

Days Of Old Sumner County

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Sumner County Historical Society

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Diary Offers Poignant Account Of Gallatin In Civil War

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Late last year Sumner County Historical Society published *Town in Turmoil*, a Civil War diary started in 1862 by Mary Robertson Schell, who gives her eyewitness account of the frightening events that overtook Gallatin at that time. The book, 47 pages, is now being considered by the Tennessee Historical Society as its Book of the Year.

During the war, Mary Robertson Schell, an educated woman, and her husband Samuel Fox Schell, a silversmith, jeweler and watchmaker, lived on East Main in Gallatin, where the Family Dollar Store is today, near the division of Scottsville and Hartsville Pikes. Federal and Confederate soldiers marched to war past their home. The Schell's son, Abraham Buchwalter (Buck) Schell, was among the men who survived in the Confederacy from beginning to end. Another son, Dr. Henry Augustus Schell, was a surgeon, and a daughter, Mary "Mollie" Schell, smuggled saws and tools to captured Confederates to help them escape jail.

Hendersonville author Judith Morgan transcribed the original words and provided fascinating narrative for the book, seamlessly inserting historical and biographical information that put Mrs. Schell's descriptions and opinions in context. Morgan

(See DIARY, Page 11)



Spring Planting by Bill Puryear

Almanac: Month by Month, Year by Year

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

In the new book, *An Artist's Almanac*, author Bill Puryear captured the essence of each month, year after year from 2004 to 2014. He wove vivid descriptions with local history, original paintings and photographs into a colorful, insightful book, showing daily life in Sumner County.

Puryear, Gallatin businessman, historian and artist, has also co-authored and illustrated several other books about Middle Tennessee, including a trilogy with Jack Masters about the history of early Tennessee settlements. The first book of the trilogy, *The Founding of the Cumberland Settlements*, was named The Book of the Year by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

In *Almanac*, Puryear began with a January day in 2005 when a mid winter thaw enticed he and his wife Claudia to take a walk on surrounding land. "We began at the old log carriage barn where Andy Jackson probably stabled when he came upriver to visit the Wyllie Plantation... We follow the footpath as it ascends past the Indian graves and Bluestar patch to the hill field. Here from the highest point, we can look upriver 20 miles on a clear day to see the White Elephant—the cooling tower of the abandoned Hartsville nuclear plant... We cross the dividing ridge, taking to the thickets..."

"Our ancestors came to Middle Tennessee along the road to the Cumberland Trace," he said. "As many as 6,000 a month came along this ancient trail, bearing their children and all they owned in ox carts, walking or riding horseback..."

He wrote about Tennessee's Februarys: "Change is the master key," he said of February 2005, "and we have it here, especially the weather... Here we live in a no man's land with some of the most

(See ALMANAC, Pages 8 and 9)

Early sale of North Carolina Land Grants and new Tennessee Land Grants in Sumner County.

By Jack Masters & Shirley Wilson

Jack Masters and Shirley Wilson are in the midst of a project to add Tennessee Land Grants to the already existing North Carolina Land Grants as shown in Volume 1 of "Founding of the Cumberland Settlements" The work also includes the deed summaries shown in "First Land Grants of Sumner County, or "NCG 1" by Timothy R. and Helen C. Marsh. These transfers started soon after the grants were awarded, many as early as 1788.

An example of a small portion of the work is shown on the adjacent page which is a smaller section of Map Pages D8 & D9 of Volume 1 of Cumberland Pioneer Settlers.

Tennessee Land Grants are color coded as white print on a green background on the identification block as shown on the map pages. Any references to land transactions from NCG 1 are white on blue.

Notice that original North Carolina Grants are black on white blocks and the information provided has changed in this work. Shown will be grantee, acreage, North Carolina Grant number and finally the date grant was issued. Later Tennessee Land Grants are white on green along with the acres, identification of the source of the information and finally the Tennessee Land Grant number.

The void shown in Volume 1, west of the 640 acre Mary H Bowen grant has now been filled by two 50 acre Tennessee land Grants. William Montgomery surveyed these two tracts on September 17th 1807 with Thomas Morgan and Warren Moore serving as the "Sworn Chain Carriers." The location

was shown to be on "Manscoes Creek" in the fifth Section of the Eleventh Range. Ranges and Sections will be addressed as a later topic since they have not been completely located at this point. The numbers 50-25A-288 & 289 identify the reel location and page number in Record Group 50. The Grant Numbers were 821 & 822.

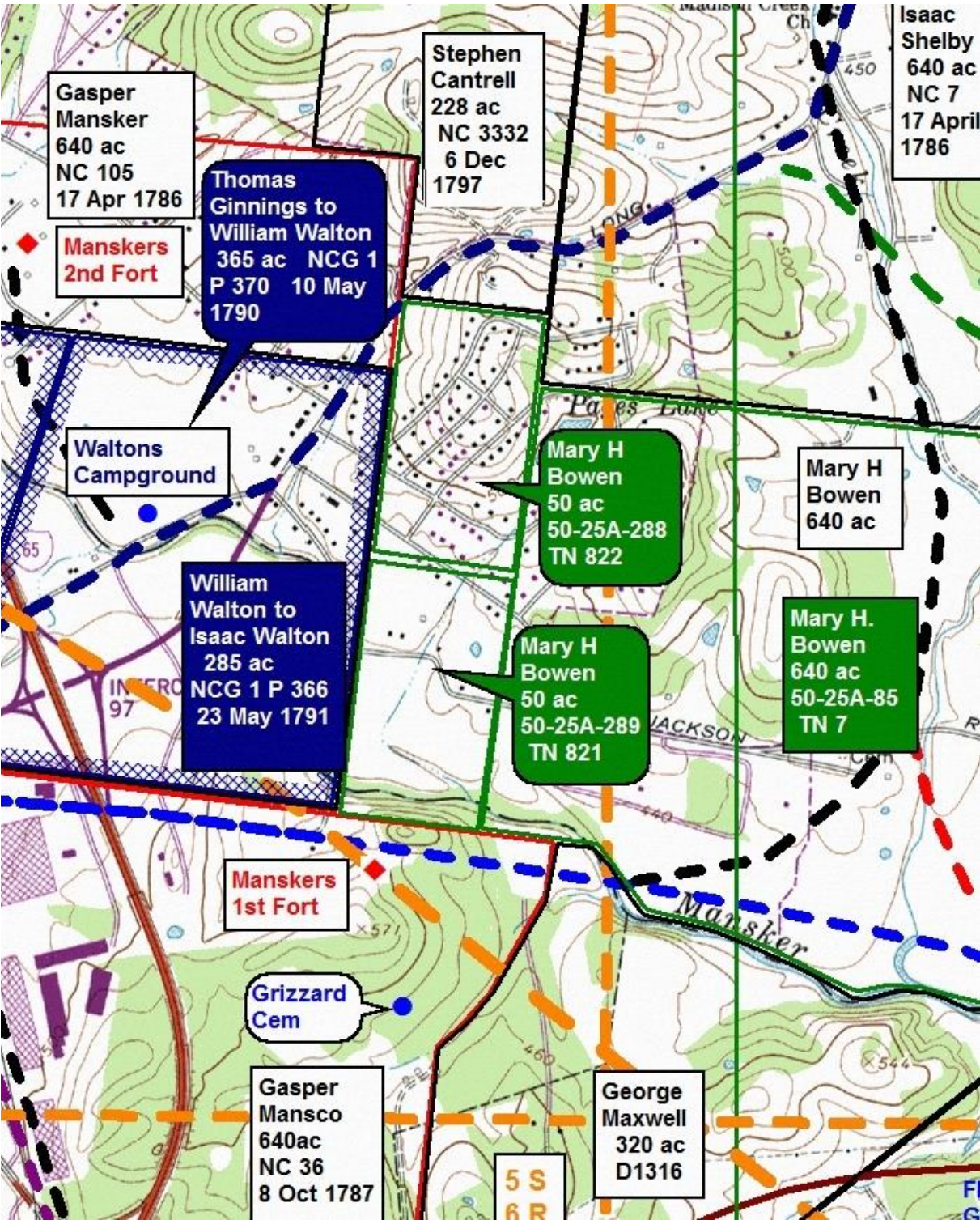
As far as the 640 Acre Mary H Bowen land Grant is concerned, we did not locate detailed information when publishing our Volume 1. We did know the grant location based on neighbor identification of the tract. However, when the Tennessee Land Grants were issued a Land Grant "TN 7" was issued and the location was Record group 50, Reel 25A and page 85.

If all of this sounds confusing, it's because it is. Careful study will be required to understand all of the naming and color conventions covered here.

For sale of the North Carolina Grants as contained in NCG 1, a good example is the Thomas Ginnings 365 acre North Carolina Grant 186 as obtained on 7 March 1786. This location corrects the placement as shown in Volume 1, as is the case in several grants. The additional information in Tennessee Grants provides firm understanding, detailing past North Carolina placements. Thomas Ginnings sold the 365 acre tract to William Walton on 10 May 1790. This explains the location of "Waltons Campground" not easily understood before. Not shown is the western portion of the grant, which is an 80 acre tract sold to Moore Stevenson in 1791.

The revised maps and documentation will be available at the Sumner Co Archives when work is completed.

Changes in the Tennessee Landscape: Property transfer of North Carolina Grants (white on blue) and Tennessee Land Grants (white on green) after the new Law of 1806. See Map Page D8 & D9 in Cumberland Pioneers Volume 1 for comparisons.



Molly Gardner Herring: 100 Years Remembered

By Ken Thomson, President SCHS

When the Civil War ended, Gallatin's Mary Jane Gardner Herring was 30 years old, and she lived on another 70 years through amazing world changes to the brink of WWII.

Mary Jane, called Mollie, was born on Aug. 11, 1834, to Cullen Bryant Gardner and Sarah Lauderdale Franklin on their farm on Desha's Creek, east of Gallatin. She died in 1935.

A Little Family History...

Mollie's father served in the War of 1812 under Gen. Andrew Jackson and participated in the Battle of New Orleans. He was one of many whose volunteer service designated Sumner County as the Volunteer County of the Volunteer State. Her mother was a daughter of James Franklin, a soldier of the Revolution, and his wife Mary Lauderdale.

Mollie, a lifelong Methodist, was the youngest in a family of seven children. Her brother, John Martin, married Selima Royal Wynne, daughter of Col. Alfred Royal Wynne of Wynnewood. Her brother, James Franklin, married Ann House, and her sister Elizabeth married Dr. Benjamin Moody of Montgomery Co. Other brothers—William, Isaac and Benjamin—all died under the age of four.

A Cultured Young Lady

Mollie was tutored at home until age 14 when she was sent to the Bledsoe Female Academy at Bledsoe's Lick, where she received a classical education suitable for young ladies of the day. She said that music and dance were her favorite activities and that all the girls were in love with the dance teacher.

She graduated on June 25, 1852, in the golden age of the academy. The 1850s were indeed a care free and glorious period for Mollie. She was the "Belle of the Balls," just as her mother had been before her. She received invitations to all social functions. The largest and grandest, the cotillion parties and balls, were held in local "saloons" (salons) and the Odd Fellows Hall. Baker's Saloon and the Gallatin Saloon had appropriate facilities, but the most elegant was the Eldorado Ballroom. It was here that the most magnificent entertainments were held.

All parties were by invitation, primarily printed but sometimes handwritten. The format consisted of the time and place at the top of the invitation, and the "committee of invitation" below. The committee was made up of floor managers and honorary managers—older gentlemen of the community. In Mollie's youth, honorary managers usually included Gov. William Trousdale, Judge Josephus Conn Guild and Gen. Daniel Smith

Donelson. The party date and the name of the band were listed last, at the bottom of the invitation.

At times, Mollie was invited to ride her favorite horse in parades and processions. In one such event, she was selected to represent the State of Florida at the Democratic Convention held in Gallatin on Oct. 24, 1856. She wore a black hat and riding habit with a long skirt and colorful sash. Everyone gathered at the home of Dr. James Alexander Blackmore on Hartsville Pike.



Belle of the Balls, Mollie Gardner

Civil War Years

In 1861 the clouds of war descended over the entire nation, and for four bitter years Mollie suffered from the effects of that great conflict. Her future husband and brothers—including James, who had already served in the Mexican War—served in the Confederate Army. Her beaux and friends from the McKendree, White, Wynne and other families also served and wrote letters to her many times, enclosing small mementos such as swatches of captured battle flags.

Yankee Gen. William Rosecrans and 3,000 troops encamped on her farm, preparing for the Battle of Nashville. She and other family members were required to have military passes

(See MOLLIE, Page 5)

(MOLLIE, Continued from Page 4)

to enter and leave the front lawn.

According to family lore, Mollie had a fine dog, Manassus, named after two Confederate victories. (The Yankees called it Bull Run.) When calling her dog one evening, Yankee soldiers heard her and threatened to kill the dog if she didn't change its name. She refused. Later, she called Manassus, and they shot him at her feet. She picked him up, turned to the soldiers and said, "I'd rather be a dead dog any day than a damn Yankee!"

Her Family Changes

On Jan. 20, 1865, three months before the war ended, Mollie's father died. Her mother had died in 1849, so she was alone. She could have married many times, but she chose to stay at home to care for her widowed father. At her father's death, she went to live with her sister Elizabeth Moody at Port Royal in Montgomery County.

Nine years later, in 1874, she married David Grant Herring, who was eight years her junior.

The happiest and saddest events of Mollie's life occurred on Oct. 20, 1876. Her only daughter, Davie Grant Salathel Herring, was born. Her husband was very ill, at the time but they rolled him into the room to see his new baby. A few hours later he died.

Mollie and little Davie continued to live at Port Royal until Davie was a teenager. Mollie made a modest living running a farm and loaning money.

In 1891, she and Davie purchased a cottage on West Main Street in Gallatin. Here she spent the remainder of her long life.

At age 15, Davie began working as a telephone operator for the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company in Gallatin. She remained with the company for 50 years.

Mollie was a member of the Thomas Hart Benton Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 in Nashville. In mid life, she presented the chapter with a quilt she created from the clothes of her father who was in the War of 1812, her brother James who was in the Mexican and Civil Wars and her husband who was in the Civil War.

The years were fleeting, and Mollie became older and older. She never dreamed she would live so long. For her 99th birthday, a friend wrote a poem that began:

*Ninety and nine, ninety and nine
The years have gone by, both rich and fine
Full of zest and interest aflame
Never tiring in life's old game.
How many can say, my life's well spent
And I have not wasted the years that God lent?
Can we not profit by this old friend dear,
And as we go down life's pathway, scatter
sunshine and cheer...*

On Aug. 11, 1934, Mollie celebrated her 100th birthday. She entertained 300 of her closest



Mollie Gardner Herring and physician Dr. Lewis Woodson at her 100th birthday party

relatives and friends. The guest book of the event is a treasure. Members of the Thomas Hart Benton Daughters of 1812 participated. WLAC radio presented a program in her honor. Greetings arrived from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gov. Hill McAlister, Minister to Finland Edward Albright of Gallatin and others. Nearly five months later—Jan. 2, 1935—Mollie passed into eternal rest and was buried in Gallatin Cemetery.

WWI: As the Boys Are Leaving to Fight

From Judith's Morgan's *Sumner County in the Great War*

Young men of Sumner County began shipping out for WWI training in late September 1917 when 88 of them boarded camp trains in Gallatin amid lavish fanfare. In her book, *Sumner County in the Great War*, Hendersonville author Judith Morgan wrote:

"...As the number of boys away from home grew steadily, people wanted to do everything they could to help... They could raise money. Led by local bank president W. Y. Allen and the every-dependable Mrs. Prudence Dresser, chair of most women's activities, Sumner County repeatedly exceeded the quota for sales of both Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. Businesses had to contribute or be revealed as "slackers." Parades stirred up patriotism. Persuasive men held "mass meetings" around the county, almost like a political campaign, urging people to give. Ads pricked at people's consciences: "Be a man—Be a patriot—Hold up your head—Buy a Liberty Bond!" "If you can't go across with a gun, COME ACROSS with your part of the Red Cross Fund Drive! The Daughters of the Confederacy even raised money to endow beds, named for Civil War generals, for American Hospital Number 1 near Paris.

People could produce and conserve food. "Food Will Win the War!" proclaimed the newspapers. There was an enforced rationing, but the weight of public opinion came down on any who chose not to follow the government's requests...

Across the county, clubs sprang up under the mandate of "food preparedness." In South Tunnel, Mrs. J. W. Cron headed up "Uncle Sam's Aids" Canning Club. In Hendersonville, Miss Sarah Berry, in addition to running a 5,000 acre farm alone (with a shortage of farm labor) and serving as vice president of the county Women's Committee, found time to be president of the newly-formed "Home Economics Club." In Gallatin, the "Hoover Club" met at the home of Mrs. W. T. Allen. In Castalian Springs it was the "Nathan Harsh Canning Club." And so it went...

People could also conserve fuel. Coal and gasoline were needed to run the ships taking the boys across the sea, the railroads and trucks they would need in France to get to the front, the ambulances that would carry them when they were wounded, and, for some like Harry Williamson and George Puryear, the tanks and "aeroplanes" they would ride into battle—both new with this war.

In response, the Gallatin Ice Plant curtailed deliveries "to conserve fuel": now one part of town got ice in the morning and another in the evening. People were told not to drive on

Sundays (leaving the issue of getting to church to the conscience) In the worst winter in nearly 30 years, so cold and slick even the mail carriers could not get through, folks at home were told to burn wood.



Famous Red Cross Poster of WWI

Women could sew. The Red Cross sewing room was open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for making bandages and surgical dressings...

Mothers, wives and girlfriends could cook. Nothing cheered a boy away at camp as much as a package from home filled with good things to eat. Portland's Wade Jernigan wrote from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, "Say, ma, what about a cake and a small bottle of pickles." His mother's heart ruled her common sense, for Wade later wrote sadly, "I got your box but the jar of pickles was broke in pieces...everything sure was a mess."

Women could support the troop trains coming through the county filled with boys away from home. A Red Cross "Canteen Committee" at the Gallatin depot plied them with coffee and sandwiches, at times serving from 500 to 1,500 in a single day... Families could send copies of the *Sumner County News*.

(See LEAVING, Page 7)

(LEAVING, Continued from Page 6)

Again and again letters home from training camps, from ships at sea and later from the battlefields of France would describe how much the boys enjoyed getting all the news, especially the everyday tidbits they could glean from the community gossip columns...



Above all, everyone could pray. Churches across the county held special services and hung “Service Flags” in their sanctuaries with blue stars for their boys. The Shackle Island community writer observed: “Three more stars have been added to the service flag at Beech and four to the one at New Hope. Our boys are leaving rapidly.”

The Methodist Church in Gallatin listed 25. One Westmoreland church had 19 stars on its flag. In Bethpage it was 16. Turner’s Station boasted seven, as did Siloam. Oscar Harrison, one of the boys whose blue star was on Siloam’s flag, would write from France, “I can almost here [sic] the prayers of the people at old Siloam today...”

People from all walks of life simply offered whatever talents they had, from society leaders like Mrs. Kate Trousdale Allen, who taught French to student nurses, to young ladies who volunteered for the Red Cross at home and abroad. The soldier boys were not the only ones leaving home.

“Big-souled men” were needed by the YMCA. One by one, ministers and others left to serve in the training camps and overseas with the boys. In Gallatin, Brother H.L. Olmstead of the Christian Church, Rev. C.C. McNeill of the Presbyterian Church and Professor C.E. Hawkins of Hawkins School all heeded the call.

There was an exodus of Sumner County doctors too, first to the training camps and then overseas: Frank Dunklin, H.L. Douglass, Homer Reese, Thomas Barry, W.N. Lackey, H.E. Hinton, T.E. Wright, Walter Dotson, S.E. Law and others. Jonathan Rucker, Gallatin’s young “colored” doctor was also training for overseas duty...

Amidst all these sacrifices, the boom at the new government powder plant at Hadley’s Bend—land sales, housing for workers, construction and operation of the facility—filled many with distaste. This was the munitions plant that Congress had envisioned back in 1916 finally come to life, a \$60,000,000 project that would employ 30,000. The plant was massive; it would use more coal in a single day than the entire city of Nashville. Men who had not volunteered or been drafted were easily finding jobs, and the area that would become Old Hickory sprang up overnight.

Almost weekly in 1918, one or another of the community writers in the *Sumner County News* named those going to work at Hadley’s Bend or at another new plant near Muscle Shoals, Ala. In spite of the need for munitions, many thought it just didn’t seem right that those left at home should profit while others were away risking their lives...

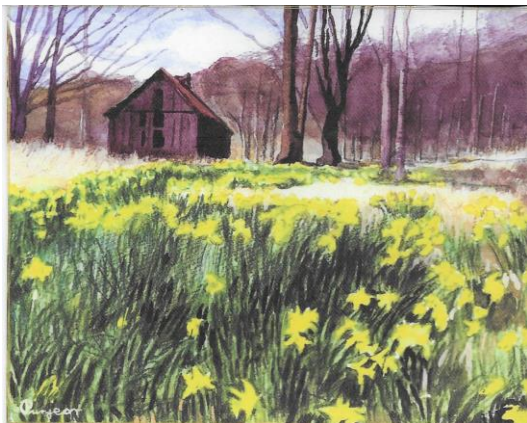
Sumner boys were in camps everywhere in a veritable alphabet soup of units... They were in the Army, the Navy, the Marines, The Army Air Service and the Navy Air Service. One Sumner draftee, James Walker of Gallatin, even wound up in the SqSq Spruce Squadron, a unit assigned to Washington and Oregon to build roads and railroads to the forests and cut down spruce trees. There was a shortage of spruce: it was used to build both airplanes and ships.

A second draft call went out with new quotas. Men who had turned 21 since the first registration day were required to register (Sumner registered 290), and in 1918, Congress expanded the age limits. Now men 19-36 had to register. On Sept. 12, 1918, another 2,997 men registered in Sumner County, bringing the total of men registered to well over 5,000. Another draft with new quotas was expected soon. As 1918 passed, month by month, men were sent across as fast as ships could carry them.”

(ALMANAC, Continued from Page 1)

extreme weather conditions of both the frozen north and the gulf south, with tornadoes to boot. Whatever the weather, it will change..."

"February is mud month," he recalled of 2009. "Wednesday, Jack [Masters] and I wedged into old friend Earl Swan's four-wheel drive truck to slither across the old Roscoe place in search of an historic road up the creek leading from Nashville Pike to Red River Road. We found it, just where the 1879 map showed it, up the middle of a creek. The pioneers in 1784 were too busy fighting off Indians to stop and clear land when a level rock-bottomed creek offered a cleared way, dry in summer and swept free of mud by the clear shallow current of February. It was a good way for both horse and wagon, and even my father told of ascending the creeks on his horse. Fertile bottomland was too precious to waste on roadways."



Daffodils by Bill Puryear

Nature sorts things out in March, noted Puryear. Ice, snow, storms and finally sunshine are Tennessee norms in March. "Last week," Puryear wrote of 2007. "I planted a cherry tree. Now I dream of pies, warm from the oven, over-laced with strips of surgary crust...Whoever plants a tree knows it may outlive him, giving pleasure to who knows whom. We give as we are given in the endless stream of life; trees are our fit companions along its way, marking our passage with their fragrant bloom and fruits in due season."

"It is said that the meek shall inherit the earth," he continued. "So, indeed, it seems. Among the meekest were surely those who were traded once like cattle here. Their legacy survives in Middle Tennessee, not just in their descendants, but in their marvelous stone walls, stacked dry, wandering for miles across our land. Many more are gone, though, victims of vandals or development. ..These builders were true artists, and their art survives them...On bright winter days, slaves not assigned to build roads were sent to pick up stones and dress them square

enough to fit into walls...These men passed their masonry skills down son to son, uncle to nephew, so that, until recently, the best, perhaps the only, stonemasons were black. So jealous were they of their rare skills, many would put down tools when whites approached to watch them work."

Wind and Rain Remembered

Puryear described the tornado that descended on Gallatin April 7, 2006, and the May 2010 flood—hallmark events that residents will not forget.

"The lights went out at 2:28 [April 7, 2006]" he said. "Soon after, we heard the sirens. The River Bridge filled with flashing lights as help poured in from nearby counties. The battery radio warned of another storm approaching Nashville from the west...Our two exit routes [from home] were blocked—Lock 4 Road, by fallen trees and electrical wires, and Highway 109, where several were killed near a convenience market and a steel-framed electrical supply business, which was reduced to a small pile of rubble. The owner's son was killed as he pushed a passerby into the last available space in a packed inner room...The world at large could see our neighborhood long before we could. Nationwide television gave Gallatin its 15 minutes of fame..."

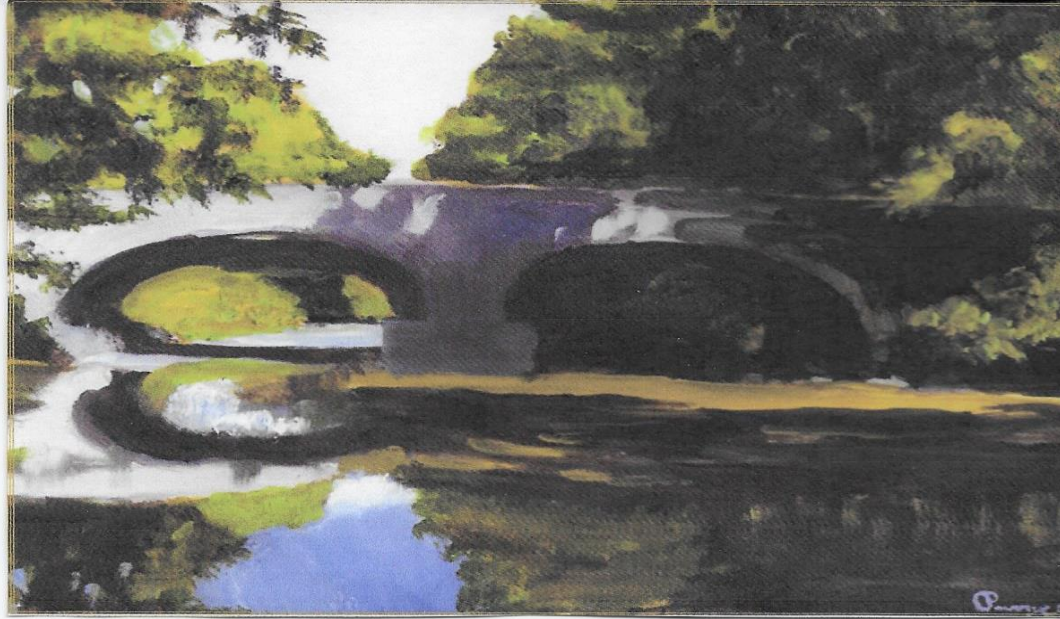
Of the great flood of 2010, he wrote, "The rain began early May 1. By dawn it was a deluge, and by afternoon roads were blocked and people trapped in their cars...Some called it a 500-year flood and others a thousand. But historic records showed nine higher river crests at Nashville from 1793 to 1937, the highest in 1926, at 56.2 feet, more than four feet above this year's."

Moving on to summer, Puryear noted that "the solstice on the 21st [of June] is the oldest holiday of mankind, written in rocks by the old ones from Stonehenge to Mesa Verde..."

He remarked on the historic value of Sumner County's fresh water springs, especially in the summer months. "Springs were paramount to the first ones here—Native or European...The pioneers celebrated their springs and gave them names, according to their uses or owners, characteristics or history," he wrote, "They enclosed them with stone structures to protect them from their livestock and to provide separate chambers for cooling their milk and butter or for dipping clear, cold water...Many springs, such as Castalian, Tyree, Horn or Red Boiling, became famous summer resorts, where patrons came to drink or bathe in the mineral waters, which were advertised as a cure..."

He wrote of September as the month that can have the "hottest days versus the coldest

(ALMANAC, Continued on Page 9)



Old Stone Bridge over Mansker Creek in Goodlettsville by Bill Puryear

(ALMANAC, Continued from Page 8)

nights...” and he recalled a story from his youth. “My grandfather’s Uncle Dan told of nearly freezing the night he lay bleeding at Chickamauga, looking up at the bright stars from the dark woods, where they found him, just in time, next morning, to save him...”

“For the pioneer mother, these were days of fear. The Indians could travel far in a dry season and did, harvesting horses, scalps and prisoners from a land they considered theirs,” he added. The term “Indian summer” is rooted in history.

“October is my favorite month, the beginning of my favorite season,” he wrote in the next few pages. “There are football Saturdays, reunions, street fairs, days of plein air painting and long walks along the bluff above the lake, when the searchlight sun picks out a golden maple on the far bank and immortalizes it in luminous memory.”

November is darker, “the season of reflection,” he went on. “Memories need names,” he wrote in a description of 2005. “The Indians whom our ancestors first encountered had colorful names, such as Old Hop, Sequoyah, Dragging Canoe, Mad Dog or Little Carpenter, their diplomatic chief who cobbled together peace treaties...I admire the pioneer women with names like Patience and Hopeful. But my favorite is Thankful Doak...Place names are another matter. I feel sorry for people who have to live on 38th Street. Often, a developer’s only lasting renown is in the

streets he names after himself. Imagination often trips into folly, as in the ungainly name for Rivergate Shopping Center, after the nearby Cumberland and the Gates Rubber Plant...”

‘The Thrill of Discovery’

Puryear wrote about Tennessee Decembers, usually defined by rain and snow. But December 2006 was different, warm enough to do a bit of local exploring. “This week we experienced the thrill of discovering the pioneer crossing of Drakes Creek, right where the land grants had it placed,” he wrote. “Here crossed settlers in the 1700s, headed for Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and, ultimately, the West Coast of a new America. Up from the creek, we found an old road climbing between majestic white oaks to the site of an old stagecoach inn on a hill from where you could see clear to Nashville...To the east lies Pilots Knob. The pioneer longhunters found it the highest hill nigh the river with a big spring issuing from its foot. Because it could be seen from miles away across the valley, they made their first station camp here and used the hill as a landmark to guide them back across the wilderness of the 1770s.”

He wrote of other Decembers, resplendent with Christmas memories: “I love December,” he wrote. “I love it for candlelight and good smells and good music filling the house. For now, at the darkest time of the year, light has entered our benighted world.”

Clinton Cage: A Slave Who Wrote a Will, Esteemed His Owner

By Shirley Wilson, Genealogist

Editor's Note: Using Sumner County records, genealogist Shirley Wilson traced the slave family of Clinton Cage from about 1800 to 1900, piecing together facts and educated guesses about him and his son. Of interest is the fact that Clinton, despite being a slave, had a will, something Wilson had never before seen in Sumner records.

Clinton Cage, born a slave about 1800 (almost surely in Sumner County) left barely a mark in terms of written records, but the records in which he does feature demonstrate that trust was certainly possible between a slave and owner.

Little of Clinton Cage's early life is known. He grew up, found his wife Elizabeth (Betsy), sired a son Joel and may have had other children—all while he was a slave. Clinton's owner was William G. Cage, probably a grandson of the Revolutionary soldier, Major William Cage of Virginia. Most of Sumner's white Cage families are the major's descendants.

William G. went to court in April 1847 to free Clinton and Betsy. William stated that he was the owner of the "boy" Clinton who was 40 years of age and had been a faithful, honest and obedient servant to the father of petitioner and his family. William's father was probably Jesse Cage, who was known to have sons, William G. and John F. Cage. William further stated that Clinton purchased and paid for his freedom and that of his wife Betsy who had likewise been a faithful servant. The court ordered their emancipation and ruled that they could continue to live here. A \$1,000 bond was pledged for that.

Clinton should have been listed in the 1850 census as a free black man, but he was not. However, a court record proves that he was alive and living in Sumner County. Testimony indicated that Clinton purchased two tracts of land from John B. Kerley [also spelled Cerley and Courley] in 1852. They were not recorded in the deed books and were found only in the bill of sale books in Sumner County. Clinton was listed in the tax books in this time period with 90 acres.

By Aug. 2, 1853, John B. Kerley had died, and William Wilkerson was his administrator. A resultant lawsuit (Sumner County Loose Lawsuit #1732 Clinton Cage vs. William H. Wilkerson) indicated that Kerley had a widow but no children. It clarified that there were two tracts of land, 20 acres in District 6 and 16 acres, plus some additional land that Clinton obtained from Isaac Douglass. Kerley conveyed the land by bill of sale because he could not provide a clear title at the time. Douglass died before he was able to execute a deed to Clinton. Kerley had sisters, who probably thought they had some right to the

land, but records made clear that the widow had no dower interest in the land and that it belonged to Clinton Cage.

The issue of trust between slave and master came into play in 1854, when Clinton wrote his will. He left his entire estate to his then executor, Dr. John F. Cage, a white man and wealthy landowner, whom he knew would follow his wishes. The estate was to be held in trust for Betsy's benefit, and Joel was to be emancipated. Any property left after Betsy's death was to be sold and the money used to purchase and emancipate Betsy's niece, Nisa.

Exactly what happened isn't clear, but it did not go quite the way Clinton planned. For one thing, Betsy died before he did. Sumner's 1860 census lists Clinton and his son Joel as free and living together well before the Civil War. However, Betsy and Joel's wife Dicy and their families were not with them. Clinton may have used the money allocated in his will for his wife to buy Joel's freedom. Clinton, himself, died by April 1861, which is when his will was probated.

Property Records Show Joel's Life

In 1868, Joel Cage paid taxes in Sumner County on 91 acres in Civil District 6, the land inherited from his father. On Nov. 24, 1868, Joel sold his inheritance of 90 acres in Civil District 6 to Burrell Bender. On April 1, 1869, Joel purchased seven acres on the headwaters of Rules Branch in Civil District 8 from J.W. Moore and sold the land to Sarah Bugg a few years later on Dec. 5, 1875.

In 1870, Joel was listed twice in the Sumner census with a wife and three children. The two entries were similar but not the same. In one, they were in District 18 (stamped District 18 p. 833) and in the other in District 17 (stamped p. 821). In both, Joel's birth was listed as 1820 to 1822, and Dicy's as 1824 to 1830. In both, he owned real estate worth \$300 and other property worth \$200. Children in the household in 1870 were: Rebecca, born about 1853; Rachel/Richard (female in one entry, male, in the other), born 1856 to 1860; and Mary, born about 1866. Since the first two children were born by 1860, the question arises as to why they weren't with Joel in the 1860 census. Also, where was Dicy? An educated guess is that when Joel was emancipated, there was not enough money left to free Dicy and the children.

In the 1880 census, four of the five Cages were together as a family. Joel was 57, Dicy 50, Rachel, 23, and Mary, 13. Rebecca in her late 20s was probably married and gone. Since

(See CLINTON, Page 11)

(CLINTON, Continued from Page 10)

Rachel appeared in the 1880 census and Richard did not, it is likely that the census taker in 1870 thought he heard "Richard" instead of "Rachel" in one of the two entries and listed her as male. Most of the 1870 Sumner County census takers were not born in Tennessee. They were, thus, unfamiliar with local names or pronunciation. They spelled what they thought they heard.

Joel's marriage to Dicy, while a slave, may not have been recorded, but his marriage on June 12, 1897, at age 71, to Mary J. Hudson, 54, is recorded in the 1900 census. Mary said she'd had two children.

Joel owned a farm, but no records show where he got it—maybe from the new wife? Joel's final known act was in February 1909. He sold 40 acres to M. L. and R. B. Kirk, but he retained in the deed of sale the right to live in the house and use the garden on the land.

(DIARY, Continued from Page 1)

said, "I always enjoy being able to use primary sources to tell a story. In this case, I just tried to put her story in context and get out of the way so it would be her voice the reader would hear."

Schell enclosed her diary in a scrapbook she gave to Buck. It also included clippings and memorabilia dating back to the War of 1812. The scrapbook was treasured and passed down through the Schell family until it wound up for sale in a Lebanon antique shop, where it was purchased by Ken Thomson, SCHS president.

Schell begins her diary in August 1862, reflecting on events of the last week. Confederate Col. John H. Morgan had arrived in Gallatin with 800 men on Aug. 12, ousted Federal troops under the command of Col. William Boone and destroyed the L&N rail line at South Tunnel. The next day two regiments of Yankee soldiers had arrived and wreaked havoc in Gallatin in retribution. Schell wrote about Aug. 13, "...at an early hour of the morning the [Federal] artillery came rushing through the streets, each drawn by six horses, a soldier seated on the back of each horse, and 4 seated on the caisson; they came yelling and cursing in the most violent manner, they dashed past our residence and took the Kentucky road [Scottsville Pike] by the time the Infantry reached our gate the artillery rode on at full speed; the Infantry supposing that Morgan's troops were in pursuit tore down our fence, entered the "clover lot" and yard, and drew up in line of battle. [H]appily, Gen. Morgan did not come, had he done so the Town would have been laid waste, and many citizens would have been killed; when they rushed back to Town, they rushed into the

houses insulting the inmates, ordering the servants to get provisions and cook for them, and whilst that was being done they went through the dwellings stealing everything they could carry off; they then broke open the stores and destroyed what they could not carry with them..."

In addition to the destruction, the Yankees took 130 men and boys as prisoners. They were rescued a few days later by Morgan. An hour-long battle in Gallatin followed that, occurring on Aug. 21, when Morgan's men met Gen. R.W. Johnson's cavalry advancing toward town on Hartsville Pike. The Yankees drove Morgan away and once again occupied Gallatin.

L&N railway was crucial to both armies. Federal troops under the command of Col. Henry A. Hambright, came into town and repaired South Tunnel and other damages. On Monday, Aug. 25, Morgan struck again, and Schell witnessed the raid. "*Several of Morgan's pickets came galloping along the streets, a company of the Yankees in hot pursuit, firing at random, the balls flying in all directions, whizzing their terrific noise among the defenseless crowds, from our windows I saw the happy escape of the Confederate pickets, who [were] in only about 40 yards advance of the Yankees. One poor old man received a ball above his hip, ripping open his bowels as it escaped, the man fell nearly opposite [us] but quickly got up and dragged his mangled body to the dwelling of our next neighbor Mr. R [obert] Bennett, the Yankees rushed in after him, supposing him to be one of the southern soldiers...I immediately crossed, meeting the infuriated demons, Yankees, on the way, yelling come boys let us go to the corner house, and see who we can find, yes said I, go there and you will find a Federal soldier who was wounded in the fight last week, and taken prisoner, he was carried into that house and has received the kindest attention from the family, they wheeled and went back."*

Schell continued her journal through the year, writing about the battles she saw and the appointment of Yankee Gen. Eleazer Paine, who held Gallatin in a vicious grip while commanding encamped troops. She wrote again in December 1864 that her "noble boy Buck" was injured in the battle of Nashville and that she would try to get a pass to bring him home.

She got that pass, but for some reason didn't use it. Buck finally came home again but it was after the war, which ended four months later. He stayed with his division until the bitter end, surrendering with them in Salem, N.C. He was reportedly the only officer still alive among all of those who began serving under Gen. William Bate in 1861.

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