterday someone named Sexauer and I made ax handles--we get 40 to 50¢ a piece--we have already made 8. We could make 8-12 a day. We still have enough to eat. Yesterday we butchered an ox--he had strayed from a herd--he belonged to Uncle Sam. Yesterday we had two barrels of corn ground. Today five of our men were out and got four sacks of corn from a good rebel lady. We will have enough to eat as long as we have the chance to visit the Rebels on their large farms. They

don't have negroes anymore--they are all working for Uncle Sam in the woods, cutting wood for the railroad. With this I will close and hope the letter reaches you in good health. Your loving son, D. C. Miller, c/o Lt. J. Deuble

In his letter of March 11, 1865, Miller was anticipating his going home to Ohio since the war would soon be over. He said, "I would like to be with you dear parents, so that I could help with the butchering and you know how I like sausages!" He went on to say, "I think that when I come home I can hardly find your house."

Christiana, Tenn.  
March 11, 1865

Dear parents,

Today I received your last letter and see that you are well, for which I am happy. Especially also to receive one from Mother--I could read it better than the one from sister, although I can read everything she wrote. I am still so grateful to God for the health which I daily enjoy. I hope that these few lines will reach you in as good health as I was when I wrote this. There isn't much in the way of news now--only a lot of troops going by on the railroad every day. We understand that 25,000 men are going to the Front. That should be a big army when they all get together. Most of them are cavalry. Yes, I would like to be with you dear parents, so that I could help with the butchering and you know how I like sausages!! I am sorry that the paymaster has not come yet since I mentioned it in two previous letters. But it will come. The war will not last much longer or my time will be over. I think when I come home, I can hardly find your house. I am wondering who is in my house, if they are still there or not and if you see one of them, ask if they know where Rudolph or Rudi is--they should give you their address. I would also like to hear from them.

On March 24, 1865 Daniel C. Miller was still in the blockhouse at Christiana, Tennessee. He said, "Our troops are still victorious. It probably won't be more than 14 days before we occupy the Rebel camp at Richmond. In a few days Generals Sherman and Grant will really give it to the Rebels and when they do I pity those Rebels. The South has just about had it, and instead of staying in the army, they desert." He stated that he was looking forward to going to work in Canton, Ohio when the war was over.

Christiana, Tenn.  
March 24, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

Received your letter and am well. Dear sister I received the gold paper in good order and thank you very much for it. Everything is still the same in that every day our troops are still victorious. It probably won't be but 14 more days until we occupy the Rebel camp at Richmond. In a few days Generals Sherman and Grant will really give it to the Rebels and when they do I pity those Rebels. A lot of soldiers pass by here every day. The South has just about had it. And instead of staying in the Army, they desert.

Bravo. As I read in the Messenger last night, within the last 30 days 2,000 Rebels deserted among them 40 officers. Dear parents as soon as I get paid, I will send most of my clothes home so that I won't have much to carry or lose as I come home. I was glad to get the address from R. Meyers. I was also glad to hear that my brother Jacob is well in Canton. I am already looking forward to going to work there myself.

Greetings to all who ask about me.

On May 4, 1865, Miller wrote from Christiana, Tennessee "The war is not entirely over and Jeff Davis will not get very far through South Carolina before he will be caught with his money. Our Cavalry General Stoneman with 15,000 men on horses has almost caught up with him. Davis with six wagons full of gold and silver and 2,000 cavalry is only one days ride ahead of him. I would like to be there when they catch him." He also stated that he no longer had to watch the railroad since as of the 15th of May the Federal government was turning the railroad back to the State of Tennessee.

Christiana, Tenn.  
May 4, 1865

Dear parents,

Have received your letter and am glad to hear that everyone is well. I am well also. Nothing new except we read in the paper that 400,000 men are to be discharged and all men that are in hospitals, who can help themselves, will be released. Sherman's troops are to be on the way home. I can't say yet how it will be with us because the railroad doesn't have to be watched anymore and from the 15th of this month, the government is turning the railroad back over to the State of Tennessee. Also all quartermasters have been ordered to draw more rations to last until the first of June. We think we can come home in a few weeks. I would be delighted to get home before my time is over, if not 3½ months isn't so long. It has been a long time since I received a letter from E. Fox. I have received three letters from Chas. and Rudolph thinks they are still in Chattanooga in 20th C. O. Rudi complains that he



doesn't get enough to eat. The 4th Army Corps came by here last week on the way to Nashville, and where they go from there is not known, but we think the most of them are going home. The war is not entirely over and Jeff Davis will not get very far through S. Carolina before he will be caught with his money. Our Cavalry General Stoneman with 15,000 men on horses has almost caught up with him. Davis with six wagons full of Gold and Silver and 2,000 Cavalry is only one days ride ahead of him. I would like to be there when they catch him. Until we see each other soon, I am your loving son, D. C. Miller

From Christiana, Tennessee on April 17, Miller wrote a letter to his parents that has a very tragic note to it. He wrote, "I am very concerned about what I read in the newspaper and am still wondering whether to believe it or not because you can't trust the newspaper. We read that our President Lincoln was shot in a theatre in Washington last Friday and died at 7:20 Saturday morning. If all this is true, it will be very hard on us." He also said, "that the Rebel General Lee has surrendered, including the Generals Hood and the bloodhound Forrest." Miller went on to say, "Yesterday was Easter Sunday, but we didn't have any eggs like we do at home. They cost 30 cents a dozen here and are very rare."

Christiana, Tenn.  
April 17, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

I would have answered your letters earlier but there was no way to get the letters out of here. Last Wednesday and Thursday it rained here as much

water as could come down from the sky. It knocked down or flooded some railroad bridges and the trains can't run. Last week I read in the Canton newspaper that my brother Jacob Miller broke his arm or perhaps got it torn off by a horse. That would be very hard for him and us. I am very concerned about what I read in the papers and am still wondering whether to believe it or not because you can't trust the newspaper. We read that our President Lincoln was shot in a theatre in Washington last Friday night and died at 7:20 Saturday morning. At the same time Secretary Seward, his son, and another man were supposedly stabbed in bed too, but neither of the 3 is dead yet. If all this is true, it will be very hard on us. We are not quite sure of all this, but you perhaps heard all the news. And also that the Rebel General Lee with his Army has surrendered, including the Generals Hood and the bloodhound Forrest. I now believe that the War is over or very close to it. We have beautiful weather now. The peach trees have already bloomed and the trees are green in their splendor. Yesterday was Easter Sunday but we didn't have any eggs like we do at home. They cost 30 cents a dozen here and are very rare. I wish I could be with you and see everything I haven't seen for 3 years.

Hoping this letter finds you as safe as when it left me.

From Christiana, Tennessee on May 20, 1865, Daniel C. Miller said, "Thank God for his guidance so far. I hope He will take care of me and keep me as well as when I left you to fight for our Fatherland. Amen." He related, "Nothing much is new except that we see a lot of Rebels on their way home. You should see them, they are as filthy as pigs and full of lice."

Christiana, Tenn.  
May 20, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

I received your last letter this evening, and was very happy that you are all well. May our Lord keep you till I come home to you, thank God for his guidance so far, I hope he will take care of me and keep me as well as I was when I left you to fight for our Fatherland. Amen.

Nothing much is new except that we see a lot of Rebels on their way home. You should see them, they are as filthy as pigs and full of lice. There is talk that we may not remain in Tenn. any longer than 15 days. I believe it too. I do not know the exact time but I wish it was tomorrow. Dear father I wanted to make you a tobacco box but it is too hot, but I will try it anyway.

Some of our men captured a Rebel who was fishing at the River here and we sent some of our men to look for another one, perhaps his brother, and if they capture him they will get 100 dollars. If they do, I will let you know in my next letter. With these few lines I will close hoping it will arrive there finding you in good health as it left me. Farewell, hoping soon to be with you in person to talk to you. 1000 greetings and wishes.

Daniel C. Miller's last communication to his parents was written from Christiana, Tennessee on June 8, 1865. Miller had this to say, "I will write to you again and it may be the last time from here since at the end of this week or the beginning of next, we'll be on our way home. I thank God for my health and the same for you." He mentioned that he had mailed by express a little box to Cleveland, Ohio that weighed only 3-4 pounds.

# To all whom it may Concern:



I am in full (Company volunteer)

Know ye, That Daniel C. Miller  
 Corporal of Captain 1st Lieut John S. Carr's  
 Company, (R.) 115th Regiment of Ohio Infantry  
 VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the 11th day of August  
 one thousand eight hundred and sixty two to serve Three (3) years or  
 during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States  
 this 22<sup>d</sup> day of June, 1865, at Newfreesboro  
 Tennessee by reason of Expiration of term of service

(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)  
 Said Daniel C. Miller was born in Switzerland  
 in the State of Switzerland, is 23 years of age,  
 5 feet 7 1/2 inches high, Dark complexion, Hazel eyes,  
 Black hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Shuttle Weaver  
 Given at Newfreesboro Tenn. this Twenty Second day of  
 June 1865

*[Signature]*  
 Capt. 1st Lt. O. V. R. & A. C. Carr  
 Commanding

This certificate will be annulled should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

U. S. G. No. 93

*John S. Carr*  
 1st Lieut. 115th O. I. R.  
 Company

1st Div. Dept of the Cumberland

However, a tobacco box that he had been making wasn't quite ready and he wanted to bring it himself.

Christiana, Tenn.  
June 8, 1865

Dear parents,

I will write to you again and it may be the last time from here since the end of this week or beginning of next, we'll be on our way home. I thank God for my health and wish you the same. Yesterday I received a letter from Rudolph and he said my mother was sick and that Verona had written to Jacob and Elizabeth to come home. I am so sorry to hear this and hope that she soon will be well. I wouldn't have written yet but yesterday I sent a little box to Cleveland on the Express. If Jacob is still with you, he can get it. I addressed to H. Miller, Cleveland, Ohio. Lyman St. #92. It weights 3-4 lbs., only a little box. The tobacco box however, isn't in it because I want to bring it myself and it isn't quite finished. I paid \$3.80 to sent the box home--it will not cost you anything. Today we learned what regiment is to replace us. It is the 188th Ohio, one year regiment. There are about 55 men here who belong to new regiments. They have always thought to get home before us but now they have cooled off and don't say so much. Now I will close and hope these few words will find all of you in good health and hope we can talk to each other soon. Your loving son, Daniel C. Miller.

Thus faded from the picture a young Yankee soldier who spent one and one-half years on guard duty in Middle Tennessee, for the most part in Rutherford County. He fished in the streams, walked in the woods where the Battle of Stones River was fought, and was impressed with the beauty that surrounded him. He tried

to help pass the long hours by making walking canes from the cedar that grew so plentifully in the county, by making rings from silver coins, by making picture frames and tobacco boxes. Indeed, he was a skilled artisan, and the engraving on the boulder along Stones River where he has left a bit of himself amongst us is as clear today as if he had carved his name there only yesterday.

FROM HELEN HUNT JACKSON TO JOHN CROWE RANSOM  
ORGANIZED LITERARY INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE  
WOMEN OF MURFREESBORO, 1887-1945

By

Julie A. Adams

Helen Hunt Jackson's popular novel Ramona inspired the formation of a literary society in 1887, "The Helen Hunt Jackson Reading Club."<sup>1</sup> It evolved into the "Library Association of Murfreesboro" two years later,<sup>2</sup> and eventually, through a strong desire to provide a permanent home for its 2,000 volumes, became incorporated with the Woman's Club of Murfreesboro in 1916.<sup>3</sup> The apex of this literary excitement shone brightly in the 1924 lecture series. Among distinguished speakers was Dr. John Crowe Ransom, future "Fugitive Poet."<sup>4</sup> The commitment to quality life, filled with cultural achievement and civic improvement, expressed by these women from 1887 to 1945 can be viewed in the developments that follow.

How might one judge the beginnings of a reading club that was initiated by twelve women, each responsible for acquiring one book? What was essentially a modest birth, was so enthusiastically nurtured, that in only twenty-seven years, the circulation reached 2,000--for a quarter of a century, the sole library in Murfreesboro.

Will Allen Drongoole, a local author, donated some of the original twelve books in 1887.<sup>5</sup> The members of the "Helen Hunt Jackson Reading Club" resolved to start a public library from these books. The first step was to secure a home for the collection. An empty counter in the rear of a bookstore, then in the name of "Booker Smith Bookstore" served the purpose.<sup>6</sup> The space was rent-free, and early dues were fifty cents.

The move to Mason Court, on the corner of Main and Church Streets necessitated an increase in dues to one dollar, as rent was required. Captain Richard Bear occupied a room, and rented the back office to the library.<sup>7</sup>

The library officially became "The Library Association of Murfreesboro" in 1889.<sup>8</sup> Soon after, in June of 1890, Miss Kate Fowler received a letter. . . .

My dear Miss Fowler,

I have received your note informing me that I have been made an Honorary member of the Murfreesboro Library Association.

It is a compliment which I very greatly appreciate and I beg to express my sincere thanks.

Your truly,  
Mary N. Murfree<sup>9</sup>

Undoubtedly the association was in turn flattered to be recognized by the local author, writing under the penname Charles Egbert Craddock.



A catalogue was published in 1892. Approximately 560 books were in circulation at that time, including novels, biographies, poetry, history, essays, and periodicals. The organization was administered by five officers and an executive committee. In 1892 the women who functioned in this capacity were:

President--Miss Addie Ledbetter  
 1st Vice-president--Mrs. S. E. Spence  
 2nd Vice-president--Mrs. J. F. Fowler  
 Secretary--Miss Kate Fowler  
 Treasurer--Mrs. R. W. Vickers  
 Executive Committee: Mrs. Dewitt Smith  
 Miss Amanda Curran  
 Miss Currer Wendel  
 Miss Florence Nuckols  
 Miss Thenie McLemore  
 Mrs. Walter Fox<sup>10</sup>

Subscribers were entitled to check out one book at a time, and non-subscribers were granted the same option, although they were expected to deposit the value of the book while it was borrowed. Subscriptions were one dollar.<sup>11</sup>

The collection relocated a third time, to an upstairs room over Vickers Drug Store, "between the banks."<sup>12</sup> Rent was free, and at that time funds were obtained from the sale of a tenant house. Circulation soared to 2,000, and bookcases were purchased.<sup>13</sup>

The library was incorporated in May, 1911. Mrs. S. E. Spence, Mrs. G. S. Smith, Mrs. R. W. Vickers, Mrs. Dewitt Smith, and Miss Currer Wendel were the five

women responsible for the charter and maintenance of a circulating library for the benefit of the citizens of Rutherford County.<sup>14</sup> The energy behind the rapid development of the association is attributed primarily to the leadership of Mrs. R. W. Vickers and Mrs. Dewitt Smith. There were hopes for a Carnegie library, but a destructive cyclone in 1913 shattered these plans by demolishing the housing situation, and lowering the funds of the members.<sup>15</sup> Although the library was clearly an established institution, its physical status was vulnerable.

It was this concern for a substantial library facility that prompted the formation of a woman's club. The Library Association, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Suffrage League were all in need of a meeting place. Representatives met in December, 1915 at the home of Mrs. W. A. Ransom, to discuss the idea of renting a suite of rooms. "It was suggested that women outside of the organizations represented by invited to join a woman's club, dues to be one dollar per year."<sup>16</sup>

In January 1916, a second conference was held in Mrs. H. L. Fox's apartment in the Masonic Building. Two rooms had been rented here, for \$13 a month. The Woman's Club used one room, the Library the other. The U. D. C.

and the Suffrage League had become members by paying their proportionate share of the rent, "and enough individuals had enlisted to make up the amount."<sup>17</sup> Mrs. E. B. Earthman was elected first president of the Woman's Club.

There is considerable question as to whether the books were moved to the Masonic Building. There is a reference to a transfer from Vicker's Drug Store, to the Woman's Club Building.<sup>18</sup> The Woman's Club was to have a grand new home.

The opportunity was at hand to purchase a club building. In March, 1916, Mrs. R. W. Vickers reported to the club, with three proposals. Two options entailed purchasing lots, one for \$1,100 and the other for \$1,500.<sup>19</sup> The alternative that met the most approval, however, was the chance of buying the J. M. Haynes home on College Street. The price was \$6,125, and on "easy terms."<sup>20</sup>

Mrs. Vicker's peers proclaimed she had a head for business, and that indeed proved to be true. With the aid of a blackboard, the plan for purchase was revealed. There were to be one hundred charter members, each contributing ten dollars. The women would then be grouped into ten subcommittees, each responsible for raising fifty dollars. "All were enthusiastic and wanted to buy the

home. They asked Mrs. Vickers to send a telegram at once to Mrs. Haynes, then in Florida, accepting her price for the house."<sup>21</sup>

The Woman's Club was incorporated July 22, 1916.<sup>22</sup> A down payment of twelve hundred and fifty dollars in cash was rendered to Mrs. Miriam B. Haynes, and the remainder was arranged to be paid in nine notes of five hundred dollars each, payable through March, 1926. The Library Association donated three hundred dollars at the onset provided that the library would be housed in the new building. This was by far the largest amount contributed by any group.<sup>23</sup> These transactions were made September 9, 1916.

The first meeting in the new club house was January 3, 1917. The building was paid for in five years instead of ten, and as Mrs. Vickers said, "Without a man lifting his hand to help, and the men saying all the time it couldn't be done."<sup>24</sup>

By-laws were published in 1917, stating the object of the organization as follows:

To aid and encourage the social recreation, literary culture, and moral, intellectual and social development of its members, and to promote the moral, intellectual, and social improvement of the community and to take part in philanthropic [sic] work; and to this end the said corporation may hold

meetings, give lectures, and entertainments of social, literary, musical or other character, and may charge entrance or admission fees to those wishing to attend such meetings or entertainments, do catering, and maintaining and care for a library.<sup>25</sup>

One means of rising to meet such objectives was through the work of the civic committee. In some old minutes it was noted that Mrs. Vickers moved that the club members urge that all "horns of automobiles be silenced during church hours, as a civic improvement."<sup>26</sup> Other projects had long-term impact on the city of Murfreesboro.

An extremely active year for the Civic Committee was 1919-1920. "Clean-up Campaign Spring 1920" was number one on the agenda. Efforts were made to make the community aware of beautification concern. ". . . Posters and moving pictures on sanitation and on beautification of the city were used with splendid results, which were commended by the county physican."<sup>27</sup> A subcommittee, chaired by Mrs. Malhon Brown, co-operated with city officials in "investigating and improving conditions in the slums, and with good results urged screening in localities where it was most needed."<sup>28</sup> It is rather difficult to imagine the town the size of Murfreesboro harboring a slum neighborhood in 1920, and it is interesting that the Woman's Club would identify such

problems. It is commendable that these women encouraged the use of screen doors and windows. Apparently they were not yet in common use, and in southern climates "screening" is a practical luxury.

The primary emphasis that year was the "Great White Way." Several months were spent persuading the city commissioners to pave west Main Street, from the Public Square to the Railroad Station. "The street was almost impassable, and, in addition to discomfort and inconvenience which it caused the citizens, created a most unfavorable impression in strangers."<sup>29</sup> Persistence paid off--that spring paving was begun. The brightly lighted "Great White Way," a parkway running through the center of West Main, "will be so arranged to insure greater safety for traffic, and the improvement of this most frequented throughfare in the city will be of immense value to the whole county."<sup>30</sup> The club entertained plans to landscape this parkway.

In 1922-24 the club chose to grade and sod the courthouse lawn, enclosing it with a hedge. Park benches were provided, and some thirty trees set out. Later club members seemed to regret this action, as the hedge was "constantly in need of tending."<sup>31</sup>

Education was an aspect of civic concern expressed through the Educational Committee. The club provided a loan scholarship fund to assist one student per year in attending Tennessee College.<sup>32</sup> Perhaps their most important endeavor was an educational conference in June, 1920. Local educational questions were considered. The symposium was under the supervision of a committee composed of representatives from Tennessee College, the Middle Tennessee State Normal School, Murfreesboro city schools, and the Rutherford County public school, in co-operation with the "educational department" of the Woman's Club.<sup>33</sup>

The Library Association was also interested in the cultural development of the city, and brought lecturers and musicians to Murfreesboro. One of the greatest attractions was a performance by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Eugene Vsaye. The second concert by the orchestra in Murfreesboro was in January, 1921.<sup>34</sup> (The date of their previous appearance is not recorded in the minutes that are available.)

The years 1920-1922 were grand years for music in Rutherford County. Camilla Ponsell, Metropolitan opera star, and Bruno Steindal, violin-cellist, "formerly cello soloist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra" delighted the townspeople at recitals sponsored by the Woman's Club.<sup>35</sup>

The true nucleus of the Woman's Club was the library.<sup>36</sup> The collection was housed in its present room, and administered by the officers and executive committee until 1923, when Miss Frankie White took charge as the first librarian.<sup>37</sup>

Prior to Miss White's administration, arrangements were made to borrow fifty books twice a year, from the Tennessee State Library. This loan was secured under the direction of Miss Emma Clayton, chairman of the library committee in 1922.<sup>38</sup>

A card index system was installed in 1924--a real work saver for Miss White, especially since an average of fifty books were added each year. So far as enlarging of the collection was concerned, 1926 was a prosperous year. "120 of the newest and most popular books of the day have been added."<sup>39</sup> In this year also, the library became a member of the Literary Guild "which furnished each month a book selected by an eminent literary board as the best book of that month."<sup>40</sup> It is exceedingly fascinating to discover what type of reading material appealed at different phases of history. In the 1930's, a time of national depression, the committee chairman reported, "One has said, 'Tell me the books she reads and I will read her character.' A marked increase in demand for, and supply of purer fiction is pre-eminently the



feature of the past years."<sup>41</sup> It is not surprising that people turn to fantasy for comfort in hard times.

The library continued to grow, and the original twelve books were all but lost in the shuffle. The present library is quite a comfortable room, and proudly displayed beside the fireplace is the desk of Mary Knowles Murfree. The desk was donated to the club in 1938, by the local U.D.C. chapter.<sup>42</sup>

The cultural attention of the organization was most admirably expressed in the impressive, and timely series of literary lectures. These presentations included dramatic readings, original poetry, literary critiques, discussions of current events, and recently written novels. The local citizens willingly offered their talents, presenting their views on a wide range of topics. The Negro Theatre, philosophy of John Dewey, the "new" southern poetry, modern culture in Maylaya, the pessimism of Schopenhaver, athletic dancing, and arms limitation were all discussed prior to 1930. (For a detailed account of topics and speakers, refer to Appendix F.) Murfreesboro was far from being a provincial village.

Guest speakers hailed from Minnesota, New York, and England. A variety of topics, and a distinguished platform of speakers marks the year 1924. This lecture

series alone vocalizes a prevailing interest in the world beyond Rutherford County. The special events were as follows:

- Dr. Jefferson Harbord of Boston  
"Blessed by Humor"
- Mrs. Anadell of New York  
"Interior Decoration"
- Dr. Edwin Mims of Vanderbilt University  
"The Fight for Idealism in America"
- Dr. John Crowe Ransom of Vanderbilt University  
"Best Sellers"<sup>43</sup>

The recognition of John Crowe Ransom, and the respect for his integrity are most significant. Ransom's poetry--his life's work, is definitely appreciated in 1980. His association with Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, and other "Fugitive Poets" represents the "Southern Renaissance" in literature. Some literary critics claim that the only significant writing in this century was from the pens of the Southern writers. The movement can be liberally interpreted on a counter-revolution to opinions of a decadent South.

Literature in the South was alive and well. Organizations such as the Woman's Club of Murfreesboro played an important role in the dissemination of this cultural heritage.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light on the Women's Club Library," p. 1. Typed, on file at Woman's Club, 221 East College Street, Murfreesboro, TN.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. E. Jackson, "Orientation Speech" presented to membership meeting, September 30, 1970. Filing cabinet upstairs at the Woman's Club.

<sup>3</sup>By-Laws of Woman's Club of Murfreesboro, Tenn. 1917, p. 1, Mrs. Vicker's name on the cover. Files upstairs.

<sup>4</sup>The Woman's Club of Murfreesboro, Tennessee Announcements 1922-1924, Benson Printing Co., Nashville, TN. Woman's Club Library.

<sup>5</sup>"Woman's Club Library Began With 12 Books," Rutherford Courier, June 22, 1939, Murfreesboro, TN. Clipping. Files upstairs.

<sup>6</sup>Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . ."

<sup>7</sup>Mrs. R. W. Vickers, "History of the Woman's Club" (Attributed title), signed by Mrs. Vickers. Files upstairs.

<sup>8</sup>Mrs. E. Jackson, "Orientation Speech."

<sup>9</sup>Letter to Miss Kate Fowler, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, from Mary N. Murfree, June 5, 1890. Files upstairs.

<sup>10</sup>Catalogue--1892, Murfreesboro Library Association, org. 1889, News Print, 1892. Green pamphlet approximately 6" x 3". Files upstairs.

<sup>11</sup>Catalogue--1892 . . . .

<sup>12</sup>Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . ."

<sup>13</sup>Mrs. R. W. Vickers, "History . . . ."

<sup>14</sup>"Certificate of Registration," State of Tennessee, Department of State, May 27, 1911. Files upstairs.

- 15 Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . .," files upstairs;  
"Woman's Club Library . . . ."
- 16 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings of the Woman's Club  
Library," Paper presented to membership meeting February 20,  
1961. Typed. Files upstairs.
- 17 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 18 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 19 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 20 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 21 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 22 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 23 Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . ."
- 24 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 25 By-Laws . . . .
- 26 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 27 The Woman's Club of Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
Announcements, 1919-1920, Benson Printing Co., Nashville,  
TN. Woman's Club Library.
- 28 The Woman's Club . . . 1919-1920.
- 29 The Woman's Club . . . 1919-1920.
- 30 The Woman's Club . . . 1919-1920.
- 31 Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."
- 32 The Woman's Club . . . 1919-1920.
- 33 The Woman's Club . . . 1919-1920.
- 34 The Woman's Club of Murfreesboro Tennessee  
Announcements 1922-1924, Benson Printing Co., Nashville.  
Woman's Club Library.

<sup>35</sup>The Woman's Club . . . 1922-1924.

<sup>36</sup>Mrs. R. W. Vickers, "History . . . ."

<sup>37</sup>Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . ."

<sup>38</sup>The Woman's Club . . . 1922-1924.

<sup>39</sup>Announcements The Woman's Club Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1924-1926, Publisher not known. Woman's Club Library.

<sup>40</sup>Announcements The Woman's Club Murfreesboro Tennessee, 1926-1928, Publisher not known. Woman's Club Library.

<sup>41</sup>Announcements The Woman's Club Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1928-1930, Publisher not known. Woman's Club Library.

<sup>42</sup>Mrs. Ivan Brown, "Light . . . ."

<sup>43</sup>The Woman's Club . . . 1922-1924.

## APPENDIX A

Helen Hunt Jackson Reading Club Members  
(prior to 1889)

Mrs. W. D. Robinson  
Mrs. J. T. B. Wilson  
Miss Susie Weakley (Mrs. Eph Lytle)  
Mrs. William Wendel  
Miss Currer Wendel  
Miss Kate Fowler (Mrs. George Cranor)  
Miss Lorena Nelson  
Mrs. John Nelson  
Miss Ross  
Miss Lizzie Woods (Mrs. R. W. Vickers)  
Miss Maggie Muirhead  
Miss Emma Clayton  
Miss Carrie Hancock  
Mrs. Nuckols  
Miss Lovie Eakin (Mrs. George Howse)  
Mrs. F. Smith  
Mrs. J. T. Rather  
Mrs. Dewitt Smith  
Mrs. Babb  
Miss Dill  
Miss Fannie Wade  
Miss Janie Murfree  
Miss Belle Baird  
Mrs. W. Y. Elliot  
Miss J. A. Eliot  
Miss Addie Ledbetter

"Woman's Club Library Began With 12 Books,"  
Rutherford Courier, June 22, 1939, Murfreesboro, TN,  
Clipping.

## APPENDIX B

## \$10.00 Members, 1917

Avent, Mrs. James	Kerr, Mrs. H. H.
Brown, Mrs. Mahlon	King, Mrs. Albert
Butler, Mrs. Jim	Ledbetter, Mrs. D. L.
Bilbro, Mrs. W. C.	Lytle, Mrs. R. L.
Butler, Mrs. John	Love, Mrs. Clifford
Batey, Mrs. Forrest	Licker, Mrs. Sam
Beesley, Mrs. Jesse	*Lytle, Mrs. Eph
Burnett, Mrs. George	Leach, Mrs. Rae
Covington, Mrs. C.	Murfree, Mrs. Matt
Cox, Mrs. Chas.	McKnight, Mrs. E. C.
Covington, Mrs. L. L.	McClain, Mrs. A. H. J.
Cawthen, Mrs. Chas.	Morns, Mrs. W. A.
Cox, Mrs. John	Miller, Mrs. P. R.
Collier, Mrs. Carmine	Mitchell, Mrs. Sam
*Clayton, Miss Emma	Manson, Mrs. J. E.
*Cranor, Mrs. George	Murfree, Mrs. Bettie
Cason, Mrs. George	Maugan, Mrs. D. L.
Darrom, Mrs. George	Manson, Mrs. Will
Dann, Mrs. Lester	McAdoo, Miss Edgar
Dutton, Miss _____	Marshall, Mrs. J. K.
Earthman, Mrs. W. B.	*Nelson, Mrs. John
Elam, Mrs. Tom	*Nelson, Miss Lorena
Fox, Mrs. Lee	Nelson, Miss Mary
Fletcher, Mrs. Jim	Nelson, Mrs. Cora B.
Gillentine, Mrs. L. S.	Overall, Mrs. Marcy
Goldstein, Mrs. David	Potter, Mrs. Tom
Gebers, Mrs. Hans	Partee, Mrs. C. F.
Gilbert, Mrs. Fred	Perkins, Mrs. D. P.
Gresham, Mrs. Will	Poff, Mrs. Kelly
Giltner, Mrs. G. B.	Ransom, Mrs. James
Hooper, Mrs. Ed	Ragland, Mrs. Chas.
Howse, Mrs. George	Roberts, Miss Cora
Huggins, Mrs. Camillus	Roberts, Mr. R. B.
Hale, Mrs. Water	*Rather, Mrs. J. T.
Hale, Mrs. Lura	Rogers, Mrs. Edgar
Huggins, Mrs. Jesse	Rion, Mrs. Ed
Hancock, Miss Essie	Richardson, Mrs. J. E.
Ivie, Mrs. Tom	Ready, Mrs. Anna
Jones, Mrs. R. L.	Rathers, Miss Mary
Jones, Mrs. E. H.	Smotherman, Mrs. Fletcher
Jordan, Mrs. Mattie	Smith, Mrs. Gent

Spence, Miss Sarah  
 Stockard, Mrs. J. E.  
 Shacklett, Mrs. Arthur  
 Spain, Mrs. Foster  
 Smith, Mrs. Frederick  
 \*Smith, Mrs. Dewitt  
 Tatum, Mrs. E. H.  
 Tavenner, Mrs. Eugene  
 Todd, Mrs. Andy  
 \*Vickers, Mrs. R. W.  
 Woods, Mrs. Walter  
 White, Miss Frankie  
 Wright, Mrs. T. J.  
 Williams, Mrs. J. R.  
 Wharton, Mrs. A. D.  
 Williams, Mrs. H. H.  
 Weisse, Mrs. Aaron  
 White, Mrs. Frank  
 Williams, Mrs. John  
 Youree, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

\*Denotes literary club members according to news clipping.

"Banner Notebook--Woman's Club, 'Organized for \$10.00 Members 1917."



## APPENDIX C

"Rules to Be Observed by the Librarian"  
Murfreesboro Library Association

1. The library must be kept open during the hours directed by the Executive Committee.
2. The library will be open every Saturday.
3. Paid up subscribers or the members of the family of such subscribers shall have the right of withdrawing not more than one book from the library.
4. Books can be taken out for two weeks, with the privilege of renewal for one week. Any person failing to return a book upon the specified day shall be fined one cent a day until it is returned. The Librarian must keep account of such fines and report to the Treasurer for collection. A book lost must be replaced by the loser.
5. Non-subscribers can take out books by depositing the price of book with the Librarian, and upon its return paying 10 cents a week for the time it was kept.
6. New magazines must not be kept out longer than one week under penalty of a fine of 5 cents a week.
7. An old magazine can be taken out with a book, or four old ones without a book subject to the same rules as books. A magazine is old when it is no longer the current number.

Catalogue--1892, Murfreesboro Library Association, org. 1889.

## APPENDIX D

## "Periodicals--Catalog, 1892"

Atlantic Magazine	1889-90-91
Century Magazine	1888-89-90-91
Eclectic Magazine	9 vols.
Harper Magazine	1888-89-90-91
Home Magazine	4 vols.
Lippincott	1889-90
Life Magazine	1891
Puck Magazine	1889
St. Nicholas Magazine	1890-91
Youth's Companion	1890-91, 1892

Catalogue--1892, Murfreesboro Library  
Association, Org. 1889.

## APPENDIX E

## History of the Woman's Club Building

The house was built in 1854, by Dr. William T. Baskette, on a lot he'd purchased from J. I. Abernathy.<sup>1</sup> The Contractor of the magnificent building was Samuel Richard Sanders.<sup>2</sup> (His granddaughter, Mrs. John Osborne presently lives in Murfreesboro.)

Dr. Baskette's second wife was Helen M. Crichlow, grandmother of Mr. N. C. Crichlow. "It is said that James H. Crichlow, father of Collier Crichlow, sold pies back in the kitchen to the Union soldiers encamped here during the 'War Between the States.'"<sup>3</sup> (History repeated itself in regard to "pies" in many homes during maneuvers of World War II, when children sold pies and sandwiches to G. I.'s on duty here. "The G. I.'s would sometimes order pies, pay for them, and be moved before the pies could be delivered."<sup>4</sup>)

The second owner was Judge Fletcher Burrus, who sold the house to Munford Jordan.<sup>5</sup> The next owner was James M. Haynes, whose widow sold the house to the Woman's Club.

The house originally had no porch on the front and east side. "It is said that Mr. Haynes had the porches

built so he could exercise. His sight was poor, and he did not like to get on the street."<sup>6</sup>

The building is high style, and when Mr. Haynes owned it, there was decorative iron grating over the front windows, and a carved door welcomed visitors.<sup>7</sup>

Miss Rebecca Jetton occupied the house for a few years, and provided clues as to the original state of the building. "Where we see the rafter in the ceiling here in the assembly room, the west porch began and extended the present serving room, and kitchen to the west. The kitchen was at the northwest end of the porch. A bathroom was a part of the porch, and where it is now. The east part of the assembly room was the dining room with serving rooms and pantry on the north. The present library and dining room were bedrooms. The upstairs had four large bedrooms with no partitions in each except a dressing room on the north side of the large room above the assembly room."<sup>8</sup>

The Woman's Club made several alterations, and repairs. In 1920 a hardwood floor was added, emphasized with a new rug, upholstries and drapes.<sup>9</sup>

Several "improvements" occurred in 1922. The big porch was taken in to enlarge the assembly room, and to create a serving room and kitchen. Electric fixtures were

installed in the new kitchen, as was a new stove. A furnace was put in, and new dining room furniture acquired.<sup>10</sup>

The auditorium was enlarged to seat 300 in 1922. The porch was screened, and new draperies were hung in the library and dining room. The next major alteration was in 1930--a new roof costing \$625.00.<sup>11</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings of the 'Woman's Club Library.'" Paper presented to membership meeting February 20, 1961. Typed. Files upstairs.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>3</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>4</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>5</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>6</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>7</sup>Mrs. J. B. Black, "Beginnings . . . ."

<sup>8</sup>Letter to Mrs. Black, from Rebekah Jetton, handwritten, letterhead stationery, "Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution." Two pages, including floor plan. (Files upstairs, Woman's Club.)

<sup>9</sup>The Woman's Club of Murfreesboro Tennessee Announcements 1920-1922, Benson Printing Co., Nashville, TN. Woman's Club Library.

<sup>10</sup>The Woman's Club of Murfreesboro . . . . 1922-1924.

<sup>11</sup>Announcements The Woman's Club Murfreesboro Tennessee 1930-1932. Publisher not known. Woman's Club Library.

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Letter to Miss Ada Young from Mrs. R. W. Vickers, January 19, 1946. Filing cabinet, upstairs, Woman's Club.

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Other Sources

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"Woman's Club Building." Black and white photograph,  
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Tennessee. July 6, 1921. Filing cabinet,  
upstairs, Woman's Club.

## CHARLES READY, SR.

Submitted by

Ray Stacey

Charles Ready, Sr. (b. April 1, 1770 at Salisbury, MD, d. Aug. 3, 1859 at Readyville, Tenn.) was the son of Baron and Elizabeth Dulaney Ready of Maryland. His paternal grandparents were Bryan (Brian) and Catherine Kar Ready of Maryland and Delaware.

Family tradition held that the original name of the Ready (pronounced Reedy) family was "McReady" and that they were a Scottish clan, many of whose members came to America "on Lord Baltimore's ship" to escape religious persecution. They were Presbyterians and settled in Maryland. On arrival in this country they dropped the "Mc" from the family name.

Recent research has found that there is no "clan McReady" but, instead, a "Macreadie" family in the Galloway district of Scotland which is entitled to wear the Galloway tartan. No doubt this is the ancestral family of the American Readys.

When Charles Ready was about six years old his father died and his widowed mother removed with her two sons to North Carolina to be near her sister and

brother-in-law, Caroline and William (Francis ?) Palmer, whose daughter, Mary (b. 9-4-1773, d. 9-3-1848), Charles married sometime before 1797. First cousin marriages were not unusual at that time.

The Ready and Palmer families moved to South Carolina where they lived for a short time in the Edgefield and Fairfield Districts before emigrating by wagon train to Tennessee in 1797. Charles and Mary Palmer Ready settled for a short time in Sumner County where their daughter, Nancy (dates not presently known) and Caroline (b. 1800, d. 1873) were born.

In 1802 Charles purchased a large tract of land on the east fork of Stone's River from General Griffith Rutherford, a part of his Revolutionary War land grant. This land was at that time in Davidson County, but in 1804 became a part of Rutherford when that county was formed from Davidson and Williamson.

Charles Ready was one of the signers of the petition dated Aug. 10, 1806 asking for the creation of a new county, and when the request was granted he was appointed one of the seven members of the first Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, serving as presiding officer.

Soon after taking possession of his land, Charles built a log home near a large chalybeate spring and set about developing his property.

In 1805 the first militia companies in Rutherford County were organized and Charles Ready is listed in Capt. Alexander McKnight's Co.

In 1816 the Stones River Presbyterian Church was organized and Charles and his wife, Mary (Polly), were charter members. Charles served as an elder for many years.

In 1811 a Post Office was established on the Ready property and given the name "Readyville." Charles became the first Postmaster. Also, in 1811, he was named one of seven commissioners appointed by the state legislature to choose the permanent Rutherford County seat. Part of the Ready land was considered as a site. Charles entertained the commissioners with a lavish dinner at his home but lost the vote, four to three, to the land offered by William Lytle, which grew into the present city of Murfreesboro.

In 1813 Charles Ready built a dam on Stone's River near his home and erected a mill on the site of the present Readyville mill.

In the late 1820s bricks, made on the place, were ready for building "an elegant house," and in the early 1830s construction was completed on the three story dwelling which was named "The Corners." It housed his

growing family, which included ten children, and at times is said also to have served as an inn for travelers. Family tradition says that three presidents, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and James K. Polk, were guests there. For a brief period of time Charles experimented with growing silkworms in the third floor rooms of the house and planted mulberry trees on his property to supply their food. This attempt at establishing a silk industry, however, proved to be an unsuccessful venture and was soon abandoned. Otherwise, he continued to prosper and was recognized as one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the county.

Charles Ready died at his home in his ninetieth year and is buried beside his wife in the family cemetery across the road from his home. His obituary in the "Murfreesboro News" August 10, 1859 speaks of his accomplishments, his industry, energy, prudence, honesty and kindness and notes that: "He leaves a numerous progeny who are scattered over the Southern and Western States. They will lament his departure but they will cherish his memory with pride and pleasure."

Children of Charles Ready, Sr.  
and his wife, Mary Palmer Ready

1. Nancy Ready, dates not yet discovered, m. Joshua Haskell (1st mayor of Murfreesboro), known 5 children.
2. Caroline Ready, b. 1800, d. 1873, m. (1) Dr. Benjamin Hancock, 9/25/1819, known 5 children, m. (2) Enoch Jones, 1861 (she was his 3rd wife).
3. Charles Ready, Jr., b. 12/22/1802, d. 6/4/1878, m. 5/19/1825 to Martha Strong, b. 3/18/1807, d. 8/27/1877, known 8 children.
4. Aaron Ready (twin of Charles, Jr.), b. 12/22/1802, d. 1854 (?), m. 2/23/1830 to Jerusha Sims, children of this marriage mentioned in will of Charles Ready, Sr. but not named.
5. Eliza Ready, b. 12/31/1805, d. 3/7/1875, m. Lafayette Burrus, b. 11/21/1797, d. 11/7/1851, known 13 children.
6. William Ready, b. 1805, d. 11/14/1839, m. 12/13/1832 Isabella C. Burkely, known 2 children.
7. Mary Ready, b. 1/17/1809, d. 3/26/1874, m. 5/16/1827 to James Holmes, b. 2/26/1795, d. 7/5/1850 in County Donegal, Ireland, 9 known children.
8. Lucinda Ready, b. 12/29/1810, d. 2/12/1830, not married.

9. Susanna Maria Ready (Moriah), b. 1813, d. 1885,  
m. Dr. John Barclay Armstrong, b. 1/20/1819,  
d. 12/18/1873, 7 known children.
10. Jane Campbell Ready, b. 4/30/1815, d. 4/15/1876,  
m. (1) 7/14/1835 to Dr. William Donaho, i child of  
this marriage (?), m. (2) Peter Coleman Tulley,  
b. 11/17/1800, d. 12/16/1884, 8 known children of  
this marriage.

This is an incomplete chart. Any corrections or  
additions are requested.

Sarah H. Brown  
126 N. Sequoia Drive  
Springfield, TN 37172

Grandchildren of Charles Ready, Sr.

and his wife, Mary Palmer Ready

1. Children of Nancy Ready and Joshua Haskell
  1. Mary Ann Haskell, m. William Porter.
  2. William T. Haskell, famous orator, b. 7/31/1818,  
d. 3/12/1859.
  3. Ellen Virginia Haskell.
  4. Martha Lucinda Haskell.
  5. Maria Jane Haskell (changed to Jane Maria),  
m. Robert Searcy.



2. Children of Caroline Ready and Dr. Benjamin Hancock.
  1. Benjamin Hancock, died young.
  2. Mary Hancock, m. T. N. Wendell.
  3. Harriett Hancock, m. Mr. ? Stewart.
  4. Erasmus Darevin Hancock, b. 10/9/1822, d. 12/13/1891,  
m. Fannie Dickson Murfree, b. 5/4/1834, d.  
12/26/ ?.
  5. John Hancock
3. Children of Charles Ready, Jr. and Martha Strong.
  1. Charles Edmond Ready, b. 12/10/1830, d. 9/27/1856.
  2. Martha O. Ready (Mattie), b. 6/22/1840,  
d. 11/16/1887, m. (1) Gen. John Hunt Morgan  
12/14/1862, m. (2) Judge W. H. Williamson,  
1/30/1873.
  3. Horace Ready, m. 11/13/1888, Mrs. Ingram B.  
Collier nee Louisanna Cushman (he was her 3rd  
husband).
  4. Alice Ready, b. 11/9/1842, d. 9/7/1890,  
m. Andrew B. Martin.
  5. Ella Ready, m. Leland Jordan.
  6. Mary Ready, m. Dr. William Cheatham.
  7. Aaron F. Ready, died young.
  8. Joseph Strong Ready, b. 2/15/1833, d. 1/29/1846 ?

4. Children of Aaron Ready and Jerusha Sims. Number and names not presently known. They were mentioned in will of Charles Ready, Sr.
5. Children of Eliza Ready and Lafayette Burrus.
  1. Dr. William L. Burrus.
  2. Lucian B. Burrus, Arkansas planter.
  3. Ophelia Maria Burrus, d. 1856, m. Gen. Joseph B. Palmer.
  4. Robert A. Burrus, merchant, d. Memphis, TN 1879.
  5. Francis Marion Burrus.
  6. Cassandra Burrus, m. James M. Alexander.
  7. Fletcher R. Burrus, b. 9/16/1844, m. 5/30/1871 Hattie Pointer of Pulaski, TN.
  8. Lafayette Burrus, Jr.
  9. Elizabeth M. Burrus, m. George W. Howse.
  10. Dr. Joseph C. Burrus, d. before 1888, Napoleon, ARK.
  11. Lucy Burrus, m. P. D. McCulloch.
  12. Martha A. Burrus, died in young ladyhood; very beautiful.
  13. Sophia Emma Burrus, m. F. H. Lytle, also a beauty.
6. Children of William Ready and Isabella C. Burkley.
  1. Catherine Ready
  2. Mary Ready

7. Children of Mary Ready and James Holmes.
  1. Robert Holmes, b. 4/24/1830, d. 8/24/1835.
  2. Charles Holmes, b. 8/8/1831, d. 3/1/1911,  
m. (1) Sallie Wade, (2) Fannie Wood
  3. Lucinda Holmes, b. 10/3/1833, d. 8/19/1879,  
m. James Martin
  4. John Holmes, b. 11/20/1835, d. 12/20/1901,  
m. (1) Martha Hare, (2) name not known.
  5. William Francis Holmes, b. 5/26/1840, d. 2/7/1919,  
m. 11/26/1872 Minta C. Hall, b. 4/22/1854,  
d. 9/25/1902.
  6. James Holmes, b. 11/14/1842, d. 9/2/1864, not  
married, died in Confederate Army in battle.
  7. Samuel Holmes, b. and d. 4/7/1845.
  8. Mary Holmes, b. 4/5/1846, d. 12/21/1921,  
m. Capt. Jonathon Nichol.
  9. David Edwin Holmes, b. 1/2/1849, d. 10/14/1932,  
m. (1) Sallie Enoch Hare. (2) Lula McKnight.
8. Lucinda Ready, no issue.
9. Children of Susanna Maria Ready and Dr. John Barclay  
Armstrong.
  1. Thomas Temple Armstring.
  2. Mary Ready Armstrong.
  3. Le Vanda (Van) Armstrong.

4. Laura Maria Armstrong.
5. John B. Armstrong.
6. Susan A. Armstrong.
7. Betania Armstrong.
10. Children of Jane Campbell Ready and Dr. William Donaho, 1 son ?  
Of Jane and Peter Coleman Talley.
  1. Ada Juliette Talley, b. 9/28/1843, d. 7/9/1916,  
m. 1/14/1862 Dr. James Brickell Murfree,  
b. 1835, d. 1912.
  2. Mary Talley, m. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Spence.
  3. Emma J. Talley, b. 7/9/1848, d. 4/29/1920, m.  
8/12/1867 Albert Jetton.
  4. D. H. Talley.
  5. Leslie Talley, b. 1850.
  6. Francis Talley, b. 1852.
  7. Edwin Talley, b. 1854.
  8. Walter Talley, b. 1859.

This is an incomplete chart. Grandchildren may not be listed in birth order. Corrections and additions are requested. Some lines have been carried several generations further.

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a grandson of Charles Ready, Sr.

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## MT. OLIVET AND HOOVER GAP METHODIST CHURCHES

by

Mrs. Margaret Powell

Methodism swept into the Southeastern basin of Tennessee like a tidal wave in late 1790 or 1800. There were people anxiously awaiting this new religion that assured anyone with a place to worship and would have a preacher sent by a district superintendent. People worshipped in brush arbors, homes, and schoolhouses. This new form of church government was formulated by John Wesley, "Father of Methodism." He refused to have the movement called Wesleyism. But since the system was so Methodical, it soon became "Wesleys Methods or Methodism." It was J. W. Cullum a preacher in 1871 who said, "Christianity was Methodism on Horseback," as so many of the preachers or "circuit riders," as they were called, had to ride horse back, because of the bad roads or lack of roads. Some churches were almost inaccessible, even then but if they were on their circuit the preacher got there, rain, sleet, cold or whatever. Sometimes their shoes would freeze in their saddle stirrups.

As early as 1812 church houses were being built in Rutherford County. I don't have any record of when the

church at Big Spring was built, only a tiny dot on the 1878 map indicated the spot where the Methodist Episcopal Church stood--I don't know when nor why it was moved to Manchester Highway, with an access road to Big Spring road. Presumably the Big Spring church burned, as so many buildings did, leaving no records. The new church was built majestically--"Big and Wide" high on a hill and appropriately called Mt. Olivet.

Mt. Olivet was in Murfreesboro District and on Hall Springs Circuit with the parsonage located at Noah, on Manchester Highway between Beech Grove and Manchester. Most circuits had at least 4 churches but the preacher was available at all times for funerals and to preach any place the people called for him.

While Rev. Cullum was occupying the parsonage, he with some help built a brick cistern for their water supply. The building required 3,400 bricks,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  barrels of cement and 2 barrels of lime and cost \$44.87. It was built about 1890. I don't know how long it was used. I dimly remember our church donating money to have water installed in the parsonage sometime in 1920.

I have often heard my grandfather tell of the huge crowds and the big revival meetings that were held in Mt. Olivet. Sometimes the meetings lasted all night with

preaching, singing, shouting, and people would go into trances. The revivals were very emotional and congregations expressed joy in their salvation, each in his own way. After all they came to America to worship for freedom; and worship they did.

I grew up in this church and thinking back can remember the many things I enjoyed there. The card class that "Miss Molly" Baugh Pate taught. We had to memorize our golden text, sit still and listen, holding our pennies in our hot little hands. I remember the excitement of the box supper, dreading and hoping some one nice would get my box. The ice cream suppers with cake walks held as friendly get togethers and to augment finances.

The Christmas tree, huge in our eyes all a glitter with tinsel in the candlelight and loaded with all sorts of interesting looking packages while excited youngsters hoped and waited with bated breath for the program to be over and Santa would hand out the gifts.

Then in June "Children's Day" would be a big event with all the Sunday School participating--boys with scrubbed faces, hair sleeked down, in white shirts and knee pants. The girls with curls, bows, ruffled dresses and baby doll patent slippers would march, sing and speak our pieces with outward calm and inward



quaking and oh what a relief it was when it all was over. It was a pretty event--children for once all dressed up, and on their best Sunday behavior, the church too was all dressed up and decorated with flower arrangements. There was a closeness in this group of people who worked for common good. Many and varied were their talents and each was willing to share and do what they could. Visiting the sick and caring for the elderly was done as a matter of fact. There were no florist shops to call and have flowers sent to sick or shut-in. Home grown flowers were used and since "Miss Annie" McKnight as she was affectionately called had a "green thumb," lots of flowers, and a knack of arranging them, she was called on often to furnish flowers (in season) on all occasions. There was always flowers on Sunday and extra ones on special occasions. I've often wondered how many flowers she had given to others, bouquets, and potted plants for old, sick or shut-ins and on so many occasions hearts that grieved were lightened by the wreaths of "Miss Annie" flowers covering the cold clay on a loved ones grave.

Quarterly conferences were held once a year in each church. The delicious "basket dinners" were looked forward to--a just reward we felt after a long sermon and



singing School see page 91

a lengthy business session. I remember a few times Uncle Dave Macon would come and bring his banjo and entertain after lunch under the big shade trees.

Singing Schools were often held in summer and well attended. This picture of one group taught by George W. Sebren was held in 1915. I have attempted with the help of Mrs. Mary Price Snell and Mrs. Pearl Marlin Smith to name them. I'm not 100% sure and apologize for any mistakes we made. It was a long time ago and only a few are still living.

#### Names on Pictures

1. Mary Epps
2. Margaret Powell
3. Mabel Fox
4. Pauline Allman
5. Sue McKee
6. Mr. G. W. Sebren, teacher
7. Smith Webb
8. Hall Webb
9. \_\_\_\_\_ O'Brien
10. O. B. Hendricks
11. Pearl Marlin Smith
12. Aileen McKee Hatchett
13. Mrs. Allen
14. Irene Hoover
15. Mary Price Snell
16. Willie Mai O'Brien
17. Mary Lou Hendricks
18. Mrs. Annie Hoover
19. Mrs. Lillie White
20. Ida Hoover Williams--Rev. John Mark Williams' mother
21. Mrs. Margaret Webb
22. Mattye Ida Hoover O'Brien
23. Elizabeth White

24. Mrs. Corrine Hoover	43. Effie Davis
25. Mrs. Annie McKnight	44. Willie O'Brien
26. _____ Hoover	45. Walter Price
27. Andrew Price	46. Edward Hendricks
28. Lizzie Hayes Haynes	47. _____
29. Luther Hayes	48. Kirk Webb
30. Rose Smotherman	49. Elmer McKnight
31. Mr. B. G. White	50. Hugh O'Brien
32. Virginia O'Brien	51. Tommy Lee Haynes
33. Mr. Hendricks	52. Jimmy Cristman
34. Mary Hoover	53. Bob Lynch
35. Mr. Hoover	54. Mr. Pheonix
36. Dr. Allen	55. Silas M. Hoover
37. Mattie Lou Hoover	56. Eugene Hoover
38. Willie Hendricks	57. Murphy Haynes
39. Allie McKnight Hoover	58. Sam Insell
40. Mattye Hayes Maxwell	59. Johnny O'Brien
41. Bettye Mai Allman	60. Mr. Stem
42. Dovie Biggers	61. Jim Webb

#### Partial Membership

I don't have a record of all the members but some that were on Sunday School report are given.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Allman  
 Jim Broyles  
 Willis Drake  
 Marlin Hoover--Marvin  
 Le Grand Hoover--Irene, Nettye Lou  
 Joe Hoover--Travis, Ida Lee, Eunice  
 John Henry Hoover--Alicia, Eve, Ada  
 Eugene Hoover  
 Harvey Hoover--Forney, Eugene, Palmer  
 Will Kelton  
 John McKnight--Kirby, Allie, Elmer, Margaret  
 W. J. Fox  
 W. J. Fox--Henry, Mabel, Evelyn  
 Chip Lee  
 Frank Mankin  
 S. F. Pheonix  
 Porter Carter--Arnold, Aubra  
 Ashton Pruitt  
 Robert Bugg--Hubert

## Some of the Sunday School Superintendents

Eugene Hoover  
Kirby McKnight

Silas Hoover  
Margaret McKnight

## Teachers

Miss Mattye Baugh Pate  
Andrew Todd  
Allie McKnight  
Mrs. Corrine Hoover

D. F. Tribble  
Marvin Hoover  
Mrs. Will Maude Kelton

## Organist and Song Leader

Mrs. Marvin (Allie) Hoover, organist  
Silas Hoover, song leader

Membership fluctuated as people moved in and out but in the main Mt. Olivet maintained a good congregation until one cool windy day in March sparks from the big old stove hit on the soft shingles and soon the roof was ablaze with no hope of extinguishing the blaze. With no ladder going up in the attic and one fire extinguisher, it was useless. The high wind kept the fire swept up and toward the back and we, working madly, were able to save most of the hand made pews, organ, pulpit, song books, and pulpit chairs which were stores for future use. We were a desolate group as we stood and watched our loved church tumble down. The next thing on the agenda was what to do. Cedar Grove Methodist invited us to their

church as did Hoover's Gap Protestant Church so each family went to the church nearest them and our once strong church was weakened by division.

The two separate congregations at Hoover's Gap were united as one when the three Methodisms were unified as one also. Upon reconstruction of the highway in 1936 this building was razed and the present one erected. In June of 1936 the congregation moved into the new building using pews, organ, etc., saved from Mt. Olivet. They reorganized and became known as Hoover's Gap Methodist Church having sixty-one members. This church contributed two men to the Methodist ministry--Rev. Leo Parker, now in Texas his wife's home state, and Rev. Harry Agee who will be installed at Hohenwald, Tennessee this year. Both have done well in their ministry.

After we had settled in, we decided to add some Sunday School rooms and asked conference for help, which was denied. However, we built them and carried on the best we could, losing our young people to distant jobs. We were moved from Bell Springs circuit to Cedar Grove, without our consent. We disagreed with the district superintendent on several occasions and for several reasons. Just before Christmas 1960, we received a letter from District Superintendent telling us that when conference had met in June our church was declared

"Abandoned" and that he was sending our letters of membership to the church he deemed nearest us. That didn't go too well and so we decided to remain as we were using lay speakers until we could do better. Some of our speakers were Ralph Sutton, Tommy Carter, Terry Spence, Bro. Baker, Eslene Macon, Virgil England, and O. C. Robinson. In fact Terry Spence and Virgil England served as regular minister for a time until in 1978 we persuaded O. C. Robinson to be our preacher. He has been with us ever since, and his wife has taught a class, led in singing and helped in every way. We are a small hard working group seemingly not making big waves, but still keeping the church door open. We're known as Hoover's Gap Interdenominational Church and welcome all and sundry to worship with us. We have Sunday School and preaching every Sunday.

This is a list of ministers as nearly as I can compile it after the church was moved from Big Spring to the Highway.

John R. Reagin, Oct. 1887-1888  
 R. E. Alford, 1888-1889  
 J. W. Cullum, 1889-1890  
 John R. Thompson, 1890-1891  
 O. P. Hill, 1891-1895  
 G. W. Blanton, 1895-1896  
 S. M. Keathley, 1896-1897  
 M. P. Wood, 1897-1898  
 J. W. Cullum, 1898-1900

G. W. Nackles, 1900-1901  
 B. T. Smotherman, 1901-1903  
 E. E. Varner, 1903-1904  
 G. B. McPeak, 1904-1905  
 S. D. Plant, 1905-1906  
 J. K. Lee, 1906-1910  
 O. H. Lane, 1910-1914  
 J. T. Parsons, 1914-1916  
 R. H. Skelton, 1916-1920  
 M. B. Williams, 1920-1922  
 John C. Crigger, 1922-1923  
 E. M. Harrell, 1923-1926  
 A. L. Hodge, 1926-1931, District Superintendent  
 Irvin McDonough, 1931-1932  
 N. O. Allen, 1932-1935  
 R. C. Moore, 1935-1939--Hawkins  
 G. Thomas Reed, 1939-1940--Cook  
 Hugh Parsons, 1940-1942  
 W. L. Burden, 1942-1945  
 O. N. Jones, 1946-1947  
 Virgil Tipps, 1947-1950  
 Allen Brown, 1951-1953  
 Ralph Koolmay, 1954-1955  
 Bobby Davis, 1955-1956  
 Carl Felkner, 1957-1958  
 Howard Haynes, 1959-1960  
 Carl Cantrell, 1960-1961  
 James McGlothin, 1965-1966  
 Kenneth Miles, 1966-1967  
 Harold Edwards, 1967-1968  
 Wayne Caldwell, 1968-1969  
 Donald Erickson, 1970-1971  
 Virgil England, 1972-1975  
 Terry Spence, 1978-1979  
 O. C. Robinson, 1978-1984

I'd like to close with J. W. Cullum's favorite little  
verse.

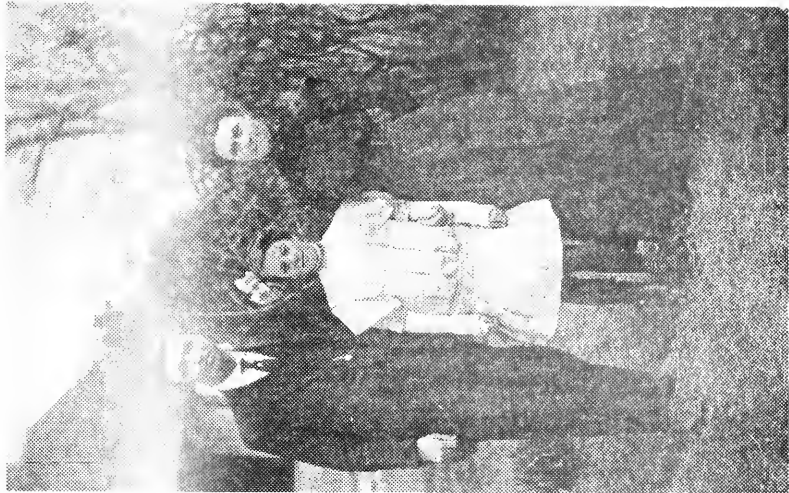
This is a difficult world indeed  
 And the people are hard to suit.  
 The man that plays the violin  
 Is a bore to the man with the flute.  
 And I myself have often thought  
 How much better it would be.



If everyone I knew would only agree, with me.  
But since they will not the very best way  
To make this world look bright,  
As never to mind what people say  
But do what you think is right.



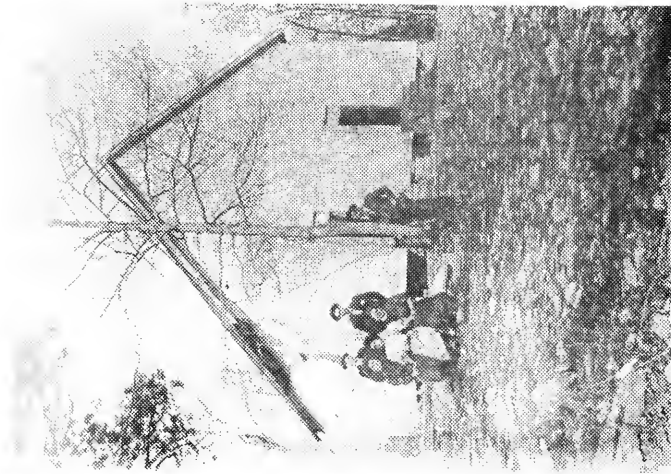
J.W. Cullum



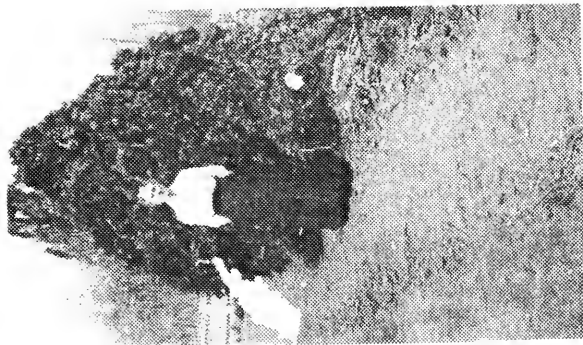
Rev. O.H. Lane  
Zehra Baugh  
Mattie Baugh



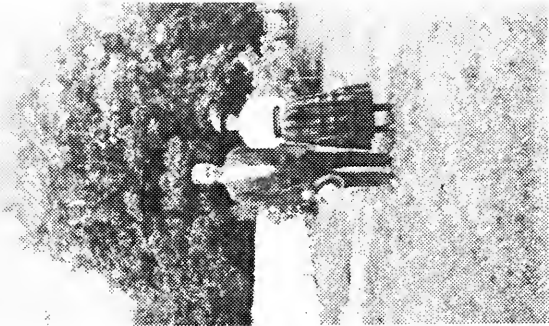
Mr. & Mrs. Thurman Moore  
(Evie Hoover)



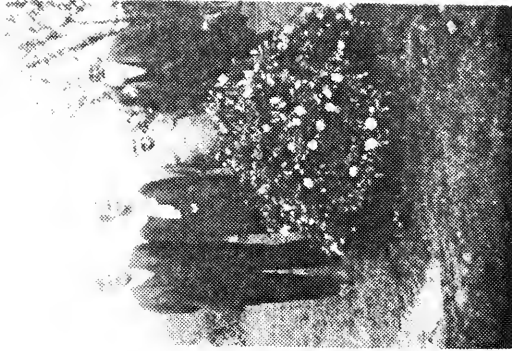
Eugene Hoover, George Sebren  
S.F. Phenonix, Evie Hoover,  
Arenie Hoover (Mrs. Eugene,  
Ida Todd Williams at Mt. Olivet  
Church which burned in 1934



Mrs. W. I. Fox



Rev. M.B. Williams & wife  
Ida Hoover Williams  
(parents of Rev. John Mark  
Williams of Murfreesboro)



Mr. & Mrs. John McKnight  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Webb



Mrs. Mattye Baugh Pate



Silas M. Hoover



Martin Hoover  
Luke Rawling standing

## MY YEARS AT LINEBAUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

1947 - 1962

by

Myla Taylor Parsons

One day in late spring of 1947 Bealer Smotherman, Superintendent of Rutherford County Schools, asked me if I would be interested in giving up teaching to do full time library work. He told me that there was quite a bit of interest in the community in regard to establishing a public library.

The question naturally came as a shock, for I had thought that I would be a teacher for the rest of my working days. I told Dr. Smotherman that I would need time to think before I could give him an answer.

For the last three years I had been the English teacher and librarian at Christiana High School. Previous to this time I had taught in the elementary school at Christiana and in other schools in Rutherford County. I had taken a few courses in library science at Middle Tennessee State College. At the time Dr. Smotherman mentioned the library possibility, I was enrolled in library science at Peabody Library School, working toward a library degree.

After thinking about the pros and cons of taking the library job and after discussing it with my family, I decided I would accept the offer. Little did I know what was ahead for me. At that time I didn't realize how valuable my teaching experience would be as background knowledge for library work.

A statement, written by Robert Lasseter in an editorial in the Rutherford Courier in 1942, was undoubtedly responsible for the establishment of the public library. In his article Mr. Lasseter lamented the fact that this area was without a public library.

After reading the article Mr. Henry T. Linebaugh, who, as a poor boy grew up in Murfreesboro, and later went to Florida and became wealthy in real estate, made a gift of \$5,000 to the City of Murfreesboro toward starting a library. His only stipulation was that the library bear his mother's name, Mattie V. Linebaugh.

A City Library Board was appointed, and in order to have Rutherford County participate in the program a County Library Board was also appointed, thus having a joint library board. The City, County, and County Board of Education cooperated with the state regional program in establishing Linebaugh Public Library. In addition to lending books to the library the Regional Library placed deposit stations of books in various areas of the county.

On September 1, 1947 I assumed my duties as librarian of Linebaugh Public Library. The nucleus of the library was the Rutherford County School Circulating Library, which was housed on the second floor of the Rutherford County Courthouse. Previous to this time Mrs. Katie Lee Peyton had been responsible for checking out books to the county teachers. She was also the caretaker of the Rutherford County textbooks. My first responsibility was to catalog the school library books.

If we had inquired of the American Library Association in regard to requirements for starting a public library, we would have been told that we didn't have sufficient resources for undertaking such a task. We knew very well that we couldn't meet standards when it came to budget, staff, building and books. However, with the determination of a few dedicated people, we did undertake the task, and we did succeed.

In the meantime the old Hale home on Central High School Campus (now Middle School) was being renovated in order to house the library, which moved to its new quarters the latter part of 1947.

From the \$5,000 Linebaugh funds the Library Board decided to use \$2,000 for furnishings for the new quarters, and \$1,500 for books.

After the library moved to the Central High Campus, Alberta Spence joined our staff as a volunteer worker. She worked with us for quite some time before we had the funds with which to pay her a small salary. We were very fortunate in having someone with Alberta's qualifications. She was a graduate of Middle Tennessee State College, an excellent typist, an avid reader, and a person with business experience. I shall always be grateful for the contribution she made to the library.

The next important step was to prepare for a formal opening. Much of the renovation was done by the Rutherford County school maintenance personnel. Shelving, tables, and chairs were built by the Trade School. Shelves were painted a light blue and

lined with red. Three rooms were made ready for the opening—the adult reading room, the children's room, and the conference room. We were especially proud of the conference room, which was furnished with red sofa and chairs. My sister, Carmine Jones, made the blue striped drapes for the windows. The circulation desk was in the front entrance hall, which had steps that led to Mrs. Peyton's apartment. Mrs. Peyton decorated the steps with her beautiful African violets.

We were proud of the books we had acquired. Some were purchased, others were donated. With these books and the borrowed books from the Regional Library we were beginning to look like a library.

On April 1, 1948 we had the formal opening of Linebaugh Public Library. Invitations were sent to organizations, schools, libraries, governing bodies, both local and state, as well as to many individuals. Mrs. W.H. Westbrooks was in charge of the hostesses for the occasion. They served refreshments to more than 600 people who attended. The library received many compliments for its homelike atmosphere. It was decorated with many gift flowers, sent by clubs, schools, and individuals. The register showed that many important people from the surrounding areas were our visitors.

We were pleased that the Linebaugh Family recognized the opening of Linebaugh Public Library. Mr. Lasseter received a congratulatory letter from Julia Linebaugh King (Mr. Henry T. Linebaugh's daughter) and a telegram from Henry T. Linebaugh, Jr. (Mr. Linebaugh, Sr. had died a few years earlier).



The library was catching on. Much interest was being shown by clubs, organizations, and schools as well as by individuals: Beta Sigma Phi Sorority gave a picture for the children's room; the American Association of University Women had a silver tea with the proceeds going for books; Publisher, James G. Stahlman, gave sixty volumes of history; the Craddock Study Club gave nine volumes; the Stephens Music Club held a pilgrimage with proceeds going for books on music; the Business and Professional Club gave money for books.

One of the most interesting donations made to the library was a map of Rutherford County (1878), showing prominent places and names of property owners. Mr. Otho Cannon gave the map, which had hung in his office in the courthouse. The State Library and Archives did the laminating. The map attracted much attention on the opening day.

I was invited to visit clubs and organizations to give book reviews. I never declined the opportunity to publicize the library. As a result I was giving book talks and reviews rather frequently. I felt that was a way to sell the library. Our citizens had to be told again and again that they now had a library. Many times I was asked to explain our facilities, how we operated with the schools, with the Regional Library, etc.

The library never lacked for publicity. Bob Lasseter, who was editor of the Rutherford Courier, did a splendid job. Hardly a day went by that there wasn't library publicity in the paper. He realized we were responsible for selling the library to our citizens. When I went home at night, my family would ask, "What

did Mrs. Parsons say today?" Bob would quote me on one thing or another concerning the library. There was no mistake about it, if a person read the paper, he knew we had a library.

By the end of the year the library had grown tremendously. The circulation for the year was over 40,000 books, including circulation to schools. There were over 1000 registered borrowers. For a county that previously had no library these figures meant something.

I was away from the library during the summer months of 1948 to finish my work at Peabody. After I received my library degree, I was ready in earnest to take up where I left off.

In the fall of 1948 we began story hour for the youngsters. Dr. Emily Calcott's class in children's literature at the college conducted this hour for several weeks. Later practice teachers from the training school took charge.

One of the most interesting pieces of publicity the library experienced was the two page article written by Dr. Calcott, entitled "They Like to Read." The article was published in the "Tennessee Teacher". Dr. Smotherman purchased 1000 copies for distribution to the schools. Miss Martha Parks, Director of Regional Libraries, purchased 1000 copies for distribution to regional libraries. Miss Parks also sent copies to library extension workers in other states and to the American Library Association school and public library officers.

In 1951 Dr. Calcott wrote an additional article, entitled "So you Want an All County Library", featuring Linebaugh Public Library. The article was published in the magazine, "The Nation's

Agriculture". As a result of the article the library received a complimentary letter from Mrs. Margie Malmberg, Director of American Library Association office.

In May 1950 the library was fortunate in receiving a bequest of approximately \$30,000 from Mrs. Emma Weitzel, a Murfreesboro native. I shall never forget the day when a library patron mentioned that he had heard that the library had been remembered in a will. You can imagine my excitement. I rushed to the telephone to inquire of Mr. Lasseter what he knew concerning the story. He had also heard the story and believed it to be true. \$30,000 was a great deal of money to a library that had been operating on a "shoe string".

In those early days the library had many distinguished visitors. Mrs. Frances Cheney, a professor from Peabody Library School, came to see us before we had our formal opening. She walked from up town one cold winter day. It was good to see her, for she gave me encouragement, which I needed. She visited again on our opening day.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry T. Linebaugh, Jr. of Jacksonville, Florida, while on a business trip to Nashville, drove to Murfreesboro to see the library that his father was instrumental in starting. Dr. Linebaugh remarked that he could not pass up the opportunity.

Mr. Henry Linebaugh, Sr.'s nieces, Miss Cathryn Trainer and Mrs. Anne Monahan of Overland, Missouri, made a point to stop overnight in Murfreesboro in order that they might visit the library the next day.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, President of the Indian Library Association, included Linebaugh Public Library in his visit to Middle Tennessee schools and libraries.

Mr. Jack B. Spear, Public Library Supervisor of New York state complimented our organization. He followed his visit with a letter.

Adelaide Rowell, author of "On Jordan's Stormy Banks", the story of Sam Davis, autographed her book when she visited the library.

Nora Buest from the United States Office of Education remarked after visiting the library that Linebaugh Public Library was one of the outstanding small libraries of the South.

Mrs. Julia Linebaugh King, daughter of Mr. Henry Linebaugh, and her husband, Dr. Joe E. King of Birmingham expressed their pleasure in seeing what had been accomplished. Mrs. King followed their visit with a complimentary letter.

By this time we felt that the library was making progress. The citizens, for the most part, knew that Rutherford County had a public library. Our greatest need was more books for the shelves. The big question was how could we get them. We knew the budget would not permit very many purchases. Mr. Lasseter and I had many discussions concerning the matter. These discussions led to the beginning of our present memorial book program. Never in our fondest dreams did we think the program would reach the success it has today. The same procedure used for the first memorial book is still used. We are proud of the results. The program was and still is a success.

I believe I am correct in saying that the library owes <sup>109</sup> its tremendous growth to the success of the memorial program. We knew that books would go a long way toward answering the problem. A library cannot have a good circulation without those needed books to circulate. We can truly say, "This was the beginning of something big".

The memorial book program story spread to many area of the country. Many libraries asked for detailed information as to the procedure used in beginning a similar program. We sent them a sample of our printed card, used to send to the family of the deceased, the method of selection of books, and the procedure for publicity, etc. We always added a note saying: the program entailed a great deal of work, the librarian needs to be professional and dedicated to the cause, and that we were fully convinced that the program was a "life-saver" for a small, struggling library.

The time had come when the library had outgrown the quarters on the high school campus. The board decided to purchase the old Elks Club building on Spring Street. Funds from Mrs. Weitzel's bequest were used for this purpose. The library was closed for moving on August 14, 1953.

Any kind of moving has its problems, and the moving of a library is no exception. I'm sure every librarian works out special procedures. With the assistance of Alberta Spence and my brother, James Taylor, we were able to get the new place in order for business by September 9 with open house a month later.

## Linebaugh Library



Offering a great service to the people of Rutherford county is the Linebaugh library, which is located on East Main street in a building formerly part of the old Tennessee College for Women plant. Records show that hundreds of Rutherford countilians are using the facility every month. Mrs. Myla Parsons has served as librarian since the opening of the library.

1947-1953





*Adult Reading Room*

Mrs. Myla Parsons,  
top right, was  
Linebaugh's first  
librarian.





It was good to have more room. The location of the library up town had its advantages. The attendance and circulation increased considerably. The Elks Club building lent itself well for our furnishings. The red sofa and chairs seemed to belong in front of the fireplace which held sycamore logs. Dr. Goodman gave a picture and brass urns with which to decorate the mantle.

The garden clubs have always been friends of the library. They planted shrubbery in front of the building and planted petunias in the urns on the front porch, for which we received many compliments.

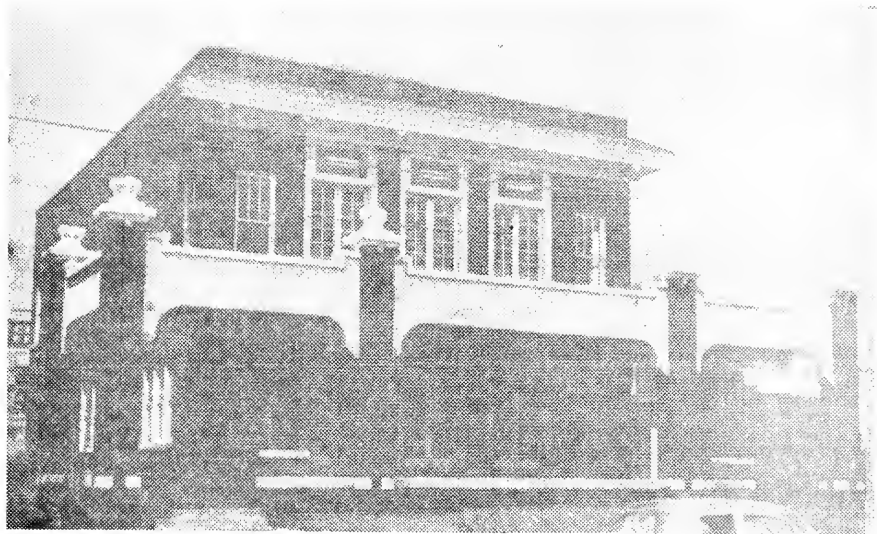
The library was still being operated with a minimum amount of funds. It was a struggle to survive, but with the cooperation of city, county and Rutherford School system, the library continued. It's difficult to believe that the library received only \$4,350 from the Rutherford County Court for 1953. Every year from the beginning representatives from the library have asked the court for additional funds. Without the persistence and selling abilities of people like Bob Lasseter, Baxter Hobgood and Tillman Haynes, Jr. the library would have long since closed its doors.

In those early days there were many people who gave their services to the library. Harriet Haynes (Mrs. James B.) was one who made a contribution that will always be remembered. She conducted story hour during the summer months. The children adored her. With her rich background and her special talent, she could entertain the children for hours. She should have had

renumeration for her services, but the library had no funds with<sup>12</sup> which to pay her. This was Harriet's way of helping the library get on its way.

The library welcomed groups to use the library for exhibit and committee meetings. Art and historical exhibits were held frequently. We wanted the citizens to feel that the library belonged to them. Among the groups who held meetings were people interested in the following activities: Garden Club Pilgrimage, Charity Circle Chorus, fashion shows, Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher Society, League of Women Voters, Symphony Concert, D.A.R., U.D.C. and others.

Many people have valuable books in home libraries. After many years they may decide to either discard or give their books to a library. I was invited to examine several collections. Some of our most valuable books came from this source. In a community with the cultural background that Murfreesboro has, you will find many a gem in someone's attic. In those early days we could not afford to turn down these offers. A library that has an adequate budget may not afford the time it takes for such an undertaking. There are many books in these collections that the library cannot use, but in many instances valuable books are discovered. Some of the books in the Tennessee Room came from this source. For example, books by the following authors were located: Mary Noailles Murfree, Will Allan Dromgoole, Andrew Lytle, etc. Valuable books on the Civil War period were found. It was good to find one of Ed Bell's books, "Fish on the Steeple"



ELKS CLUB BUILDING



(out of print) in someone's discarded collection. Later I found<sup>14</sup> other copies of Ed's "Fish on the Steeple" and his "Tommy Lee Feathers".

I am indebted to my brother, James Taylor (deceased), in assisting me in checking the above books. We did this work at night after working hours. His ability as a history teacher was very helpful.

Publicity continued to be of most importance to the growth of the library. Without question the local newspaper contributed a great deal. One of our first bits of advertising was the placing in bold type on the front page of the paper, usually in the lower corner, the question, "Have You Read?" Under the question was the name of the book - a different book each day. This device caught on rapidly. Ethel Womack volunteered a column, "It Seems to Me". Later Lady Brown wrote a column, "At Linebaugh". These two writers not only listed and discussed interesting books, but they also informed patrons as to what was going on at the library. There could not have been better publicity than the frequent listing of memorial books, with name of book given, name of donor, and name of person for whom the book was given.

The library was not air-conditioned in those days. A group of patrons organized a "Library Auxiliary". The first project was to air-condition the library. Mrs. L.A. Slaten (deceased) was chairman, and Mrs. Cornelia Davidson was treasurer. The library was air-conditioned in July 1957.

On April 1, 1958 it was time for a ten year anniversary. The library had come a long way. These had been years of struggle. The important result was that the library had survived. The budget was now a little more than \$10,000.

For ten years Smyrna Community had a deposit station for books, administered by the State Regional Library. The community decided they needed more than a deposit station. The Library Board agreed. Katherine Haynes Walkup (Mrs. William T.) was an important force behind this project. Katherine, a former librarian, and native of Smyrna understood the needs of the area. After making necessary agreements and arrangements with the governing bodies involved, it was decided that Smyrna would become a branch library of the Linebaugh Public Library system. With a few of Linebaugh's books and the Regional Library's books a library was started, housed in an old residence. Mrs. Jimmie Webster was the first librarian, with Mrs. Mary Carter as the assistant.

After a short while Smyrna Public Library had open house. The community was most enthusiastic. Many of the citizens came by to show their appreciation. Mr. and Mrs. Brainerd Cheney, residents of Smyrna, presented several books on the occasion.

By 1960 the library was outgrowing its quarters. When we moved to the Elks Club building, we thought we had space for many a day, but how mistaken we were.

In the meantime the Post Office building on College Street had been vacated for a new building on West Main. Bob Lasseter, always alert when it came to the needs of the library, suggested to the board that it might be possible to obtain the building for

the library. As a result contacts and correspondence began with members of Congress and other influential people. This work was not in vain, for in 1961 the General Service Administration gave the building to the area to be used for a library.

I shall never forget the day when Bob and I went over to the Post Office building to survey the possibilities. Previously I had seen only the entrance portion of the building in front of the service counters. How surprised I was to see the amount of space available. My dreams began. I was late going to sleep that night, for I was thinking about all the possibilities.

Remodeling began shortly. The board gave me permission to purchase furnishings for the new quarters - shelving, tables, card catalog, etc. It was quite interesting to plan for the different areas - reading rooms, children's department, stacks, etc. John Carter, Remington Rand's representative, had many sessions with me.

For quite some time I had been anxious to change our circulation system. We had outgrown the procedure we were using. Syd Shinn, the Regional Librarian at that time, and I visited many libraries throughout the state, observing the various systems. AS a result we decided to use the library card system - an individual card for each patron. This system was installed shortly after the library opened for business at its new location.

When I began the project at the Post Office, I had no idea that in a short time I would be leaving the library. When one has given himself to his work as I had at Linebaugh, he is not aware

when he is over-extending himself. On visiting my doctor I was told that I needed to make my work day shorter. When there was so much to be done, I couldn't see how I could heed the advice.

At this time there was a vacancy in the reference department at Middle Tennessee State College. After much careful consideration and after many talks with my family, I decided I would resign at Linebaugh and take the job at the college.

Linebaugh Public Library had become an important part of my life. Could I give it up? Yes, I must for my best welfare. I rationalized that I was leaving a library that was well on its way. It was considered by authorities to be an excellent small library, with a memorial book program that had not been equalled.

I resigned from Linebaugh Public Library on June 30, to begin work at Middle Tennessee State College Library on July 1, 1962. A few days before I left the library, the Board gave a lovely dinner in my honor at the Student Union Building on MTSC campus. They presented me a charm bracelet, depicting the facets of the Linebaugh Public Library program. When I accepted the bracelet, I made this remark, "Linebaugh will always be an important part of my life."

Mrs. Briley Adcock, who was finishing her library training at Peabody was employed as the new librarian. Alberta Spence, my assistant, would be the acting librarian during the interim.

When the college library closed between quarters, I came back to Linebaugh to assist in the new registration and install the new card system.

Linebaugh Public Library had four homes while I was librarian. The library was moved from the Courthouse in 1947 to the Old Hale home on Central High Campus, to the Elks Club building in 1953, and finally to the Post Office building where it has been since 1962. It is still growing, and at the present time needs additional space.

I have never regretted that I told Bealer Smotherman on that day in 1947 that I would be the librarian for Linebaugh Public Library. In spite of all the vicissitudes that came our way, I enjoyed it all. At the end of my work I felt that we had accomplished something for which the community was proud.

There were many people who gave me much assistance and moral support. I must say, "Thank you" to the following:

**Bob Lasseter**, whose optimism gave me the courage to carry on.

**Tillman Haynes, Jr.**, whose kind words of appreciation, I shall never forget.

**Baxter Hobgood**, who made me feel that I was a good librarian.

**James W. Taylor (Bill)**, my brother, who helped me when I couldn't help myself.

**Alberta Spence**, whose untiring efforts helped us put the library on "its feet".

**Bealer Smotherman**, who was the first to ask me to be librarian.

**Mrs. Katie Lee Peyton**, who gave all she had to the library's early efforts.

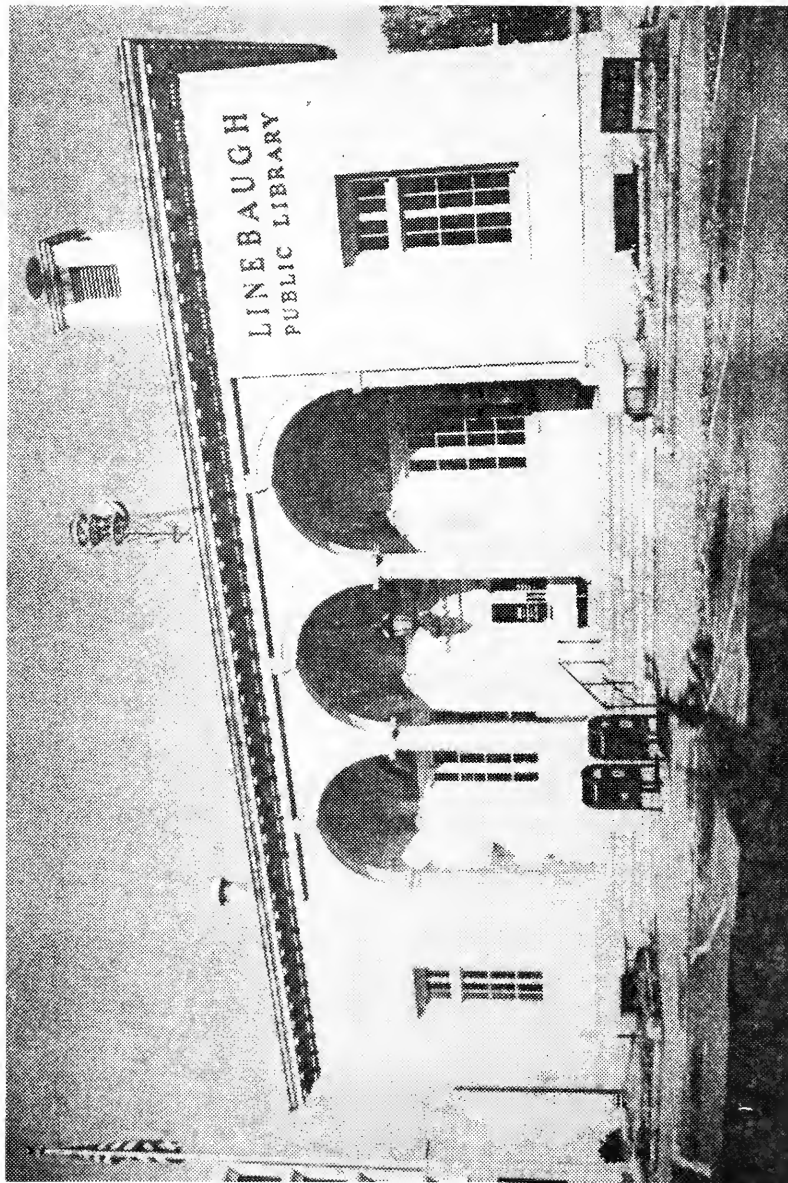
**My daughter, Fay**, who knew I was at the library if she didn't see me at home.

**Other members of my family**, who took care of Fay while I was taking care of the library.

AND

**All the citizens of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County**, who believed in me and encouraged me to believe in myself.





Murfreesboro's public library is currently housed in the old post office which  
is the facility's <sup>Rutherford County's</sup> third <sup>fourth</sup> 'home'.  
1962 —



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